feet of the ground, and the remaining two have been worked upon to within twenty feet of the ground. The outer and roughly fissured bark has been systematically chiseled away, giving the impression of trees that had been carefully surfaced by an expert working with an adze. For several feet near the top of two trees the bark has been stripped to the cambium layer, but by far the greater portion of the work was the chiseling away of the rough outer layer of bark to a depth of three inches, leaving a comparatively smooth, golden-brown surface. Of course the layer removed varies in thickness, growing thinner as the tree tapers toward the summit.

From a little distance these freshly carved trees have the appearance of the yellow pine, rather than the dark-barked Douglas spruce.

Underneath is a great litter of chips and strips of bark; a cord surely, most likely more. Many of the strips of bark are two feet long, while the great mass of chips average eight inches. There is nothing rotten or soft about this bark, and when we tested its strength we found that it held tenaciously and required the full strength of strong fingers to pry off one of the ridges of bark where leverage could most readily be applied. The Woodpecker, however, working with his strong chisel-like bill is able to apply the power of a wedge as well as leverage.

Close examination of the bark where the woodpecker had been working disclosed numerous pits, or pockets, which had encased the objects of the woodpecker's pursuit. By ripping off layers of bark just below where the woodpecker had been working we uncovered several occupied pits. The occupants were soft, white, grub-like objects which we took to be the larvae of some sort of ant. All this work we believe to have been accomplished by a single Pileated Woodpecker, and in the short space of a few months.—ENID REEVE MICHAEL, *Yosemite, California, March 9, 1925.*

**Clark Nutcracker in Alameda County, California.**—I have recently had an opportunity of handling a Clark Nutcracker (*Nucifraga columbiana*) that was killed near here and brought to me to be skinned. This is a most unusual bird for this region. I have no memory of another having been taken during my forty-five years' residence here.

The bird was a female, apparently immature, and it was killed in Cull's Canyon, near Hayward, February 16, 1923. It was said to have been feeding on a dead calf on the hillside, but no meat was found in the stomach. I have been told several times of birds, probably this species, seen near here and supposed to be "some kind of woodpecker or jay".—W. OTTO EMERSON, *Hayward, California, April 20, 1925.*

**Early Nesting of the Fork-tailed Petrel.**—Exactly fifty-three days earlier in the season than my California breeding record date of May 14, 1916, for the Fork-tailed Petrel (*Oceanodroma furcata*), and on the same island, I discovered the Fork-tailed Petrel breeding on March 22, 1925, on Whaler Island off Crescent City, California. Cast bump-pe-ty, bump-pe-ty, bump, upon a surface of round boulders by a large back-swell, my boat was soon left high and dry by the fast ebbing tide, upon the shore of Whaler Island. I landed on the north end and immediately made for the rising easterly flat, which is covered with heavy, black loam, matted down with long, coarse grass. Petrel aroma was evident and I immediately began breaking through the surface as I trod the honeycombed home of the Kaeding Petrel. Many holes were dug up but revealed no birds. A low cackle was heard and its exact source soon located. One foot of tunnel laid open revealed two Kaeding Petrels, huddled together at the pear-shaped end of the burrow. In scattered spots several more "sets" of two birds were found, but in no instance were eggs located. These birds did not eject a squirt of oil, as petrels do in advanced nesting.

Next, I searched on the seaward side among the boulders, where Fork-tailed Petrels were nesting on May 14, 1916, but found no evidence of any nesting birds at this spot. My attention was then turned towards the north side of the island, where a rocky, low cliff is bordered below by a boulder-covered beach that is covered at times of high seas by the breakers. This was investigated, with the Pigeon Guillemot in mind, but March 22 was apparently too early. I next turned to a broken-up ledge, scantily carpeted with dirt and grass, ten feet above my head. I scrambled up the steep slope to this ledge and with great effort dislodged a heavy rock, three feet in

thickness. This was to be the end of my search on this trip, as night was fast approaching and a rising north wind had put huge breakers between myself and the mainland. Exposed on a cushion of dry grass, lay a pink-colored egg, so fresh that the shell was transparent. Two inches away, crouched, with head hidden in a crevice, was a beautiful Fork-tailed Petrel. This proved to be the male bird, engaged in incubating, as shown by the warmth of the egg.—C. I. CLAY, *Eureka, California, April 5, 1925.*

**The House Finch in the Oklahoma Panhandle.**—Extension of the breeding range of any species of bird is frequently an event of much interest to ornithologists residing at a considerable distance from the region where the change has taken place. It is for this reason that I take pleasure in reporting the fact that during the past three years House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis*) have become year-around residents in the northwest corner of Cimarron County, which is the extreme western county of the Oklahoma panhandle. This is an extension of their former range, in a southeasterly direction, a distance of approximately forty miles. Prior to 1922 the southeastern limits of their breeding range had been in the neighborhood of West Carrizo Creek, in Las Animas County, Colorado. The first record of the species in Cimarron County was in the summer of 1919, when several non-breeding birds were observed about six miles northwest of the inland town of Kenton.

These finches, a majority of which were males, and which numbered less than a dozen all told, were found in a cottonwood grove on North Carrizo Creek (tributary to the Cimarron River). This grove is situated about two miles south of the Colorado line and a mile east of the New Mexico line, well within the boundaries of Oklahoma. E. Paul Rothrock, at that time with the Oklahoma Geological Survey, first reported the presence of the finches in the region. During a portion of June and July, 1919, he was encamped at the grove in company with his wife, who was deeply interested in ornithology. As Rothrock's particular mission in that locality was to study the geological formations and take notes on the animal and bird life, the discovery of a bird hitherto unknown in the state interested him exceedingly. He observed the finches closely almost daily for two or three weeks, and learned many things about their habits and mode of living, but never found a single nest, or saw any but the dozen or so birds in the grove.

In 1920 and 1921 I observed a number of these finches near Kenton, and in the winter of 1921-22 they were numerous in the town itself. From that time on they have been present in large numbers the year around. The first nests were seen in this locality in the summer of 1922. In 1923 I found six on a two-acre tract of land on the outskirts of Kenton, and in 1924 there were eleven nests on this same tract. That same year, too, a pair of the birds had a nest in a small locust tree which grew in one corner of my yard in the residence section of the town. It was on June 11, 1924, that I first saw the nest in my yard. The black locust in which it was located measured a bit over eight feet in height and was surrounded by tall rose bushes. The nest was composed of tightly woven grass stems and plant fibers. It was cup shaped and rested in the forks of an upright branch about seven feet above the ground. At the time of my first visit the nest contained five eggs, four of which were apparently well incubated. Two days later one of the eggs had disappeared. The four remaining eggs hatched on June 20, and the fledglings made an extremely rapid growth, deserting the nest on July 12.

At the present time the southeastern limits of the House Finch's range in this region seems to be about nine miles southeast of Kenton. There were a few scattering nests out that far in that direction last summer, and a number of the birds have spent the past winter around the ranch houses in that same locality.—RALPH C. TATE, *Kenton, Oklahoma, April 17, 1925.*

**The Status of the San Clemente House Finch.**—For some years past, the standing of *Carpodacus mexicanus clementis* Mearns has suffered assault by various writers, at least some of whom do not seem to have comprehended, or have misinterpreted, the differences between linnets inhabiting the various islands and the mainland. The writer at one time confessedly inclined toward the same opinion, namely, that the island race