

The second specimen, an accentor, recorded as *Prunella montanella* (Pallas), was taken on Nunivak on October 3, 1927. The species as a whole breeds in Siberia north to the limit of trees, its range extending from the Urals to the Pacific Coast, and south to Altai, Transbaikalia and Ussuriland. It winters south to China and Japan. Portenko (Compt. Rend. Acad. Sci., U. S. S. R., 1929, A, no. 9:220) has separated the birds of the Pacific coastal area breeding from the Chokotski Peninsula south to extreme eastern Manchuria (Lake Khanka) as *Prunella montanella badia* (type locality "Tschuktschenland" = Chokotski Peninsula; type in Zoological Museum, Leningrad). In *P. m. montanella* the general appearance of the dorsal area is grayer, and the feathers of the back have distinct dusky shaft streaks. In *P. m. badia* the general appearance is darker, the back being more reddish brown, without dusky shaft streaks and with less evident buffy edgings on the feathers. The specimen from Nunivak agrees with the latter, though very slightly intermediate toward *montanella*. It is identified as *Prunella montanella badia* Portenko.—ALEXANDER WETMORE, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., February 5, 1951.*

**Pebble-dropping by House Sparrows.**—During my high school days at West Point, Nebraska, my father was a merchant occupying a building of two stories with a long pebble-covered, tarred roof sloping to the rear. Forming a short walkway behind the rear entrance were two sloping doors, which, when opened up, admitted entry to the basement stairway. Over a period of several days in mid-May of 1903, I noticed many small pebbles scattered about on these doors. I also heard from time to time the sound of small objects falling on the doors. Efforts to find the pebble-droppers were of no avail until one day when I happened to approach the rear of the building from the alley. My position some fifty feet from the building now permitted me to see several House Sparrows (*Passer domesticus*) bringing small stones to the edge of the roof and dropping them. As each pebble was dropped the bird involved turned its head to one side, apparently the better to listen to it and to watch it as it struck the door. It may have been a sort of bird pastime; it certainly was an activity of no evident value. After about a week I saw no more of it.

In later years I had begun to doubt the correctness of my boyhood observations until a second viewing of this same phenomenon was made on April 10, 1950, in Riverside, California. On this occasion the sparrows were dropping small bits of crushed stone from the roof of a one-story building onto a cement walk. In the first instance six or eight birds were involved; in this recent observation but two birds were "amusing themselves" with pebble-dropping.—EDMUND C. JAEGER, *Department of Zoology, Riverside College, Riverside, California, January 12, 1951.*

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo in the San Bernardino Mountains, California.**—On June 2, 1950, I observed a Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*) near Lake Arrowhead, San Bernardino County, California. The area was typical of the upper Transition Zone on the desert slope of the mountains. The bird was approached easily to a distance of about thirty feet as it foraged in manzanita and buckthorn bushes. This sight record is quite unusual, not only for its location but for the altitude of the station which was approximately 5000 feet.—JOHN H. BAUMGART, *Pasadena, California, January 15, 1951.*