

1881. I saw a fine Saw-Whet Owl which alighted on a stump among some red cedars and afterwards flew freely about without apparent inconvenience, the day being dark and cloudy.—EDGAR A. MEARNS, M. D., *Fort Snelling, Minn.*

**Megascops asio maxwelliæ.**—Three ejected pellets of the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl, sent by Mr. Denis Gale from Gold Hill, Boulder Co., Colorado, for examination as to nature of food, and examined by Dr. A. K. Fisher of the Department of Agriculture, have been found to contain the following materials.

No. 1. The remains of a meadow mouse (*Arvicola*) and crawfish.

No. 2. Made up almost entirely of the remains of crawfish with a few fragments of beetles.

No. 3. Remains of crawfish.—CHARLES E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

**The American Hawk Owl near Washington, D. C.**—It may be of interest to the readers of 'The Auk' that a fine specimen of *Surnia ulula caparoch* was taken here in the District of Columbia on the 29th of November, 1889, and is now in the hands of Mr. Webster, the taxidermist of Washington. Is it not an unusual locality for it?—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.*

**Note on *Cyanocitta stelleri litoralis* Maynard.**—In separating the Vancouver Island Jay as a new form, I fear Mr. Maynard was influenced by insufficient material. Comparison of six specimens from Vancouver Island with a series of some twenty *stelleri* taken in the adjoining coast region, and in British Columbia by Mr. Clark P. Streater, shows that the characters assigned the island bird are neither constant nor peculiar. In three of the six the bands across the tail are very evident; in the three remaining the bands are obsolete or appreciable only in certain lights, but these three specimens are exactly matched by several examples in my series from the mainland.

The same variation in markings is also shown by other members of this group, and I have examined specimens of *frontalis* from California, and *macrolopha* from Arizona and Sonora, in the collections of Mr. Brewster and the American Museum, in which the barring of wings and tail was reduced to the minimum.—FRANK M. CHAPMAN, *American Museum of Natural History, New York City.*

**Capture of a Canada Jay (*Perisoreus canadensis*) near Cambridge, Massachusetts.**—Mr. James R. Mann has given me permission to announce the interesting fact that a Canada Jay was shot at Arlington Heights (within sight of Cambridge and less than four miles distant in an air line) by Mr. E. B. Winship, Oct. 17, 1889. The specimen was mounted, and is now in Mr. Mann's collection. It is a male in perfect autumnal plumage. The stomach was filled with the remains of "wasps or bees," but contained no traces of other food.

Mr. Maynard has reported (Birds of E. N. A., 1879, p. 168) seeing a Canada Jay in Newtonville "in early summer" about 1875, but Mr. Mann's bird seems to be the first that has been actually taken in Massachusetts.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**A Second Nest and Eggs of *Picicorvus columbianus* taken in Colorado.**—Mr. Denis Gale, of Gold Hill, Boulder Co., Colorado, writes me that he found a second nest of Clark's Nutcracker, containing three fresh eggs, on April 16, 1889. He found the nesting site first on March 12, noticing one of the birds trying to break off a small twig from a dead tree, and watching the direction it took afterwards. The bird which came from behind him flew high over his head, and after waiting for some time he noticed both birds flying to and from a certain point fully five or six times. After a careful search he finally found a few twigs lying upon a horizontal limb in the dense top of a small scrubby pine-tree about twelve feet high and six inches in diameter. On visiting the place again a week later, at his approach one of the birds flew off a neighboring tree uttering his warning note, but upon inspection he found no changes or augmentation of the twigs, and concluded therefrom that a new nesting site had been selected, and when he visited the spot a week later still with the same results his conclusion seemed to be verified and he made an exhaustive search within a radius of a mile of this point, but all to no purpose, seeing neither nests nor birds. Four weeks later, on April 16, passing close to the place where the birds had commenced building first, he stopped to look once more at the site first selected by this pair of birds, and much to his surprise discovered a bulky nest in place of the few twigs first noticed, with the female on it and covering three eggs. The nest was placed about nine feet from the ground, and resembles the one taken in 1888 in every particular; perhaps it is a little more bulky still. The eggs bear a close resemblance to the first set found by Mr. Gale, excepting that the markings are possibly a little more decided and numerous. They measure  $1.34 \times .90$ ,  $1.37 \times .91$ , and  $1.39 \times .92$  inch. Mr. Gale's first nest, containing three fresh eggs also, was found on March 5, 1888, six weeks earlier and probably an unusually early case.—CHARLES E. BENDIRE, *Washington, D. C.*

**Bullock's Oriole in Maine.**—Mr. Manly Hardy writes me that a male Bullock's Oriole (*Icterus bullocki*) was shot "a few miles from Bangor, Maine, about the middle of November, 1889, and sent in the flesh to Mr. Crosby, the well-known Bangor taxidermist, by whom it was mounted." Mr. Hardy has lately examined the bird and compared it with a Western specimen, from which it differs only in being "a little more of a canary color."

This capture adds a species to the New England list as well as to the fauna of Maine. It also affords still another example of the curious fact that most of the Western and Southern birds which occur in New England as rare or purely accidental stragglers, are found in late autumn or early winter.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*