

it to be the original publication, but before the Academy paper got into print his 'Narrative' appeared. In the appendix to this 'Narrative,' many of Townsend's original descriptions appear, and among them that of "*Cypcelus vauxi*." That the publication of the Narrative was really prior to that of the Journal of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, Vol. VIII, is evidenced by page 159 of the latter volume where Townsend himself says (in speaking of "*Sylvia tolmæi*"): "I ventured to insert a description of this bird in an appendix to my recently published work, 'Narrative, etc.'"

No. 424 of the Check-List should therefore stand: *Chætura vauxi* (Townsend), and the authority: *Cypcelus vauxi* Townsend, Narrative, 1839, 348.

The authority as now given in the Check-List is further incorrect in that it cites "*Cypselus vauxii*," where "*Cypcelus vauxii*" appeared.— W. LEON DAWSON, *Seattle, Wash.*

The Eastern Distribution of the Prairie Horned Lark: A Question of Evidence. — In view of the data we possess to-day such a question would seem irrelevant, were it not a fact that recent works of importance reiterate the old dogma that this bird of the western prairies is rapidly pushing its way eastward.

It is true that our knowledge of its distribution has been worked out from West to East in a "back-handed fashion," as has been well shown by various data, and by several tabulations, part of which have aimed to prove the foregoing assumption.

First named in 1884 by Mr. H. W. Henshaw from a type selected from Illinois specimens, it has been rather slowly identified until we now have a fair knowledge of its distribution.

It is especially noticeable that as soon as attention was called to it, it appeared in various quarters where it had been confounded with its larger eastern relative, *Otocoris alpestris*, and had actually been collected on the Massachusetts coast a year before it was distinguished as a well marked race. Yet its history began much earlier. In 1833 Audubon discovered it at Bras d'Or, Labrador, and about a year later figured it in the 'Birds of America,' II, pl. CC, fl., and in the second volume of the 'Ornithological Biography' (1834), page 575, he described it as the nuptial plumage of the Common Horned Lark.

Another early record of it is to be found in Maynard's 'Naturalist's Guide,' where in 1870 it was published as having been seen in July, 1869, in Eastern Massachusetts. This record is re-cited in Coues, 'Birds of the Northwest' (p. 38, 1874).

The working out of its distribution in Maine (where it is the first migrant to appear in spring, and one of the first birds to breed), is certainly the result, in no small measure, of anticipation and careful search, and in no less measure, to opportunity, and it seems very probable that the same

is true of the greater part of its somewhat recently discovered range. In addition to the foregoing evidence, the rediscovery of the bird in Labrador in 1891 by the Bowdoin College expedition (Proc. Portland Soc. Nat. Hist., II, p. 153), after a lapse of fifty-eight years, shows conclusively that it has not suddenly extended its range eastwardly.—ARTHUR H. NORTON, *Mus. Nat. Hist., Portland, Me.*

The Seaside Sparrow Nesting in Bushes.—While I am unable to say positively that the Seaside Sparrow breeding here never nests on the ground, the few nests I have seen have all been in bushes and trees from two to six feet up. This bird is so rare here during the breeding season, and the few skins taken then are in such badly worn plumage, it is impossible to say positively what they are, but I am quite sure they are *Ammodramus maritimus macgillivraii*.

The first nest I saw that I am positive about was found on a small island on the river bank in a salt marsh east of St. Marys, the first part of June, 1904. This island is covered with a growth of sea myrtle bushes and small cedar trees. The nest was in one of the sea myrtle bushes, about three feet from ground, was rather loosely made of dry marsh grasses, and contained three eggs. The bird was incubating at the time and I had a good look at her. A few days after this the nest and eggs were destroyed by negro boys.

A few days later the birds (I presume the same pair) built another nest about thirty feet from the first, this time out on a cedar limb about six feet from the ground. On June 21, 1904, I first killed the two birds and then took the nest with the set of two eggs, and have them all now in my collection. Incubation was well under way.

The only other nest I have been able to find was an old one, possibly of the season before. It was also in sea myrtle bushes, about two feet from ground. I have looked for nests in many other marshes here but all in vain. In 1905 I did not even see a bird during the breeding season.—ISAAC F. ARNOW, *St. Marys, Ga.*

Occurrence of *Progne chalybea* in Texas.—In the George B. Sennett collection, recently acquired by this Museum, are two specimens of *Progne* from southern Texas which have hitherto passed as *P. subis*. Reidentification of these birds proves them to be *Progne chalybea*, the Gray-breasted Martin. This species has previously been recorded from Victoria, Tamaulipas, and Sabinas, Coahuila, in eastern Mexico, but never before from as far north as the adjoining State of Texas. The two localities given below are on the north side of the lower Rio Grande. The data are as follows: No. 84806, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♂; Rio Grande City, Texas, April 25, 1880; M. A. Frazar. No. 84808, Am. Mus. Nat. Hist., ♀; Hidalgo, Texas, May 18, 1889; J. A. Singley.

Judging by these records the Gray-breasted Martin is probably of regular occurrence in the lower Rio Grande Valley. Its close resemblance to



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