

the eustachian tubes open, mesially, at the nether aspect of the base of the sphenoidal rostrum, just in front of the basitemporal region. This common or double aperture is often underlapped by a lip of bone, while the walls of the tubes themselves are usually completely ossified. Now in some Accipitres these walls, anteriorly, are not completed in bone, but in the dried skull exhibit more or less of an open tract. *Pandion* is remarkable in having the anterior openings of its eustachian tubes *entirely closed*, and it will be interesting to know whether this at all modifies the sense of hearing in this bird. The character is present in three different skulls of adult specimens that I have examined, so it is presumably constant, and, at the present writing, so far as I am aware it stands unique among birds.

Since writing the above paragraph, Mr. F. A. Lucas, of the U. S. National Museum, has very kindly sent me the head of a recently killed specimen of *Pandion*, and I have had the opportunity of dissecting it while the parts were perfectly fresh. They confirm what I have written above, inasmuch as the anterior aperture or apertures of the eustachian tubes do not open in the middle line of the cranium above the anterior spine of the basitemporal. But the osseous antero-lateral walls of the passages in question are patulous, at some distance, upon either side, from the median line, and the *fleshy* parts of the eustachian tubes communicate therewith. By means of a fine bristle, I found either passage communicated, as usual, with the middle ear, and so there can be no question as to the functional status of those organs in the Osprey. The external auricular cavities, however, are small, and in either one I found a loose plug of some size, of a substance that had the appearance of a blackish wax, and this is sometimes seen in other large birds.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Takoma, D. C.*

Megascops asio macfarlanei—A Correction.—Since the appearance of the advance sheets of my paper entitled 'Descriptions of Seven supposed new North American Birds',* I have been informed by Captain Bendire that Mr. MacFarlane's name is Roderick Ross MacFarlane, not Robert MacFarlane as given in my foot-note under *Megascops asio macfarlanei*. The mistake is to be regretted but I trust it will be excused in view of the fact that the name has been repeatedly, if not invariably, printed as R. MacFarlane, Robert MacFarlane, or Robert McFarlane. The form last named appears in the latest list of corresponding members of the American Ornithologists' Union (Auk, Jan. 1891, Supplement p. xiii).—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) in Central New Mexico.—The first of July, 1890, while in camp near the northern end of the Sandia Mountains, some twenty-five miles from Santa Fé, New Mexico, I saw a pair of

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adult Scott's Orioles followed by two young of the year. The birds were insect-hunting among the dwarf cedars of the foothills a few miles back from the Rio Grande River. I managed to secure one of the young birds by 'winding' it with a rifle ball and it is now in the National Museum at Washington, D. C.

At this same time a friend came to my camp and described a curious black and yellow bird he had seen recently at the foot of the San Pedro Mountains, fifteen miles east of my locality. This bird was also seen in the cedars of the foothills, and was unquestionably an adult male of this species. From these observations it is quite probable that this Oriole breeds north at least to the Sandia Mountains in central New Mexico.—E. W. NELSON, *Springerville, Arizona.*

Scott's Oriole in California.—I have lately received from Mr. C. H. Marsh, who is living near San Diego, a fine adult male Scott's Oriole (*Icterus parisorum*) in full breeding plumage, with the following details. On May 16, 1890, he came upon a pair in an alder tree in Telegraph Cañon, about ten miles from San Diego, and about the same distance from the Mexican line. He shot the male, letting the female go. He discovered their nest in the same tree, only five feet from the ground; it contained a single young bird. Mr. Marsh has seen only this pair in a residence of several years. He adds that when living at Silver City, New Mexico, (up to 1887, I think) he obtained them occasionally.

The occurrence of this Oriole in Lower California has been noted by several (Belding, Bryant, Anthony), and in 'The Auk' for January, 1885, Scott has given a full account of its breeding in Pinal County, Arizona; but I have seen no record of its having been found breeding within the limits of California proper.—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

Nesting of the Cerulean Warbler (*Dendroica cerulea*) in Beaver County, Pennsylvania.—This species, reported to be exceedingly rare in most sections, is here common as a migrant and tolerably common as a summer resident. (But compare, in this connection, Wheaton, *per* Coues, Birds of the Northwest, p. 233.) It has not as yet been found in Butler and Armstrong Counties. In the breeding season it is partial to high, open, oak woods, as well as to low, damp, beech woodland, in which places I often see five or six pairs in the course of as many hours' walk. Inhabiting as it does the terminal foliage of the highest forest trees, it would easily be overlooked even by the most careful of observers, were it not for the peculiar notes of the male, which are readily distinguished from those of any other Warbler, and which suffice to disclose its presence. I can scarcely describe this song, beyond saying that it is a genuine Warbler song, and that its last notes somewhat resemble the 'drumming' of our locust (*Cicada*); but once heard it is not apt to be forgotten.

It was with these facts in mind that on May 24, 1890, I determined to put my previous experience to a test in finding the nest of the species.