

mountainside, when the young bird flew out toward me and lit on the dead branch of a cedar in short range. I fired and it fell, catching a branch below and hanging suspended by one foot just out of my reach. While hunting a stick to pull it down with, a *hoo* sounded close at hand, and one of the parents, carrying something in its claws, passed over my head and lit on the same branch from which I had just dropped the young bird. It was awfully short range, but a rare bird badly shot up is better than no specimen. Fortunately my shot did not damage it as badly as I had feared. There was light enough yet for me to see that I held in my hand my first Spotted Owl (*Syrnium occidentale*). By feeling around in the twigs and leaves I found the object it had carried in its claws; this proved to be a wood rat (*Neotoma fuscipes*) with head wanting, and cold, so it evidently had been caught the previous night and kept for later use.

Toward morning I heard the other Owl, and early the next evening I started for my post again, but before reaching it I heard the call of the Owl. I soon found and shot him. During the remainder of our stay we heard no more sounds of either young or adult of this species.

The ordinary notes heard were a succession of three syllables, alike in tone and volume, the first followed quickly by the second and then a pause of considerable length before the third—*hoo, hoo, —hoo*. The other series of notes is different and has a curious canine quality of tone; they were usually four, uttered rather rapidly, becoming emphatic toward the end, and may be represented by the formula: *oh, oo, ou, ov*.

The altitude of the place where I shot the Owls is about 5,000 feet, and the heavily timbered mountainside faces the north, so it is cool and shady. From my brief experience with the species I should think that the Spotted Owl, like its eastern congener the Barred Owl, is abroad earlier in the evening and later in the morning than the Great Horned Owl. How similar the notes are to the Barred Owl's I cannot say, as it is so many years since I heard the Barred Owl that I have forgotten its note. — F. STEPHENS, *Santa Ysabel, Cal.*

Coccyzus americanus occidentalis in Washington. — On July 8, 1892, I saw and positively identified a California Cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*) at Ridgefield, Clarke County, Washington. The bird, an adult, and probably a female, flew out from a strip of small firs, and took a low perch on the edge of the woods, about twenty-five feet from where I was standing. It stayed some time, preening its feathers. The night of July 9—a bright moonlit one—I heard the *kuck, kuck* of a Cuckoo coming from the treetops of this grove of small firs. The note was rapidly given four or five times in succession; and the call several times repeated. The call was not rolled out to such length as that of the bird given in my Gray's Harbor List (Auk, Jan., 1892).

On July 18, my cousin, Mr. Harold L. Gilbert of Portland, Oregon, was attracted to this same spot by the birds' calls, and discovered a family of five—two adults and three youngsters. He shot the adults and one young

bird. The other young escaped. On July 19 Mr. Gilbert caught one of these young birds alive. It lived through the day, probably dying from starvation, as enough caterpillars could not be found for it. The adult female measured 18 inches in extent and 13 inches in length. Its stomach, Mr. Gilbert says, contained the remains of caterpillars. This is, I believe, the first record of the capture of this species in Washington. — R. H. LAWRENCE, *Portland, Oregon*.

Original Description of Lewis's Woodpecker. — This is found in the 'Journal' of Patrick Gass (12 mo., Pittsburgh, 1807, p., 224); consequently four years before it was named *Picus torquatus* by Wilson (Am. Orn. III, 1811, p. 31, pl. 20, fig. 3), and seven years before Lewis and Clarke's own notice (Hist. of the Exped., 1st Am. ed., II, 1814, p. 187). Gass was the famous Irish Sergeant of the Expedition of 1804-'6; his 'Journal' notices many of the mammals and birds which we are in the habit of supposing to have been first described in the narrative of his commanding officers which did not appear till seven years after his own book. The 'Journal' went through at least four American (1807, 1810, 1811, 1812) editions, and an English one (1808). All the American editions were identical (pp. i-viii, 9-262) and may be cited by pages indifferently. Gass describes the bird thus: ". . . and woodpeckers of a different kind from any I had ever seen before. They are about the size of the common red-headed woodpecker; but are all black except the belly and neck, where the ends of the feathers are tipped with a deep red but this tipping extends to so short a distance on the feathers that at a distance the bird looks wholly black." The locality is the headwaters of Clearwater River, in the Bitter Root Mountains, Idaho; the date of entry in the Journal is June 12, 1806. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Cranberry, N. C.*

Myiarchus nuttingi in Arizona.—During a recent trip through southern Arizona, Mr. J. Alden Loring and the writer had occasion to stop at Tucson for a few days. The objective point near that place was Rillito Creek, which lies a few miles north of the town and which is, except during the rainy season, a dry wash. It was visited on June 12, 1892, through the kindness of Mr. Herbert Brown who, besides showing many other favors, devoted the entire day to driving about among the groves of mesquit and giant cactus, so we might collect what specimens we wanted. While thus occupied we flushed a Flycatcher from an old Woodpecker's hole in a giant cactus, and secured it, together with four fresh eggs.

On comparing the specimen with the type in the National Museum it proved to be *Myiarchus nuttingi*, a small southern representative of *M. cinerascens*, a species not yet recorded from the United States. Subsequently Mr. Loring took another female at Prescott, Arizona, on June 22, and in the Department of Agriculture Collection there is still another female specimen taken by Mr. Vernon Bailey, at Oracle, Arizona, June 15, 1889. It would seem, therefore, that the species is not rare in portions of Arizona. — A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*