

of the birds and found it to be a male Golden-winged Warbler (*Vermivora chrysoptera*). This is the first record of this bird for South Dakota. There appeared to be four birds of this species in the immediate vicinity, two males and two females. Identification was confirmed by Dr. T. C. Stephens. Mr. William Youngworth made the specimen into a skin, and this was donated to the collection of the State Museum at Vermilion.—EDWIN C. ANDERSON, *Dell Rapids, S. Dak.*

Analysis of Two Hundred Long-eared Owl Pellets.—On February 19, 1933, I flushed three Long-eared Owls (*Asio wilsonianus*) from an evergreen in an old cemetery four miles northeast of Saline, Michigan. From beneath this tree I gathered up just 200 pellets, indicating that the birds had been roosting in this tree during much of the winter. The cemetery was a half mile from the nearest parcel of timber, a swampy piece of woods of some extent. Immediately adjacent to the cemetery on the east and south was plowed land; across the road to the west and north was pasture. I made the analysis of the pellets in the laboratories of the Museum of Zoology, at Ann Arbor, where I had the advice and assistance of Dr. Lee R. Dice and Dr. Josselyn Van Tyne. The results of the work were as follows: 170 *Microtus*, 21 *Peromyscus*, 3 *Synaptomys*, 4 *Blarina* and 1 English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). The preponderance of *Microtus* would indicate feeding in the open, although occasional forays into the nearby timber would yield *Peromyscus* in some numbers. *Synaptomys* is rare anywhere in Michigan, and while *Blarina* is not rare, the fact that it lives in burrows would explain its comparative absence from the bill of fare. Could a like number of pellets be obtained from this immediate vicinity in successive years, their examination should give indication of any fluctuation in small mammalian biota from year to year.—CHAS. J. SPIKER, *New Hampton, Iowa.*

A Loon Found in the Highway.—On the evening of April 14, 1931, while I was away from home, a neighbor, William Gabbard, and his brother-in-law, brought to my place a live Common Loon (*Gavia immer*) which the brother-in-law had discovered on a highway as he was driving along in his car. Later the same evening I saw Mr. Gabbard and he told me that his brother-in-law had taken the bird home with him but was going to bring it back in the morning. Early the next morning I went to see it. Loons must hate dogs for this one flounced towards Mr. Gabbard's dog each time it came near. The bird was chained, else it may have given the dog quite a battle. The extreme tip of its long, sharp, black bill was broken off; some one, teasing it, had allowed it to peck the sole of a shoe. Irregularly it gave vent to a long, drawn-out wail, and when placed in a small vessel of water it splashed and tried to dive, thoroughly enjoying, I would say, the opportunity to spend a few seconds in a bit of its natural element, though closely surrounded by unusual spectators.

I desired the freedom of the handsome bird, and before I left I was promised that it would be taken to some nearby body of water and released, but later I learned that this was not done immediately and it died in captivity a few days after I saw it.—GRANT HENDERSON, *Greensburg, Ind.*

Nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark in Central Virginia.—For the past three or four years the presence of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) during the summer in the vicinity of Lynchburg has led me to believe that it was nesting here. It is a fairly common winter visitor. On March 27, 1931, I saw a bird make two trips with nesting materials in the bill, and located the site that had apparently been selected for a nest. I did not return

to the spot until April 10, when there were three eggs in the nest. On April 13, two of the eggs had hatched and the young appeared to be about two days old. The third egg never hatched.

On April 19 another visit was made to the nest, when it was found that feathers were rapidly replacing the dirty tan down that covered the nestlings after hatching. This proved to be the last time that we saw the young birds. We took a Graflex to the nest on April 23, feeling sure that the young birds would still be there, but the nest was empty save for the sterile egg. There had been a severe storm on the preceding day, accompanied by unusually high winds, so it is probable that the young birds were destroyed. We took a photograph of the nest containing the single egg. Since this visit I have not even seen the adult birds, though I have visited the locality several times.



FIG. 17. Nest of the Prairie Horned Lark referred to in Professor Freer's note.

This seems to establish the southernmost record for the breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark on the Atlantic slope. Dr. J. J. Murray of Lexington, Va., says that he thinks the previous southernmost point was Fairfax, Va., about fifteen miles west of Washington, D. C., and about 150 miles northwest of Lynchburg, in a straight line.

Mr. H. H. Bailey, in his book, "Birds of Virginia", published in 1913, does not include the Prairie Horned Lark. He includes only breeding birds. Miss May Thacher Cooke in her paper, "Birds of the Washington, D. C., Region", states that this species is a "very rare summer resident" near Washington. Dr. H. C. Oberholser, in a letter to Dr. J. J. Murray, states that he believes this to be the southernmost record for the nesting of this species.—RUSKIN S. FREER, *Lynchburg, Va.*