

Ipswich Sparrow. At any rate, the matter is worth investigating, and it is hoped that some reader of 'The Auk' may be able to decide the question.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*

**Calamospiza bicolor in Southern California.**—About the middle of April of the last spring, I saw an individual (male) of this species within a quarter of a mile of San Diego Bay, singing by the roadside. Early in May they were first observed in large flocks on the mesa within a few miles of the Mexican line, both males and females. At present writing, May 25, they are everywhere abundant on the mesas, and apparently breeding. Mr. L. Belding tells me he has met with the bird in Lower California during his explorations there. I have never met with it before in California, nor have I heard of its occurrence here in past years. Do I record a new area of its distribution?—GODFREY HOLTERHOFF, *National City, Cal.*

**Egg of the Cowbird in Nest of the Carolina Dove.**—Mr. E. H. King of West Liberty, Iowa, writes me to this effect, adding that the Dove is the largest bird he has known to be chosen as the Cowbird's foster-parent.—ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*

**Xanthocephalus icterocephalus in Chester County, South Carolina.**—Sometime since a friend informed me that there was to be seen in one of the stores of this place a curious and unknown bird, which was exciting considerable comment. In this *rara avis* I expected to find, as has frequently been the case heretofore, the Rose-breasted Song Grosbeak, or some other of the smaller and more brilliantly colored birds, which usually escape general observation. In consequence, I was not a little surprised to find a large Blackbird, with a yellow head, neck, and fore-breast, and a conspicuous white wing-patch, which I recognized at once as the Yellow-headed Swamp Blackbird of the western prairies. The circumstances of the capture are as follows: On the morning of April 17, 1884, a gentleman of the town noticed it in his stable-yard, just back of the principal business street. Here it remained all day, being very tame, and letting him walk up within fifteen or twenty steps, then "running off like a chicken." At night it disappeared, but the next morning, the 18th, it returned and was caught about ten or eleven o'clock in a trap. The presence of this wanderer, in a locality so remote from its usual habitat, is not improbably due to the heavy southwest gales we had been having for some time back.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

**The Turkey Buzzard in Western New York.**—A Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*) was shot at Kendall Mills, ten miles northwest of this town, May 23, 1884, by a farmer named George Hoffinan. He saw the bird sitting on the top of a dead tree near where he was at work, and by a well-directed shot with his rifle brought it to the ground. The bird was purchased by Mr. D. T. Bruce, a taxidermist of Brockport, and is now in his collection. The specimen was recorded by Mr. Bruce in the 'Brockport Republic' of May 29, 1884; but the occurrence seems worthy of a more accessible and permanent record.—J. T. FRASER, *Brockport, N. Y.*