

“Mr. Nuttall in vol. 2, p. 89, of his highly interesting work on American Birds, has given a full history of this species of Ibis, with a figure shewing the Pyramids in the background. To this work we refer the reader (who has access to it). Mr. N. says, ‘it is a periodical visitor of Egypt, where, in common with the Sacred Ibis, it was revered and embalmed in the vast catacombs of Saccara and Memphis. It arrives in that country in October, and leaves it in the month of March. They spread themselves into Russia, Siberia, Tartary, Denmark, occasionally in Sweden, and perhaps Lapland, remaining in those countries until driven to migrate by the inclemency of approaching winter, at which period they appear to arrive in Africa and Asia. It is a still more rare and accidental visitor to the United States.’

“So highly was it honored, that the Ibis became the characteristic hieroglyphic of the country; repeated upon all their monuments, obelisks and national statutes. The abundance of their remains in the catacombs proves indeed the familiarity which the species had with the indulgent inhabitants of its favorite country. Diodorus Siculus says these birds advanced without fear into the midst of the cities. Strabo relates, they filled the streets and lanes of Alexandria to such a degree as to become troublesome and importunate. The Ibis is now no longer venerated in Egypt, and is commonly shot and ensnared for food. The markets of the sea coast are now abundantly supplied with them and a white species as game—both of which are ignominiously exposed for sale deprived of their heads, a spectacle from which the ancient Egyptians would have recoiled with horror.’

“The person who shot the Ibis at this place remarked, ‘how tame it was.’ This confidence and easy familiarity with man would render it entirely unfit for a residence in New England, where there is such a murderous propensity to shoot the feathered race.

“J. BARRATT.

“*Middletown, Ct., May 16, 1850.*”

The above account was reprinted in the ‘Fourth Annual Report of the Regents of the University on the Condition of the [New York] State Cabinet of Natural History for the year 1850’ (1851), pp. 113-115.

The Regents add: ‘A bird of the same species, shot by Mr. Hurst, on Grand Island, in the Niagara River, in August, 1844, is now in the State Cabinet. See Third Annual Report, p. 22.’

Dr. Barratt’s specimen is in good condition in the Museum at Wesleyan University, Middletown.—JNO. H. SAGE, *Portland, Conn.*

*Geococcyx californianus*—A Correction.—The writer published a memoir entitled ‘Contributions to the Anatomy of *Geococcyx Californianus*,’ which was read Nov. 16, 1886, and appeared in the ‘Proceedings’ of the Zoölogical Society of London on April 1, 1887. He finds that the figures of the muscles of the pelvic limb of the bird (pl. xlv and xlvi) are somewhat reduced, whereas in the ‘Explanation of Plates’ it states that these parts are figured “life size.” This error arose from the fact that the publishers

determined to include these figures on plates rather than give them life size, as originally intended, in the text, and they had to be reduced to do so. It was a very natural oversight to make on the part of the publishers, to print the author's corrected proof as returned to them, and the latter was not aware of the change. Such slips will occasionally occur, especially when author and publisher are separated by a distance of nearly 6000 miles, as in the present instance.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Fort Wingate, N. M.*

**Hummingbirds feeding their Young on Insects.**—Mr. Manly Hardy has kindly consented to my publishing the following extract from one of his letters: "When I was in Colorado Mr. E. Carter told me this story. He found a Hummingbird's nest one afternoon, containing two eggs. As he wanted the parent he left it and returning next day shot her. To his surprise there were two young in the nest instead of eggs. Upon dissecting the young he found two insects in the stomach of one of them, thus proving that Hummingbirds sometimes feed their young on insects within twenty-four hours from the time they are hatched." Unfortunately Mr. Hardy did not ascertain the particular species of Hummer above referred to.—WILLIAM BREWSTER, *Cambridge, Mass.*

**Otocoris alpestris praticola in Chester County, South Carolina.**—Although noteworthy for its severity, the past winter was not favorable for the presence of Horned Larks in this portion of the Piedmont Belt. The rigorous weather of the early part of December, 1886, brought, however, a little company of less than a dozen, nine of which were taken. A study of Mr. Henshaw's descriptions (*Auk*, Vol. I, July, 1884) led to the conviction that these birds, which formed a continuous series, headed by a large and bright-colored male, were Prairie Horned Larks. Selecting a typical female and the extreme male, I forwarded them to Mr. Henshaw, who courteously examined the samples, determining them as follows: "I think you can safely call both specimens *Otocoris alpestris praticola*. The male is rather large, but it comes nearer to this race than to either of the others."

Whether *alpestris* and *praticola* will be found contemporaneously cannot be affirmed without further observation, but it is probable that both appear during some winters, though perhaps not during the same period of cold.—LEVERETT M. LOOMIS, *Chester, S. C.*

**Clarke's Nutcracker (*Picicorvus columbianus*) in the Bristol Bay Region, Alaska.**—The northward range of this species has been very much extended by the capture of a specimen at Nushagak, Alaska (lat. 66° N., long. about 159° W.), by Mr. J. W. Johnson, signal observer at that station. The specimen (No. 110,095, U. S. Nat. Mus. Coll.), an adult male, was obtained Nov. 5, 1885, and is apparently exactly like specimens from the Western United States.—ROBERT RIDGWAY, *Washington, D. C.*