

May 22. Oldest about eleven days old, primary quills not yet started to open, but some of body feathers with small tassels. Two mice. No traces were found of any food having been brought to the nest except mice, good proof of the value of this species. No food was found at the nest after this day, and as the young grew older their parents probably had a difficult task to supply enough for the family.

From the above it seems that the eggs are laid on alternate days, and that incubation begins with the laying of the first egg, which is what would be expected because of the cold weather likely to prevail early in April. The difference between the ages of the oldest and youngest of the young owls was thus nine days, a difference fully evident in their development. The oldest left the nest when about four weeks old, but the younger ones prompted by the example set them began crawling around in the branches long before they could fly, and they also imitated the oldest in the defensive spreading of the wings, a habit which the latter acquired when two weeks old.—F. N. WHITMAN, *Ithaca, N. Y.*

Northern Pileated Woodpecker in Dutchess County, N. Y.—One day in January, 1924, a farmer informed me of seeing a large Woodpecker, the size of a Crow, and with a red crest. About two weeks later when in the woods I saw the bird, which proved to be a Pileated Woodpecker. He was about 60 feet above the ground on a dead tree. About a week later I again saw the bird in the same place. The date of his first appearance was January 12, 1924. I believe this bird strayed over from the Berkshires of Massachusetts, which are not far away.—EDWARD D. W. SPINGARN, *Amenia, N. Y.*

Red-headed Woodpecker in Lincoln, Mass.—In January of this year a friend reported to me that there was a strange bird with a red head staying around Farrar Road. I went over and saw the bird, a Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*), on a very large dead oak tree. It has spent a good deal of its time on that tree ever since, and has been seen by various ornithologists and also members of the Brookline Bird Club. One day I saw it being closely chased by a Crow, but it finally found refuge in the oak tree. It was still in that vicinity April 28, 1924.—MRS. ALICE B. HARRINGTON, *Boston, Mass.*

Nest and Young of Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.—On July 15, 1923, we started from an overturned spruce on the "Long Trail" near Kirby Mountain, Addison County, Vermont, a small bird which gave a flash of yellow as it flew and which on closer inspection proved to be a Yellow-bellied Flycatcher. The tree in question had been blown over by a heavy wind and the base had ripped up a mass of roots, turf, stones and leaves which formed a virtual wall about six feet high by eight feet long. A short search along this structure disclosed the nest in the mass of roots and earth torn up by the stump, about three feet from the ground and an arm's length from the trail. It was so located as to be well protected on every side and

admirably sheltered from the rain which had just begun. The three young which were a couple of days old, to judge from their practically naked yellow-orange skins spotted with black patches of down, fitted snugly in their cup of roots about two inches across, lined with ferns and grasses. The parent bird was very nervous, calling, "Pee-weep, Pee-weep," or "Ter-ee, Ter-ee," as we variously expressed it, in a plaintive manner, although not sufficiently frantic to attract attention. Although too wild to feed the young in our presence, it flew from perch to perch in a fifty foot radius about the nest and us, wagging its tail slightly, at times pausing a moment to snatch an insect, but never ceasing to call as indicated above. Its mate sputtered also giving the "Ter-ee" call with occasional peculiar inflections, one of which was a many syllabled winnowy note. The altitude at this point was about 2900 feet above sea level and the tree was in a fine patch of spruce forest not far from a spot where we found a Junco's nest with two young, lodged in an exactly similar situation in an old windfall.—WARREN F. EATON, *Weston, Mass.*, HASKELL B. CERRY, *Boston, Mass.*

Clarke's Nutcracker in Interior Alaska.—As Clarke's Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) is rare in Alaska, a few records from the interior may be of interest. It has been taken on the Kowak River, also at Nushagak on Bristol Bay, at Sitka, and has been observed near Eagle, but I find no other published records.

In the fall of 1919 one of these birds was observed frequently at Takotna, in the Kuskokwim Region. It became very tame and confiding, came to various cabins for food, and was considered a pet. On October 1, 1919, the bird was shot and some time later the dried body was given to Mr. A. H. Twitchell, who kept it and turned it over to me in March, 1922.

Another Nutcracker was shot by Mr. Joe Blanchell, who keeps a roadhouse near Farewell Mountain, on the upper waters of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River. One day in September, 1921, he saw a strange bird alight on the stove-pipe chimney of his cabin and shot it. He left it hanging by the feet in a steel trap on a cabin wall until my arrival at that point the following February. Enough remained of the bird for certain identification.

The third record for the interior was obtained in the Fairbanks Region. Mr. S. Wilson, who has a roadhouse on Chatanika River, 26 miles above the town of Chatanika, secured a male there in September, 1922. He sent the bird to Fairbanks, where it was kept in cold storage until my return from a lengthy trip the next April. The skin was prepared and placed in the Biological Survey Collection.—O. J. MURIE, *U. S. Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Further Increase in Grackles at Portland, Maine.—Several years ago attention was called in 'The Auk'¹ to a great increase in the number of Grackles (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) to be found at Portland, Maine. Since

¹Vol. XXXIV, p. 210.