

Baird's Sandpiper near Washington, D. C.—On Sept. 3, 1894, while collecting Sandpipers and other birds on the floating confervæ on the flats in the Potomac River, off the mouth of Four Mile Run, Alexandria County, Virginia, I took a fine immature male specimen of *Tringa bairdii*. This specimen has been identified by Mr. Ridgway and is the first recorded instance from the Virginias and the District of Columbia. It was alone at the time, though hundreds of individuals of *Ereunetes pusillus*, *Tringa maculata* and *Totanus flavipes* were flying about or feeding on the surface of the confervæ.—R. S. MATTHEWS, *Washington, D. C.*

The Ruff and Western Sandpiper near Washington, D. C.—With other Waders on the confervæ off the mouth of Four Mile Run, Alexandria County, Virginia, I collected on September 3, 1894, an immature female *favoncella pugnax*. The condition of the specimen would warrant the belief that it was bred on this continent.

I also took on September 8, at the same place, an immature male *Ereunetes occidentalis*, which is the first record from this locality. In contrast with the excessive fatness of many specimens of the Least and other Sandpipers taken lately at the same place, both the above, especially the Sandpiper, were quite lean. A second specimen, an immature female, was taken on Sept. 11, at the same place, by Mr. R. S. Matthews. These specimens were seen and identified by Mr. R. Ridgway.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

An Asiatic Cuckoo on the Pribylof Islands, Alaska.—An adult male Cuckoo (No. 118864 U. S. N. M. Coll.) that I collected among the sand dunes of Northeast Point, St. Paul's Island, on July 4, 1890, has been identified by Dr. L. Stejneger as *Cuculus canorus telephonus* (Heine). This bird, whose summer habitat is Japan and Kamtschatka, has several times been taken on Bering Island. When collected it was busily engaged capturing some large flies, which are abundant on these islands, and with which its stomach was literally packed. It had been seen by the natives in the same place for more than two weeks, and was probably the same individual seen by myself on June 13, when becalmed in a fog off the eastern side of the same island, on which occasion it circled overhead like a Gull for some time while calmly inspecting the boat, and then moved off northwards.—WILLIAM PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

The Capture of *Basilinna leucotis* in Southern Arizona.—While collecting in the high Chiricahua Mountains, in southern Arizona during the past summer, the writer had the pleasure of securing a specimen of *Basilinna leucotis*, a new bird to the United States.

During the early part of June a camp was made at Fly Park, a well wooded area southeast of the head of Pinery Cañon, at an altitude of about 10,000 feet. A boreal honeysuckle (*Lonicera involucrata*) grows

commonly through the scattered woods of spruce (*Picea engelmanni*), fir (*Pseudotsuga taxifolia*), pine (*Pinus ayacahuite*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). The flowers of the honeysuckle attract great numbers of hummers, and hundreds of *Selasphorus platycercus*, and many *Eugenes fulgens* and *Caeligena clemenciae* were seen daily about the clumps. Early on the morning of June 9, in company with Mr. Fred. Hall Fowler, the writer saw a female *Basilinna leucotis* sitting on a dead twig of a *Lonicera* bush close to the ground, warming itself in the rays of the rising sun. The white stripe on the side of the head was plainly visible, and led to its speedy capture. Subsequently others were looked for but none were seen.—A. K. FISHER, *Washington, D. C.*

Breeding of the Prairie Horned Lark (*Otocoris alpestris praticola*) near Pittsfield, Mass.—Sometime since I received a letter from Mr. Henry R. Buck, of Weathersfield, Conn., giving a detailed account of the discovery of a small colony of Prairie Horned Larks, evidently breeding, near Pittsfield, Mass. Although the old birds were not taken, they were carefully observed, and Mr. Buck's intelligent description of them, and of the nest and eggs he obtained leaves their identification scarcely open to question, as is shown by the following extracts from his letter. Mr. Buck writes: "This summer [1892] I became interested in a nest . . . of *Otocoris alpestris*, which I thought was only a winter visitor here. Mr. C. H. Buckingham of Pittsfield, Mass., with whom I was walking, found the nest July 10, 1892. . . . The bird had built her nest in a sheep pasture, on the very top of a treeless mountain west of Pittsfield; on the ground of course. She could hardly have found a more unprotected spot, and had not roofed over the nest at all. It was about four inches in diameter, sunk even with the surface of the ground, and was composed of a thick wall of moss lined with dry grass, several locks of wool, and two or three leaves.

"The eggs were four in number, *fresh*, of about the same shape as an English Sparrow's, of a pale greenish ground color, spotted indistinctly but thickly with light brown and purplish. The spots are not at all clearly defined and not perceptibly thicker at one end than at the other. The eggs measure .62 X .84, .61 X .85 and .61 X .83 inches. No. 4 got cracked, so I did not measure it, but it was about the size of the others.

"We could not get a very close look at the bird, since she would sneak off when we were yet quite a distance from the nest, and after she had gone about forty yards would run unconcernedly about, among some rocks near there, but would always keep about the same distance away from us. If we followed her closely she would fly off with a steady, rapid motion of the wings, very like the flight of a Meadowlark. On the ground she ran easily and seemed to be able to go quite fast.

"We saw five or six other birds of the same kind near the place but could find no other nest. The birds were a little longer than a Bluebird—I should say about seven inches—but much plumper and stouter, reminding one of a Meadowlark in this respect. They were brown above and white