

In 'Cassinia' for 1904, Mr. Thos. H. Jackson gives May 15, "one egg was already pipped." "Early in May...another...nest of six eggs was found..." Again, "Early in December, 1904, a young Barn Owl was found dead...it was still partly covered with down and could not have been over 8 weeks old, so that it must have been hatched about the first of October. This would seem to confirm some of the accounts we have had of the irregular nesting habits of these birds."

Audubon gives dates: a single egg, November 8, 1832 (St. Augustine, Fla.); at Charleston, S. C., "The eggs...must have been laid...about the 15th of September [1833]." Other dates for nesting I find are: Santa Clara, Cala., April 14, 1891, 4 eggs (Reed); Rio Frio, Texas, May (Bd., Br. and Ridg.). Dr. A. K. Fisher says in 'The Hawks and Owls of the United States,' p. 137, in summarizing the nesting time of this species: "Except in the more northern parts of its range, where it breeds as late as June, it is probable that the majority of eggs are deposited in March." Maj. Bendire states, 'Life Histories of North American Birds,' Pt. 1, p. 327: "...At Washington City, District of Columbia...they begin nesting from the last week in April to about the 10th of May."

As the species is not found breeding on the Atlantic slope much farther north than Wilmington, Del., this young bird must have been from an unusually early nesting pair, or the early dates heretofore have been overlooked.—C. J. PENNOCK, *Kennett Square, Pa.*

**Northern Breeding Limit of the Chuck-wills-widow.**—In 'The Auk' (XXV, 1908, p. 478) I gave what I believed to be the first record of the breeding of this species north of James River, Virginia. Yesterday, May 23, while walking through an open piece of pine woods near my house about 6.30 P. M., I flushed a female from a set of two eggs, which I found were incubated about five days. This is exactly a year to a day from the date my father took the first set. While two pairs have been around my home since April 4, and I have seen them flit by about dusk, it has only been within the last two weeks that I have been able to flush one in the day time. I think it is safe to say their breeding range extends northward to the high river banks on the north shore.—H. H. BAILEY, *Newport News, Va.*

**The Starling near Springfield, Mass.**—A Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) was caught by a cat, in Hadley, eighteen miles north of Springfield, January 25, 1909. In February and through the early spring a number of these birds were seen in this vicinity, and during the present month a pair has been found breeding in Agawam, on the west side of the Connecticut River. Apparently the range of the Starling in this country is extending north and inland.

I do not think it is probable that the Starlings that have recently been seen in this vicinity are the survivors or descendants of those introduced here twelve years ago. At least it is not possible that these birds could

have been residents of this region for more than ten years without their presence being noticed. There are more observers of birds here than there were forty years ago, and the least reliable of these would hardly be mistaken in identifying a Starling, especially if it was seen during the colder months.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

**The Capture of the Red-eyed Cowbird in Arizona.**—It is with the greatest pleasure that I report the capture of an adult male of *Tangavivus aneus involucratu*s from near Tucson, Ariz. As far as I have learned, this bird has hitherto been found only in Texas and eastern and southern Mexico. However, it is certainly more than an accidental visitor here. I have seen it for over a month (from April 11 to May 21). A few days ago I noted two males courting a female. They held their heads up very high, as all cowbirds do, but followed each other around very sedately. The males took turns in driving the other a short distance away, and following the female. Yesterday a male, before a female, went through contortions similar to those frequently performed by the domestic gobbler. Resting on his tarsi, with wings and tail spread and ruff raised, he quivered very noticeably. The slight movement of the wings slowly raised him, still trembling, some six feet above the female, where he paused a moment, a droll sight, and then sank slowly down beside his would-be mate, apparently quite exhausted by the violent, unusual exercise. The song is an even more pleasing combination of squeaks than that of the common cowbird. I have heard it only from solitary males in trees.

Whether these birds crossed New Mexico, or whether they came up the west coast of Mexico, is a question. At any rate they are far out of their supposed range. The specimen is in the University of Arizona Museum.—S. S. VISHER, *Carnegie Laboratory, Tucson, Ariz.*

**The Present Status of the Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna*) near Portland, Maine.**—In 1882, in his 'Catalogue of Birds Found in the Vicinity of Portland, Maine,' Mr. Nathan Clifford Brown stated that this bird was a rare summer resident, oftenest seen in migrations. The extreme dates then given were April 22 and Nov. 3.

To-day the conditions are decidedly different, and while the increase of which I shall speak seems to have been somewhat general in the southwest quarter of the State, I shall confine my remarks strictly to the section embraced in Mr. Brown's paper of 1882, viz., the vicinity of Portland. I had been collecting several seasons in fields in which the bird is now regularly seen in some numbers without meeting a specimen until 1891, when I found and collected a lone specimen at Westbrook. In August of the same year, in fields I had regularly visited in the adjoining town of Gorham, two small flocks, one of five, and one of eight birds, were seen. From that time to the present, May, 1909, there has been a slow but positive increase and dispersal of the birds through the section. They are not only rather plentiful in certain Westbrook and Gorham fields, but are to be found in several