

picious individuals, but have had no success in collecting specimens. From March 16, 1941, on, just after the weather conditions described above, various members of the Harvard Ornithological Club, to whom I am much indebted, reported such a flock, and on March 20, they described the conditions for observation as being so ideal that I went out to an extensive field in Concord that afternoon with Messrs. Bergstrom and Parker, after we had all studied museum series in the morning. The larks were all in one bare patch of ground by the road, and could be studied from the car window. Examples of what appeared to be three different types were collected, three of which, as hoped, proved to be the subspecies, *Otocoris alpestris hoyti*, the first record from the State. In spite of two hours' scrutiny at thirty feet, I am unable to give the percentage of Prairie and Hoyt's Horned Larks in this flock, so great are the technical difficulties in shade of color and in size. It was a simple matter to pick out the one Northern Horned Lark with its yellow eyebrows, but the size difference between the Prairie and Hoyt's could only be determined when two birds of the same sex were *motionless, side by side, and in exactly the same plane*. These conditions occurred just twice and the larger bird was shot immediately. Mostly, of course, the birds were running around, facing in different directions, or were squatting behind lumps of sod in alarm, in which case it was absolutely impossible to be sure of either color or size differences. I trust these remarks may prevent Hoyt's Horned Lark from being reported annually hereafter in this State on the basis of sight records! I am much indebted to my colleague Mr. J. L. Peters for carefully determining the larks with me. —LUDLOW GRISCOM, *Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Massachusetts*.

American Magpie in Virginia.—On May 12, 1940, on the farm of P. J. Nixon, near Ballsville, Powhatan County, Virginia, an American Magpie (*Pica pica hudsonia*) was captured in a pole trap set for hawks. In the quest for identification the bird was delivered to Mrs. P. J. Flippen, of Ballsville, who forwarded it to the State Game Commission, where identification was made. The bird, a female, was mounted and is preserved in the Virginia State Museum of Mineral, Timber, and History. This is apparently the first recorded instance of this species in Virginia.—CHESTER F. PHELPS, *Commission of Game and Inland Fisheries, Richmond, Virginia*.

Carolina Wren in central New Hampshire.—Early in the morning of August 21, 1940, I was fortunate enough to observe an adult Carolina Wren, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, at my summer home near Center Ossipee, New Hampshire. A room in a long shed, attached to the house, is used as a summer kitchen. I was busy at what one should be doing in a kitchen at that hour, and the large door that led to the porch was open. Suddenly a bird flew in, crossed to a large screened window on the opposite side of the room, and after fluttering there a few moments, dashed out by the way it had entered, and disappeared around the corner of the barn. The view afforded as the bird paused at the screened window left no doubt as to the identity of a species familiar to me from many years' experience in the Middle States.—EDWARD A. PREBLE, 3027 Newark St., Washington, D. C.

Bluebird mortality in 1940.—During late February and early March this past spring (1940) when Bluebirds, *Sialia sialis*, had moved north in numerous, irregular flocks, a most destructive snow-and-ice storm occurred. I was immediately cognizant of the fact that Bluebird flocks were becoming fewer and the numbers of birds decreasing daily. By the first of April normally about ninety-three per cent