

lecta, I wish to add a paragraph in commendation of the bird. On Monday, Oct. 1, 1900, I was at Big Piney post office, Wyoming, seventy-five miles north of the Oregon Short Line railroad. Early in the morning I was attracted to the wreckage of an old waterwheel in North Piney Creek just back of the post office, by a sweet and continuous vocal effort of some bird. I believed the singer was a Meadowlark for some of the notes were familiar, but I was in doubt, never having heard the song before. I approached, carelessly, and soon discovered a Western Meadowlark perched upon the topmost paddle of the old wheel singing — well singing an aria from the song-book of Nature. To me the performance was exceedingly creditable; but owing to the surroundings and the season of the year, its actual musical value may have been overestimated. The performance was continuous for over three minutes when the bird joined a small flock that was foraging industriously for breakfast along the bank of the creek.

This example of continuous vocal effort of the Western Meadowlark is the first and only one of my experience and while Mr. Mead's suggestion — that there may be individuals of surpassing vocal powers, is of doubtful value, nothing can be more certain than that continuous bursts of song are of rare occurrence. May I be permitted to add, also, that during nineteen years' residence in Wyoming my observation of the spring and summer song of the Western Meadowlark has forced the conclusion that there is no such thing as a distinctive vocal utterance of the race. One would almost be safe in asserting that no two larks sing alike, so great is the range of individual effort. While the songs of all of the Western Larks vary greatly from that of the eastern form the lack of uniformity will insure to the promoters of the taxonomic value theory final and certain confusion.— FRANK BOND, *Cheyenne, Wyo.*

Occurrence of the Mexican Crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra stricklandi*) at Neligh, Nebraska. — It is interesting, to say the least, to note the occurrence of this southwestern bird at Neligh, Nebraska, several hundred miles east of its normal range. A large female was taken by myself on December 9, 1898, just at dusk, while it was perched on the head of a sunflower (*Helianthus annuus*) feeding industriously upon the seeds. The only other birds in the near vicinity at the time were a few Common Redpolls (*Acanthis linaria*). There was a fair amount of snow on the ground at the time, but no heavy storms had occurred to account for the bird straggling so far from its usual range. The specimen is now in my collection. — MERRITT CARY, *Neligh, Neb.*

An Addition to the A. O. U. Check-List. — Several years ago I submitted to Mr. Brewster three specimens for comparison with the type of *Dendroica nigrifrons*, and he reported that they belonged to that Warbler. The three specimens form a part of a series of eleven males, in the collection of the California Academy of Sciences, taken in the latter part of May