

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

of my boxes hold nests and full complements of eggs. When I made my first survey, I was not surprised to find that only forty-six per cent of the boxes contained nests.

In normal years during the second nesting, I have about fifty-three per cent of my boxes occupied. During 1940, only twenty-three per cent contained nests and eggs, which leads me to the conclusion that the past season was a disastrous one to the Bluebirds of this section. My deductions suggest that probably fifty per cent of all our Bluebirds were killed by the ice-storm. Recently I received a letter from Mr. George Lynn of Lockport, Illinois, who similarly has a series of thirty-five Bluebird boxes. He tells me that in 1935-36 he had 60 per cent of his boxes occupied. In 1937-38-39 he had about 50 per cent occupancy. This decrease he felt was due to an invasion of Sparrow Hawks. The spring of 1940 found but one box occupied. This fearful decrease in the number of pairs that normally nested in his boxes undoubtedly reflects the general reduction in birds due to the spring's ice-storm. The severity of the tragedy cannot be figured for another year, when my statistics will give a better idea of the true nature of the catastrophe.—T. E. MUSSELMAN, *Quincy, Illinois*.

Brewster's Warbler in Maryland.—The first-known record of Brewster's Warbler (*Vermivora leucobronchialis*) in Maryland is a specimen collected by A. H. Thayer at Beltsville on May 1, 1895, as reported by Richmond (Auk, 12: 307, 1895). It was described as "a typical male." On May 7, 1940, I collected, so far as I am aware, the second-known specimen of this hybrid from the State. It was found with other warblers near a small stream in a damp section of a young woods in the Loch Raven area of Baltimore County. This specimen is also a typical male. The under parts are pure white, upper parts grayish; the crown and a broad band on the wing-coverts are yellow. The lores and a thin stripe through the eye are black, bordered above by a white superciliary stripe that joins on the forehead. There is no indication of any yellow or green in the rest of the plumage. The specimen is deposited in the Natural History Society of Maryland.—HENRI C. SEIBERT, *The Natural History Society of Maryland, Baltimore, Maryland*.

Mourning Warbler breeding in central Massachusetts.—In northwestern Massachusetts, *Oporornis philadelphia* has long been known to breed at elevations of 1600 feet upward—and not solely in Berkshire County, as stated by Forbush in his 'Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States' (3: 293, 1929), but also in western Franklin County where his friend, John A. Farley, found it as long ago as 1918 and 1920, and where, in the valley of the Deerfield River, at as low an elevation as 960 feet, a male was observed singing 'territorially' on July 7, 1938 (Eliot). But this occupied corner of the State is small—some 25 miles from east to west and 15 miles from north to south—and outside it, the species is accounted a scarce transient. In 1940, however, it bred in the town of Princeton, Worcester County, at least 50 miles farther east than any previous Massachusetts record, 18 miles south of the New Hampshire line, and at only 940 feet above sea-level. The location was 'Four Winds Farm', the summer home of the family of Douglas L. Kraus, who made the crucial observations with the assistance of James Peabody, a younger summer resident at Princeton. Many of the farm's tall white pines had been felled by the hurricane of 1938, and somewhere in the second-year growth of raspberry-canecanes, etc., among the fallen trees, the warblers, quite characteristically, nested. The nest itself was never (again characteristically) found, but on