

I therefore designate Nootka Sound as the type locality of Gmelin's *Picus cafer*.

Admitting that Gmelin's description really belongs to the bird found by Cook at this locality, several changes in nomenclature are unavoidable. Gmelin's name must be adopted for the Northwest coast Flicker which thus becomes *Colaptes cafer cafer* and *Colaptes c. saturator* is reduced to synonymy. *Colaptes mexicanus* of Swainson should be restored as the name of the Mexican bird in accordance with the usage of most English ornithologists but in the form *Colaptes cafer mexicanus*. No change is necessary in the name of the California bird which remains *Colaptes c. collaris* (Vigors) or in that of the Guadalupe Flicker, *Colaptes c. rufipileus* (Ridgway). Such a solution of the *cafer* difficulty seems reasonable and has much in its favor. It is inconceivable that such a conspicuous bird as the Red-shafted Flicker which was represented in England at the time of the return of Cook's expedition by at least two specimens, two published descriptions, and a colored plate¹ should have remained unnamed for nearly half a century until Swainson in 1827 described the bird brought from Mexico by Bullock, and Vigors in 1829 named the flicker obtained on the Pacific Coast during the Voyage of H. M. S. 'Blossom.' Moreover the transfer of the name *cafer* to the Northwest Coast Flicker connects the history of the bird with that of Capt. James Cook, the famous navigator and explorer, to whom undoubtedly belongs the honor of collecting the first specimens which were carried to Europe.—T. S. PALMER, *Washington, D. C.*

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in New Mexico.—The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher has long been known as an inhabitant of western Texas almost to the New Mexico line, but up to the present time has had no unquestionable published record for the latter State. A recent letter from Mr. E. H. Byers says that the species is nesting this summer at Hobbs, New Mexico, close to the Texas line and about 45 miles north of the southeastern corner of New Mexico.

Mr. Byers was familiar with the bird in former years in eastern Texas, and was pleased to welcome an old acquaintance when it first appeared at Hobbs in June, 1912, and raised a family in a mesquite bush about a mile from water and from the nearest human habitation. Since then the numbers have increased until the summer of 1915 they were fairly common and ranged at least ten miles into New Mexico from the Texas line. But instead of nesting in isolated places, most of the species have built in the trees near houses where there are reservoirs supplied by windmills. One pair actually built their nest on a windmill at the middle of the vane,

¹ This plate was drawn by William W. Ellis, the artist, who accompanied Captain Cook on his third voyage. The plate is No. 19 and is marked "King George's Sound (= Nootka Sound) W. Ellis, del. etc., 1778." According to Sharpe, this plate which represents *Colaptes auratus* is now in the Museum of Natural History at South Kensington, England (Hist. Coll. Brit. Mus., II, 173, 200).

where their summer home was constantly shifting in a 30-foot circle and often at high speed. The eggs had been laid, and incubation begun, when an unusually severe storm tore the fabric from its fastening.—WELLS W. COOKE, *Biological Survey, Washington, D. C.*

Evening Grosbeak at Williamsport, Pa.—On April 20, 1916, and again on April 28 on a morning walk through one of our parks I chanced on some birds that were entirely new to me. I was able to observe them carefully and submitted a description of them to Dr. Witmer Stone who at once pronounced them to be Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*). A subsequent visit to the same spot early in May failed to discover them.—(MISS) BERT L. GAGE, *Williamsport, Pa.*

Evening Grosbeak at Rochester, N. Y.—About the middle of March we had a report from a correspondent in Massachusetts that the Evening Grosbeak (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) had appeared there, so that it may be of interest to report that two pairs were seen here on March 19 and 20 feeding in thorn apple bushes on the outskirts of the city.—F. H. WARD, *Rochester, N. Y.*

Evening Grosbeak at Lowville, N. Y.—The Evening Grosbeaks (*Hesperiphona vespertina vespertina*) have been very plentiful here during the past winter and spring, they came in the latter part of December and were common up to the 15th of May when the bulk of them disappeared. Two or three were seen as late as May 17. There was a flock of about fifty birds which made their home in the village feeding mainly on maple seeds. They also fed on Sumac seeds of which they appeared to be very fond. There was a good proportion of male birds in all stages of plumage. This is the first instance, to my knowledge, of this species having been here in such numbers.—JAMES H. MILLER, *Lowville, N. Y.*

The Calaveras Warbler in Colorado.—The undersigned has to record the occurrence of this warbler (*Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis*) in Colorado, having collected a male of this subspecies in Carver Cañon (altitude about 7000 ft.), eight miles west of Sedalia, Colo., on September 12, 1915. Inasmuch as this seems to be the first record for this State, and in order that there might be no question as to identification, the skin was sent to W. DeW. Miller of the American Museum of Natural History, who kindly examined it, and independently diagnosed it as "a typical example of *Vermivora rubricapilla gutturalis*."—W. H. BERGTOLD, *Denver, Colo.*

The Catbird in Winter in Massachusetts.—In January, 1916, I saw a calling Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) near dusk in the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Massachusetts. On the 29th of February I saw him again in a yard on Garden Street near the Botanic Garden, and again on 10 March. This has been an unusually severe winter and the past month,



Cooke, Wells W. 1916. "The Scissor-Tailed Flycatcher in New Mexico." *The Auk* 33, 324–325. <https://doi.org/10.2307/4072335>.

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