

Bubo virginianus subarcticus in North Dakota.—Authentic published records of *Bubo virginianus subarcticus* in North Dakota are not numerous. Although this subspecies is reported as nesting within the State, all such examples prove to be pale examples of *Bubo virginianus occidentalis*, since, of course, the latter is the breeding form of North Dakota. The Arctic Horned Owl, however, does occur with apparent regularity as a winter resident, and the writer has examined several specimens from this State. Among these the following seem worthy of mention: Hebron, North Dakota, December 2, 1917, collected by S. A. Rahtz; Robinson, North Dakota, March 7, 1918, George H. Mayer; and Grand Forks, North Dakota, a specimen without date in the Museum of the University of North Dakota.—HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C., February 3, 1919.*

The Caracara in California.—I notice that according to Grinnell's *Distributional List of California Birds* some doubt exists regarding the occurrence of the Caracara within the state. I can say with positive certainty that one individual Caracara (*Polyborus cheriway*) lived for some time in the vicinity of Monterey during the winter of 1916. To be more exact, the month of February of that year witnessed one of the most severe storms in the history of the state, with southerly and southeasterly gales prevailing for several days. Upon their subsidence one of the wardens of the Pacific Improvement Company reported a strange bird in the vicinity of Seal Rocks. Mr. W. W. Curtner, a student at the Hopkin's Seaside Laboratory, made an investigation and pronounced the visitor to be a Caracara. The next day both of us journeyed by machine to the spot, made careful observations, took color notes and later examined museum specimens, all of which proved to our entire satisfaction that the bird in question was a female Caracara that probably had been swept before the wind from its southern home.

If we attempted to approach on foot the bird invariably took flight when we were at least an eighth of a mile away, and with alternate flapping of wings and soarings would skim over the level land situated between the sea and forest to alight in some distant tree. On the other hand, when we remained in the machine we had little difficulty in approaching to less than one hundred feet. Without displaying any particular interest in us the bird would strip bits of bark from its perch, flip them into the air, or would stand erect on its relatively long legs, stretch its wings, preen its feathers and finally vault into the air for another journey along the coast. It remained in the neighborhood of Seal Rocks for two weeks or so, and then, during a brief period of unusually bright weather, disappeared.—HAROLD HEATH, *Stanford University, California, March 19, 1919.*

The Fly-catching Habit Among Birds.—How extensive is the fly-catching habit among American birds other than members of the family Tyrannidae? The observation of this habit by the writer among members of different families of our land birds prompts the question. During the summer and fall of 1915 while engaged in field work in the Yosemite National Park and vicinity I specifically saw the following species flycatching. California Woodpecker (a common habit, frequently observed elsewhere); Clarke Nutcracker (several seen on various dates in late July flying out as much as 100 yards or more from the tops of tamarack pines at the side of a high mountain meadow); Western Lark Sparrow (one seen flycatching at dusk one evening early in June, at the edge of a meadow in the pine forest east of Coulterville); Audubon Warbler (a common habit, frequently observed elsewhere); Ruby-crowned Kinglet (once seen so engaged); Townsend Solitaire, Alaska Hermit Thrush, Western Robin, and Western and Mountain bluebirds. Thus all members of the thrush family except the Russet-backed and Northern Varied thrushes have been seen flycatching; the habit is a regular one with both bluebirds and seems not uncommon in the case of the Solitaire.—TRACY I. STORER, *Berkeley, February 7, 1919.*

Arctic Tern from Laguna Beach, California.—As there seem to be but few published records of the Arctic Tern (*Sterna paradisaea*) for southern California, it probably will be of interest to record the capture of a bird of this species that I have in my collection, a female taken at Laguna Beach, Orange County, California, on May 1, 1915, by H. G. White. The above specimen (no. 864, coll. W. M. P.) has been identified by Dr. Grinnell.—WRIGHT M. PIERCE, *Claremont, California, February 8, 1919.*