

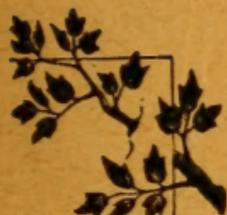
Hecker Gift

VOL. I.

671
H924
Birds

No. 1. - 9

May 20th, 1899. - 1900

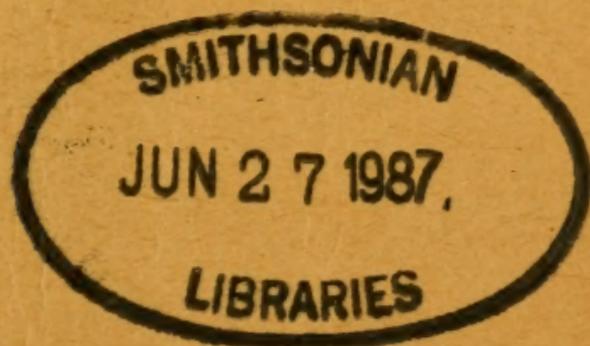


THE HUMMER

DEVOTED TO BIRD LIFE.

1899-1900

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
J. R. BONWELL,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.



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ANNOUNCEMENT!

Next month the Hummer will contain;
Life history of the Black-Capped Chickadee;
The Am. Red Cressbill, with notes on a captive.
The Short-Eared Owl,
Besides the regular notes and short articles.

SUBSCRIBE.

CUTS



Make your own cuts.

Cost less than 5c each.

You do not need to be an artist.

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Material costs less than \$1, if you advertise or have a press you need this work.

The publishers price is \$1.00, for a short time I will send you a copy for 50c, postpaid.

F.A.V.CAREY,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.

Do You Shave?

I will send you a genuine A.J. Jordan Sheffield
Hollow Ground Razor for,

85 cents.

Sent Post Free. I never sold one of this brand
before for less than \$2.00, which is the regular
retail price. I want you to give me a trial order.

☞ This offer is good only till June 5th.

M.M.Zimmerer,
WALL PAPER,

China
and Glassware.

WATCHES, DIAMONDS and

Jewelry

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Bird Life.

Published monthly by J.R.Bonwell.

Nebraska City, Neb.

5 cents a copy. By the year 40 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

VOL.I.

May 20th., 1899.

No.1.

Greeting-

As we have said so do we come, small in size but anxious to grow large.

From the support we have received so far we are confident of our future success.

We were so rushed to get this number out that we had no time to read 'proof', we think you are not going to judge us on this, our first number, on a typographical basis.

We desire to thank all who kindly sent their subscriptions in advance of publication, and we are so sure that you have made no mistake that we will refund you your money at any time if you think twelve issues not worth the amount paid.

The Publisher.

In the future-

We expect to print the Hummer in our own office, we make no apology for the typography of this issue, you can expect some improvement by next month.

Whenever-

We shall have secured 1500 paid in advance subscribers, we shall procure a first class photo-engraver, as we now control a plant and would be willing to use it in connection with the paper when the 1500 mark is reached.

Illustrations-

Our future issues will be illustrated, the number depending on our support. Send your subscription in at once so that we can make arrangements for the June number.

Size-

We have not yet decided on the size of the paper, we should like to have suggestions as to size and makeup, from our readers. We want your support now when we need it, do not wait until we raise the subscription price.

The Ruby-throat-

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird is the smallest and one of the most interesting of the birds found in the Missouri Valley.

Not much larger than a Dragon Fly, as swift in flight, almost, as the lightning's flash, it presents a dazzling sight darting amongst the flowers.

When resting, the bird generally perches upon a dead branch, or one without foliage.

The nest is about the size of a walnut, saddled on a limb, generally at a fork.

This cup-shaped structure is composed of cotton from trees, fine fibers, and is covered on the outside with lichens. The nest generally overhangs a path or road.

In this locality the bird seems to have no preference in the choice of trees, the writer has found nests in elms, box elders, oaks, and walnuts.

The eggs are two in number, pure white, and elliptical in shape; the period of incubation is about ten days.

The eggs average .50 x .30.

My experience places their breeding period from June 15th to July 10th.

Orno., Neb.

Criticism-

The Osprey in general is as fine a magazine as the student of birds could desire, but in the editorials of the past months we find a few things that were best unsaid.

Ridiculing a person, publically, for his ignorance is a position unworthy for an educated man to take. While we recognize and admire Dr. Coues writings in the Ornithological line, we denounce such satirical editorials as prejudicial to science and uncalled for in a journal such as the Osprey.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Under this head we shall undertake to answer all questions of general interest to our readers.

F.N.— Probably the Baltimore Oriole.

Otis.— Exchanges of any nature accepted.

E.R.H.— See third cover page.

R.M.— Yes, the Short-eared Owl breeds in Neb.

Harold.— We cannot examine specimens.

Ark.— Not an unusual nesting site.

Nemo.— From five to seven is the average.

Frank.P.— Get Coues Key to N.Am. birds.

Why do you collect ?-

Every person who makes a collection of eggs should have a good reason for so doing. If you do it for the mere gratification of having so many sets of eggs, you are not only injuring the birds but your-self also, as you are destroying all the pure motives that might be possible to you in the study of bird life.

Too often we come across the "market value" collector, he who seems to have but one idea, taking the eggs solely because they are worth so much or leaving them because they are worth so little. In my opinion the only thing that excuses collecting, except for scientific use, is that many young people become interested in Ornithology solely by this means.

Afterward, when they become more acquainted with the study they stop collecting, take up the work with new possibilities and a love of nature for it-self.

If you are not getting any material that benefits you by collecting, either stop or change your plan to one of useful investigation.

J.R.B.

Two days in the tamaracks-

About twelve miles north of our town is a small body of water called Wind Lake, over which the Milwaukee sportsmen and the farmers have been fighting for years, the sportsmen own a club house and objected to having the lake drained, the farmers wanted it drained.

The farmers won, the lake was partially drained, now it is surrounded by a tamarack swamp of several thousand acres. My chum and I decided that it would be a good place to go for specimens in botany and oology, so one morning late in June we set out on our wheels for the lake.

In a short time we reached the farm house where we intended to stop, after unloading and eating dinner we set out for the tamaracks. Just as we started I took a King bird's nest in a small oak. About a mile from the tamaracks we entered the swamp proper, the ground here was covered with a dense mat of ferns and night shades, perhaps you can imagine how we struggled through it.

Plovers and Killdeer rose all around, we flushed a Plover from its nest and secured four badly incubated eggs, averaging 1.76 x 1.30. The next nest we came across was an American Bittern.

There was only one egg, which we took.

We now entered the tamaracks and I at least did not feel repaid for the exertion of squeezing between the trees, many of which were not more than a foot apart.

My chum collected pitcher plants by the dozen and two species of orchids which he had never seen before, while I collected dozens of mosquito lites. The nests we found were mostly unoccupied although we took a few common species.

As it was getting dark we started home, but we came out on the wrong side of the swamp where the ground was shaky, after nearly getting lost in trying to get out, we reached home, tired, hungry, and covered with mud. Next morning we started for the lake, my chum took a set of Virginia Rails in the reeds near the swamp.

They are before me now, the eggs are cream, blotched with brown and lilac at the larger end, and averaging 1.26 X .90.

Clouds had been coming up, it now began to pour. We made tracks for home and in the afternoon started for town, well satisfied with our trip, although it had not added much to our collection.

C.H.Sleight, Wis.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Bird Life.

Published monthly by J.R.Bonwell.

Nebraska City, Neb.

5 cents a copy. By the year 40 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

J.Robin Bonwell, }
M.A.Carriker Jr. } Editors.

Our aim-

Is to give only matter that will interest the practical bird student, in these columns we shall denounce the wholesale destruction of birds for any purpose. We shall advocate protection by state legislation, the collection of specimens for scientific purposes, and the exposure of fraud in connection with the sale of specimens.

Thus is our position defined, we hope to have the opinions of our readers at all times, it will be the policy of the paper to try and please everyone.

Notes-

Beginning with the next issue we shall publish a page devoted to field work, we desire notes of this nature from all active collectors.

The Month-

Once more the month of May is here with her blue skies and warm sunshine.

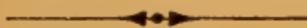
The woodland has assumed its fresh green mantle of summer and the air is laden with the fragrant perfume of apple blossoms, while the drowsy hum of bees arises from the flower laden trees.

Again our feathered friends are here, filling the air with their joyous warbles; seeming to be fairly bubbling over with happiness which pours forth in an unceasing stream of song.

The Wren is industriously searching for twigs in the fence corner, ever and anon flitting up to an overhanging limb to pour forth volumes of sweet and tender cadences; a small grove of pines resounds with the bustling clamor of a colony of Grackles which has taken possession of it and are determined to make all the noise possible.

All bird life is making the most of a short season, free from care and full of gayety before beginning the more sober duties of raising a family.

M.A.C.



If you- Are going on a collecting trip let us have your notes fresh from the field.

The Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher-

This pretty little bird is tolerably common in eastern North Carolina, arriving the latter part of March. Soon after arriving they begin building their nests; the nest is placed on a horizontal limb of a beech, oak, or hickory, the height ranging from twenty to sixty feet.

The nest is a cup-shaped structure nicely saddled on the limb; it is composed of beech buds, beech blooms, grass, wool, and small weed stalks.

The entire outside of nest is covered with lichens. The nest is so well concealed that I have never found one except by watching the birds.

In the sets I have examined the number of eggs were five, but four or six are sometimes deposited. When the birds arrive their familiar and pleasant notes may be heard in any grove along the banks of a stream or in other favorable places.

Not until a short time ago did I know that this bird could sing so sweet a song; one day while walking under a dead cedar I heard the subdued tones of one of the sweetest songs I ever heard, and naturally I began to look about to see from what source it came, to my surprise, I saw a Blue

Gray sitting on one of the dead twigs singing for dear life, I watched it until, for some cause, it took flight and disappeared amidst the foliage of a huge oak. For a while I could not realize that it had departed, for its song had made such an impression on my mind that I had forgotten all else. An interesting feature of the Blue-gray is the readiness with which it leaves its nest when disturbed, it removes the material to a new site. In the season of '98 I found a pair of these birds building their nest on a gum limb, I sat down on a log, watched them for a few minutes, then left. On returning the next day I found that they were removing the nest, and, on watching them, found that they were carrying it to another gum about one hundred yards away. For several days I did not visit the nest, when I did I found that they had again moved the nest, and had carried all the material so they were not at work and I could not find their nest. This season I found a pair building their nest on the limb of an oak about twenty feet high, some mornings afterward I passed the tree and saw an English Sparrow near the nest. On the evening of the same day I passed the tree again, and on looking at the nest

I thought that it was not as large as when I passed before. The next morning I visited the tree and observed that the nest was half gone. The birds were at work carrying the material that the nest was made of.

I followed them to an oak about eighty yards away, and there found them building a nest.

The nest is still under process of building, and it is likely that they will desert this also as some mischievous boys have found it.

The Blue-gray leaves sometime in August or September, after spending a delightful summer, sure to return again.

R.P.Smithwick, N. Carolina.

Apology-

Owing to the amount of advertising received for this issue we are obliged to cut out nearly all of the exchange notices, will remedy all such matters in the next issue, all exchanges will be given a good showing then.

We shall take great care to admit only advertisers of good repute to our columns, we thank all who responded to our first call and hope to merit the trust you have placed in our venture.

EXCHANGE.

Exchanges, Wants and For Sale notices of any nature inserted under this head at the rate of 1c a word, nothing under 15c accepted.

Will give Job Printing in exchange for horse shoe tags, address, Tag, care of The Hummer. M

Exchange- Climbing Irons, Eggs and cash, for J.T., Horseshoe or Drummond tobacco tags, will pay 25c per 100 for same. F.W.Collins, Box 431 Garden City, Kansas. M1t

Minerals- to exchange for minerals in 25 to 50lb lots, by freight, also a few eggs for same. C.M.Slayton, Grattan, Kent Co., Mich. M

25 Cents

Pays for one years subscription to the
**NATURALIST, FARM and
FANCIERS REVIEW.**
A 16 Page Monthly.

With privilege of one exchange notice of 25 words free.

H.W.Kerr, Pub., Blencoe, Iowa.

EXCHANGE.

Insect Life-

Nearly a complete file.

Ethnological Reports-

1880 to 1894 with separate text.

I want Ornithological works, send your lists.

☞ Also Photos to exchange for same or for eggs

M.A. Carriker Jr., Nebraska City, Neb.

We want you

To become a subscriber to the Hummer
and also try our exchange column, send

30 cents

and we will give you a years subscription
and a twenty word exchange notice.

☞ If you want the paper only, send 25cents.

☞ If you are already a subscriber and want an
exchange of 20 words send 15 cents.

☞ This offer is good only till June 1st, forms
for next issue close June 4th. Address

J.R. Bonwell, Pub., Nebraska City, Nebr.

Tropic Plant Food

MAKES PLANTS BLOOM,

Tropic Plant Food is the best fertilizer possible,
it makes weak plants strong and healthy.
Used to force bed plants, roses and for any plant
where a quick growth is desired.

25cents a package at your druggists.

See that our signature

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yukon Mfg Co".

is on every package.
If you have never tried a package and your
dealer dont keep it, we will send you a 25c pkg
postpaid, for 10 2c stamps.

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TAKE THE

Pecos Valley and North Eastern Ry.

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ALL POINTS IN THE PECOS VALLEY
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Connects with the A.T. & S.F. at Amarillo, Tex.

"THE BEST ON EARTH."
SENT ON RECEIPT OF 50c. IN STAMPS OR MONEY ORDER.

Gallithera



ASK YOUR DEALER FOR IT.
USED AND RECOMMENDED BY LEADING POULTRYMEN

POSITIVE ROUP CURE.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS.

The Pantherapean Company, New York.

Birds Eggs.

25 kinds, all named, in a partitioned case lined with pink cotton, for \$1.00, prepaid.

Egg catalog for 2c stamp. A nice egg drill, blowpipe, embryo hook and data blanks, in case, for 35c postpaid.

A complete stock of everything for Taxidermists, and all Naturalists supplies.

Complete catalog, over 300 ill's., for 10c stamps.

Chas. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass.

Naturalists Supplies,

GLASS EYES,

BOOKS, TOOLS, PAPIER MACHE HEADS.

Stuffed Specimens a Specialty.

New revised list of Bird Skins and Eggs now ready, send 10c for complete catalog of all.

Frank Blake Webster,

Hyde Park, Mass., U.S.A.



VOL. I.

No. 2.

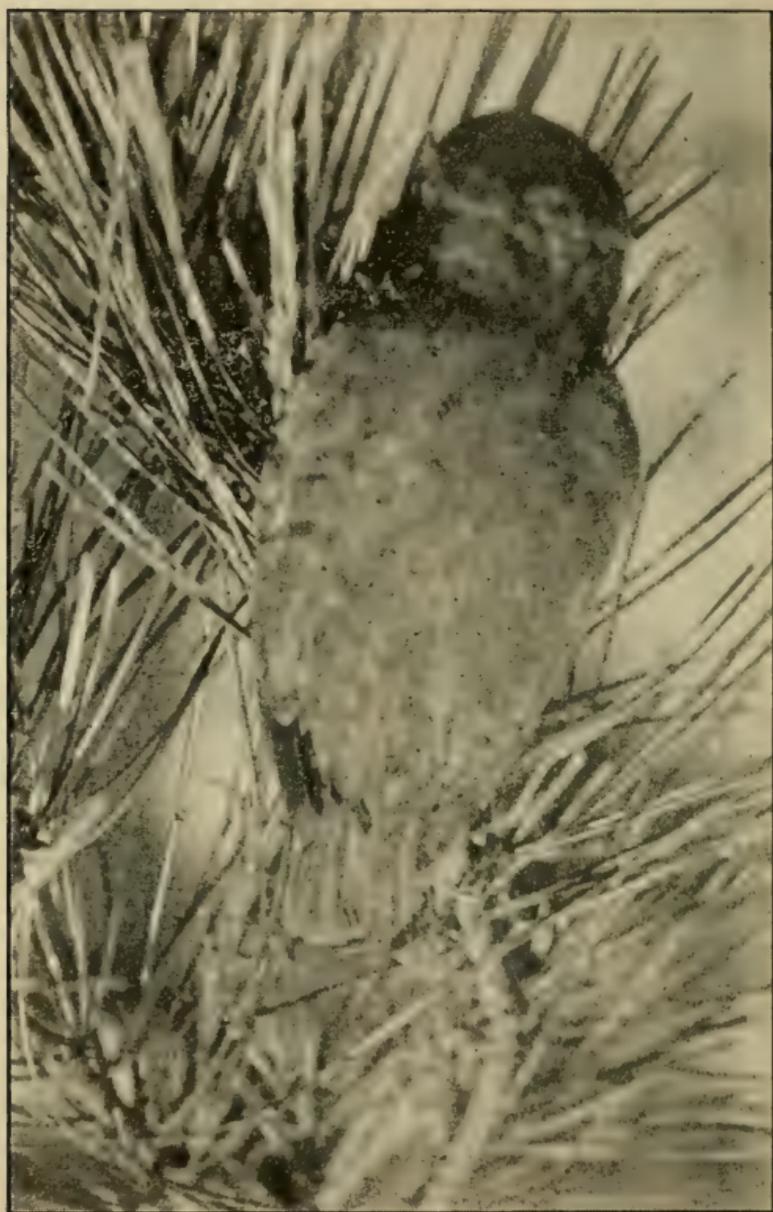
June 20th, 1899.



THE HUMMER

DEVOTED TO BIRD LIFE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY
J. R. BONWELL,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.



New Mexico

The coming country.

Land In The Pecos valley

Under an irrigating system costing over \$2,500,000.00, now for sale at

5 to \$30 an acre.

Cash & time.

Best climate in the United states.

For full particulars address,
J.R. BONWELL, NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.

THE Hummer.

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Published monthly by J.R. Bonwell.

Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

All unsigned articles are staff contributions.

Articles of interest solicited from all.

Change of address— In ordering change of address be sure and give both old and new.

VOL I.

June 20th., 1899.

No. 2.

We are issuing this number in two editions, one to subscribers on book paper, the other on 'print' paper is the 'sample copy' edition, all who receive the latter are earnestly requested to subscribe.

After this you will receive no more samples as the few we issue will go to new names.

We have purchased some very interesting articles, which will be published, with illustrations, in the Hummer in the near future. We call attention to our liberal subscription offer on page 22.

"The Publisher."

The Am. Red Crossbill.

This small bird is one of the most interesting of our summer friends.

The bird feeds principally upon the seed from pine cones, their bills are curiously constructed so that they can pry open the cones, hence their name.

The bird arrives in S.E. Nebr. about May first, and it is thought breed here, as they have been seen here this year as late as June tenth.

The birds come generally in flocks of about six, sometimes as many as fifty.

They are very tame when feeding and can be approached and studied easily, at times even to within a few feet. The illustration shows one feeding. While the birds are feeding they keep up a continual chatter of PEET PEET, PEET PEET.

They utter this call also on the wing, their manner of flight greatly resembles that of the American Goldfinch.

Last month one was caught and caged, it did not seem to be afraid and would feed on cones placed in the cage. On going close to the cage it would cease work and regard one with a stare of blank amazement.

After eating about all it could hold it would sieze a cone in its beak and run around the cage, sometimes jumping from side to side.

During the day the bird was never still, either eating or playing all the time.

One night the cage was left hanging to a pine tree in the yard, the next morning the bird was dead, the result of the evil effect of a cat's paws.

On examination of the stomach over seventy seed from pine cones were found.

See our prize offers on page 19.

Publications Received.

The Osprey,

The Oologist,

Naturalist, Farm & Fanciers Review,

Wilson Bulletin,

Western Poultry Farm,

Facts,

Nebraska Philatelist.

The Western Poultry Farm is the best paper of its class, for the money, that we have seen, send for a sample. See their adv. on page 3.

Life History of the Black-capped Chickadee.

The Chickadee is one of our most common and interesting birds, familiar to every one, and yet how seldom we see matter relative to their habits. It is a summer and winter resident in nearly the whole of the central U.S.

It retains its distinctive characteristics probably better than any bird of such general distribution.

The Chickadee is a factor of economic importance to the agriculturist and fruit grower.

In a recent conversation with the writer a prominent horticulturist said, "In my opinion the Chickadee is the best bird friend the fruit grower ever had, they feed almost exclusively on the insects infesting orchards, and unlike other birds of similar food habits they destroy these pests at all seasons. In the warm days of winter I go over the orchard, uncovering concealed places for their benefit, it is surprising how many eggs and grubs they can destroy. Give me the Chickadee in preference to any bird for the orchard."

When fruit men realize what a boon this bird is to

them, they will devise some means for its practical protection. A very conservative estimate places the average daily consumption of insects by this bird at twenty five, hence we have 18,250 insects destroyed by a single pair in one year.

Suppose they raise but one brood of seven, which ought to average fifteen insects a day after they are a month old; placing their period at nine months we have a total of 46,600 insects destroyed by one pair and their offspring in a year.

From this it can be seen that a few pair of these birds are of great economic value.

The Chickadee commences building about May 1st., some years as early as April 10th.

The period extends till late in the summer, fresh sets having been taken July 15th. in Nebraska.

The nesting period of these birds in the same locality is very variable, within a radius of a few miles the following variations may be found: nesting commenced, partial clutch, full complement, and advanced incubation.

The reason for this is, probably, that some of the birds wintering here also remain during the breeding season and start to nest as soon as spring op-

ens, others coming from the south are later in nidification. The greater portion of these birds settle along the wooded streams and their tributaries.

The Chickadee seems not to be particular in the choice of a nesting site, 'any old hole' answers as well as the finest cavity.

They build in decayed stumps, holes vacated by other birds, natural cavities, sometimes in holes of their own construction. It is an exception when a nest is found over 15 feet from the ground.

If the birds take possession of an old hole they thoroughly clean it out before starting the nest.

The nest is composed of moss, fur from animals, vegetable fibers, and lined with fine hair and feathers.

(To be continued.*)

*EDITORS NOTE— The next installment of Life History of the Chickadee will contain notes and descriptions of eggs covering several hundred sets examined by the author and illustrated with half tone engravings made expressly for this paper.

Answers to correspondents.

All questions of general interest to our readers answered. Names of Advertisers not given.

Mrs. H. T.— Never heard of it.

E. H. Kan.— We do not think a society such as you propose would be of material benefit to any one, so many branches of science could not accomplish as much as separate societies representing each branch. If you should attempt a state society of ornithologists we would aid you.

Kent.— "Nebraska Birds" was issued in 1896.
Lawrence Bruner, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln.

E. P. R., Tex.— June 1st to 15th.

We want every bird lover to subscribe, if you can not send for a year try us for 3 or 6 months, see offer on page 22.

Have you not something for exchange, books, eggs or articles for sale? See page 22.

All articles for prize competition must be in by the 15th of July, see page 19.

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VOL. I.

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No. 2.

J. Robin Bonwell, }
M. A. Carriker Jr. } Editors.

Nebraskans organizing-

At the request of several active ornithologists the Neb. Orn. Club of Lincoln has began organizing a state society.

All ornithologists throughout the state should lend their aid in perfecting this organization.

There are at least twenty five active workers in this state who could accomplish a great deal of good by having such an organization.

Any person interested should write W. D. Hunter, Sec'y of Com. on State Organization, University of Nebraska, Lincoln.

Dr. Rob't. H. Wolcott, Prof. Lawrence Bruner, and Mr. Hunter of the State Univ. spent a few days in Souix Co. Neb. the latter part of May.

E. H. Jones of Dunbar Neb. was a pleasant caller the first of the month.

E. L. Palmer, Passenger Agt. A. T. & S. F. Ry., was a caller on the 5th.

E. A. Delicate of St. Louis, a member of the N. C. N. Ass'n., is in this city on a visit with relatives.

Several members of the N. C. N. A. went on a trip to the Star School House, Missouri, last week.

H. E. Hershey has accepted a position in Chicago.

J. Ellis McLellan is collecting in the South West for several Museums and the Rothchild's.

Isador S. Trostler, of Omaha, offers a set of eggs of the Gt. Blue Heron for the best article submitted to him on the Sparrows of Nebraska.

From the support we have received since the first issue, we are confident for the future.

Our July number will be the best advertising medium for the summer months, see our liberal offer on page 22 of this issue.

EXCHANGE.

Exchange, Want and for sale notices of any kind inserted in this column for 1c a word, no notice accepted under 15c. Patrons can have answers directed care of the Hummer, stamps sufficient for forwarding answers must be sent with adv. Notices must reach us by the 10th of the month.

OSPREY— Nov. 96, 25c ea. or ex. for eggs, Ad
O.26, c-o Hummer. Jn 2t

INSECT LIFE— Nearly a complete file for ex.
Eggs preferred. Ad. H 23, c-o Hummer. J1t

WANTED— Skins from all sections of N A. of
Savanna Sparrows and other common birds in
ex. C.E.Aiken, Colorado Springs, Colo. J1t

NIDOLOGISTS— For ex., what numbers do
you want?. Ad. A 30, c-o Hummer. J2t

WANTED - Skins of Prothonatry and other
Warblers. Good ex. or cash if cheap. Ad, E 27
c-o Hummer. J1t

WANTED— Horse Shoe Tobacco Tags, will pay 40c a 100. Ad, C.21, c-o Hummer. J6t

FOR SALE— Fine sets of Wood Ibis 20c per egg, Fla. Burrowing Owl 30c per egg; no order filled for less than \$5; cash with order. A.M. Nicholson, Orlando, Fla. J1t

SMITHSONIAN REPORTS— 93 & 94 for ex. What offers? Ad, M 26, c-o Hummer. J2t

EXCHANGE— 70 2-3, 581 1-5, 51a 1-3, 540 2-4, 79 2-1, 75 1-1, 529 1-3, 705 1-2, 761 1-4, 633 1-3, 420 1-2, 652 2-3, 316 1-3, 444 1-4; 1-3, 703 1-4, 511 1-5, 495 2-2, etc to ex for any kind of Drummond tobacco tags. F.W.Collins, Garden City, Kan., Box 431. J1t

We neglected to state in Kerr's adv on page 16 that subscribers get an ex notice free, send him your sub and try his exchange column.

JOB PRINTING— To ex for eggs, or Horse Shoe tags. Ad, L 24, c-o Hummer. J1A1

Don't forget to subscribe to the Hummer.

A few copies yet

of Vol.I. No.1. at 5c each.

BE QUICK.

J.R.Bonwell, Publisher, Nebraska City, Nebr.

Bird Photo's

FINE

\$1.00 a dozen

M.A.Carriker Jr. Nebraska City, Nebr.

Send 25cents

For a years subscription to the
Naturalist, Farm & Fanciers Review.

**H.W.Kerr, Publisher,
BLENCOE, IOWA.**

TRY Tropic Plant Food

For your house and garden plants.

At your druggists, 25c a package.

Accept no substitute, our signature,

Yukon Mfg Co

on every package.

A \$2 Razor for 75 Cents.

Send me a money order for seventy five cents and I will send you a genuine hollow ground, Jordan \$2 Razor. After trying it if you do not think it a bargain, send it back and I will return your 75c.

Agents Wanted.

I will give a years sub. to the Hummer to all who send an order by July tenth.

**M.M.Zimmerer,
Nebraska City,**

Prize offers.

We offer the following prizes for this month. The only condition being that you are a subscriber to the Hummer, if you are not send the price of subscription with your article.

Postage on MSS. must be prepaid by sender.

Address, "Hummer Prize Competition."

J. R. Bonwell, Publisher, Nebraska City, Nebr.

\$5 worth of sets.

For best article on any bird.

\$2 worth of eggs

For best article on any collecting trip.

\$1 worth of eggs

For best original bird anecdote.

\$1 worth of eggs

For best item of interest to collectors.

You Should Read

The Kansas
City
Weekly Star.

52 Weeks 25c

The Great Newspaper
of the Great west.

THE STAR,
Kansas City, Mo.

Designs for any business, see these.

Shoes

Bakers

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VOL. I.

No. 3.

July 20th, 1899.

THE HUMMER

DEVOTED TO BIRD LIFE.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY

J. R. BONWELL,

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.

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VOL. I. July 20th., 1899. No.3.

— A Birds Nest. —

But most of all it wins my admiration
To view the structure of this little work,—
A bird's nest, mark it well within, without:
No tool had he that wrought, no knife to cut,
No nail to fix, no bodkin to insert,
No glue to join: his little beak was all;
And yet how neatly finished! What nice hand,
With every implement and means of art,
And twenty years' apprenticeship to boot,
Could make such another? Fondly then
We boast of excellence, where noblest skill
Instinctive genius foils.

James Hurdis.

— A Multitude of Small Toads. —

Within the past two weeks a number of Hummer readers may have seen an article published in several prominent papers relative to a large number of small toads, all moving northward near Blencoe Iowa, and put the story down as a fake. However that may be, it was not exaggerated.

Coming apparently from the marshes along the Missouri and Little Souix Rivers they took a northerly course, first beginning to attract attention along the railroad track, later, throughout the surrounding country. During the first few days of cloudy weather they were only noticeable near the railway tracks and public highways, later, when the sun threw out its warm rays, they took to the fields keeping up the constant travel northward.

No obstruction diverted them for any length of time, resuming the same northward course when removed. An idea of their numbers may be shown by the fact that 115 passed over a four foot section of a narrow sidewalk in 5 min. Chickens and Hawks are devouring large numbers and seem to relish the diet.

H. W. KERR.

Entered in prize competition.

The Carolina Chickadee.-

The Carolina Chickadee is a resident in eastern N.C., common in the woods, swamps and orchards.

Its food is small insects that are found on the limbs of trees.

The nest of this Chickadee is placed in any suitable place in a dead or living tree, of a large number of nests examined the greater part were placed in cavities dug by the bird, a few were placed in natural cavities.

Of nineteen nests examined in 98 seventeen were in cavities dug by the birds, the other two being in natural cavities.

Several of the sets were deposited in timber protruding from fallen pine logs. The nest is made of moss, fine bark, wool, cotton, hair and feathers.

The number of eggs range from four to seven, five and six being the usual number.

Only in one instance have I found a set of seven, but have seen a set in the collection of a friend containing the same number.

Fresh eggs may be found from the first of April until the middle of May, so several broods may

be raised in a season. The height of the nest is usually not more than six or eight feet, sometimes it may be twenty, often not more than two or three; in one instance I found one built in the hollow of a stump that was not more than eight inches high; the hollow extended down to the level of the ground and there the nest was built the eggs being not more than two inches above the ground. A number of sets taken in 98 show great variety in markings, shape and size, but in color they are all the same, some are sprinkled with fine dots over the entire surface, while in some the markings form a wreath around the larger end of the egg so as to obscure the ground color, almost, in some places.

The young seldom leave the nest until they can fly very well, and can hardly be distinguished from the parent birds.

As summer grows old the Chickadees gather in little bands of two or three, sometimes more, and join the titmice to spend the winter.

The song of the Chickadee is very pleasant, and can be favorably placed with that of some of our

other birds that are prized much higher for the music of their song.

The fall and winter is spent by the Chickadee in searching the timber for food and in uttering their Chick-a-dee-e as they hang to the limbs, some times back down and sometimes erect.

They are not very wild and will allow you to approach very near them before taking flight.

R.P.Smithwick, N.Carolina.

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The Parrot and the Jay.-

One day this summer a Jay bird flew up to a Parrot's cage and entered into conversation. The Jay: It is pretty warm now Mr Parrot, up in the tree where my wife is hatching our second set it is 103 in the shade.

The Parrot: 'Shaw Jay you don't know what hot is, why down in Honduras where I came from it gets 125 in the shade, we never can set on our eggs in the hot season, we get a palm leaf and take turns fanning to keep the eggs cool enough to hatch.—What!, going Mr Jay?; well dont go off mad.

Entered in prize competition.

My Screech Owl Finds in '99.

It was a cool and crisp morning on the 12th of April, when a companion and myself started to search for screech owls eggs. The first place that we intended to visit was a dense cane thicket, in the middle of which was an old dead and hollow chinaberry tree.

I had often passed this tree in my hunting trips, and with rap on the trunk, brought the old owl out of a hole near the top.

As the nesting season was at hand I judged that they were breeding. It was about eight o'clock in the morning when we arrived at the tree, strapping on my climbers and with little difficulty I reached the nest hole.

Out flew a screech owl, so near my face that her wing brushed me, peering in the hole I saw another owl and two white eggs; I did not disturb the owl but took the eggs.

Before taking the eggs I pricked a small hole in one to see if the set was complete, I was at once assured of the fact by seeing a small speck of blood appear at the hole.

Packing the eggs we proceeded to a place where the year before I had taken a set of two eggs.

Up to the nest I climbed and found a soft bed of green leaves in a hollow, but no owls were anywhere in sight, so thinking the nest was only occupied by flying squirrels I left it.

During the next hour I visited several likely places, but found only common eggs which I left.

I did not get to go again until the 22nd of April ten days later, I went first to the nest having the green leaves in it; with faint hopes I climbed the tree, but reaching the opening I saw a screech owl at the bottom of the hole.

Carefully lifting her up I saw two eggs, I examined these and found incubation commenced so I took them. I placed the old bird on a twig near by, where she sat staring at me till I descended. The nest was in the hollow of a live willow tree, near a marshy piece of ground surrounded by straggley woods. The cavity was two feet deep and the nest material was wet.

On May 20th some boys showed me two young screech owls nearly grown, they told me that the

nest was thirty feet up in an oak hollow in a graveyard and that they had taken young from the same place the year before.

Davie gives the number of this owl as four to eight, but I have never found more than two eggs or two young in a nest.

It was once my good fortune (?) to own a young screech owl, but he never made an interesting pet as he was so stupid by day and wild by night, so that I felt relieved one night when he escaped.

Albert F. Gainer, Miss.



While we think of it.-

A French scientist estimates that the world would be depopulated in eight years if it were not for our birds.

Insects, having no common destructive enemy, would destroy every form of life.

Still there a few people who think that the study of bird life is time wasted.

—————
"Happy to meet you", said the Kingbird to the Crow as he gently plucked a feather from him.

"The pleasure is all yours", replied the Crow.

—————
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—————

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Nebraska City, Nebr.

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VOL. I.

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Dr. Coues is no longer editor of the Osprey.

In a late number we note that the publishers of that paper intend to try and injure the feelings of none of their readers in the future.

We are glad to see this change in the Osprey, no paper devoted to science can afford to allow its columns to become 'at par' with a political sheet.

—♦♦—

From nearly every locality on the Missouri river comes the report of increased numbers of birds this season, notably the warblers and vireos. But few species new to the localities are noted.

The Nebraska Ornithological Association is now an assured fact, the balloting for temporary officers is now taking place; the result will be noted in our next issue.

Some of the large daily papers are helping to popularize ornithology, of course some of the articles may be taken with a grain of salt, but in the main they are of value. The New York Sun contains some bird notes in nearly every issue.

The collecting season is about over now, better write up some of the 'finds' that you have made this season and send in to the Hummer.

We especially desire articles that are susceptible of illustration.

Some of the plates to illustrate 'Life History of the Chickadee' were accidently spoiled, the next installment of the article will appear just as soon as the new plates are finished.

Owing to the short time that elapsed between the date of last issue and the time that prize articles should be in, we have extended the time to Sept. 15th., see notice elsewhere in this issue.

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- (3) \$1 worth of eggs for best bird anecdote.
- (4) \$1 worth of eggs for best item of interest to
collectors. Articles must be in by Sept. 25th.

—CONDITIONS—

Write on one side of paper only.

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Each contestant must be a subscriber to the
Hummer, if you are not, remit with article.

Address, "Hummer prize competition,"

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VOL. I.

No.4.

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VOL. I. August 20th., 1899. No. 4.

— The Eagle. —

He clasps the crag with hook'ed hands;
Close to the sun in lonely lands,
Ringed with the azure world, he stands.

The wrinkled sea beneath him crawls;
He watches from his mountain walls,
And like a thunderbolt he falls.

Tennyson.

Entered in prize competition.

The Ruby-throat.-

Although this is the most common species of Hummers within the U.S., few people, with the exception of oologists and naturalists, have had the good fortune to find the nests of these tiny creatures.

The Ruby-throat is probably the most homely of the Trochilidae, yet it is the most beautiful bird found in the United States.

It derives its name from the spot under its neck, which is of a beautiful iridescent ruby color.

Its back presents a scintillating sheen of gold and iris hues, while its tail feathers are of a purplish steel color.

The colors of all the gay plumaged Hummers are variable, changing with every movement of the bird or angle of light that falls upon them.

This property of the feathers is due to certain minute furrows which are traced upon their surface and are analogous in their mode of action to the delicate lines which give to the inside of some shells their peculiar iridescent splendor.

The Ruby-throat, although about two inches in length, exhibits upon some occasions the most fearless disposition and pugnacious disposition.

It will allow no bird, no matter how large or strong, to approach its nest, and will even attack dogs or larger animals that come near its home.

Though of a vengfull and couragous disposition towards animals it is more easily tamed than any other wild bird.

I came across one once while collecting insects and caught it with my net.

It feigned death at first but soon responded to gentle stroking and would seem perfectly at ease while perched upon my finger;

I tied a silk thread to its leg and placed it near some large trumpet flowers, it extracted the nectar from them just as if it was not a captive.

The Ruby-throat arrives here about the middle of April and begins to build its nest the first week in May; its nest is not much larger than a walnut shell and is composed only of the softest materials, such as fur, down, and milk-weed seed.

It deposits two eggs not larger than peas, and these hatch in about two weeks.

It is said that all species of Humming birds raise two broods but I think it all depends upon the season.

L. W. Fontaine, Missouri.

*

Note— The Ruby-throat is not as tame here. Ed

Entered in prize competition.

Bird Anecdotes.-

(1) A Queer Nest.

No material seems to come amiss to birds in the making of their nests. A nest, along with others of a more or less curious type, was found on the roof of the Crystal Palace, Lydenham, Eng. It was made out of discarded hairpins, pieces of wire, etc.

The curious material of which it was composed was found about the grounds by the blue rock pigeon that built the nest.

It is a matter of speculation what would have been the result had the egg that was found in the nest been allowed to produce a young pigeon.

(2) Robins nest in a Magic Lantern.

Some Robins once built their nest in a magic Lantern in the studio of Mr W.T.Lucas, they began to build in the lantern about the middle of Feb., gaining admission to the studio by means of the ventilator.

The birds were at once cleared out but recommenced operations a second; again they were evicted but not to be defeated, they then began to build on a shelf in the studio.

This, however, they found too narrow so they started to build for the third time in the lantern. The female deposited her eggs at the rate of one a day for five successive days.

The lantern had both side and back doors closed during the building operations, but as the back door did not quite fit at the bottom the birds got underneath it.

Don't Forget To Subscribe To The Hummer, only 25c.

(3) A hen that nursed eight puppies.

A hen once took to a litter of eight spaniel puppies when they were only a few days old and though driven away several times she

returned to her queer charges and kept by them every day in an open shed.

When they were too large to be covered the hen would sit in the middle of the litter with her wings extended.

(4) A Thrush's Larder.

The dry summer of 1898 caused the Thrushes to search dilligently for their favorite summer food, snails. In a garden at Haywards Heath, Susset, close to a potato bed and only two yards from the road, were stacked some faggots.

These faggots gave shelter to any amount of snails until the birds found them and proceeded to hammer them upon a large stone to break their shells. This done Mr Snail promptly disappeared and the thrushes felt pretty full.

The shells were counted and weighed, there were upwards of 180, the weight being 17 ounces.

Mr Harrington says that he often saw and heard these birds at work breaking up the shells but was never able to get a snap shot of them.

George Innes, Iowa.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

A correspondent asks us to give a few suggestions to parties desiring to write articles for publication in the Hummer. We give a few.

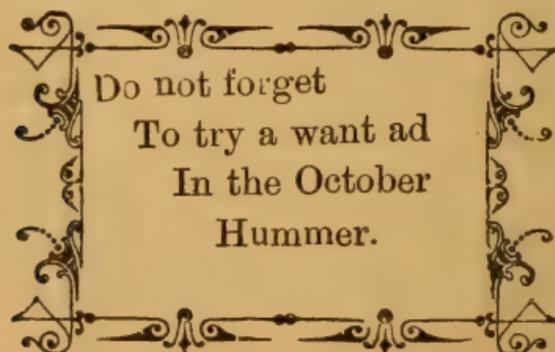
- (1) Write on one side of the paper only.
- (2) Write neatly, spell correctly.
- (3) Write what you have to say in as concise a form as possible, avoid disconnected sentences.
- (4) Do not repeat words when it can be avoided, this applies particularly to personal pronouns.
- (5) Keep always to the subject in hand, if you start to write an article on a duck, for instance, don't ring in other birds too often.
- (6) If you start out with a friend do not leave him by the wayside, do not monopolize the article with 'I's'; after having introduced other characters your readers will expect you to keep them up with the procession.

Gentle reader, are you as well educated as you would wish? Would you like to take up some special study? The New York College of Home Study will suit you in every particular, please read their advertisement in this issue. (adv't)

All parties having Hummer exchange coupons be sure and get them to us before Jan. 1st, we speak of the matter now so that you will have plenty of time to get your notices ready. Our October number will reach more collectors than any other fall number, get in early.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

The N.F.&F.Review,
The Wilson Bulletin,
Neb. Philatelist,
Camera News,
Colorado Guest,
Osprey,
Poultry News and Fancier,



While we think of it.-

M.A. Carriker, Jr. of Neb. City will attend the U of N this year.

Reed Carlton of Neb City is fast becoming an expert bird imitator, his latest is "the mocking of the Dove". In the near future he will probably retire the carrier whistle and announce the mail with a melodious "coo-coo".

E.H. Jones of Dunbar, a new convert to the science of birds, will again attend the U of N.

Scientists Return.-

The scientific expedition sent out by Edward H. Harriman of New York returned laden with rich spoils. The party spent sixty days along the northern coasts of Alaska.

Dr Elliot, zoologist of the Field Columbian Museum, and one of the party, said, "My zoological collection includes 200 mammals and 600 birds, some of them rare and unusual specimens".

Enough material was brought back to keep the party busy for years.

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No. 4.

The result of the election of temporary officers for the Neb. Orn. Ass'n. is given elsewhere in this number. Over thirty votes were recorded.

This speaks well for the future of the society.

The members are pretty well distributed over the state, by adopting a systematic plan of study a great amount of work should be accomplished next season.

Do not fail to send in an article for the prize competition, see offer on another page.

Across the river from Nebraska City is a slough about four miles in length which is a regular watering place for the Wood Duck.

Some of the local hunters have 'got on to' the habits of this duck and go after them with deadly effect, one hunter killed 25 in one evening.

The Wood Duck is very methodical in its habits, it generally comes to the slough just at twilight. The ducks have prospered unusually well with their young this year, it is about time, however, for the hunters to begin their slaughter and but few birds will be left by fall.

We want you to try our classified columns, the collecting season is about over now and you surely have something to exchange, our rate for this is about half what others charge.

If you want your address changed at the beginning of the school year, let us know at once.

When you answer any of our advertisers kindly state that you saw the ad. in the Hummer.

We shall endeavor to admit only responsible people to our columns and will promptly expose any that should prove otherwise.

Nebraska Ornithologists Association.

The election of temporary officers resulted as follows;

President, Lawrence Bruner, Lincoln.

Vice-Pres., I.S. Trostler, Omaha.

Corresponding Sec., W.D. Hunter, Lincoln.

Recording Sec., R.H. Wolcott, Lincoln.

Executive Com., J.R. Bonwell, Nebr. City, chr.

Chas. Fordyce, Univ. Place.

Rev. J.H. Bates, Long Pine.

The Executive Com. would like to hear from all members in regard to the time of meeting and suggestions for the constitution, address at once as the time is now limited.

The ornithologists of the state are indebted to the (Lincoln) Neb. Orn. Club in general, and to Mr W.D. Hunter in particular, for the formation of the Nebraska Ornithological Association.

Mr Hunter has shown the "proper spirit" and we assure him that the members appreciate his work in this regard.

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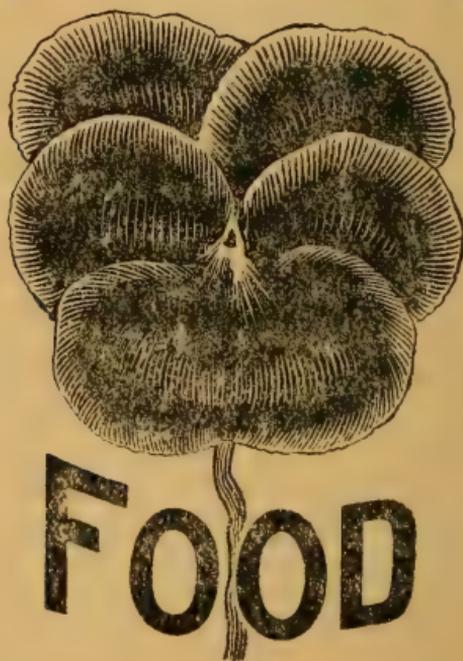
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Each contestant must be a subscriber to the
Hummer, if you are not, remit with article.

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J. R. Bonwell, Publisher, Nebraska City, Nebr.

Send 25c and get the Hummer on trial one yr.

Send 15c and get the Hummer on trial 6mos.

Send 10c and get the Hummer on trial 3mos.

You surely want to accept one of these offers.

Above offers good only till Sept 25th.

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Fully illustrated with interesting write up in the
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**NATURALIST, FARM & FANCIERS
REVIEW.**

An exposition number worth the price of a years
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Advertisers write for rates.

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Farm & Fanciers Review has been re-enforced by
the services of two prominent gentlemen, who
will devote their attention to respective dept's.

I.S.Trostler, 4246 Farnam St, Omaha, Neb., Or-
thological dep't; F.M.Simmonds Jr., 910 N. Cap.
Ave., Indianapolis, Ind, Pigeon dep't.

With this addition to our force and the forth-com-
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are in a position to guarantee some very select
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USED AND RECOMMENDED BY LEADING POULTRYMEN

POSITIVE ROUP CURE.

SEND FOR CIRCULARS.

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24 Pages.

First edition.

VOL. I.

Nos. 5 & 6.

Sept October 1899.

THE HUMMER.

Published on the 28th of each month by
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5c a copy.

50c a year.

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There is a peculiar satisfaction in being thoroughly posted on the various features of philatelia's current history. The man who can discuss the latest phase of philately as understandingly as he can chat about current topics of philatelic interest, or describe the most recent new issue or rare discovery, is the man who enjoys the just pride of keeping up with the march of progress.

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Natural History, Nature Photo Exchange, Poultry,
Pigeon, Belgian Hare and Farm Notes, contribu-
ted by Prominent Writers. Sample copy free.
Add rates on application.

H. W. Kerr, Pub., Blencoe, Iowa.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Birds and Animals.

Published monthly by Bonwell. Pub. Co.

Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

VOL. I. Sept.-Oct. 1899. Nos. 5 & 6.

To The Public:-

We desire to thank all who have so kindly aided us with subscriptions, and to state that we are assured of enough patronage to continue the paper as at present. We are not satisfied, we desire to make the paper a great deal better, - and-, we are going to do it.

We hope that anyone receiving this number as a sample copy will subscribe, even only for three months. We are sure that you would renew.

You will see a decided increase in our classified column in this issue, we expect to make a feature of want advertisements in all future issues.

The Publishers.

Odd Nesting.

During the many years that I have had a fancy for birds, I have found many unusual nests and eggs. I will here write of some that I remember.

In the year of 1892 I found a Mockingbirds nest in a very peculiar position, it being placed on the inside of a chicken house near an old abandoned dwelling. The nest was placed up in one corner on what is called the plating, and contained young birds.

The next year, 1893, I found a Mockingbirds nest containing three eggs, about a mile from the first and also in a very peculiar position.

The nest was placed on the side of the road, three feet up in a rail fence.

On April 16th 1892, while looking at a cotton planter, I saw a Wrens nest in the box of it, and on examination saw that it contained eggs.

As the planter had to be used that day, I was forced to remove the nest to a shelf ten feet away, little expecting the birds to go to it.

However the next day I was agreeably surprised,

on entering the tool-house, to see the Wren fly from the nest, and it is needless to say, that the Wren raised her brood in peace.

In my records of early and late nesting among the small birds are; Sep. 10th, 1894, Mockingbird, 3 slightly incubated eggs; Mar. 13th, 1895, Dove, 2 fresh eggs; Sep. 2nd, 1895, Mockingbird, 4 fresh eggs; Aug. 20th, 1899, Bluejay, 4 partly incubated eggs.

In the year of 1896, while strolling through an old field, I saw a Doves nest in a pear tree, and on climbing to it was very much surprised to find 4 eggs, all perfectly fresh; and only one pair of birds anywhere around.

For the first time in my life, I found on Aug. 10, 1897, a Cowbirds egg here. I found it in a nest of the painted Bunting together with three eggs of that bird, all of the eggs were rotten.

At a place about a mile from home I happened to look up into an elm tree, on May day in '97, and saw a Sparrows nest eight feet from the ground. As I have a great dislike for this little pest I tore the mass of hay and feathers off the limb, imagine my surprise to find a nest of the Orchard Oriole under it, completely hidden. The nest con-

tained five rotten Oriole eggs. In the same year and near the same place I found a well built nest of the English Sparrow twenty feet up in a cedar tree. On climbing up I found 5 eggs, which I threw away, only to come back a week later and find four more; this kept on for some time, I would go to the nest nearly every week and get the eggs until I had taken 24 eggs from her, so I concluded to let the patient little Sparrow raise a brood, which she did.

In 1898 I found a Brown Thrashers nest in some leaves on the ground on a hillside, it contained four eggs.

The next year, half a mile from the '98 nest, I found a nest of the Brown Thrasher in the same kind of a place, with eggs in it.

I should like to hear from others upon the above subject.

Albert Ganier, Miss.

** *** **
* * *

We have not enough space to print all of the advertising received for this issue, we shall, however be able to accomodate all in the November issue, as we shall add more pages if necessary.

Along the Missouri.

The Story of a Collecting Trip. By Barton Nugent.

One morning early in June, Mr Peters and myself started for a few days outing on the river south of Plattsmouth. Peters is one of those

men who takes particular care to have everything that may be-needed on a collecting trip.

He had everything, from a fish hook to a bottle of arnica.(?) We decided to make our temporary home on one of the numerous small islands that are so numerous along the "Big Muddy".

Arriving at the site selected we found that it was already occupied by a host of Red-winged Black-birds, whose continual sing-song, although pleasant enough at first, finally became monotonous.

As soon as we put up our tent and got all of our things in order, Peters began cooking operations. He here found that he had forgotton a very necessary adjunct to river camping, a filter.

Let me here state that it would take a poet to properly describe the water we had to use, the color of the water flowing down this noble stream

is of an ever changing color, sometimes black, sometimes a peculiar brownish yellow.

And sand! Just about a pound to the gallon.

So much for the water, the coffee however was good, Peters prides himself particularly upon his ability to produce a good meal.

I found it very palatable indeed, with the exception of the biscuit, they were indeed 'hard tack'. I ventured to remark to Peters that we were not in need of "paving" blocks on the island, and only saved myself from permanent injury by diving into the tent.

We spent the time after supper in exploring the island and found dozens of black birds nests.

The island was nearly triangular in shape, and about a mile in extent, from point to point.

Rabbits, moles, gophers and mice were plentiful.

This island, like most others in the Missouri, was at first merely a sand formation.

These islands are the results of the swift cross currents in the river, they pile up the sand in flood time, then when the water goes down there remains a sand bar.

Soon cottonwood and

willows spring up and the decaying vegetation soon makes the bar a productive island.

Owing to the changefulness of this river, an island may stay for a few years and then be swept away in a single season.

This island had probably been in existence for ten years and seemed to be increasing in size.

As we were returning to camp, Peters found a nest of the White-eyed Vireo containing one egg. We collected a large pile of young willows to form a mattress for blankets and then went to bed.

Away across the water came the shrill notes of dozens of Whip Poor Wills mingled with harsh cries from a Herons roost, around our bed arose the hum of countless greedy mosquitos — and — we are asleep, on the Missouri. * * *

This interesting story of camp life will be continued in our November issue, the paper will be sent you a year for 50cents or on trial three months for 10 cents.



We call your attention to our prize contest, see page 17, send in a Want and win the prize.

All parties having Hummer exchange coupons be sure and get them to us before Jan. 1st, we speak of the matter now so that you will have plenty of time to get your notices ready.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

The N.F.&F.Review,
The Wilson Bulletin,
Neb. Philatelist,
Camera News,
Colorado Guest,
Osprey,
Poultry News and Fancier,
Mining Record,
Poultry & Farm Journal,
Pet Stock Record,
The Monthly Guest,

We have been compelled to make this a double number but to show you that it was not done to beat you out of an issue we have advanced your time another month, see date on the wrapper.

We hope that it will not be necessary for us to do this again, if it is we will see to it that you lose nothing on account of it.

While we think of it.

L.W.Burnett, of Fort Collins, Colorado, writes that a temporary state organization of bird men has been effected in his state. We will give further particulars in the near future.

†

We are in receipt of a copy of the Vicksburg, dispatch (Miss), it is a special issue designed to show the resources of the south.

It is ably gotten up and reflects great credit upon the enterprise of the publishers.

†

J.S.Hunter, and M.A.Carriker Jr, of Lincoln, made a short trip up on the Platte and Elkhorn the other day.

†

Our Want columns show a healthy growth with each issue. Advertisers should remember that every ad is a paid ad, we do not give advertising away with subscriptions to the paper.

Please remember this when comparing the Hummer columns with others.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Birds and Animals,
Published monthly by Bonwell. Pub. Co.
Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

Second Class Rates Applied For.

Mr J.S Hunter and brother, of Lincoln, have each been in this city within the month.

They came up the river from Rulo collecting.

* * *
Wild Geese were seen passing this point on the 17th, Mallard, Red-head, and Teal ducks are fairly plentiful on the river and lakes near here.

* * *
We have decided to open our columns to articles on animals as well as birds, we prefer articles on their economic value and short sketches.

* * *
Do not fail to read the want ads in this issue, see pages 15 to 21, you may find what you want.

{ §§ }

Next month the last of the prize competition articles will be published, and the awards made.

We shall also make other prize offers at that time which you should not fail to read.

* *

We received a poem for publication, a few days ago, which lack of space prevents us from presenting to our readers. It is entitled, "A Sonnet to a Bird" and informs the said bird that man is tired of walking and has intentions on the feathered creatures means of locomotion.

We cannot refrain from quoting the last verse;

" Kind bird, contemplate with satir'd calm,
This phase of man's inventive mind;
For success in this, at least as yet,
Is an all absorbing, vain, regret."

Judging from the style we suggest that the author is the originator of a "new school".

* *

The above need not necessarily cause anyone to refrain from breaking forth into rhyme, we appreciate virtue, no matter 'though deeply hidden.

{ § § }

Answers to questions.

M.C., Tabor, Ia. Why not stay in the neighborhood of your school? You cannot find a better field anywhere within 100 miles of you.

†

E.L., Clinton, Ia We cannot supply a complete file of the Hummer, the August edition is exhausted, we can supply first three issues.

†

J., K.C. Parties using box numbers only in the exchange column must furnish us with true name and address, we will under no circumstances admit unknown parties to those columns.

†

M.R., DeSoto, Mo. Yes, the Osprey is still published, see their adv on 24th page.

†

Do not forget to read the want columns, you may see something that you want.

We publish more PAID want advertisements than any similar publication, this is good proof that a Hummer Want ad pays.

WANTS-FOR SALE & EXCHANGE.

Approved notices of above character inserted in this column at the rate of one cent a word, none under 10c taken. No display allowed. Parties can have answers directed in care of the Hummer but cost of forwarding replies must be covered by enclosing sufficient postage.

15,000 ACRES unincumbered Kansas wheat and grass lands. Will sell cheap for cash or trade for other good property, write for list. Lee Monroe, Hays, Kansas. 0

Lady agents wanted for good selling specialty. Ad X124 C-0
Hummer. 0

We want 3000 new subscribers at once and to secure these we are offering to send our large 24 page monthly on trial for a silver dime for the next ten months. Regular price 25c. H. Keifer
Publishing Co., Allegheny, Pa. e

For Exchange, a choice collection of 'South American' stamps for Bird Books. Albert Ganier, Vicksburg, Miss. 0

WANTED.- To correspond with drug clerks in search of good positions. Address, Dr. H. A. Mumaw, Elkhart, Ind. 0

WANTS- continued,

VEGETARIAN Consumption Cure.- Season
from April to October. Three months sufficient
to acquire health. G.Wessman., 566 Sierra St.,
E.Los Angeles, Cal. O

I will send 1 dozen fine curios, postpaid, for 20c,
including quartz and slate arrow-heads, pottery,
etc. Merton C. Sanborn, Occoquan, Va. O

I have foreign and U.S. stamps, guitar, books, etc
that I will trade for camera, 4x5 plate holders, or
for a pair of bicycle tires. Erastus Cornell, Box 99
Marshalltown, Ia. O

100 VAR. Foreign stamps, or 50 U.S. for 8c., 100
mixed stamps 15c, post free. M.C.Sanborn,
Occoquan, Va. O

Magnetic Healing successfully taught by mail.
Write for particulars. Dr.G.H.Beaumont, Council
Bluffs, Ia. O

Try the Hummer, 3 months for 10 cents.

\$100 in confederate money, 10c. 20page catalogue
of paper money for 10c. R.L. Deitrick, Lorraine, Va

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

PRIZE offer

We will give a new \$2.00 Razor to the person sending the largest number of words from the name HUMMER, each word you make must be found in Websters International dictionary.

It is very easy to do this, but few words can be made, YOU may win the prize.

CONDITIONS: All lists must reach us by Nov. 15th. Each contestant must send a want adv of ten words or over, for our Nov. issue, and send the amount necessary to secure insertion, see pg 15 for rates. If more than one list of equal number of words are received, the prize will go to the list first received. Everybody try. Address, Want Ad Competition, Bonwell Pub. Company, Nebraska City, Neb

WANTS- continued,

Wanted.- A photograph gallery outfit; also a view camera, size 8x10. Address, O.Green, Warren, Ill., Daviess Co. O

Look! Rare Collection and 12 Books, 10 cents. Albert Leonard, Carlisle, Pa, Box 342. O

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

YOU

SHOULD READ

The Circular Mailers Guide.

Only 20c a year with a 30 word ad. 2 mos free.

Circulars mailed 10c per 100, 6x9 or smaller.

Your name in Directory, with a roll of reading matter for 10c. Address, W.P.Brown, I.M.L.

149, Shannon City, Iowa.

WANTS- continued,

A lot of Toilet Soap to trade for watch, musical instruments or clothing. F.J.Nott, Box 31, Bunceton, Mo. O

For Sale.- One H.P.Olds steam engine, Address, 130A c-o Hummer. O

I have Lefever 16ga shotgun, F grade Jewelers tools and lathe, Hawkeye Jr and Nodark cameras to exchange. Indian stone relics, I want 12ga Hammerless shotgun, high grade. Write what you have C.H.Flanary, Dryden, Lee Co., Va. o

For Sale.- 32in Anson card cutter, \$19 if sold at once. Ad. 131R, c-o Hummer. O

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

WANTS- continued,

For Sale.- One 5x8 Kelsey lever press for \$16.00.
Ad. 132T, c-o Hummer. O

For Sale.- One of the best cattle ranches of 15,
000 acres in North Texas. There is no better
property anywhere. Will clear 10 per cent. Offers
of partial trade will be considered. Address, Lock
Box 231, Henrietta, Tex. Ja

For Sale.- A 7-col Army printing press, cheap.
Address, 127D, c-o Hummer. N

For Sale.- A complete printing outfit; 5x8 press
plenty of type. Address, Gay Fletcher, Bath, Ill.

For Sale.- A complete printing press, old style
Gordon, 7x11. Ad. 128F, c-o Hummer. O

Get our new book, "A Home Made Printing
Press", and do your own printing. Price reduced
to 10c silver. J.T.Perine, Vandalia, Ill. o

Send us six 2c stamps and we will send you, pre-
paid, 25 good quality envelopes with your name
and address neatly printed thereon. Address,
Mo. Valley Adv. Co., Nebraska City, Neb.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

WANTS- continued,

LOOK! For 15c (silver) and 1 stamp, I will send you a 17x24 picture of Christ Before Pilate. Agents wanted. W.A.Johnson, Box 2079, Boston Mass. O

Skulls of animals to exchange for animals or for eggs. Address 134V c-o Hummer. O

Rock Hill Bantam Yards and Pigeon Loits. Game and Ornamental Bantams, stock for sale. Bantam eggs \$1.00 per setting. Geo. Tafft, Box 500, Watervliet, N.Y. O

Send 25c in silver and we will send you the 8pg Weekly Kansas City Star for one year. Address, Sub. Dep't, Mo. Valley Adv. Co., Nebr. City, Neb.

Wanted.- Drug and specialty salesmen to handle good side line. Ad, 126B c-o Hummer. O

Wanted.- Cheap for cash, a good job press, must be at least 10x15. ad, 159S, c-o Hummer. O

Wanted - Eggs of water birds in quantities, give price. ad, 133E, c-o this paper, O

Ferns, fine for foliage, grow in sunshine, will exc for sets or other specimens. 135W c-o Hummer

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

WANTS- continued,

*National Book-keepers, Stenographers and Teachers Agency,
Elkhart, Ind, Particulars free, address, Dr. H. A. Mumaw, Sec'y.*

LET US DO YOUR PRINTING.- 100 cards or envelopes for 40c.
Other prices in proportion for first class printing. G.H. Rice,
Sandoval, Ill O

WANTED.- Old almanacs, coins, minerals, shells, specimens of
birds, and rare books, for the Elkhart, Ind, Normal School.
Dr H. A. Mumaw, Elkhart, Ind O

Wanted.- Everybody to try a one inch ad in the
Mailers Guide, 3 months for 20c, address, W.P.
Brown, Shannon City, Ia I.M.L. 149. e

Send 15c in postage stamps to P.O Box 387, Lehighton, Pa., and
receive, prepaid, the following valuable articles and price list of
Notions, Idse., etc; 1 Aluminum collar button, 1 German Silver
Thimble, 1 Initial Pearl Stick Pin, 1 Steel Key Ring with Name
Tag, 1 Safety Watch chain. O

*For 10c I will send you One Dozen fine quality shoe strings,
F J Nott, Box 31, Bunwell, Mo. O*

Rheumatic sufferers send your name to the Res-
cue Medicine Company, Fort Wayne, Ind. You
will be surprised, its your chance now. O

Shoe Sole Protector. Everybody wants it New
Patent. 10c a dozen. A.J.Mabie, Marshalltown, Ia.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

Advertisers

If you want good returns, get your ad. in the Illustrated Monthly Guest, Carlton, Colorado. The only paper of the kind in the whole of the Rocky Mountain Region from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. Advertising rates 5c a line, 50c per inch per month. \$1.00 for 3 months. Subscription price 50c per year, with presents.

The greatest offer in this paper, \$1 worth for 12c

To secure 100,000 subscribers to our bright, interesting and instructive, story and household paper, also to introduce the celebrated Ka-Ko tea, the great blood purifier, nature's own remedy. It cures rheumatism, neuralgia, headache, disorders of the stomach, pimples, boils, ulcers, etc. etc. We will send 1 box of Ka-Ko tea, 1 heavy gold plated Zanzibar Diamond ring, 50 story papers and magazines, 1 16 page book and our paper one year for 12c. Welcome News, 1031 N Rockwell St., Chicago Ill. Adv rates 10c a line. Circulation, 20,000.

THE NEWEST THING OUT →→❖❖

The FORTUNE TELLING SAVINGS BANK.

Amuses everybody. Creates a great deal of fun for the depositor: also wealth for the owner. For thirty-five cents will send one bank and (trial) year's subscription to

THE CAMP ADVOCATE and UNIVERSAL EXCHANGE, America's Oldest, Reliable and Best TRADER'S Magazine. Established 10 yrs. Single copies 5c. No Postals.

Address,
CAMP ADVOCATE PUB. CO.,
ATHOL, MASS., U.S.A.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

Next month

The HUMMER will contain;
Life History of the Chickadee, (con't.)
Where Swallows Roost.
In The Woods At Night.
Other articles, Special Departments, and the largest Want column extant.
5cents a copy, By the year, 50cents.

The Osprey

Is now publishing the fourth volume under management of new editors and with additional attractions and increase in size.

The new co-editors are; Mr Robt. Ridgway, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, Mr. Fred. A. Lucas, Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Mr Paul Barren, Mr. Wm. Palmer, Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, all of Washington; also Mr Witmer Stone of Philadelphia.

Features of The Osprey; Portraits with biographical notices of eminent ornithologists; a new work on North American Birds abundantly illustrated, and other features that will make the paper indispensable to those interested in ornithology.

The price will be, as heretofore, \$1 a year.

Address, THE OSPREY CO.,

321&323 4½ St., Washington, D.C.

Sample copy, 10c.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

24 Pages.

First edition.

VOL. I.

No. 7.

November 1899.

THE HUMMER.

Published on the 28th of each month by
THE BONWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY,
821 N.16th St. Nebraska City, Neb.

5c a copy.

50c a year.

(Second class rates applied for.)

Curio & Shell Novelties.

From the highly colored Abalone, Green Snail, Conch and Pearl Shells. Acknowledged the finest carved shell novelties. Card Receivers, Paper Knives, Spoons, Pin Trays, etc., in varieties. 500 trial orders direct from the factory have convinced dealers that our goods are of a superior class and very attractive to the eye.

Curio and Shell Novelty Co.,
319 E. Second St., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

To Late to Classify.

For Sale.- One of the best cattle ranches of 15,000 acres in North Texas. There is no better property anywhere. Will clear 10 per cent. Offers of partial trade will be considered. Address, Lock Box 231, Henrietta, Tex. Ja

WHY Suffer with piles, skin disease, catarrh and kidney troubles. Our treatment will cure them, 25 cents. Send for proffs to Healing Balm Co., Macon, Ga. Ke

THE Hummer.

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Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

Second Class Rates Applied For.

VOL I.

November 28th, 1899.

No. 7.

Along the Missouri.

The Story of a Collecting Trip. By Barton Nugent.

Long before sunrise the Blackbirds began their chatter, and compelled us to get up.

Peters arose with a snort and agrunt, covered with mosquito bites, and out of sorts generally.

It had been decided before we started that Peters was to be "head cook", I collected fire-wood, washed the dishes, and, growled at Peters.

After breakfast we started for the west bank of the river, to spend the day in the timber.

At this point the river runs close in to the bluffs on the Nebraska side, the river is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile wide and swift as a mill-race, in places. A person used to rowing in still water would be terribly surprised in attempting to row this river.

On the east side of the river the bottom extends for nearly ten miles and then ends in a

nother chain of steep hills, not unlike the foothills to the Rocky Mountains.

We experienced considerable difficulty in effecting a landing as the current ran very close to the steep bank and was so swift that the boat became almost unmanagable.

The timber was very heavy where we landed and looked as though but very little had ever been cut, oak, hickory, ash, walnut, elm and hackberry were abundant on the bluff, along the small streams willow, poplar, and cottonwood were in evidence; occasionally we noted a red-bud or linn. Playful squirrels jumped from limb to limb in fancied security, rabbits, startled from their nests, scampered away in fright as we forced our way through the underbrush, giving timely warning of our approach to all denizens of the woods. The American Redstart seemed to be the most common bird here, their brilliant plumage almost dazzled one's eyes as they darted hither and yon amongst the foliage.

The Red-eyed, Warbling and Yellow-throated Vireos were fairly common, we found several nests of the Red-eye; their favorite nesting site was the branch of a small linn sprout, well hidden from above by the dark green foliage; but by walking on the under side of the hill it was plainly visible. Several times during the morning

we saw the quick flash of a Ruby-throat, but we were unable to locate a nest.

Peters found a nest of the Turkey Vulture by patiently watching the parent bird until she descended to her nest; she was setting and had probably flown out when we approached.

The nest was in the bottom of a hollow elm and contained two badly incubated eggs.

By rapping on the old trees, we scared out several owls, but did not stop to investigate any.

Up one hill and down another, we spent the whole forenoon in rambling over about one square mile of timber. I found two eggs of the Whip Poor Will on the side of a brush pile, no bird was around, I nearly stepped on them before I saw them. We ate our dinner near a small spring which gushed forth from the bank amidst a circle of water cress; a Scarlet Tanager furnished us with a song while we ate.

After dinner we ascended the bluff to get a better view of the river, far to the south it turns east again and the bluff in the back-ground gave it the appearance of a large lake; to the east the fertile bottom spread out as far as the eye could reach, dotted here and there by groves of cottonwood. Far out the Blackbirds and Crows kept flying to and fro, carrying food to their young, and gossiping with all the vigor of old maids at a

quilting; overhead a Vulture soared, a mere speck in the sky, searching the ground for his legal prey. No where else have I seen such a view as this; other places may have seemed more georgous but in no other place have I saw anything to equal the seeming accord of all forms of Nature. * * *

Reluctantly we retraced our way down the bluff and crossed to camp, both of us agreeing to spend the next day exploring the bottom on the other side of the river.†

(To be continued)

†This article began in our issue of Oct. 28th.

We want several hundred more subscribers this month and are making an exceptionally strong subscription offer on page 19 of this issue.

The Naturalist, Farm and Fanciers Review is to be issued on the first of each month in the future, we congratulate Mr. Kerr upon the neat appearance of his paper of late.

See our want competition on page 19, we want you to try an ad and swell the Hummer list. We shall make the Want Columns a feature in all future issues, thus making the paper more valuable to collectors than ever Watch us grow.

The Wood Pewee.

By Albert Garner.

Little is seen of this solitary and lonely little bird unless one takes particular notice of it.

The bird, its habits and its eggs are perfect miniatures of its larger cousin, the Kingbird; the nest though, differs greatly in construction and situation. I had looked upon Pewee's nests in this locality as a rarity until 1897, when I found four within a radius of half a mile, in less than ten days. The nests are placed in oak trees mostly, but may be also found in elm, pecan, locust, poplar or thorn trees, at an average height of twenty feet.

The usual number of eggs laid are three, though often four, these are generally laid in the last of May; the ground color ranges from pure white to a rich cream, with beautiful spots of black, brown, slate and umber wreathed around the larger end, with an occasional speck on some other part of the egg. All the nests that I have examined were made of hair, lichens and spiderwebs on the outside; the inside walls were lined with hair, while the limb on which the nest was saddled generally formed the floor.

The birds, when robbed the first time, will

immediately rebuild and will use the same tree, sometimes the same fork, year after year.

It is a very interesting sight to watch a Pewee catch insects; when engaged in this occupation it selects a dead limb from which it can get a good view from all sides, and sits there with its little black eyes watching carefully in all directions until an insect flies near, then with a quick flight and a summerset in the air and a snapping of the bill it returns triumphantly to its perch, devouring the insect after it alights and uttering a note of evident satisfaction.

I have seen them catch insects for hours at a time and never seem to be supplied.

The birds are not at all shy, I have approached within five feet of them while they were catching insects, and they have flown within that distance of me while I have been near their nests.

At times the song of the Wood Pewee is lively and pleasing but usually it is dismal.

The Wood Pewee is a migrant here, leaving late in the fall and returning during the first half of April, always going back to its old home to breed.

Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 1899.

There is no good reason why you should not be a subscriber to this paper, if you are not one now you should not fail to read the subscription offer elsewhere in this issue.

Life-History of the Chickadee.

(This article began in our June issue.)

The number of eggs laid ranges from five to eight, sometimes nine, rarely ten.

Nearly spherical in shape, rosy white in color, dotted with reddish-brown spots, generally thicker at the larger end. Although the shape may be stated generally as spherical, there is great variation as well as in marking. This is probably due to the large number laid at a clutch and the number of sets laid in a season.

As samples of variation I quote from a note book of 1897, as follows; April 18th, Chickadee: nest in a dead red-bud, composed of moss, lined with hair, six eggs, measuring .58x.44, .59x.47, .57x.49, .58x.46, .57x.48, .58x.49; markings very slight, irregularly placed;

April 18th, Chickadee: nest in a dead elm stump, composed of hair, rabbit fur and moss, five eggs, measuring, .59x.48, .57x.44, .60x49, .58x.46 and .58x.47; markings heavy, wreathed at larger end;

May 10th, Chickadee: nest in a dead willow, composed of moss and chicken feathers, lined with rabbit fur; seven eggs, averaging, .55x.42, .56x 42, .55x.43, .54x.42, .55x 46, .57x.46 and .60x.43,

markings heavy and evenly distributed.

May 15th, Chickadee: nest in a live box-elder, five eggs, measuring, four .58x.46, one .57x.45, markings fine and scattered

These show the variations to be found in size and markings and are representative sets from a large series examined.

Occasionally a 'runt' or freak egg may be found, but on an average the size will be within .60x.43.

The Chickadee is a very home-like bird and can always be relied upon to be close at hand as her nest is being robbed, uttering her pleasant chick-a-dee, chick-a-dee-dee as you take her eggs. When sitting the female is very cross, and will stay on the nest, hissing you and pick your hand.

An ideal nesting site for them is the willow-lined bank of some small stream, there a dozen nests can generally be found in the course of half an hour's walk.

The Chickadee is a very wise and busy little bird during the nesting season, just think a pair of these birds having to carry food to from five to nine young from the time they are hatched until they are large enough to take care of themselves.

(To be continued next month.)

As We See Them.

The Osprey, (Washington, D.C., 321 4½ St) still continues to contain the best of articles and illustrations of bird life. They will soon commence the publication of a new work on N.A. Birds.

The Wisconsin Naturalist, (Milwaukee, Wis.) is a new publication, which one would suppose to be devoted to the Natural Sciences. Judging from the editorial pages of the October issue, we are undecided whether the editor is a politician or a man with a mistaken destiny. Published under the

head of 'borrowed thoughts' we take the following;

"Lower the price of money, and you elevate the price of labor, the poor man's stock in trade";

"It is better to be a poor but honest 'calamity howler' than a lying hypocritical prosperity boomer". Do you call that Natural Science.

The Western Ornithologist (C.C.Tryon, Publisher, Avoca, Ia.) is a new venture, the initial number will appear Jan. 15th, next. It will be issued bi-monthly and contain from twenty to forty pages. We wish it success.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Birds and Animals.

Published monthly by Bonwell. Pub. Co.
Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

Second Class Rates Applied For.

VOL.I.

November 28th, 1899.

No. 7.

Necessity again compels us to cut out a large number of Want Ads this month, we could not increase the number of pages until December.

The ornithologists of the state of Nebraska will meet in Lincoln on Saturday December 16th, to effect a permanent state organization.

A large attendance is expected, a large number have already announced that they will be on hand.

The Hummer will be greatly improved during the coming year, we shall publish the best stories of bird and animal life, the best articles of scientific importance, amply illustrated by drawings and photographs.

The Want Advertisements will be issued in supplement form and will be more varied in scope than ever.

The subscription price will be raised to 75c, it will pay you to subscribe at once.



CLIPPINGS;

A brood of fine nestling sparrow hawks has furnished Dr. R. W. Shufeldt some interesting results

The birds were so graduated in size that it appeared the female must have laid the eggs at regular intervals, probably three or four days apart, and that incubation commenced immediately after the first egg was deposited.

Still more remarkable was the fact that the sexes alternated, the oldest bird being a male, the next a female, and so on.

A Sunday School teacher gives the following;

“One of my children was asked what was the first bird that Noah sent out of the ark. The smallest child in the class answered correctly, and when the first boy was reproved for being beaten by the little chap, he explained matters by remarking, ‘Well, he ought to know; his father keeps chickens’”.

Uses of the Telegraph:

When the telegraph was introduced into Norway, the bears, on hearing the wires moaning in the wind, thought that the posts were beehives, and set to work to root them out of the ground; the woodpeckers thought that the poles were filled with insects, so they bored them full of holes.

Such illusions disappeared gradually; animals



became wiser with time, and took the trouble to turn the telegraph to account for their personal use.

Thus a small bird in Natal, which had been want to build its nest shaped like a cradle in the branches of trees, built its nest on the first telegraph wires set up, so the snakes could not get at it.

The new position was found to be so secure that the birds added a convenient little side door to the nest, which had hitherto possessed only a small opening on the side farthest removed from the overhanging branch. A Brazillian bird also builds its heavy nest of earth on the telegraph wires.

The artfull parrots take a seeming delight in uniting the currents between different wires, and also in breaking the porcelain cups on which the wires rest. Spiders cover the wires with their webs, and thereby great confusion is often wrought in the telegraph system, as the most unlikely connections are thus brought about.

The melanerpes of Mexico probably turns the telegraph to its use better than any other bird; it rears its young in a hole at the foot of the post, bores holes higher up from which it can observe the approach of an enemy, and still higher up it bores holes wherein to store its food; thus the pole serves as its house, fortress and warehouse.

WANTS.

Under this head we will publish notices of an approved character at the rate of one cent a word. No display allowed and no notice inserted for less than ten cents. Parties desiring replies to come in care of this paper must furnish postage to cover cost of forwarding.

For Exchange, skins:- A few A1 skins of 379, 381, 411, 471, 482, 505, 505a, 915, 646a, 707a, 708, 711, 749, 758 to exchange for A1 sets not in my collection. Lee Chambers, Santa Monica, Cal.

Will buy first class sets in any quantity. State price. Ad. 09, c-o Hummer. D

Large and small farms in Randolph county Mo., and in Holt county Neb., Woodman county Okla., and Craighead county Arkansas, cheap. W.R. Samuel, Huntsville, Mo. NKe

Do not fail to try a want ad in the December issue, it will contain many pages full of them.

Want to buy a good farm in eastern Kansas or in North Texas. Ad, Z1, c-o Hummer.

Wanted:- To buy ancient copper relics, and large stone spear-heads. Rev.E.C.Mitchell, 534 Summ t Ave., St.Paul, Minn. N1yr

Wanted:- 20 Responsible men and women as managers of branch offices in Nebraska & Iowa. Box 352, Nebraska City, Neb. N

Wanted.- 17x22 Job press at once, state price. Address, 4H, c-o Hummer. N

Wanted:- "Horse Shoe" and "J.T." Tobacco tags in any amount, 50c per 100. F.W.Collins, Box 431, Garden City, Kan. N

For Sale:- Finely marked, full blooded Llewelyn Setter Puppies. Soon old enough to be shipped. Father a first class field dog and mother was broken to hunt nests. W.E.Loucks, Peoria, Ill. N

For Sale:- First three volumns of the 'Osprey' for highest cash offer over \$6. All numbers in fine condition. Theadore B.Parker, 36 Beaumont Ave. Newtonville, Mass. D

Gems, Chrystals, Ores, Minerals from all parts of the world, labled and sent prepaid, viz.- 100 varieties, 75c; 50 var., 40c; 25 var., 20c.; 12 var., 10c. List and sample for stamp. Case Camera & Curiosity Co , Naples, N.Y. N

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

TROPIC PLANT



Makes plants grow and bloom.

See that our signature

is on each package.

Yukon Mfg Co

Advertisers

If you want good returns, get your adv. in the Illustrated Monthly Guest, Caileton, Colorado. The only paper of the kind in the whole of the Rocky Mountain Region from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. Advertising rates 5c a line, 50c per inch per month; \$1.00 for three months. Subscription price 50c per year, with presents.

Free Sample

To subscribers of the

NATURALIST, FARM & FAÑCIERS REVIEW
A Monthly Journal. 25 Cents per year.

For a short time only will send you a Free Sample of K. & P. Preservative and a copy of Taxidermy Made Easy, giving full instructions how to **BE YOUR OWN TAXIDERMIST**, upon receipt of 10c to pay transportation charges

If not a subscriber, **SUBSCRIBE** at once, remitting 35c for one years subscription, Free 25 word Exchange Notice and sample of the Preservative.

H. W. Kerr, Pub.
Blencoe, Iowa.

The Star Free.

Send us 50cents for a years subscription to the Hummer and we will send you the Kansas City Weekly Star for one year, absolutely free.

THE STAR is the Great Newspaper of the Great West, 8 pages weekly, full of news and current events, independant of politics, has a circulation of over 125,000 copies each issue. We will send you both it and the HUMMER one year for 50cts.

The Bonwell Publishing Co., Nebraska City, Neb.
 Or the Hummer on trial 3 mo's for 10 cents.

Prize Offer

We will give a fine \$2.00 Razor to the person who builds the largest number of words from the phrase

Wantatise.

All lists must be in by Dec. 25th, in case of a tie the list first received will get the prize.

Conditions: Each word must be found in some standard dictionary, proper or geographical names barred, lists must be arranged alphabetically, and definitions given of words spelled alike. Each contestant must send a want ad of not less than ten words, with remmittane for insertion. Address,

The Hummer, Nebraska City, Neb.

-A Letter.-

The Kharas Magnetic Infirmary,
 Manager, So. Auburn, Neb. Sep. 15th,
 1899. A. E. Baird, Norfolk, Neb.

Dear Friend:- While talking to our Supt., Prof Kharas, the other day, I learned that you were thinking of taking up the study of Magnetic Healing. Allow me to give you my experience and advice. I was a common laborer \$1 per day before I took the course at Nebraska City. I was located here by Prof. Kharas one week ago. I have did over \$100 worth of business since I came here. I get 50 per cent and everything furnished, so you can see what I have earned.

I never amounted to anything before this, now I feel equal to tackling anything. I feel like a KING. There is a fortune in this business in the next few years.

One cure brings a dozen patients. Hoping to soon welcome you among our midst, relieving the terrible suffering of the people,

I am, Yours for humanity,

(Signed)

Geo. H. Brainard.

N.B. The original of this Letter is on file in the office of Prof. Kharas in the Watson Blk., and can be read by anyone concerned.

Prof. Kharas

desires a few more men and women to act as managers for him, if you want a good paying position, you should write him at once.

On page 20

of this paper you will find a letter from a man who is making money as a Manager for Prof. Kharas, you can do as well, write now.

On page 22

of this paper you will find a Sworn Statement from a woman whose son was cured by Prof. Kharas through the means of his Absent Treatment, if you are suffering, write and Prof. may cure you without you leaving your home.
 Ref- Editor of this paper. Address,

Prof. Theo. Kharas,
 Watson Bleck,
 Nebraska City Nebr.

-Announcement.-

PHRENOPATHY is the Kharas Method of Absent Treatment. You can get twenty day's trial treatment absolutely FREE by sending in one subscription to HUMANITY. Read this,

Sworn Statement.

"This is to certify that my little boy, Roy, was suffering from the effects of Spinal Meningitis. That when we would turn him in bed he would scream with pain. His spine hurt him so badly that he had no use of his limbs at all, and so could not walk. I had heard of Prof. Kharas, but had no faith in his work, but knowing there was no other chance as other physicians said they could do nothing for my boy, I went to see him. He told me he would cure Roy by what he called the Absent Method, and that I was to go home and leave the matter all to him. Although Roy had been constantly growing worse, he at once began to improve, and in less than two weeks walked to Prof. Kharas' office without help. He is now perfectly well, and was only treated by the Absent Mental Treatment. I now believe Prof. Kharas can cure any disease under the sun, and a great many without ever seeing the patient, as he has cured my boy. Respectfully,

Mrs. M. J. Ettleman.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 13th day of Nov.
1899, at Nebraska City, Neb.

(Seal)

Wm. Hayward,
Notary Public'.

THE NEWEST THING OUT ➤➤❖❖
 The FORTUNE TELLING SAVINGS BANK.

Amuses everybody. Creates a great deal of fun for the depositor: also wealth for the owner. For thirty-five cents will send one bank and (trial) year's subscription to

THE CAMP ADVOCATE and UNIVERSAL EXCHANGE, America's Oldest, Reliable and Best TRADER'S Magazine. Established 10 yrs. Single copies 5c. No Postals.

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 CAMP ADVOCATE PUB. CO.,
 ATHOL, MASS., U.S.A.

**Lest You Forget,
 We Say It yet,
 Try A Want Ad in**

**The
 HUMMER.**

The Osprey

Is now publishing the fourth volume under management of new editors and with additional attractions and increase in size.

The new co-editors are; Mr Robt. Ridgway, Dr. Leonhard Stejneger, Mr. Fred. A. Lucas, Dr. Chas. W. Richmond, Mr Paul Bartsch, Mr. Wm. Palmer, Mr. Harry C. Oberholser, all of Washington; also Mr Witmer Stone of Philadelphia.

Features of The Osprey; Portraits with biographical notices of eminent ornithologists; a new work on North American Birds abundantly illustrated, and other features that will make the paper indispensable to those interested in ornithology.

The price will be, as heretofore, \$1. a year.

Address, THE OSPREY CO.,

321&323 4½ St., Washington, D.C.

Sample copy, 10c.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

24 Pages.

and Supplement.

1899 December - January 1900.

VOL. I.

No. 8.

THE HUMMER.

5c a copy.

50c a year.

Published on the 28th of each month by
THE BONWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY,
821 N.16th St. Nebraska City, Neb.

[Entered as second class matter at the Nebraska
City P.O.]

NOTICE.

If this space is marked your

Subscription has expired.

We hope that you will favor us with a renewal
at once, see offer on last cover page.

Curio & Shell Novelties.

From the highly colored Abalone, Green Snail, Conch and Pearl Shells. Acknowledged the finest carved shell novelties. Card Receivers, Paper Knives, Spoons, Pin Trays, etc., in varieties. 500 trial orders direct from the factory have convinced dealers that our goods are of a superior class and very attractive to the eye.

Curio and Shell Novelty Co.,
319 E. Second St., LOS ANGELES, CAL.

For Sale.- One of the best cattle ranches of 15,000 acres in North Texas. There is no better property anywhere. Will clear 10 per cent. Offers of partial trade will be considered. Address, Lock Box 231, Henrietta, Tex. Ja

THE HUMMER

Nebraska

Names and

Names and addresses in Normal, Ill. at per 100. E. Matc

Can supply private and addresses of can extend a line pri. ratings. ad.

Wanted:- The name of or desiring to Have something P. Vandereike, Ne

1000 names of buyers, type writ Ad. 310S, c-o Hu

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Names & addresses the west. Write. E Valley Adv. Co.,

Wanted To B

Wanted:- To buy first quantities, full sets only, w Hummer.

Wanted to buy:- Comm sets cheap for cash. Such Meadowlark, Kingfisher. your collection on next sea ing. A. E. Price, Grant Park

Wanted,

Wanted: Skulls of anin Hummer.

Wanted:- Lady solicitor 1000 and over. Write, 123] mer.

Wanted, first class dressi other need apply. Good right party. Ad. 159G, c-o

We want you to try a W the next Hummer, we will edition then and you will n miss the results that this ne edition will bring you.

Read our subscription c 24 of this issue, send us 5 get the Hummer a year for

THE HUMMER WANT SUPPLEMENT.

Nebraska City, Nebr. January 28th, 1900.

Names and Addresses.

Names and addresses of persons living in Normal, Ill. and Lancaster, O. 10c per 100. E. Matchett, Lancaster, O.

Can supply private parties with names and addresses of persons to whom you can extend a line of credit, also supply pri.ratings. ad. 345R, c-o Hummer.

Wanted:- The names of persons studying or desiring to study Journalism. Have something of interest to them. P. Vandereike, New Glarus, Wis. J

1000 names of Nebraska mail order buyers, type written, for 50c, prepaid Ad. 310S, c-o Hummer 8t

Mail Order Men. Complete revised list of 19 addresses of cashiers and managers of banks, investment, loan and trust companies, and brokers of Pennsylvania, for 80c in 2c postage stamps. William Shugg, Tamaqua, Pa. Box 110

Names & addresses from every state in the west. Write. Established 1896. Mo. Valley Adv. Co., Nebr. City, Nebr. 3

Poultry & Pet Stock:

Game and Ornamental Bantams, Colored Fans \$1.00 apiece. Geo. Tafft, Box 500, Watervliet, N.Y. J

100 Toulouse Geese bred from my prize winners \$2.50 each, pairs \$5.00. Barred Rock Cockerels \$1 & \$1.50 ea. L. Gulden, Osakis, Wis. J

Lop-Eared Rabbits. Choice young stock for sale at moderate prices. Also a few fine breeders with average up to 22 1-2 inches. B.B. Richmond, Columbus, Wis. 8t

Cuts.

See my page ad elsewhere in this issue and write, Kerr, Blencoe, Ia. 2zt

Make your own cuts:- Failure with your process impossible. Cheap, simple. Sent for 50c. Brad. Davis, Kirkland, Ill.

Wanted To Buy-

Will pay cash for white or spotted albinos, either birds or small animals. Send full description at once. J.E. Grosjean, Lima, Ohio. 8

Wanted To Buy.

Wanted:- To buy first class sets in quantities, full sets only, write, O9, c-o Hummer. 11

Wanted to buy:- Common first class sets, cheap for cash. Such as Killdeer, Meadowlark, Kingfisher. Price me your collection on next seasons collecting. A. E. Price, Grant Park, Ill. 8

Wanted,

Wanted: Skulls of animals, H4, c-o Hummer. 9

Wanted:- Lady solicitor in towns of 1000 and over. Write, 123J, c-o Hummer. 9

Wanted, first class dressmaker, none other need apply. Good opening for right party. Ad, 159G, c-o Hummer. 9

We want you to try a Want adv in the next Hummer, we will have a large edition then and you will not want to miss the results that this nearly double edition will bring you. 9

Read our subscription offer on page 24 of this issue, send us 5 names and get the Hummer a year for a quarter. 9

For Sale or Exchange.

10x12 view lens, book Bible readings fine leather binding, new, cost \$3.50. Lense is a good one, worth \$8.50. I want 4x5 hand camera for plates; also have western views for sale, make offers to M. C. Richardson, Box 33, Little River, Kansas. 8

Wanted:- Bicycle, typewriter or best offer in exchange for \$25 mail course of instruction in Magnetic Healing, you can make from \$10 to \$25 a day curing diseases without medicine. Write what you have and enclose 2c stamp. Prof. Wm. Swift, Greenfield, Mo. 8

Smithsonian Reports to exchange for bird books or eggs. 7Y, c-o Hummer. 9

Have two bound volumes of Popular Science News to exchange for best offer in first class sets. 49D, c-o Hummer. 9

Parties having notes on the nidification of the Saw-whet Owl please write, 28L, c-o Hummer. 9

Wanted:- To exchange sets with Pacific coast parties the coming season. 71O, c-o Hummer. 9

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cific coast parties the coming season.
71O, c-o Hummer. 9

C.S.A. MONEY.

Circulars for stamp, address,
BELFAST MFG. CO..
Belfast. O.

ONE YEAR FREE.

Our large 32col. monthly devoted to Stories, Home, Garden, Farm, Orchard, Poultry, Floriculture, Young Folks, Fashions, etc., one year free if you send 10c to pay postage

MAIL BAG, Orangeville, Md. rt

Jewelry

Send us 30c and we will send you a sterling silver heart with you initials engraved thereon, without initial 25c. Very popular, Latest out. Girls, send for prices on any high grade jewelry you need.

YUKON MFG. CO.

Nebraska City, Nebr., U.S.A.

Don't forget to mention The Hummer.

THE WESTERN ORNITHOLOGIST

Devoted exclusively to
Ornithology & Oology.

24 to 40 pages of highly illustrated matter, Bi-monthly, printed on enameled paper.

Fifty Cents Per Year.

Send for Sample Copy. Address,
C.C. Tryon, Pub. Avoca, Iowa.

DON'T MISS THIS.

Until July 1, 1900, one year's subscription to the Herald Exchange and a 16 word advertisement in exchange or trade column for 12 times, 25c. (Foreign countries, 40c.) Additional words each time, 3 words for 1 cent. After July 1 1900, regular rates will be charged. Address,

M. TAUSIG, MGR.,

9 East 108th Street,

New York.

Send 1&2c stamps only. All inquiries must contain return postage.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hammer.

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5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

VOL.I.

January 28th, 1900.

No.8.

WE ARE sending a number of sample copies this month, if you receive this issue as one we hope that you will give it careful consideration and send us your subscription.

We desire the names and addresses of persons you think might become interested in this paper, and are making you a very liberal offer for them elsewhere in this issue, in addition we will appreciate your kindness in the matter.

We call special attention to our Want Column this month. We publish more PAID WANTS than any similar publication, we do not give away space with subscriptions and thereby stuff our columns with a "conglomeration" of advertisements that no one cares to read.

Advertisers then have the satisfaction of knowing that their space is as good as that next to them, it will be our aim to always have the HUMMER as up to date as possible, excelling in Quality, Quantity and in Results.

NEBRASKA ORNITHOLOGISTS ORGANIZE.

The Ornithologists of the state of Nebraska met in Lincoln on the 16th of December and effected a permanent state organization, to be known as the Nebraska Ornithologist's Union.

The sessions were held in the Mechanics Art Hall at the State Univ. The business meeting was held in the morning and the following officers were elected for the year 1900;

President,	I.S.Trostler, Omaha.
Cor. Secretary,	W.D.Hunter, Lincoln.
Rec. Secretary,	Rob't.H.Wolcott, Lincoln.
Treasurer,	Lawrence Bruner, Lincoln.
Executive Committee: Chas. Fordyce, Univ. Place;	
Rev.J.H.Bates, Long Pine; R.H.Wolcott, Lincoln.	

The following papers were announced for the afternoon: "Ornithology in Neb.", L.Bruner; "A Twenty-three Years Record Kept by Dr. A. L. Childs near Omaha", Dr. R.H.Wolcott; "Further Notes and Observations on the birds of Nebraska", Rev.J.M Bates; "How to Popularize Ornithology", Wilson Tout; et.al.

The Union expects to publish proceedings.

Life-History of the Chickadee.

(Third Installment.)

After the first brood are large enough to take care of themselves, the parent birds generally build again; sometimes even the third time.

The last clutch seldom contains more than five eggs, and the birds do not, as a rule, make the nest as compact as in the early part of the season.

During the months of July and August, the Chickadee does excellent work in the orchards, as they seem to particularly like the eggs laid there by the numerous injurious insects.

The Chickadee remains until late in the fall, and generally all winter in the middle states. They feed, principally, during the cold months on weed seed, buds, eggs and larvae found under fallen logs and limbs. In the winter they may be seen with the Junco's and Sparrows, busily engaged scratching in the leaves for food.

All the year around, the Chickadee works, helping to keep in check the ravishes of insect life.

No other bird devotes as much time to catching insects injurious to the orchardist. The Chickadee, practically, does not destroy any cultivated crop. It is a factor of economic importance.

Farmers and orchardists should take particular pains to protect the Chickadee. By judicious protection this species would increase very fast. Let us protect it.

[THE END]*

ERRATUM- Page 7, line 20, read ravages instead of ravishes.

A White Squirrel.

On Sep't. 23rd, an old negro hunter brought into town a pure white squirrel, which he had killed above town. The hunter says that he killed a similar one in the same place last year.

Albert F. Ganier, Vicksburg, Miss.

The Western Ornithologist.

Just as we go to press, we are in receipt of the initial number of the Western Ornithologist, it being a continuance of the Iowa Ornithologist. In our opinion it is the neatest paper of the kind ever put out in the west. Printed on enameled paper, the illustrations show up with good effect. Some of the leading articles are: "Plumage of the Bluejay", "Cooper's Hawk", "A Winter Reverie", and "Notes on the Birds of Boone County, Iowa". If future issues are as good, we will only find one fault with it, that it is not a monthly instead of bi-monthly.

See adv on page 4 and send for a copy.

*Life-history of the Chickadee began June 1899.

Along the Missouri.

The Story of a Collecting Trip. . By Barton Nugent.

The next morning we arose at daybreak and after breakfast started for the bottom on the east side of the river; we landed at the edge of a large cotton wood grove and tied the boat to a root that we saw hanging over the bank.

The trees here were very large and seemed to be the breeding grounds of several species of woodpeckers; while passing through the woods we noted the Arcadian and Trails Flycatchers, White and Red-eyed Vireos, Prothonotary, Yellow and Black and White Creeping Warblers, B.C. Chickadee, the Brown Creeper, and White-bellied Nuthatch.

—Peters saw a large hollow tree, and to investigate the interior, got down on his knees to peep within: a flicker was feeding on the inside and flew out as Peters stooped over, —Peters gave one yell, of a fever that excitement alone can produce and after seeing the cause of his scare began to use French expletives that I was unable to understand. This incident put a stop to Peters' peering habit, his nervousness did not disappear until long after the woods were left behind us.

About a mile from the river the prairie began, and continued in an unbroken stretch to the bluffs, nine miles distant. The ground was covered with tall slough grass, and was used as pasturage for a

large number of cattle. Meadow larks were to be seen and heard in every direction; they seemed not in the least afraid of us and would sit on the fence as we passed, sometimes within ten feet of us.

During the day we took a set of three fresh eggs, and also captured a young bird about a month old.

Several flocks of young quail were flushed while passing through the grass, and we found one nest with the quail sitting; She had 17 eggs and refused to move when discovered. The nest was placed nearly in the cow path that we were following and was very artfully hidden by the color of the surroundings. It puzzled me that some cow had not stepped on it long before.

Along the old lake beds we found a few 'scrub' trees and took sets of the Kingbird and Baltimore Oriole. We came to a small pond surrounded by a fringe of willows; this was certainly a 'bird oasis', we found nests of the King Rail, Florida Gallinule, Coot, Green Heron and Least Bittern near this small lake.

In the willows we found nests of the White and Red-eyed Vireos and Trail's Flycatcher.

[Continued next month]*

*This article began in No.6, back numbers can be furnished for 5c each.

Do not fail to read page 24 of this issue.

Answers
To

CORRESPONDENTS.

E.R.M., LeMars, Ia. Asks how to gild ivory—immerse in a solution of nitro-muriate of gold, and then expose it to hydrogen gas while damp. Wash it afterwards in clean soft water.

J.T.Root, Hermosa, S D. The Golden Eagle is occasionally seen in Nebraska and is recored as breeding in two counties.

E.Adams, Philo, Ill. Browning for gun barrels:—Spirits of nitre, 1lb; alcohol, 1lb; corrosive sublimate, 1 oz; mix in a bottle and cork for use. Directions: polish the barrel perfect; then rub it with quick lime with a cloth; now apply browning fluid with a clean white cloth, apply one coat and set it in a warm dark place for from 10 to 20 hours until a red rust forms on it; then cord it down with a gunmakers cord, and rub off with a clean cloth. Repeat the process if you want a dark shade. This will not answer for twist barrels.

Chas.Redvers, Duluth, Minn. The nidification of the White-winged Crossbill is very similar to that of the American. We have no record of its nesting in Minnesota.

THE Hummer.

Devoted To Birds and Animals.

Published monthly by Bonwell. Pub. Co.
Nebraska City, Nebr.

5 cents a copy. By the year 50 cents.

Advertising rates upon request.

Entered at the Post Office at Nebraska City as
Mail Matter of the Second Class.

THE Nebraska Ornithologist's Association have met and elected officers for the coming year, a very successful meeting was held, members being present from all over the state. The society has our best wishes.

—♦♦♦—

If a man grew as fast in proportion as a silk worm, he would be bigger than an elephant in two months. If he could navigate as fast in proportion as the average housefly, he would cross the Atlantic and get back in the time it takes him to eat his breakfast. If he had as many eyes in proportion as the butterfly, he would have 40,000, to say nothing of an extra pair in his head for skylights. If he could spring as far in proportion as the spider, he could jump over the tallest tree in California, and it wouldn't bother him in the least. Man isn't the whole thing, after all. —FREEPORT JOURNAL.

Kansas streams are to be stocked this year with 500,000 black bass, rock bass and crappie from the government hatcheries.

It is with sincere regret that we hear of the death of Dr. Elliott Coues. Dr. Coues was born in New Hampshire in 1842 and early in life became interested in the study of nature. He graduated from the Columbian University, and served as surgeon in the Civil War. He was connected with Smithsonian Institute for a number of years.

At the time of his death, Dr. Coues was, preeminently, the foremost American ornithologist, and possessed a style of expression equaled by but few scientific writers.

The winter has been very mild in the middle-west so far this year, and few very bad storms have passed over, hence the birds wintering here have fared very well.

The Cooper Ornithological Club, of California, are now issuing their Bulletin under the name of, 'The Condor'. Chester Barlow still continues a s editor-in chief, which is a guarantee that the paper will be a success editorially.

This journal will, no doubt, fully take the place of Taylors Nidologist, on the Pacific coast.

Where swallows roost.

By Albert F. Ganier.

I had often wondered where the countless numbers of migrating Chimney Swift's roosted at night, and on the 13th of Sep't my curiosity was satisfied when I saw, at 6.15 P.M., about 1500 Swifts flying down a chimney. The chimney was situated in a large business building in the center of the city.

Most of the birds came from the west, and as they neared the chimney, would circle a r o u n d, forming a kind of funnel-shaped mass, the small end of which was always in the chimney.

This continued until the 22nd of Sep't., when a cool spell came up, the mercury went down to 45 degrees at night and as a result their n u m b e r s dwindled to about one fourth. This spell did not last long though, for in nine days the weather was very warm and the swallows were again observed in their former numbers. Every evening they were seen, and on Oct. 14th they were seen roosting in several chimneys about town in great numbers.

A week later [Oct. 20th, 1899.] the second cold snap of the season came on, and this time the swallows left for good, I have not seen any since.

Vicksburg, Miss., Nov. 20th, 1899.

Do not fail to read last cover page of this issue.

While we think of it. THE latest fake in the bird line is that originated by a western man, he advertised a natural hen incubator, in two sizes, the large for \$3, the small for \$2. When the unsuspecting buyer received his 'machine' he cussed—for — the \$3 affair was a large hen, the \$2 one was a bantam. A natural hen incubator sure enough. Talk about the down east Yankee, they are not in it.

“A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush.”

“The cackling of geese saved Rome.”

“Judging by your bill”, said the plumber to the pelican, “I should take you for a relative of mine.”

Try a Want ad in the February Hummer, for it will reach more people than ever before.

“The early bird gets the worm.”

Do not forget to read page 24 of this issue.

“Birds of a feather flock together.”

If at first you don't succeed, try a Want Ad in the Hummer.

WANTS.

Under this head we will publish notices of an approved character at the rate of one cent a word. No display allowed and no notice inserted for less than ten cents. Parties desiring replies to come in care of this paper must furnish postage to cover cost of forwarding.

WANTED- Miscellaneous.

For Exchange, Skins:- A few A1 skins of 379, 381, 411, 471, 482, 505, 505a, 915, 646a, 707a, 708, 711, 749, 758 to exchange for A1 sets not in my collection. Lee Chambers, Santa Monica, Cal.

Want to buy a good farm in eastern Kansas or in North Texas. Ad, Z1, c-o Hummer.

Wanted:- 20 Responsible men and women as managers of branch offices in Nebraska & Iowa. Box 352, Nebraska City, Neb. N

Wanted:- To buy ancient copper relics, and large stone spear-heads Rev.E.C.Mitchell, 534 Summit Ave., St.Paul, Minn. N1yr

For Sale:- First three volumns of the 'Osprey' for highest cash offer over \$6. All numbers in fine condition. Theadore B.Parker, 36 Beaumont Ave. Newtonville, Mass. D

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

For Sale or Exchange:- Choice pedigreed Collie Pups \$5.00. One Standard Nutwood Stallion, fast. D.C Dupree, Greenwood, S.C. 8

I will exchange space in this column for STAR or HORSESHOE tin tobacco tags at the rate of 1 word for 1 tag. Send your tags and adv. to J. Goodman, 823 N.17th st, Nebraska City, Nebr. 9

Wanted:- Horseshoe & Star Tobacco Tags, can give good exchange or cash, small quantities taken same as large. T51, c-o Hummer. 8&9

ROUP and CHOLERA. Warrented cure. Price 25 cents. Globe Anti-toxine Remedy Co., Greensboro, N.C. 8

We want first class salesmen in the western and southern states. Good wages to capable men & women. Yukon Mfg. Co., Nebr. City, Nebr. 10

Wanted:- Boy of 15 to work on farm, wages \$10. W73, c-o Hummer. 8

Try a want ad in the next HUMMER and become convinced that it is the best want medium.

I have a complete file of Insect Life, bound. I will trade for desirable books or sell for cash. H. E. Hershey, Nebraska City, Nebr. 9

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

WANTED- Miscellaneous.

EREE:-Our Coupon good for 75c worth of goods, and circulars, how to make money, for your address. E.C.Porter, Warren, O. 8

UwantA typewriter ? New! Wonderful! 50c: Circular for stamp. Gem Typewriter Co., 333 Bainbridge St., Brooklyn, N.Y. Agents; A Bonanza Catalogue of fine novelties sent with catalogue. 8

I will exchange a set of four 24in. Marionetts with curtains etc., for printing press and outfit or anything of equal value, cost \$30, used only once. H.R. Winchester, 82 Hudson St, Somerville, Mass.

Type Writer Free:- Boys and girls don't miss this. Outfit 10c. Particulars for stamp. Winchester Mfg. Co., 82 Hudson St., SOMERVILLE, MASS. 8

SEE THE HUMMER SUPPLEMENT FOR MORE WANTS.

Advertisers

If you want good returns, get your adv. in the Illustrated Monthly Guest, Carleton, Colorado. The only paper of the kind in the whole of the Rocky Mountain Region from the Missouri river to the Pacific coast. Advertising rates 5c a line, 50c per inch per month; \$1.00 for three months. Subscription price 50c per year, with presents.

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.

NEXT MONTH THE HUMMER

Will have nearly double the circulation of any former issue, it will pay you to try it.

We desire to make it a "Record Breaker" in more ways than one. Especially we desire to have an increase in the Want Columns. To get an extra hundred quickly we make this offer; for ten cents we will give you a want of 20 words or less.

This is just half our regular rate and is good for the Feb. issue only. Write your adv very plain. The sooner you answer the better position you get, your adv must reach us by the 18th inst

THE BONWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY,

821 N.16th St. Nebraska City, Neb.

WE WANT AUGUST HUMMERS.

Write at once the number you have and we will make you an offer. Even if you only have one copy, write.



DO YOU WANT TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE CUTS?

We have just purchased the remaining edition of a new copyright book on illustrating, which tells how to make your own cuts at a cost of comparatively nothing. Everything is made clear so that you can make a creditable cut within an hour after mastering the contents of the book, you do not have to be an artist to do the work, people with no previous experience whatever can make a success of the work. The publishers price for this work was

\$1.00.

We have purchased the entire remaining edition and as long as it lasts we will send you a copy, prepaid for

30c.

You will never get such a chance again, place your order at once as the edition is very limited and after it is gone we cannot supply the book at any price. If you are a printer or have any printing done this work will be invaluable to you. Order now.

H.W.Kerr, Blencoe, Ia,

A New Leaf.

You may discover by sending for a sample copy of the Naturalist, Farm and Fan-
ciers Review

To Turn It Over

Subscribe and receive a 25 word Want or Exchange Notice one insertion Free. Only 25c a year. All its name implies. Every month, Natural History Departments by I.S. Trostler, Omaha, Nebraska, and contributors.

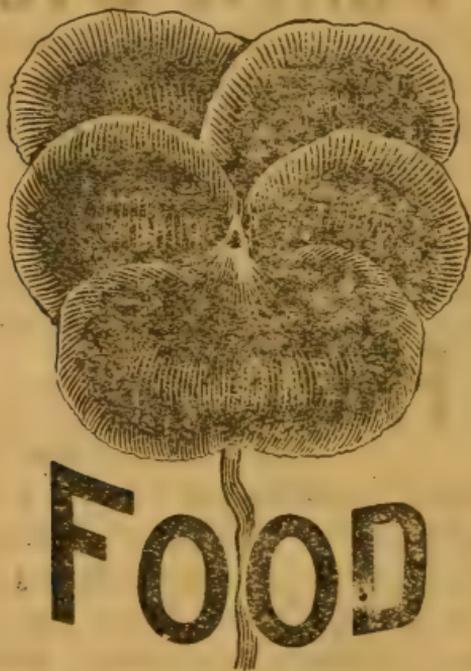
Mention Hummer and address,
H.W.KERR, PUB., BLENCOE, IOWA.

WIN A PRIZE.

We will give the following eggs to the person sending the largest number of trial subscribers to the Hummer between now and March 1st: Farralone Cormorant, 4, Laughing Gull, 3, Fla. Gallinule, 8 Show the Hummer to your friends, tell them it is three months for ten cents. and take their order. Get the list in by MARCH 1st.

THE BONWELL PUBLISHING COMPANY,
821 N.16th St. Nebraska City, Neb.

TROPIC PLANT



FOOD

**THE BEST PLANT FOOD
IN THE WORLD.**

Read our liberal trial offer on next page.

If you did ten hours of hard work per day, you would have to have a larger amount of food than when you were not working. The same principal applies to your houseplants, do not expect them to get enough nourishment out of a small pot of dirt, don't blame the plant for not blooming. Feed the plant Tropic Plant Food, it will make your plants strong, capable of bearing more flowers. Tropic Plant Food is the result of years of experiment by an expert florist, compounded on scientific principles and put up in the best form to produce practical results. It contains no bad odor. A 25 cent package will last 25 plants for 3 months. We are willing for you to give it a severe test because we are sure that it will satisfy you of its merit.

SPECIAL Send us ten 2c stamps and we will send you a full sized 25c package prepaid. The postage alone is 10c, thus you get the package at a lower price than we sell to jobbers in 1000 lots. We will send but one package to any one address at this price. Do not delay, send at once and force your plants for early spring blossoms. Address,

**Yukon Mfg. Co,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBR.**

Don't Forget To Mention The Hummer.



WE WANT NAMES AND ADDRESSES.

We desire to send out a large number of sample copies of the HUMMER next month and we want 2000 more names and addresses, new ones, fresh and good. You probably know of at least five people that might become subscribers.

You undoubtedly want the Hummer, we make you this offer: send us the name and addresses of five of your friends and we will allow you the paper a year for a quarter instead of at the regular rate of fifty cents, thus we allow you five cents for each name. It will take you but a moment to write down the addresses and you save 25c. Send at once as we want the names to set up for mailing the February issue. Old subscribers can also take advantage of this and have your sub. extended another year.  Send 10c extra and we will insert you a 20 word ad in the Feb. Want Column which will have nearly double the circulation of any previous issue. Wrap money in a strong piece of paper and send at once to,

THE HUMMER,
NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA.

Vol. I.

No. 9.

March 28th, 1900.

Subscribers Edition.

The Hummer.

Devoted to birds and animals.

5c the copy.

By the year 50 cents.

Published monthly by
The Bonwell Publishing Company,
Nebraska City, Nebr.

*Entered at the Post Office at Nebraska City as Mail
Matter of the Second Class.*



We will give you a 1 inch space in the
next issue of the Hummer for 50c.

Regular Rate is \$1.00.

Ad., Hummer Pub. Co.,
Nebraska City, Nebraska.

The Hummer.

Devoted to birds and animals.

5c the copy. By the year 50 cents.

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Nebraska City, Nebr.

*Entered at the Post Office at Nebraska City as Mail
Matter of the Second Class.*

Vol. I.

No. 9.

March 28th, 1900.

If Get this issue as a sample copy, con-
You sider the following points: (1) that we
want you for a subscriber, even if only
on trial at first; (2) we give 12 issues for a year's
subscription, if we are compelled to issue "double
numbers" occasionally you will not be the loser as
your subscription is counted by number instead of
by the month; (3) we think that you will find that
the paper is worth the price asked; (4) we shall at
all times have the paper self-supporting and will en-
large whenever our support justifies it; (5) articles
will be written in a popular style and in those deal-
ing with scientific subjects technical terms will be
avoided as much as possible, will you subscribe?

IOWA NOTES.



H. W. Kerr, of Blencoe, has just returned from a trip east.

Hunters in western Iowa say that wild pigeons and jackrabbits are entirely wiped out.

Farmers in the vicinity of Waterloo organized a campaign against a fox that had been helping himself to their chickens. Eighteen men and fourteen dogs chased him for eight hours and the fox is at large still.

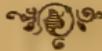
W. A. McHenry of Denison, a breeder of Aberdeen-Angus cattle, sent an agent all the way to Scotland to purchase two bulls for his herd.

W. A. McNeill of Oskaloosa has presented the Elks Lodge of that place with an elegantly mounted elk's head, at a cost of \$400.

A man at Fort Dodge is fattening 13,000 ducks for market, it takes 100 bushels of shelled corn a day to satisfy their hunger.

Be sure and read pages 14 & 15 of this issue.

The Skunk.



The Skunk in its wild state is nearly domestic and much prefers to live under houses and barns to almost any other place, especially is this so in severe cold winters, when placed in an inclosure they soon become perfectly contented with their new abode. All they seem to want is plenty to eat and drink and a warm place to sleep when the weather is cold. At this season of the year they hibernate for several days at a time, these periods are of short duration, however.

The Skunks are always fat, kill them at any season of the year and you will find them in good condition. If taken young they will become tame as kittens. I have one now that I have had nearly two years, it was brought to me when it was about four weeks old and when young it would follow me around like a puppy.

It never scents, it is the sudden fright or motion that startles them and causes the offensive odor.

They breed readily in captivity and take the very best of care of their offspring, having from 5 to 9 at a litter. On account of the great demand for their fur, in this and foreign countries, they are decreasing quite rapidly.

Their chance of escaping the hunter is small as they are not swift on foot and after traveling for a while they go in an old woodchuck's hole or un-

der some barn or house, if it is in the former their skin is soon secured and ready for the market.

Almon E. Kibbe.

*** **

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A STRANGE SITE.



There are eccentrics among birds as well as with human beings and the pair of pigeons who built this strangely situated nest were fine specimens of the type. A friend of mine writes, "My brother and I occupy the same room and one morning we were aroused by the cooing of two pigeons which had flown into the bedroom through the open window. The birds soon collected material for building, and in a couple of days had made a nest on the dressing table. On the third day an egg was laid and the birds began to sit; the cock by day and the hen by night. The single egg was hatched and the fledgling pigeon is getting along famously.

Not the least remarkable fact is, that the dressing table was in constant use during the time of building and sitting".

George Innes.

*

*

YOU should not fail to read pages 14 & 15 of this paper, something there of interest to YOU.

Along the Missouri.



From the lake we went east to a farm house and ate our lunch in the shade of surrounding trees.

The water in this bottom is simply "aful", it is cool and seemingly all right while you drink, but as soon as swallowed you have a taste in your mouth similar to the symptom descriptions in the patent medicine advertisements; everything around the pump turns yellow, the watering trough, the drinking cup and the people. I would be willing to wager that the people of that locality are composed of equal parts of bone, sulphur, iron and quinine. (no blood, to speak of, the "skeeters" have long since taken that.)

Peters insisted on buying some milk, which we found nectar indeed in comparison with the water.

* * * * *

Returning towards the river we passed through a large tract grown up in willows and found hundreds of young Red-winged Blackbirds of every conceivable size, and the racket they did make!

When we reached the boat we found the river had risen nearly two feet, and as the annual June rise was now due we decided that our island soon would become flooded and that the best thing we could do was to go home. The water ran very swift on the Nebraska side so we bargained with a

farmer to keep us over night and haul the boat to Plattsmouth the next day; we went over to the island brought off our traps before supper, which by the way, I relished very much after having eaten so many meals of Peter's cooking lately.

That evening we accompanied our host and his family to dance in the neighborhood, it was a novel but very pleasant experience; we had been there but a short time when a young fellow came to us and asked us to go outside with him, we had no idea what he wanted but were soon relieved when he went to a hollow tree in the yard, fished out a bottle and asked us to "have a drink". The popular drink there is alcohol diluted with water (some do not even dilute it) and I venture the assertion that you could find a bottle in every hollow tree, post or barn in this locality.

To anyone desiring a pleasant and economical outing, I certainly recommend a trip to some convenient spot "Along the Missouri".*

Barton Nugent.

[The End.]

*Along the Missouri began in the Oct. '99 issue-ed.

*** *
* * *

Do you not think the Hummer all right? We are improving all the time, will you not subscribe and help our growth? See page 15.

* * *

An adv in our next issue will pay you, try one.

Answers
To

CORRESPONDENTS.



H.K., Tryon, Pa. If you first rub the metal with a solution of equal parts of muriatic acid and alcohol your labels will stick with common paste.

Rob't. James, Macon, Mo. We do not believe it would pay you in the long run to buy it.

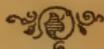
E. I. M., Waco, Tex. From the measurement^s and description given would think it Worm-eating' better send a skin for positive identification.

A G., Vicksburg, Miss. We think it has suspended but are not certain, better write D.M.Averill of Portland, Ore.

S.P.T., Hastings, Neb. Durable luminous paint can be made by mixing when dry 4 parts bichromate of potash, 45 parts of gelatine, and 50 parts sulphuric calcium, all pulverized. When mixed, stir in 2 parts hot water; after being applied and dried in the sun it becomes impervious to water.

G. Matre, Western, Nebr. To etch on steel, heat the metal a little and cover with melted beeswax, hold over a flame until evenly distributed; drawing should be made with sharp needle; cover with solution water 2 parts, nitric acid 1 part; etch three minutes and remove coating.

KANSAS NOTES.



The fossil experts at the State University claim that the gray wolf is the oldest inhabitant of this state.

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The horticulturists of Kansas have put the soft maple and the box elder under the ban, claiming they attract worms and become a nuisance.

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A bed of the finest pottery clay, twenty-seven ft. thick, has been discovered near Pittsburg; zinc at the depth of 125 feet has been found at Baxter Springs.

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Five car loads of white-faced bulls were unloaded at Liberal. They began to fight as soon as unloaded and 23 were killed before they could be separated, they were valued at from \$100 to \$250

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Saline County's poultry output in 1899 is valued at nearly \$2,000,000, they even say that nuggets of gold are found in the gizzards of fowls there.

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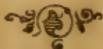
Do not fail to read pages 14 & 15.

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Ladies be sure and read page 23.

NEBRASKA NOTES.



Nebraska City sportsmen are spending considerable time and money in improving the lake on the east side of the river, when finished it is expected that it will be "seine proof".

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*

I. Griffin, living near Chadron, lost 300 sheep by the ravages of coyotes.

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Governor Poynter and a party of Kearney men recently indulged in a rabbit hunt in which over 50 rabbits were killed.

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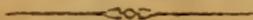
Holdrege amateurs have formed a camera club.

*
*

A stockman of Meadow Grove has succeeded in preventing the growth calves horns by a chemical process, there should be a fortune in it.

*
*

Be sure and read page 15 of this issue.



The Museum, of Albion, N.Y., has been merged with the Naturalist, Farm & Fanciers Review of Blencoe, Iowa. Brother Kerr is making a paper of merit out of the Review.

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When you see Rastus, Jr digging worms in the
in the vacant lots you may feel safe in announcing
that spring has "arrived".

* * *

The Blackbirds are migrating this week in large
numbers and Ducks and Geese are more plentiful
on the Missouri than for years past.

* * *

A great deal of kicking is being done by eastern
Nebraska sportsmen against the Iowa game law re-
quiring non-resident hunters to pay a \$10.00 fee, a
test case will shortly be instituted.

* * *

The theaters of the country have now induced
the ladies to remove their hats during performan-

ces, editor Shields should have little difficulty in getting the ladies to discard feathers after this.

* *
*

The second issue of the Western Ornithologist is received and fully comes up to the standard established by the first number.

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*

The Herald Exchange, late of New York, has been absorbed by the Allegheny Philatelist.

* *
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Do not fail to notice our prize offer elsewhere in this issue, time expires May 15th.

* *
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We desire to call the attention of Want column readers to the fact that answers to advertisements should not be addressed to the publishers of this paper. For the convenience of advertisers we let them have replies come to this office, but in such case the correspondent should always use the key number in the address so that your letter will get to the right party. Answers to want ads addressed merely "The Hummer" will get no response, if you address as in the adv we forward without having to open the mail.

* *
*

Our next issue will have guaranteed circulation of 2500, you should not fail to be represented in the advertising columns, forms close the 5th.



PRIZE COMPETITION.

For the best article on any bird or animal, 1000 words or less, we will give \$5.00 worth of sets; to the next best a fine \$2.00 Razor.

For the best story of a collecting trip, of 1500 words or less, we will give \$5.00 worth of sets; for the next best a fine \$2.00 Razor.

For the best anecdote or short story about any bird or animal, \$1.00 cash.

Conditions.

Articles must be written on one side of the paper only and postage must be fully prepaid; if return of article is desired, enclose sufficient postage.

Each contestant must enclose 10 cts for a three months subscription to the Hummer, if already a subscriber your subscription will be extended or you can have the paper sent to a friend.

Get your article in at the earliest possible date.

Address Plainly,

THE HUMMER,

NEBRASKA CITY,

NEBRASKA

Ninth Avenue and 16th st.

Read this page of Hummers.



For 25c silver we will send you a coupon good for a 25 word want; 100 fine data blanks and a three months trial to the Hummer. If you do not want the data blanks we will give you 25 envelopes or 50 cards instead.

Send us 25c and we will give you a 20 word adv in the April, May and June Hummers, also send you marked cop while ad is running, this is a snap for you, 70c value for 25c.

Return this ad with your quarter.



THE BEST YET.

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WANTS.

Under this head we will publish notices of an approved character at the rate of one cent a word. No display allowed and no notice inserted for less than ten cents. Parties desiring replies to come in care of this paper must furnish postage to cover cost of forwarding.

Wanted:- To buy ancient copper relics, and large stone spear-heads Rev.E.C.Mitchell, 524 Summit Ave , St.Paul, Minn. N1yr

The Elite Belgian Hare Co. breeds Imported High Grade Stock. Prize winning strains, write for prices. 1616 Downey Ave., Los Angeles, Calif.

Rev. Chas. M. Sheldons masterpiece, " In His Steps: What Would Jesus Do ?", sent on receipt of 8 2c stamps. A.P.Bishop, Book Dealer, Miami, Mo.

Wanted:- Chap's Cowboy riding pants, 37inches inside seam; Buckskin clothing, coat &c; ornamental gloves, hat ornaments; Spurs, rawhide lariat, rifle, brace pistols, fancy bridle; All cowboy equipments. Will exchange Black Langshans eggs or fowls for the above. Address, J.P.Myers, Crawfordsville, Ind. M&A

Send me 25 Horseshoe tin tobacco tags and I will send you, prepaid, 50 business or calling cards with printing. J.Goodman, Nebr.City, Neb. N.17st

WANTS- con't.

Free:- To introduce our bargain list we send a fine gem suitable for cutting and setting, if you send this adv and a 2c stamp. Case Camera Co., Naples, Ont.Co., N.Y.

Formulas 10c each, 5 for 35c, for making, Egg-ine, best egg producer known; Germ Eradicator; Liquid Lice Destroyer; Anti Vermin; Poultry Cholera Cure. Address, William Shugg, P. O. Box 110, Tamaqua, Pa.

Ladies:- Your bust enlarged 6 inches; failure impossible, harmless; \$100 cash guarantee; proof free. Leonard Medicine Co., Kansas City, Kansas.

To Exchange:- Red-shouldered Hawk's eggs in sets to exchange for U.S. Postage or Revenues, also others. E. R. Cooke, Monson, Mass.

Look:- We mail the genuine Silk Initial Handkerchiefs Ladies or Gents size perfumed and a pkg of our perfume (not a sample) for Twenty-five Cts.

Dealers cannot understand how we do it but we must have the addresses of all buyers. Home Specialty Co. Station O., Box 3523, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Leading Taxidermist and Tanner. Satisfaction guaranteed. All work moth proof. A trial will convince you. Also Angora cats for sale. W. J. Stull, Coalport, Pa.

WANTS- con't.

Exchange:- Will exchange nice assorted bundle magazines and papers to all sending 16 Arbuckle signatures. Miss Rosa Finster, Kaolin, Ala.

Was it Gracia's fault? All about a girl tempted. A Hummer, 10c silver. Box 626, Savanna, Ill.

For Sale:- Or will exchange for full blood Belgian Hares, a good Violincello. Address, F.S.Holland, 19 Graves Ave., Battle Creek, Mich.

Wanted:- Senses of 1st class sets of 7, 58, 76, 64, 218, 261, 273, 337, 339, 373, 393, 394, 501 and many others. Good exchange or cash if cheap. A. E. Price, Grant Park, Ill.

Wanted:- Salesmen; salary or commission; to handle our oils, greases, petrolatum and good side line; goods guaranteed; prices low. Address, Penn. Petrolatum Co., Coraopolis, Pa.

C.K.Spearman, the real estate dealer, has several choice Sarpy Co. farms for sale, from 80 acres up. C.K.Spearman, Gretna, Nebr.

For Sale:- "Birds and all Nature", Volumes I to VI inclusive in fine condition. \$5 cash, 312 fine colored plates. Albert F.Ganier, Vicksburg, Miss.

New Book:- A treatise on the skunk, money in the business. Price 50 c. Almon E.Kibbe, Naturalist, Mayville, N.Y. S

WANTS- con't.

For Sale:- 10,000 names of heads of families living in Shreveport, La., just gathered. Shreveport Adv. Co., Brueggerhoff & Baird, Shreveport, La.

Wanted:- A few more people to take advantage of my offer on page 22. H.. W. Kerr.

For Sale:- Pouters, Fans, Homers, Tumblers & White Bards at reduced prices; also stamp book containing over 300 different stamps. Address, Q. V. Wilkinson, 1129 West Second st, Dayton, O.

Wanted:- First class sets with full data, for private collection. 19J, c-o Hummer.

All kinds of birds and pets, cages, Dogs, Cats, Guinea Pigs, Ferrets, Goldfish, Pigeons. Medicine that will restore a bird's health and song, postpaid 20c. Seed, food and medicine for any pet. Established 28 years. S. H. Wilson's Big Bird Store, Cleveland, Ohio.

Typewriter Free:- Boys & girls send your name and address for particulars. Winchester Mfg. Co., Somerville, Mass., 82 Hudson st.

For Exchange:- Jasper mound relics, Fossils, War relics, Old notes, old time Slave Papers. Wish copper cents, Polished agate, large, also American and Spanish war relics wanted. H.J.Swentzel, 834 W.6th st, Wilmington, Del.

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