

The nest had been placed close to the cottonwood trunk, pretty well concealed by a great tangle of drooping limbs and twigs, so characteristic of these trees.

On June 24, 1932, another nest of a Mountain Bluebird was found in a shed on a farm west of Jackson, Wyoming. The birds entered the building by one of several small holes in the wall and the nest, which was a rather loose, bulky structure, was placed on top of a two-by-four near the eaves, just as a Robin's nest would have been placed under similar circumstances.

In both these instances the bluebirds had departed from their customary habits of nesting in cavities. Yet in each case there were suggestive circumstances.

Recalling again the article in the *Auk*, on the chickadee, referred to above, we find that the Robin's nest occupied by those birds was unusually deep and they had excavated farther through the mud bottom. This evidently gave the chickadees a semblance of the usual nesting cavity.

In the case of the bluebird nesting in the cottonwood, there was nothing but a normal Robin's nest, but I could not help suspecting that the tangle of sheltering twigs so effectively screened in the old nest that the bluebirds, on the lookout for the accustomed cavity and finding the old hidden nest by the tree trunk, experienced a sense of shelter, somewhat akin to that of a true cavity, sufficiently to arouse their nest-building activities.

In this connection it is of interest that about the middle of September, 1933, a number of Mountain Bluebirds appeared at my home in Jackson, Wyoming, and for several days both sexes were busy hovering about the various bird boxes. In a small dead fir tree were the remains of an old Robin's nest, disintegrating, but still retaining the cup shape. A male bluebird settled into this old nest and went through the motions of shaping a nest "cup" with its breast. No nest could be less sheltered than this one, located as it was in a small dead tree stripped of foliage.

Going back to the nest in the shed, that structure was not in a cavity, to be sure, but it should be noted that the birds entered through a hole in the wall, which was normal, and while the large interior of the building should have struck the birds as anything but a normal nesting cavity, still the darkened interior, together with the entrance hole, may have furnished sufficient sense of protection to inspire their nest-building activities.—OLAUS J. MURIE, *Bureau of Biological Survey, Jackson, Wyoming, February 19, 1934.*

A Record of the Cape May Warbler in Arizona.—In July, 1933, while engaged in a search for other specimens, I found in the mounted collection in the *Galerie des Oiseaux*, at the *Museum d'Histoire Naturelle* in Paris a male *Dendroica tigrina*, ticketed as "*Dendroica townsendi*. Arizona." Reference to the catalogue showed that this specimen (no. 1876-887) came to the museum, with two other birds, from J. A. Spring of Arizona in 1876. One of this trio, catalogued as "*Geothlypis trichas*," was found in the collection and proved to be a specimen of *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. The third bird, a "*Haemophila*" of some species, I was not able to locate. In view of the contributory evidence of the Western Yellowthroat there is little reason to doubt the authenticity of the Cape May Warbler record. While I am not too familiar with the seasonal plumages of the species, the bird in question appears to be a fully adult male taken in the fall.—A. J. VAN ROSSEM, *California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, California, February 21, 1934.*

Further Concerning Vernacular Names.—The moot question of what kinds of vernacular names are most useable will not down; for instance, see the lively continuation of the discussion by Taverner and Stone in April *Auk* (LI, 1934, pp. 279-281). It may thus be in order to call attention to some usages in practice abroad. Stuart Baker in his latest work on Indian birds (*The Nidification of Birds of the Indian Empire*, London, Taylor and Francis, vol. I, 1932, vol. II, 1933) describes and justifies the plan he adopts in the following words.

" . . . Recently many writers have drawn attention to the fact that the trivial names of Indian birds often convey no descriptive meaning to the hearer either as regards the birds themselves or of the country they occupy. . . ."

"It will be noted that I have completely dropped the use of surnames of people as trivial names. It may be argued that to those who knew well, either personally

or by reputation, the owners of the names in question, they should at once convey a knowledge of the geographical areas in which the bird so named is found. Even this, however, is not always the case. Birds are often named as a compliment to others who have worked on special groups, though the bird itself may only be found in an area never visited by the person after whom it is called. I have, therefore, eliminated these names altogether. In giving the bird a new trivial name I have tried to find some character in each species which differentiates it from other species of the same genera. This character I use throughout as the specific name, qualified by geographical additions to the names of the subspecies.

"Thus the species *Stachyridopsis rufifrons* I call the Red-fronted Babbler, the red forehead being the specific character separating it from its nearest ally, the Red-headed Babbler. Then its geographical subspecies I call the Burmese Red-fronted Babbler, instead of Harrington's Babbler. In this way the trivial name at once conveys to the hearer its important specific character and the area where it is found."

I select to illustrate Stuart Baker's system, from his volume I, vernacular names as follows: The Sikkim Yellow-billed Magpie, The Western Yellow-billed Magpie, The Hooded Racket-tailed Magpie, The Western Himalayan Red-crowned Jay, The Western Cinnamon-bellied Nuthatch, The Eastern Himalayan White-crested Laughing-Thrush, The Simla Streaked Laughing-Thrush, The Ceylon Yellow-eyed Babbler, The Shan States Short-tailed Wren-Babbler, The Assam Red-headed Babbler, The Assam Red-throated Tit-Babbler, The Bengal Red-whiskered Bulbul, The Malay Blue-bellied Bulbul, The Manipur Brown-throated Tree-Creeper, The Nepal Scaly-breasted Wren.

It looks to me as though Stuart Baker's way of forming common names of birds, so as to be really informative to the amateur type of bird student, might well be studied seriously by the committee who has in charge preparation of the next edition of the A. O. U. Check-list. The article "The" could be omitted, perhaps. But the replacement of personal names, meaningless to most amateurs, with descriptive or geographic terms, would alone quite surely be welcomed by most of the young generation.

As examples, among the Paridae in the last Check-list (pp. 229-235), I suggest emendations as follows. The four main groups of chickadees could be called the Black-capped Chickadees, the White-browed Chickadees, the Brown-capped Chickadees, and the Chestnut-backed Chickadees. Then the combinations for some of the subspecies would be: Oregon Black-capped Chickadee (for "Oregon Chickadee" in the current A. O. U. Check-list), Idaho White-browed Chickadee (for "Grinnell's Chickadee"), Southern California White-browed Chickadee (for "Bailey's Chickadee"), Rocky Mountain White-browed Chickadee (for "Mountain Chickadee"), Columbian Brown-capped Chickadee (for "Columbian Chickadee"), Santa Cruz Chestnut-backed Chickadee (for "Barlow's Chickadee"), etc.

Then these names would mean something intrinsically to the user of check-lists just as those vernaculars of Indian birds cited from Stuart Baker instantly gave me information as to chief features of the races and as to the places of main occurrence. May it not prove possible for the next A. O. U. Committee thus to contribute more helpfully toward the needs of the beginner in bird-study?—J. GRINNELL, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, May 7, 1934.*

The Black Pigeon Hawk in Santa Clara County, California.—A Black Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius suckleyi*) was secured by the writer about eight miles west of Gilroy on February 13, 1934. This bird was a female and there was a male present which seemed to be of the same form but unfortunately it could not be secured.

Thanks are due to Dr. Joseph Grinnell for the identification of the skin and for the suggestion that it be recorded. There are very few records for California and this appears to be the first record for the San Francisco Bay counties.—W. E. ENGLISH, *Gilroy, California, April 10, 1934.*

Fossil Bird Remains from the Manix Lake Deposits of California.—In cataloging the collections of the University of California Museum of Paleontology, Mr. C. J. Hesse recently discovered five unidentified fossil bird bones in the vertebrate remains from the Manix beds in San Bernardino County, California. These have been turned