

in spring and often with Snow Buntings. As to Horned Larks (*Otocoris alpestris*), I have never seen them in trees that I can recall; my experience therefore is similar to Mr. Potter's in this regard. He also mentions the pipit family as having very little use for a tree, with which I agree. During my years of observing and keeping records of birds, I have two records of the American Pipit (*Anthus spinoletta rubescens*) in trees. These are: September 22, 1929, a few on an outer dead branch of a black cherry tree in a field; September 19, 1931, one on the top of a balsam fir in a field. Both of these observations of the pipit in trees were made about two miles due south of McMillan. The birds were not more than twenty-five feet, nor less than fifteen feet, from the ground.—OSCAR MCKINLEY BYRENS, *McMillan, Luce County, Michigan, July 27, 1935.*

Long-billed Dowitcher Breeding in Alaska.—Breeding records for the Long-billed Dowitcher (*Limnodromus griseus scolopaceus*) seem to be sufficiently scarce to make the following two sets of eggs worth recording. These are: no. 3605 in my collection, July 1, 1929, Wales, Alaska, four eggs collected by a native together with nest material and sent directly to me; and no. 5435, June 15, 1934, Meade River, Northern Alaska, four fresh eggs of the brown type, nest material, and parent bird, sent to me by Charles D. Brower.—WILSON C. HANNA, *Colton, California, September 9, 1935.*

Nesting of the Yellow-breasted Chat in Saskatchewan.—The Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*) was first recorded in Saskatchewan by Taverner (*Auk*, 44, 1927, p. 227), some twenty-five miles west of this point (Eastend). Since that date, June 4, 1921, the bird has been noted frequently by the writer and other residents of this section of the Province. On June 21, 1935, I was trying to stalk a chat in some thick brush and by good luck flushed a sitting female from her nest. This nest was placed in a gooseberry bush two feet from the ground and contained one egg. The chat is said to desert its nest on very small provocation, so I left the spot at once and did not return until eight days later. On this occasion I was accompanied by two naturalist friends, Mr. Chas. F. Holmes and his son Paul. This time the nest contained four eggs, three of the chat, and one of the cowbird. We collected the female bird, but her mate, as usual, was adept at concealing himself, the while scolding us from close-by. The eggs, when blown, proved to be well incubated, an interesting point, for the chat is generally supposed to desert its nest at once rather than be victimized by the cowbird.

So far as can be ascertained, this is the first recorded nesting of the Yellow-breasted Chat anywhere in the three prairie provinces.—LAURENCE B. POTTER, *Gower Ranch, Eastend, Saskatchewan, Canada, August 16, 1935.*

Wood Ibis near Death Valley.—On the afternoon of July 8, 1935, I watched three Wood Ibis (*Mycteria americana*) at a distance of less than seventy-five feet as they waded in the shallow water of Saratoga Springs. These springs give rise to a reed-filled, fresh water lake a couple of acres in extent, well stocked with a native fresh water perch. They are located on the road from Baker to Death Valley, California, about eight miles south of the Inyo-San Bernardino County line at an elevation of 215 feet. A local resident told me that the birds had been seen there several times during the last few weeks.—J. R. PEMBERTON, *Altadena, July 10, 1935.*

Second Record for the Brewster Booby on the West Coast of Lower California.—On August 12, 1935, Captain J. R. Moore, commercial fisherman, brought to the San Diego Natural History Museum a living Brewster Booby (*Sula brewsteri*). The bird was captured early that morning when it came aboard a fishing boat about twelve miles south of Los Coronados Islands, Lower California, Mexico. The capture brings the occurrence of this species within fifteen miles of California waters and constitutes the second record for the Brewster Booby on the western side of the peninsula of Lower California (*Huey, Condor*, 26, 1924, p. 74). This bird, an immature female, was hatched during early spring of the current year and is

another example of a young bird wandering far from its normal range.—LAURENCE M. HUBY, *San Diego Society of Natural History, Balboa Park, San Diego, California, August 27, 1935.*

The Vocal Apparatus of the Elf Owl and Spotted Screech Owl.—In an earlier paper (Condor, 36, 1934, pp. 204-213) on the vocal equipment of North American owls I was unable to consider that extreme pygmy of the bubonid tribe, the Elf Owl (*Micropallas whitneyi*). Through the efforts of Loye Miller, examination of two syringes of male Elf Owls and correlation with the pitch of their hoots are now possible. As expected, the syrinx is extremely small, but it fits into the series of owls previously studied as a terminal member. The measurements with those of the Pygmy Owl, *Glaucidium gnoma*, in parentheses for comparison are: length of vibrating membrane, 3.1-3.2 mm. (3.6-3.9); length of membrane as per cent of bronchial diameter, 200-206 (205-211); bronchial diameter 1.5-1.6 mm. (1.8-1.9); tracheal diameter, 2.1 mm. (2.5-3.0).

The pitch of an Elf Owl's hoot or whistle is E² flat to E² natural. This is two octaves and a little more above the hoot of male Horned Owls (D). The inverse proportion between membrane length and pitch has been used in computing the theoretical vibration rate of the Elf Owl. The ratio of the membrane to vibration rate in the male Horned Owl was taken as the norm. The computed rate for the Elf Owl is 1158.5 or about D² natural of the tempered scale which, it will be noted, departs from observations by only half a tone. Thus over the extreme range of size in the owls, structures and notes produced are well correlated. The dependence of hoot on diameter of air passages and this in turn on size of the bird is further borne out (see p. 212, *op. cit.*).

The muscle attachments of the Elf Owl syrinx are on the seventh bronchial semiring on both sides. This arrangement is not unlike that in other small owls. There is no asymmetry as in *Glaucidium* and *Strix*.

The syrinx of a male Spotted Screech Owl (*Otus trichopsis*) has the insertion of the intrinsic muscles on the eighth right bronchial ring and the seventh left ring, identical with one asymmetrical *Otus asio* already reported. The measurements are: length of vibrating membrane, 4.4 mm.; length as per cent of bronchial diameter, 209; bronchial diameter, 2.1 mm.; tracheal diameter, 3.6 mm. Compared with males of the small race *gilmani* of *Otus asio*, these are but slightly smaller. No important difference in pitch should result. Loye Miller reports that he observed no higher pitch in *trichopsis*. The special characteristic of the Spotted Screech Owl's note is its rhythm, which of course is a matter of nervous control.—ALDEN H. MILLER, *Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, Berkeley, California, August 6, 1935.*

Pigmy Nuthatch in Berkeley.—On August 6, 1935 and frequently thereafter, one or two Pigmy Nuthatches, *Sitta pygmaea pygmaea*, were heard or seen in a region lying between Professor Sidney Mitchell's garden on Woodmont Avenue in Contra Costa County, and Grizzly Peak Boulevard in Berkeley (Alameda County) just south of this. They appeared to be immature birds of the current season. They fed mainly in Monterey pines, but also in eucalyptus woods and on brooms (*Genista* sp.) which were infested with aphids and overrun by ants and lady-beetles. After August 26 only one individual was seen at a time; it was last seen on September 8. The writer was already thoroughly familiar with this species as seen near Monterey. Ample opportunity was had for indubitable identification, fortified by reference to specimens in the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology of the University of California.—S. C. BROOKS, *Berkeley, California, September 18, 1935.*

Flickers and Jays Feeding on Scarab Beetles in Flight.—*Pleocomma behrensi* is a species of scarab beetle occurring in the foothills of the San Francisco Bay region in California. It is a fairly large insect, females measuring about one and one-fourth inches long by three-fourths of an inch wide, and males about one inch long by half an inch wide. The host plant is *Baccharis pilularis*, commonly known as coyote brush, a predominant shrub of the chaparral in this region. In the fall, during or just after, the first rains, the adults of *P. behrensi* emerge from the ground. The females, being flightless, remain within their open burrows, usually near the surface