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THE OÖLOGIST,

—FOR THE—

STUDENT OF BIRDS.

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

VOLUME VIII.

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Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

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1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

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In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,
Albion, N. Y.

The Oologist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892 the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World.

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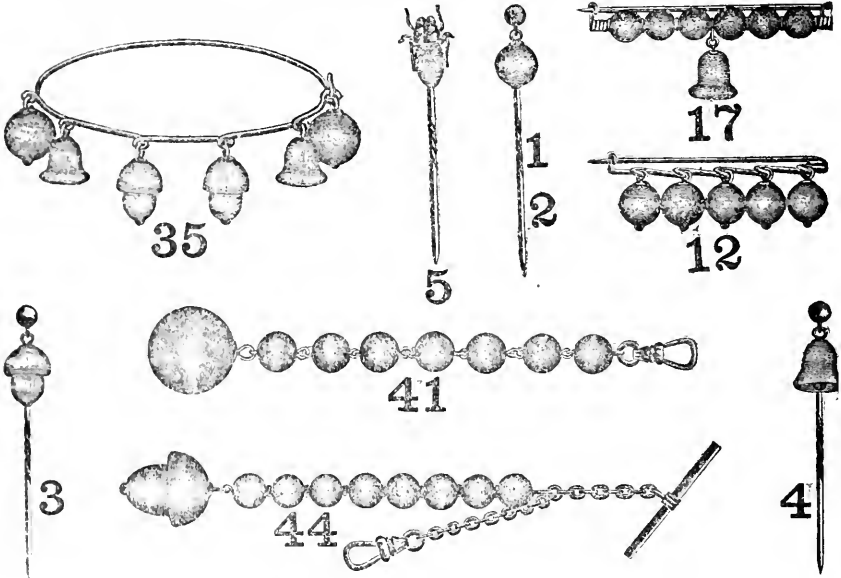
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FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

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CONTENTS.

The following table of contents enumerates some of the principal articles in each issue. The "short articles" mentioned are one column or less in length and are all of great value to the student.

Not mentioned in the list of contents, each issue contains one or two pages of "items" or "brief notes", one column to two pages of exchange notices, and from three to eight pages of advertisements, besides a "query column" which occurs in many, although not all issues.

THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

VOLUME I. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 12 each contain 16 pages. Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 each contain 20 pages. No. 11 contains 36 pages.

No. 1.—Instructions for Collecting Birds' Eggss. (3 pages); Coues' Key; Twenty-four short articles. May, '84.

No. 2.—Instructions for Collecting Birds' Eggss. concluded, (2 pages); Painted Bunting; Cala. Mottled Owl; List of Birds Found at Montreal; 24 short articles. June, '81.

No. 3.—Maine Items; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Orchard Oriole; The Slip System; Wilson's Thrush; Hand-book of Agassiz Association; 23 short articles. July, '81.

No. 4.—Screech Owl; Importance of Identification; A La. Heronry; Cardinal Crossbeak; Eagle's Nest; How to Make and Use Bird Lime; 14 short articles. Aug., '84.

No. 5.—Bird-nesting.—To Collect Scientifically. (3 pages); Cala. Birds; From Wyoming; 22 short articles. Sept., '84.

No. 6.—Bobolink, (2½ pages); Sea Birds of Maine; Egging in Cala. Swamp; Old "Put" and the Bird's Nest; List of Wisconsin Birds; 12 short articles. Oct., '84.

No. 7.—Bronzed Grackle; Singular Duel; Fish Hawk; Spurred Towhee and Least Tit; Old "Put" and the Bird's Nest; Bird Island; 11 short articles. Nov., '84.

No. 8.—The Alligator; Collecting in Marshes; Woodcock; "Our Birds in Their Haunts"; Iowa Notes; Redstart; Summer Redbird; 18 short articles. Dec., '84.

No. 9.—Baltimore Oriole; Texas Jottings; Sapsuckers; Barn Owl; American Ornithologists' Union, (3 pages); How to Handle a Gun; Black-capped Titmouse; Egg of the Moa. Jan.

No. 10.—Winter Wren; Cala. Duck Hunting; Screech Owl; Davie's Egg Check List; Peacock with Queer Tastes; White-bellied Nuthatch; Blue Jays; Spotted Robin Eggs; 8 short articles. Feb., '85.

No. 11.—Bank Swallow; English Sparrows; Study of Birds; Gt. Horned Owl; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Gambel's Quail; Conn. Notes; Intelligence of the Oriole; Yellow-breast Chat; Maryland Yellow-throat; White-rumped Sbrake; List of Pacific Coast Birds; Knights of Audubon; Sample Data Blanks, (4 pages); 32 short articles. March, '85.

No. 12.—Completes Vol. I. Title pages for binding, with complete and exhaustive index, (8 pages.) April, '85.

VOLUME II. consists of but two numbers. Each contains 32 pages.

No. 13.—Bartram's Gardens; South Carolina Observations, (6 pages); Scientific Names; Gt. Horned Owl; Bank Swallows; Knights of Audubon; Hummingbird; R. I. Notes; Texas Jottings; 30 short articles. May, '85.

No. 14.—American Crossbill; Audubon's Birds of America; Illinois Notes; Destruction of Birds; Cuckoos; Cala. notes; Wrens on the Warpath; Golden-winged Warbler; Fox Sparrow; Our Winter Birds; Suipe Creek; Red-head; Wisconsin Jottings; Burrowing Owl, etc.; A Florida Trip; Horned Lark; Queer Homes and Nesting sites; Brave Bird; Ferruginous Rough Leg; Sparrows; Pigmy Nuthatch; 26 short articles. June, '85.

THE OOLOGIST.

Volumes III. and IV. are Bi-Monthly. The remaining volumes are Monthly.

VOLUME III. each issue averages 12 pages. No. 15.—Full page Frontispiece.—*American Water Ouzels and Nest*; Chester Island and the Marsh Wrens; Birds of Cortland Co., N. Y., (4½ pages); A Cheap Cabinet; Nest of the Black-and-white Creeper; Summer Birds about Washington, D. C.; Davie's Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds; Water Blowpipe; 5 Short Articles. Jan. & Feb., '86.

No. 16.—Vagary of a Collector (Great Horned Owl Climbing Strap); A Hunt for Tern Eggs; Birds of Cortland Co., N. Y.; Notes from North Carolina; Whip-Poor-Will; Nest of the Brown Creeper; Black-billed Cuckoo Depositing Eggs in a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's Nest; Cannibalism of the Red-headed Woodpecker; 23 short articles. March & April, '86.

No. 17.—History of a Bird-Box; Tree Sparrow; Nests of the Green Heron; Bird Notes from Iowa; A Difficult Cab after a Red-tailed Hawk's Nest; Review of the Check-Lists of N. A. Birds, with special Reference to the new A. O. U. List (3 pages); The State of Maine as a Field for the Ornithologist; 16 short articles. May & June, '86.

No. 18.—My first White Crane's Nest; Spring Notes; Notes from Chester County, Pa.; Turkey Buzzards; How to Make a Cabinet; Chewink Nests in a Tree; A Cabinet for a large Collection; 13 short articles. Jy. & Aug., '86.

No. 19.—Collecting on Long Island; Chimney Swift; A Day with the Juncos; Illinois Bird Notes; Marsh Wrens; A Plucky Wood Pewee;

Minnesota Notes; Yates County (N. Y.) Notes; 8 short articles. Sept. to Nov., '89.

No. 23.—*Completions Volume III.* Title pages for binding, with complete and exhaustive Index of Volumes II. and III. Dec., '86.

VOLUME IV. Each issue averages 12 pages.

No. 21.—Birds of Chester County, Penn. (40 pages); Chestnut-sided Warbler; Massachusetts Letter; Bills of Birds; 3 short articles.

No. 22.—Notes from Spoon River Region, Illinois; Peculiarities of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Purple Gallinule; How to Collect; Bird Surgery; Rufous-vented and Bendire's Thrashers and Canon Towhee; Newsy Items; Notes from College Hill, Ohio; Nesting of our Swallows; Notes from Sullivan Co., N. Y.; Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher; Notes from Connecticut; Fidelity of the Song Sparrow; 13 short articles. March to May, '87.

Nos. 23-24. Combined number.—Tour in the Woods at Fort Washington, Pa.; National Museum (Department of Birds, Nest and Eggs); Beaver County, Pa. Notes; Black-capped Chickadee; Hawking; Agassiz Association and its Work; Crow Roosts of New Jersey; Swainson's Warbler; Destroy the Cowbird; Traill's and Acadian Flycatchers; 7 short articles. June to Sept., '87.

Ns. 25-26. Combined number.—Gannet; White Pelican; Black-capped Chickadee; Mockingbird; Late Collecting; Yellow-breasted Flycatcher; 5 short articles. Oct. to Dec., '87.

VOLUME V. 16 pages each issue.

No. 27.—Brown Tanager; Bald Eagle; Shooting a Golden Eagle; Florida Jottings; Destructive Nesting (English Sparrow); Arctic Terns; Notes from Lincoln County, Maine; Acadian Flycatcher; Red-shafted Flicker; 11 short articles. Jan., '88.

No. 28.—Title pages for binding, with complete and exhaustive Index of Volume IV.; Egg of *Apyornis maximus*, the Colossal Bird of Madagascar (6½ pages); Fish Crow. Feb., '88.

No. 29.—*Icterus spurius*; Water Blowpipe; Cardinal Grosbeak; Kansas Notes; A Moonlight Trip; Among the Coots on St. Clair Flats; Brown Thrush in Confinement; 9 short articles. March, '88.

No. 30.—Boat-tailed Grackle; Destruction of our Native Birds (4 pages); Gleanings from Correspondence; Nest in a Horseshoe; 5 short articles. April, '88.

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No. 32.—Family *Rallidae* in Michigan (3½ pages); Egg Collecting; Bird Voices; Road Runner; Notes on the Birds of Beaver, Pa.; 3 short articles. June, '88.

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Nos. 34-35. Combined number. Reminiscences of 1889; Trip to Seven Mile Beach; Defense of *Ardea*; Eggs of *Ardea* in Wisconsin; Wisconsin; Great Auk; Arkansas Notes; Black Snowbird; Notes for Collectors; Some of our *Falco*idae; Jim (A Tame Crow); Buffalo International Fair; 8 short articles. Aug., Sep.

Nos. 36-37. Combined number.—American Osprey; A Day with the Gulls; Florida Notes; A Plea for the English Sparrow; Useful Contrivances; Game Laws; Notes from Lake County, Ohio; South Carolina Notes; A Pleasant Excursion; Sparrows and Cat Hermit Thrush; Western House Wren; A Few Words to Observers; Flying Squirrels Occupying Birds' Nests; 15 short articles. Oct., Nov.

No. 38.—Strich Farming; An Afternoon's Collecting Trip; California Notes; Notes from St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.; Bird-Arrivals in N.

E. Indiana; Bank Swallow; Faunal Changes, —DeKalb Co., Indiana; Audubon Monument; 10 short articles. Dec., '88.

VOLUME VI. 30 pages each issue.

No. 39.—Title pages for binding, with Complete and Exhaustive Index of Volume V.; Breeding Habits of the Bridled Tern; Wood Thrush and Brown Thrasher; From Western North Carolina; Birds of Broome Co., N. Y.; Peculiar Eggs of *Coccyz argus*; Cuckoos; Notes from Alabama; Carolina Parakeet; 12 short articles. Jan., '89.

No. 40.—A Red-headed Family (*Pipilo*) (6½ pages); Raptors of Michigan; Wild Turkey; Birds of Iowa; The "Critic" Criticised; 8 short articles. Feb., '89.

No. 41.—Directions for making a Bird or Mammal Skin; The Owl; A Crow Quandary; Birds of Macon County, Ga.; Collecting Experience; Story of a Tame Crow; 6 short articles. March, '89.

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No. 43.—Avi-Fauna of Orleans County, N. Y. (6½ pages); The Robin; The Crow in the North; Bald Eagle's Nest; Making Bird Skins; 3 short articles. May, '89.

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No. 47.—"Old Abe" Jr.; A Day's Collecting Trip; Bell's Vireo; Black Tern; Yellow-rumped Warbler; An Automatic Blower; Flight of Ducks, White-eyed or Florida Towhee; Pygmy Owl; Cooper's Hawk; 10 short articles. Sept., '89.

No. 48.—Winter Birds of Kalamazoo County, Mich. (2½ pages); American Long-eared Owl; Wood Ibis in Illinois; Birds of Bertie Co., N. C.; Collecting in Western Florida; A White Sparrow; Nests and Eggs of North American Birds; Black Tern; 8 short articles.

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No. 50.—Birds of Niagara County, N. Y.; Shore Lark; Incidents in Bird Life; Gleanings from our Correspondence; Marsh Hawk; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Northern Phalarope; 18 short articles. Dec., '89.

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No. 51.—Title pages for binding, with Complete and Exhaustive Index of Volume VI.; Notes on Florida Birds (3 pages); Ornithology and Bicycling; Audubon Ornithological Club; Florida Field Notes; Trip to Devil's Glen; Simple Contrivance; Capture of a Trumpeter Swan; 4 short articles. Jan., '90.

No. 52.—Breeding of the Brown-headed Nut-

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hatch: Prairie Horned Lark; Collecting Experience; Snowy Owl; Nest of the Texan Bobwhite; Unusual Nesting of the Downy Woodpecker; Evening Grosbeak; Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and Tufted Tit; 6 short articles. Feb.

No. 53.—Summer Residents of Buena Vista County, Iowa: In the Woods of Florida; Birds of Mackinac Island, Mich.; Among the Gulls on Isle Royale; Sandhill Crane; Evening Grosbeak; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Cactus Wren; Screech Owl in Captivity; Taking Birds' Nests; 11 short articles. March, '90.

No. 54.—Caged Eagles; Evening Grosbeak (2 pages); Solitary Sandpiper; Summer Red-bird; Notes from Rochester, Mich.; Family *Rallidae* in Minnesota; Downy Woodpecker; Hardly Ornithological; 10 short articles. Apr.

No. 55.—Do Birds Mate More than Once?; Habits of the Evening Grosbeak; Pileated Woodpecker in Florida; Bird Protection, Chinese or Mongolian Pheasant in Oregon; Prairie Warbler; Winter Birds in Spring; A Valuable Work; Davie's New Work on Taxidermy; 12 short articles. May, '90.

No. 56.—Nesting habits of the American Oystercatcher; Prairie Horned Lark; Saw-whet or Acadian Owl; Pine Warbler; Bluebird; Albinos; Pileated Woodpecker in Mahoning County, Ohio; Belligerent Neighbors; Recording the number of Birds Observed; Book Review; Prospectus of the Worcester Natural History Camp (4½ pages); 12 short articles. Je.

No. 57.—American Crossbill; Crested Grebe; Voracious Mountain Trout; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Long-tailed Chickadee; Rough-winged Swallow; Great Horned Owl; Some Unusual Happenings; Pallas' Cormorant; Eggs of Audubon's Warbler; 12 short articles.

No. 58.—The *Capprotogulor* in Arkansas; White-bellied Nuthatch; Strange Co-habitation; Variation in the Eggs of *Habia ludoviciana*; King Rail in Minnesota; 8 short articles. Aug., '90.

No. 59.—The Use of the Camera in the Field; Saw-whet or Acadian Owl; Nesting of the Black Snowbird; Marsh Hawk; Plain Titmouse; Lost Opportunities; The Magnolia Warbler; Wilson's Plover at Home; 8 short articles. Sept., '90.

No. 60.—The Use of the Camera in the Field. A study of nests (6½ pages, illustrated with 4 photo engravings); The Flathead (Montana) Field; The Owls of San Bernardino Valley; A Collecting Adventure. The Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Ornithologists at Indianapolis; The Burrowing Owl; After "Gators' Eggs;" Notes from Northern Minnesota. Oct., '90.

No. 61.—The Ruby-throated Hummingbird (Fairies in a Fairyland) (3½ pages); Notes from Travis Co., Texas; A Week to Mt. Hamilton; Great Horned Owl; Strange Co-habitation; Brewer's Blackbird; Nesting of *Contopus borealis* in Maine; A Letter from Oliver Davie Relating to his New Work on Taxidermy; Notes on *Ardea herodias*; The Prothonotary Warbler; Nesting of the Virginia Rail; The Yellow Rail in Mich.; An Outline of the More Valuable Articles Appearing in the YOUNG OÖLOGIST (3 pages); 7 short articles. Nov., '90.

No. 62.—The Rusty Blackbird; Notes from Ohio; Evening Grosbeak in New Hampshire; The Cala. Partridge or Valley Quail; Nothing at All—a Poem; Case for Instruments; Notes from Island Lake, Florida; 3 short articles. Dec., '90.

VOLUME VIII. No. 63 contains 24 pages. No. 64, 32 pages. No. 66-67, 56 pages including cover. The balance, 20 pages, including covers. No. 74 also contains an additional 4 page in set.

No. 63.—A Day Among the Fish Hawks; The Marsh Wrens of Hudson Co., N. J.; Now,—The Time to Wage War on the English Sparrow; Nesting of the Downy Woodpecker in Kalamazoo Co., Mich.; American Sparrow Hawk; Anna's Hummingbird; Was it a Cow-Bird's nest; Florida Red-shouldered Hawk; On Owl's Tenacity to Life; Western Horned Owl; Albino Eggs; An Afternoon with the Birds: A "Good Enough" Way to Blow Egg; Meeting of the A. O. U.; Expert Taxidermy; 5 short articles. Jan. '91.

No. 64.—Flycatcher Notes; Collecting in the Marsh; House Finch; The Barred Owl; Yellow-breasted Chat; Anna's Hummingbird; Birds North of Their Usual Range; Egg Collecting—The Two Classes; A Perfect Collection; Texas Notes; Nesting of *Spinus pinus* in the Northwest. Title pages for binding with complete and exhaustive index for Vol. vii. 4 short articles. Feb. '91.

No. 65.—A New Year's Soliloquy; Water Ouzel. An Ornithological Paradise; "The English Sparrow Must Go"; Fond Mothers; Passenger Pigeon; The OÖLOGIST; Caracas or Mexican Eagle; The Cooper's Hawk; Some Early Birds of Linn Co., Oregon; Broad-winged Hawk; The Extinction of Our Birds. Mar. '91.

No. 66-67.—Combined Number.—A List of the Birds of Elgin Co., Ont.—(6½ pages); Random Notes on the Belted Kingfisher; The English Sparrow; A Few Articles for the Collector; Screech Owl; Western Meadow Lark; Hermit Thrush; *Aces urbis*; A Much Occupied Nest; The Whip-poor-will; Nesting of the Red-tailed Hawk; Copper's Hawk; The Eagles of North America; Nesting of the Black-capped Chickadee in Kalamazoo Co., Mich.; Nesting of the Purple Finch; The Red-eyed Vireo; Bird Life of an Islet; Migration of the Canada Goose; Association of American Ornithologists; Notes on the Wright's Flycatcher; 3 short articles. Apr. and May '91.

No. 68.—The Hummingbirds of California; Ring Pheasant; The Carolina Wren; American Dipper; A Trip to Pelican Island; Michigan Ornithology; A Duty to Perform; Great Horned Owl; Enemies of Our Feathered Friends; Queer Neighbors; Bird Migration. June '91.

No. 69.—Some Florida Notes; The New Era in Ornithology; The Amusing Antics of a Pair of Brown Thrashers; The Chewink in Orleans County; The Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos; Changes in Michigan Ornithology; My First Nighthawk's Nest; The Wrens of North Carolina; What causes the Quick Notes of the Whip-poor-will; A Better Report from Texas; Items of Interest from Florida; The American Osprey; Nesting of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee. July, '91.

No. 70.—The Story of a Flood; Feeding the Birds in Winter; Nest and Eggs of the Rufous Hummingbird; The Chewink in Broome Co., N. Y.; The Carolina Wren Again; A Trip to Smith's Island; More About the Iowa Eagles; Some Notes on the Breeding of the Carolina Snow-bird; Black and White Creepers; Nesting of the Sharp-shinned Hawk; Danger in using Arsenical Soap; Interesting Notes from Oregon; Answers to that Turkey Vulture Query; Meadow Larks and Turkey Buzzards; Seaside School of Biology; World's Fair Notes. Aug. '91.

No. 71.—The Black and White Creeping Warbler; An Indiana Herony; The English Sparrow in Bay City, Mich.; Michigan Notes; Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow; A Ram-

bling Mixture from Connecticut; Henslow's Sparrow; A Few Notes on Ornithology and Ornithologists; The Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Of Interest to Oologists; How I Found a Killdeer's Nest; Range of the Towhee; Owls as Pets; Michigan Notes; A Rose-breasted Grosbeak Widower; 5 short arts. Sept. '91. No. 72.—The Screech Owl; The Divers; In Favor of an Organization; What is the Most Northern Latitude in Which the Chewink Breeds; Notes at Random; Ornithologists Association; Harlan's Buzzard and the Red-tail; An April's Outing; Eggs of the Sharpe's Seed-eater; Shall We Have a General Association of Scientists; A Trip to Cobb's Island; One of Indiana's New Laws; "Bird Nesting in Northwest Canada." "*Frende Eier in Nest.*" 5 short articles. Oct. '91. No. 73.—The Great Carolina Wren; A Timely Letter; Western Robin; Western New York Naturalist's Association; The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher; California Thrasher; Ornithologist Association; Albino Birds; Chewink or "Chewee"; "Our Birds in Their Haunts"; The Lark Bunting; List of Birds Found Breeding in the Vicinity of Peoria, Ills; World's Fair Notes; Relics by the Wagon Load. Nov. '91. No. 74.—The Sharp-shinned Hawk; A White Crow; The Pileated Woodpecker; Russet-backed Thrush; How Dr. M. Keeps His Oological Treasures; Thanksgivng Notes from the Far West; The Blue-gray Gnat-catcher in Arkansas; Shall We Organize; Bird Nesting in November; Frauds; A Further Contribution to the Chewink Controversy; One Day's Tramp; The Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler; The Gulls; The Carolina Parrot; Bartram's Sandpiper; The Horned Grebe; World's Fair Notes. This number also contains a 4-page inset of Nuttall's Ornithology. Dec. '91.

VOLUME IX.

No. 75.—Bird Nesting in North-west Canada; Two Birds of Western Kansas; Ornithologists Association; Western New York Naturalists Association; The Blue Grosbeak; Maryland Yellow-throat; Chewink; The Bronzed Grackle; Prizes for Best Articles; Are Nesting Cavities Occupied More than Once; Old Recollections; Summer Tanager; "The Way of the Transgressor is Hard"; "Our Birds in Their Haunts." 5 short articles. This No. also contains a plate in two colors of Long Lake and Nests of Canvas-back and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Jan. '92.

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The announcement that Mr. Howells will leave Harper's Magazine, to take editorial charge of the Cosmopolitan, on March 1st, calls attention to the process of building up the staff of a great magazine. Probably in no month has the evolution been so distinctly under the eyes of the public as in the case of the Cosmopolitan. The first step after its editorial control was assumed by Mr. John Brisben Walker, was to add to it Edward Everett Hale, who took charge of a department called "Social Problems," subjects concerning which the greatest number of people are thinking to day. Mr. Hale, who is a student, a fair minded man, a thorough American and a man of broad sympathies, has filled this position on a way to attract the attention not only if this country, but of leading European journals. Some months later, a department was established called "The Review of Current Events." To take charge of this, a man was needed who should be familiar not only with the great events of the past thirty years, but who knew personally the leading men of both the United States and Europe who could interpret motives and policies. Murat Halstead accepted this position with the distinct understanding that his monthly review should be philosophical and never partisan. The next step in the history of the Cosmopolitan, was the placing of the review of the intellectual movement of the month in the hands of Mr. Brander Matthews, who for some time has been recognized as one of the two or three ablest critics in the United States.

Finally came the acceptance of the editorship conjointly with Mr. Walker, by Mr. Wm. Dean Howells. Mr. Howells, who is recognized universally as the foremost American of letters, upon the expiration of his contract with Harper Brothers, on the first of March will take in hand the destinies of a magazine which promises to exercise a share of influence with the reading classes of the United States. His entire services will be given to the Cosmopolitan, and everything he writes will appear in that magazine during the continuance of his editorship.

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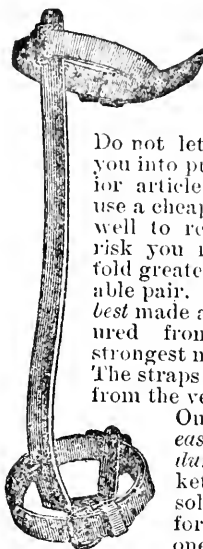
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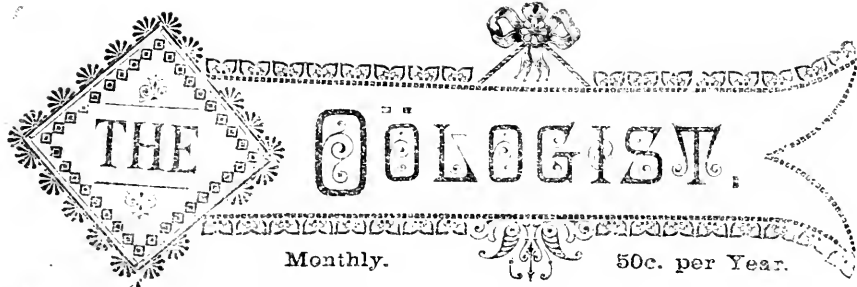
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VOL. VIII.

ALBION N. Y., JAN., 1891.

No. 1

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements. "Wants." "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 35 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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Enclosed please find 25c. Kindly leave my Coleoptera Exchange another month. I received such a number of letters that my duplicate stock of Coleoptera is cleaned out. Happily I am expecting quite a lot from Europe and Africa which I hope will arrive in a few days. I hope through your paper to be able to exchange them as fast as I did the others. CH. L. HALL, Carpinteria, Cal.

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EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Oregon Bird Skins, for other skins and eggs. Correspondence solicited from all working ornithologists. Will also exchange skins for books. DR. A. G. PRILL, Sweet Home, Oregon.

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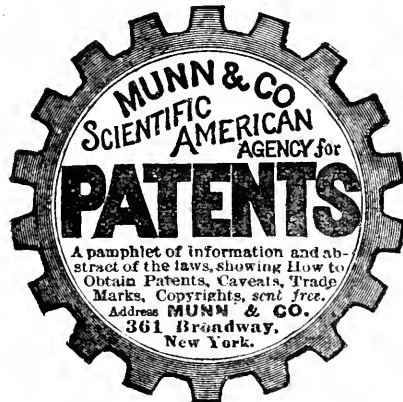
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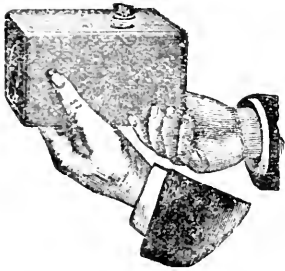


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CHAS. F. CARR,

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THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION N. Y., JAN., 1891.

No. 1

A Day Among the Fish Hawks.

Lying to the north of the main land of Mathews County, (Va.,) less than a mile distant, is Gwynn's Island, the greater portion of which, being cleared land, is in cultivation; the southern part, however, is a swampy low-land with extensive tracts of marsh, densely covered with flags, bull-rushes, and other grasses common to salt marshes; here and there are small ponds of stagnant water, while other portions are daily submerged by the flowing tide. Thus a most excellent breeding ground is afforded for several species of the family, Rallidae, such as the Clapper and Sora Rails, and others; also there may be found breeding in this locality, Marsh Wrens, Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows. The Rails being in good demand for the table, are much disturbed by the sportsman about this season, consequently, comparatively few are left to breed. Farther up the island, adjoining these lowlands are wooded tracts, consisting chiefly of pine, with a profuse undergrowth of myrtle and gall bushes, making it at times almost impenetrable. Here, too, is furnished a summer home, unsurpassed, for that grand bird, American Osprey, which breed in great numbers on the island. Then again, along the high sandy beach, to the eastward, a favorite resort is found for the Least Tern and Piping Plover, which breed in company with each other, though, the former many times outnumbers the latter. Associated with this company is an occasional Nighthawk, whose presence is due, perhaps, to the myriads of mosquitoes that infest the place, on which he is particularly fond of feeding; also from the fact of its being a favorable nesting site, rather than from any disposition on his part

to be neighborly. He is ever on hand, seemingly, to unite his harsh discordant voice with the sharp deafening cries of the Terns, which take to wing by the hundreds upon the near approach of anyone to their nests. Such a place offers a fine field for the oologist as well as the ornithologist.

It was here, with several friends, I had the pleasure last season of visiting, and making some investigations with reference to bird life.

Having made all necessary preparations the day previous, we started out early on the morning of May the 7, '90, for the place. After several miles of tramping, through fields and woods, we came to the landing from which we were to sail for the island. Sailing some miles down the river, we came in full view of the island, and what a beautiful scene greeted our eyes this tender spring morning! The island lay in wide expanse before us, covered with its luxuriant growth of vegetation; the various shades and tints of green and yellow, afforded by the young foliage which ornamented every tree and shrub, presented a picture lovely to behold.

The storm of the previous night had chilled the morning air, but now as the sun neared the zenith, the gathering clouds were dispelled, and again the bright gemial sunshine warmed the atmosphere. With the azure sky above and the silvery waters beneath, the scene was, indeed, too grand to be painted by any artist's brush. Such surroundings tended to make the occasion more delightful.

Arriving at the shore, we secured our boat on the sheltered side of a little cove and landed. Immediately the Fish Hawks began to sail in graceful circles over our heads, uttering the i

plaintive whistling notes, which became shriller on approaching nearer their nests.

When in the act of taking their eggs from the nest they often sweep suddenly down as if aiming directly for you, but changing their course when a few yards above your head, fly off to repeat the same movements.

Before us in every direction, could be seen their roughly constructed domiciles, invariably placed in the pine trees.

Eager to know what luck awaited us, we pressed through the thick undergrowth with egg-box and climbers strapped on, and hastened to ascend. Nearly all the nests contained fresh eggs, but sometimes a hard climb was rewarded with disappointment; then again, in another nest would be two or three, rarely four, beautifully marked eggs, which would more than compensate for the loss of the first.

Their nests are huge structures of large sticks, seaweeds, corn stalks, or most any kind of rubbish. The materials are put compactly together, and are sufficiently strong to bear a person's weight. The top surface of the nest, which measures about two and half feet across, is perfectly flat with a small depression in the center large enough to hold the eggs. After the young are hatched, they remain upon this flat surface for several months, until they are large enough to fly.

As we had done considerable climbing, and the day being well advanced, we set down to rest, at the same time not forgetting to respond to the demands within, by partaking heartily of a tempting repast which had been prepared for the occasion. Such a diversion from the past three hours' work was by no means objectionable, as any who have had a like experience can attest. Being now refreshed, we resumed our work with renewed energy, until the number of sets was increased

to twenty-five. As the sun had now begun to descend toward the western horizon, with reluctant steps, we retraced our way back to the boat which we had left in the morning, and getting aboard, we bade adieu to our feathered friends, who had treated us so hospitably during the day. Notwithstanding, their scolding utterances seemed to indicate that we were unwelcomed guests.

Returning, we secured along the shores, some eggs of the Kingfisher, Green Heron, and Bank Swallow.

Reaching home at sunset, tired, but much pleased with the success of the day, and being favorably impressed by the pleasant experiences—not soon to be forgotten—we were quite prepared to appreciate a quiet repose.

M. C. WHITE,
Mathews County, Va.

The Marsh Wrens in Hudson Co., N. J.
(*Cistothorus palustris* and *Cistothorus stelleris*.)

The Long-billed Marsh Wren is an abundant summer resident in all the marshes throughout this county (Hudson). Arriving during the latter end of May, its gurgling song may be heard throughout the breeding season which lasts about from the first of June to the last of July. The song is a gurgling sound somewhat similar to the House Wren's; thus, *reel, reel, reel*, repeated about nine times in quick succession, winding up with a *leelt*.

The earliest find of eggs that came to my notice was an incomplete set of five taken May 30, 1890.

The latest a set of six taken for me was July 17, 1889.

They usually build in colonies of small or greater extent.

The nests being a globular structure with an entrance on one side, composed of sedges on the outside and finer grasses within, lined with any soft mater-

ials at hand, such as hair, feathers, string, cotton, waste, etc.

The domiciles are attached to upright swaying reeds, also being placed in a kind of bush that grows along the borders of salt creeks in meadows hereabouts.

The nests are usually placed about from 2½ to 4 feet from the ground. I saw one placed not more than one foot from the ground in short grass.

The eggs are from six to ten in number and are quite variable in color some pale and others deep chocolate brown, sometimes nearly uniform, again evenly spotted with dark brown, sometimes forming a confluent ring about the larger end.

The eggs of *C. Stelleris* are pure white, the nest corresponding to *C. palustris*, except being neater, and lined with vegetable down, mostly that of the cat-tail.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren is quite rare in this locality.

Found a nest of this species June 16, 1889, situated in the midst of reeds, and was attached to the same.

J. LUHRMAN,
Jersey City, N. J.

Now,—The Time to Wage War on the English Sparrows.

It is an already well recognized fact, that the English Sparrow is one of the evils which are driving the number of our native birds, and driving them "far from the haunts of men," inasmuch as the English Sparrow makes the haunts of man his special breeding place.

Much has been said about abating this evil, but as yet little or nothing seems to have been done. Has the time not yet come, to act? Winter is at hand, when we in the north will have but few birds with us. At this time the English Sparrow presents a very conspicuous figure making it a favorable opportunity to destroy him.

Now if all our bird students who agree that the English Sparrow is too numerous would shoot, during the winter, as many as possible, would not the difference in numbers be a welcome discovery for our returning birds in the spring?

If this were practiced yearly, it could not fail to place a great check on the increase of the English Sparrow. If we each of us complain of the evil wrought by the English Sparrow, and yet each one, anxious that some one else should do something, fails to make a step ourself, how can we expect that the trouble will be abated?

I think if we were to get up a competition to see who this winter should kill the most Sparrows (English of course), it might be a means of increasing the number which would be destroyed.

I should like to hear the opinions of others on this subject.

In the Jan. 1889 OOLOGIST, Mr. Clute gave an interesting article on the "Birds of Broome County," with the suggestion that the example be followed by one from each of the other counties of this and other states. This was done to a certain extent by one or two and the matter dropped.

Now the question is why was this dropped? As far as they went, the articles were very interesting, even to those not in the same locality with the writer.

If continued, as suggested by Mr. Clute, I should think his would form a very interesting ornithology, showing, as it would, how birds common in one part of a state were yet unknown in a different locality of the same state.

B. S. BOWDISH,
Phelps, N. Y.

Nesting of the Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) in Kalamazoo County.

Mich.

Although this bird is common in

spring and fall, but few pairs seem to remain to breed. My first opinion was, that it rarely, if ever, bred in this county, partly because I was led to believe so by our older oologists. My first nest was found in May, 1886, and contained four young birds. The cavity was about 15 feet from the ground and the stub itself looked as it had been the cradle for several broods in preceding years. I left the stub determined to visit it the next season. On May 16, 1887, I went to it and found the bird on but thought it best to leave it another week. On the 23rd I cut it open and found five nearly fresh eggs. The hole was 9 feet from the ground and was drilled out where the stub was rotten and spongy.

My next nest was found on June 1, 1888. It was in a dead limb that ran obliquely from the body of a live ash tree. It contained five eggs in an advanced state of incubation. These differ from any I have ever seen being of a dull white without the usual gloss. Later in the same year I found a nest with young birds in a poplar stub that would hardly stand alone and so could not get up to see the young birds but could hear them plainly enough and see the old ones carrying food to them.

On the 13th of May, 1890, while out for Marsh Hawks' nests, I saw a bird go into a hole in a poplar stub, but thought best to leave it until later. On the 21st I visited it and found, to my great surprise as well as joy, containing seven eggs. (A good egg story it may seem, but it is true nevertheless and can be proven.) The cavity was about 20 feet from the ground and the stub more solid than those usually occupied. On blowing these eggs one was addled and the other six far advanced in incubation.

While going by the same stub on June 14th, I stopped and rapped and to my surprise again a head popped out of a hole higher up than the other. This

contained three eggs slightly incubated. Although I did not measure it I think this hole was at least 25 feet from the ground. The cavity was very shallow from having been made in a hurry. These with another set taken by Mr. Harry H. Pomeroy are the only ones I know of taken in the county.

R. B. WESTNEDGE.

American Sparrow Hawk.

(*Falco sparverius*.)

The American Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) are the smallest of the genus *Falco* resident in this country. Here they may be found in certain sections throughout the year; in others they appear as migrants, or in the breeding season only. Apparently they exhibit little partiality in selecting their summer homes; and those localities are few where the diligent observer fails to meet with the nest and eggs of this species. Probably, as a whole, they are the commonest of our hawks, and unquestionably one of the most interesting.

While this species do not assume so defiant and even belligerent spirit, when molested, as do some of their larger kin, nevertheless their decided activity at such times has, no doubt, caused the amateur oologist to alter his intentions for the time being, at least

When their nesting place is approached, they appear greatly agitated, frequently darting about uncomfortably near the intruder, uttering simultaneously, a harsh cry, unpleasant to the ear, peculiar, yet difficult of description. Although ornithologists as a rule, agree that they show little disposition to attack, when disturbed, still on one occasion the writer was momentarily deterred from accomplishing his object, by their persistent warlike maneuvers.

This proceeding, however, was of short duration, lasting only so long as

a spirit of hesitancy was shown on his part.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with this bird, I will quote the following from "Minot's Land and Game Birds of New England":

About eleven inches long. Crown, ashy-blue, usually with a chestnut patch of varying size. Head, otherwise white, with generally seven large black markings, including one on the nape. Tail, often surrounded by white; and broadly (sub-) tipped with black. Primaries, etc., black with imperfect white bars. Otherwise:—female, brown above, becoming chestnut on the tail, nearly everywhere black-barred. Beneath, white; breast (often buffy or reddish, and) streaked with black (and brown). Male, smaller, and with few or no black bars or streaks. Wing coverts, ashy-blue (sometimes spotted with black).

From the above description the identity of the bird in hand must be readily established.

The flight of the Sparrow Hawk is weak as compared with others: indeed it is never long-continued, but rather at short intervals, and rarely at a great height. One may at favorable times observe them gracefully skimming over the fields and meadow lands in quest of food, which latter consists of small quadrupeds, birds and—I am told—insects. Often they may be seen pouncing upon their prey with great celerity, from the lofty branches of a tree, or other suitable positions.

Except in rare instances, they select for a nesting-place a natural cavity in a tree, or an abandoned excavation of some of the larger species of woodpeckers. Here, sometimes on a lining of coarse material, often on none except that existing already, four or five eggs are deposited. While the latter can be distinguished at a glance, still the variation of even the eggs of a set is often very marked, both in respect to size, and color.

The extremes of a set of five in my possession present the following measurements: 1.44 x 1.12 of an inch, and 1.35 x 1.09 of an inch. The ground-color in these differs from greyish-white in some, to a sort of buff in others. One specimen is marked rather coarsely with dark brown evenly distributed over the surface; another is heavily splashed, and blotched with amber on the smaller end, while the greater portion of the egg is very sparsely spotted with a lighter shade; still another is finely and thickly dotted with cinnamon so as to almost conceal the background of dirty-white.

Although the Sparrow Hawks may, in certain respects, be of service to mankind, this is more than offset by their terrible destruction of the smaller, and far more useful birds. It is for this latter reason that little protection should be accorded them by the true ornithologist.

Notwithstanding their faults, however, one cannot but admire their pluck, and almost reckless courage, their fondness of home, and their great attachment for particular localities, although repeatedly disturbed.

AN OBSERVER,
Conn.

Anna's Humming Bird.
(*Trochilus anna.*)

One day in the middle of May I went trout fishing along a little mountain stream, but not having very good success, I turned my attention to hunting bird nests.

I had proceeded but a short distance when I heard a buzz close to my head, and upon looking up saw a neat little nest of the Anna's Hummingbird, which contained two eggs. After a hunt of about two hours I felt satisfied to return home without any trout, but with five nice sets of Hummers and several of other species.

All these nests were built on twigs either hanging over or very near the creek.

One nest was built in a bush only a couple of feet from the ground.

In most cases I was attracted to the nest by the bird either flying around or to it.

I have fifteen nests, three of which are made entirely of willow down and the down from the backs of sycamore leaves. Twelve are composed of the same; but covered with lichens to make the likeness of it and the branch or leaves more complete.

The nests have spider webs around them and are fastened to the twigs with them.

The average size of sixteen eggs in my collection is .51 x .33 and a nest measures about 1.67 wide, 1. high and .50 deep in the inside.

It would be quite difficult to find their nests if it was not that the Hummer generally flew around you and then to her nest, or attracted your attention in some other way.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,
College Park, California.

Was it a Cowbird's Nest?

Having read A. L. Thorne's article in Nov. OOLOGIST, I will contribute some notes which I have on that subject. About June 1, 1889, as I was penetrating a thicket similar to that mentioned by Mr. Thorne, I heard the scolding voice of the Yellow-breasted Chat a short distance ahead. Upon advancing slowly and as still as possible, I saw the Chat sitting by the nest and evidently much disturbed by something there. As I approached nearer I discovered a Cowbird sitting near and evidently waiting for a chance to lay an egg. Upon going to the nest I found it to contain one egg which I left for further investigation. Upon going a few feet further I found a nest of the American

Redstart containing two eggs and one of the Cowbird's.

The resemblance between the Cowbird's egg and the egg in the Chat's nest was striking. The only difference being a slight one in the ground color. Of course then I was uncertain whether the egg in the Chat's nest was an egg of the Chat or the Cowbird. After thinking I resolved to blow them both and keep for study. Upon blowing them I noticed the yolk of the egg in the Chat's nest was much brighter in color than that of the egg in the Redstart's nest. Also that the ground color of one took on a bluish tint when the yolk was taken out, while the other kept its pink ground color.

Now of course the bird that laid in the Redstart's nest was a Cowbird, and as the other egg varied as Davie says, 'eggs of such birds as the Chat, Towhee, Oven-bird,' etc., will from eggs of the Cowbird, I checked an egg of the Chat, and since then my experience has proved this to be a good test.

Now as Mr. Thorne's nest in position and construction would seem to be a Chat's nest also, is it not probable that a majority of the eggs were those of the Chat?

I think so, and I also think that a comparison of the yolks when blown would have enabled him to pick out the Cowbird's egg if she had left one.

ERNEST H. SHORT,
Chili, N. Y.

And in looking over my Nov. OOLOGIST I notice Mr. A. L. Thorne's note of the nests and eggs of the Cowbird.

I should like to make a suggestion in regard to this. As the eggs of the Cowbird often so closely resemble those of the Brown Thrasher, and also as the nest described was similar to that of the Thrasher, might it not have been a nest of this bird?

B. S. BOWDISH,
Phelps, N. Y.

Tragic Death of a Field Sparrow.

About the middle of May, 1888, whilst walking through a cedar thicket looking about for birds' nests, my attention was attracted by a small nest in a dwarf cedar. On closer examination it proved to be that of a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pisella*) containing three eggs. Just as I was about to remove them I noticed a bird, doubtless one of the parents, hanging from the edge of the nest by a piece of horse hair about eight inches long. The bird was stone dead and appeared to have been so several hours. As the hair seemed to be part of the lining of the nest probably the bird whilst setting had in some way entangled its head in it, and in its efforts to break away been strangled. Although I remained for some time in the neighborhood the mate did not put in an appearance, possibly being ignorant of the accident. I regret very much that I was not able to dissect the dead bird in order to determine its sex.

J. H. P., JR.,
Balto., Md.

Florida Red Shouldered Hawk. (*Buteo lineatus Alleni*.)

This is the most common hawk in the vicinity, being seen on almost any bright day sailing high up in the sky.

Its flight is even and graceful and rivals that of the Vultures.

The nest of this species is a large bulky affair composed of sticks large and small. It is generally lined with leaves, generally green, and moss from the same tree in which it is placed. Sometimes a few feathers from the breast of the parent are placed in it.

It is generally placed in the large forks of a pine oak from 25 to 50 feet from the ground.

The number of eggs laid ranges from 2 to 4. The latter being the more frequent number.

The ground color and markings of the eggs vary a great deal. On some the eggs have a ground color of white or creamy white spotted and blotched with rufous brown, while in others the ground color and markings are so confused as to be indistinguishable. Some others are nearly white with the brown spots on them very small.

They nest in the dense bottom land bordering the streams.

The date being from the last of February to the last of April.

I found one set of partly incubated eggs on March 15th, while on April 15th I found a set of fresh eggs.

Like all other birds of this family it is a bird of prey, and many a poor chicken is sacrificed to satisfy his hunger and that of his little ones. They are very affectionate parents and keep their young plentifully supplied with food. They also protect them in time of danger.

KNOX, Lee Co., Tex.

An Owl's Tenacity to Life.

On September 7th, I and two companions were hunting in the mountains, about 8 miles from this city, in some thick timber. One of my companions had a 22-cal. rifle with him. I saw a Great Horned Owl in a big pine tree near by. I took the rifle and without drawing a bead on it I pulled the trigger. I was awarded by seeing the Owl fall. The dog ran to it but the owl stood him off by getting under a few twigs of a fallen tree. When we got down to where the Owl was we found the bullet had broken its wing. As I wanted to mount it, I tried to kill it by driving nails into its brain. This plan not being able to kill him, my companion shot it in the head and another shot in the breast. This not making any difference we concluded to choke it to death. We could have killed it by cutting its throat but this would have got blood on its plumage so we took a strap

and made a slip noose and put it around its neck and pulled it as tight as we could. This was about 9 o'clock a. m., and we carried it till 7 p. m. in the same way. On arriving home we took off the strap and in about 5 minutes it jumped up and began to run along the ground. We put a small chain and strap on one of his legs and put it out where the grain was kept. He made himself fat on mice for about three weeks, when we removed him to the other boy's home. He lived till Thanksgiving and then died. I skinned him and have him mounted. It is a fine specimen. According to some accounts this owl must have had a dozen lives, more or less. I have collected a number of eggs in this locality.

JOEL A. HARRINGTON,
Butte, Montana.

Western Horned Owl.

(*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*.)

This large owl is very abundant in this vicinity. It nearly resembles *Bubo virginianus* in color except that it is of a somewhat lighter shade, and in size is about the same. Catowl is the term applied to this owl in this vicinity as is also Chicken Owl, probably the latter from its frequent visits to hen roosts. A great many are shot by the farmer while on the raids and of course thrown away. I know of no less than twelve shot the past week, but heard of it too late to secure or save only a few from being thrown away. The Owls seem very domestic (?) here, coming and alighting on the roof of my house in the center of the village. On Nov. 28th a large Owl was seized with one of the domestic (?) ideas and suddenly dropped on my roof with such force and noise that it awoke me, and on going out I saw him plainly, walking to and fro over the shingles, surveying the back yard, probably with an idea of chickens, but just then he spied me

and flew, but not far, for he soon lit on terra firma, by a charge of No. 8 shot from my gun. This specimen measured 26 in. in length and 62 alar spread.

This Owl breeds as I am told only a short distance from this place in a deep fir grove, as nests were found there last spring. One Feb. 20, 1890, while out nesting near Salem, Or., I accidentally found a nest of this bird in a high slim fir containing two eggs. Measurements as follows: 2.24 x 1.60 and 2.20 x 1.80, and of a dirty white color, with incubation slightly advanced. Nest made of coarse sticks and lined with green fir twigs about 60 feet from the ground.

A. G. PRILL, M. D.
Sweet Home, Or.

Albino Eggs.

I had heard a great deal about Albino eggs and so was on the look out for them. I pounded every stump and climbed every apple-tree that had a Woodpecker's hole in it, in hopes of finding a set of white eggs of the Bluebird.

A friend of mine found a Bluebird's nest with two white eggs in it and left them in order to get a full set. On returning the third day he found the nest destroyed and the eggs broken. I kept close watch in those woods but the pair did not nest again.

The next year I was more successful. On the first day of June while working near the woods I noticed a pair of Bluebirds making a great fuss near an old stump about three feet high. I went and looked into a hole in the top of the stump and there was a nest with five white eggs in it.

Some writer in speaking of finding a set of white eggs, says the female bird was very dark blue hardly distinguishable from the male. Remembering this I caught the female on the nest and examined her very closely; she was

no different in any respect only darker blue than the female Bluebirds generally are. On letting her go I could hardly tell her from the male bird.

Whether this has anything to do with the coloring of the eggs or not I don't know, but I do know that the same pair of birds rebuilt the nest in the same stump, laid four blue eggs and raised four blue birds.

This was the first and only set of albino eggs I ever found; they were the same shape and size of the average Bluebirds' eggs only a pure glossy white.

R. C. A.
Wayne Co., Mich.

—————
An Afternoon with the Birds.
—————

It is the middle of May when, on a bright and pleasant afternoon I call the great hound near at hand, and leaving the little farmhouse by the roadside, ramble off towards the distant forest. All nature is at her brightest to-day. The fast ripening wheat as it waves in the breeze, the scent of flowers, the distant call of birds, the warm, balmy air, everything is beautiful.

As I cross the sweet scented meadow which lies between myself and the woods, my dog bounds joyfully ahead barking, and chasing the pretty meadow-larks which he frightens from their nests. I stop to examine and to wonder at the ingenuity displayed in the bird's attempt to conceal its nest from the watchful eye of the crow and jay. How cunningly are the leaves and grass-blades drawn and matted over that hollow in the ground, and how neatly is the interior of the nest lined with the finer grass, to make a soft nesting-place for the four spotted eggs which are soon to burst forth into life and activity.

But the parent bird is impatient to come back to her nest, so I wander on, down by the pond with the gentle kin-

standing knee deep in it, stopping only to look at the curious nest of the Red-winged Blackbird, swung like a hammock between three tall cat-tails growing on the edge of the water; onward I go, and at last leaving the great blazing sun behind. I enter the cool dark woods:

“the thick roof

Of green and stirring branches alive
And musical with Birds that sing and sport
In wantonness of spirit; while below
The squirrel, with raised paws and form erect
Chirps merrily.”

A rabbit springs away from beneath my feet and my dog gives chase, his loud bark growing fainter and fainter as pursuer and pursued disappear in the distance. Over head some crows, disturbed by the noise, take flight, cawing hoarsely, and flapping their heavy wings. Presently quiet is restored; my dog returns panting from his unsuccessful chase, and I gently reprove him for disturbing Nature in such unseemly fashion. He looks into my face with an intelligent gaze, almost human, shining out his honest brown eyes, as I talk to him. then, as I throw myself down on a mossy bank by the brook, he lies at my feet ready, at a word, to proceed on our way. Everything is still; only the leaves rustle, as the gentle summer wind shakes them in the tree tops.

As I am resting here, there comes, borne on the wind, the mournful notes of the dove, two long notes, followed by three short ones. How distant it sounds; yet the bird is in that thorn tree, only a short distance off. But its melancholy notes are drowned by the harsh cries of two blue jays, who, unaware of the presence of human beings, fall to the ground, fighting fiercely. They flutter along scattering the bright blue feathers to the wind, but the hound, before I can stop him, dashes at them, and they fly away. Then another sound breaks the stillness, coming from a little open place among the trees. It is the call of the American Quail:—Bob

White! Bob white! Imitating its call. I draw it nearer and nearer until, catching sight of me, it takes flight with a sudden whirring of wings.

High in the air over the tree-tops, sail a pair of hawks, dim specks in the blue of the sky. I wander on, past the deserted sugar-camp, which will not be deserted in the spring-time, when the sap begins to run. The calls of jays, thrushes, finches, mingle with the hoarser notes of the crow and deeper in the forest the tat-tat-tat of the wood-pecker is heard. How industrious they are pecking away as though their lives depended on their efforts; stopping only to cock their heads on one side, to examine their work, before recommencing.

There in that thorn bush, I hear faint chirps;—four little thrushes crying for food, and here their parent come, with fierce chatterings to drive me away. Come on, pretty bird, you shall not be harmed! I leave them, and cross the rippling brook at my feet. Up on the hill is an empty log cabin, long fallen to decay. But it still has its living inmates, for as I get nearer, out of the window there flies a little brown bird seeking food, for the patient wife within, sitting so lovingly on the six white eggs, in the mossy nest on the beam. It is the Phœbe or Pewee as we call it, that has its home in this deserted old cabin.

But evening is coming on apace, the sun sinks down behind the western horizon, the birds fly quietly to their nests, and my dog looks up in my face, impatient to be at home.

A I leave the dusky forest behind, from the branches of whose trees are heard the faint chirps of sleepy birds, back in the dimness, I hear the loud and clear notes of our night bird—whip-poor-will - whip-poor-will - whip-poor-will—(some little noise disturbs it and it pauses for a moment, only to take up the broken thread of its song,

if song it can be called:)—whip-poor-will—whip-poor-will—over and over again for hours. The notes pouring forth, one after another, have an inexpressibly mournful sound, and yet they are not unpleasant to the ear.

But the sun has long been down; only a faint streak of red in the west marking its path; lights gleam out from the windows of the farmhouse; I hear the farmer calling:—Co-boss-co-boss! and the answering low of the kine. As I pass the pond, the frogs set up a universal croaking, almost deafening; the bleating of sheep is heard, darkness settles down on every side, Nature is at rest.

“SPRINGFIELD (Ills.) BOY.”

A “Good Enough” Way to Blow Eggs.

As soon as I read Mr. Lockwood’s article in the Sept. 1889 OOLOGIST, I got “on to the racket,” as his method of blowing eggs promised to cover a great difficulty in my case, viz.: That of blowing eggs by “human labor.”

We had an old syringe but it was at one of the neighbor’s houses. It was raining, but I mounted a horse and rode over and got the syringe, returning in haste to practice on a pigeon’s egg. The syringe was one of those consisting of a bulb and two rubber tubes, one running each way from the bulb. At the end of one tube is a spout and at the end of the other is a valve to let water in and keep it from going out after it is in and the bulb is compressed.

I thought I would not follow Mr. L.’s directions to the letter, but would first experiment a little. So I removed the spout and put in its place one of (Latin’s) white metal blowpipes. I fixed the blowpipe stationary and held the egg with one hand while I worked the bulb with the other.

After a little practice I found that this syringe was “just the thing” to blow eggs with and that I had hit the

best way of using it the first thing. The force of air was so great that if the bulb is quickly compressed it will burst a hen's egg; while by lightly compressing it one can blow the smallest egg without breaking it,

The valve works best when the tube hangs straight down as it is more apt to be in the right position. I used it with perfect success during the past season and can safely recommend it as an excellent method.

I came almost forgetting to mention that the syringe is very good for filling the eggs with water. When I had a lot of eggs to blow I would blow them all first, then fill them with water and after emptying the syringe blow the water out again.

Eggs can be blown through smaller holes and in almost 2-3 less time than by the old method. Quite large embryos can also be blown out without the aid of a hook.

Hoping others will try this method and report I will close.

JOHN V. CRONE,
Marathon, Iowa.

A Strange Occurrence.

A few days since while talking with one of the professors of the public schools here, he told me of a nest of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), which had fallen under his notice. The nest was placed in a willow tree a few feet from the ground, and was built in the usual way. The willow ran straight up for a few feet, then a large limb branched off; another and a smaller limb branched off of this one, and it was on this limb that the nest was placed.

During a storm the weight of the nest had caused the smaller limb to break about midway between the nest and the larger limb. This caused the nest to hang down sideways and out of shape so that the bird could not enter. To

remedy this the bird had procured a piece of string which it had wound around the smaller limb at the nest and on the side next the break, and in some way fastened. The string was then carried up over the larger limb and down again to the lower one, where it was drawn tight and wound around and around and fastened. This drew the smaller limb up to its old position and left the nest so that the bird could again enter it. The nest and limb are now in the Richmond Ind. museum.

While out collecting I took a set with the nest of Wilson's Thrush (*Hylocichla fuscescens*), which had a string woven into it, then carried up to a limb above it, back again to the nest and there fastened.

ARTHUR J. BAKER,
Fortville, Ind.

The Green Heron.

The Green Heron does not breed in large numbers in this section. I have never found over a dozen or fifteen nests in one place or over one nest in a tree.

On May 30, 1890, a friend and I went on a collecting trip with the following results:

A set of five, slightly incubated, in a pine tree; a set of six, fresh, in a chestnut tree; two sets of five, too far advanced to take; two single eggs and two nests with young in all; in pine trees.

On June 17th, we went to the same place and got seven sets of four; a set of five. Some of them came from the same nests that I took sets from before, and one was in an oak tree. The nests were all the way from ten to thirty feet from the ground. They were all in a small grove at the mouth of a small harbor, close to Long Island Sound.

All the nests I have collected were near the water, and one was not over fifty feet from the Sound.

D. W. RAYMOND,
Norwalk, Ct.

THE OOLOGIST

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FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

*• Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

The *Plain Talk* of New York City which "speaks for itself" and is published "for boys and girls" has been *stealing* articles from the *Oologist* for the past few months, and its Natural History Editor has been having them published in full, as original contributions for his department, and seems to have forgotten that the *Oologist* is in existence, at any rate he gives it no credit in the articles thus appropriated. We are glad to have our brother publishers reprint any of the valuable articles that appear in the *Oologist*, but must insist on due credit being given.

Were we the publisher of a monthly "for young people" which we recommended "to mothers" as "bright, clean and pure" and one of our editors filled the space allotted him for his department by "cribbling" from exchanges without credit, we would elevate Mr.

Ed. from his position, and if necessary, fire his "department" after him.

Notes and Queries.

We receive many articles from collectors on the habits and nesting of rare species, but it frequently happens that the collector is mistaken in his identity of the species—thus making the article valueless.

F. D. J., New Castle, Del., writes of taking a set of five Red-tailed Hawk and one of six Gt. Blue Heron.

We are indebted to several correspondents for accounts of their collecting experiences for '90, but as they are mostly with common species we are obliged to give the space to articles of more general interest and value.

F. C. Hare, Whitby, Ont., wants to know a good way to get rid of the English Sparrow, in winter when there are no other birds around. Shot is too expensive. Are there no other means to get rid of this little pest?

An "Egg within an Egg" of our common domestic fowls are by no means uncommon, as almost every collector has either seen or heard (from reliable quarters) of them.

F. W. King, Cleveland, O., took a set of three fresh eggs of the Scarlet Tanager on Aug. 8th, and thinks the date rather late.

S. J., Leavenworth, Kan. The bird which you shot on Nov. 22nd, was the Pileated Woodpecker.

The "Forest and Stream" is published in New York. We can furnish sample copies at 10c or will receive subscriptions and include the *Oologist* for a year for \$4.00.

The Spotted Sandpiper usually nests early in June.

H. W. C., Sonoma, Cal., asks:
"Is the Ivory-billed Woodpecker found in California? if so, has it been known to nest?"

F. A. S., College Park, Cal. In reply to your query as to the matter with the

"Wolverine Naturalist," we answer with the old saying "the good die young."

Mr. C. Tunison, of New York, asks: "Could you suggest to me some locality in the vicinity of New York City to which I could go this coming spring that would be a good place to collect eggs in? especially those eggs of water birds that breed inland."

A peculiar incidence of adoption was noticed and spoken about by many of our town people last winter. During the whole winter a small bird resembling closely the Yellow-headed Blackbird, made it his home with a flock of English Sparrows, and most any day could be seen with them about the streets.

Speaking of this peculiar incident brings to my mind another. Last spring a flock of Sparrows came regularly to our hen park to feed with the chickens. Among their number was a bird having exactly the same appearance of a Sparrow, except being of a dark blood red color. Now to what species did this individual belong? I secured him and have him in my collection.

GEO. L. THORNTON,
Alma, Mich.

[Last winter a young male Cowbird stopped with its foster parents, the Sparrows, in our back yard.—ED.]

F. C. V., Topeka, Kans. From collectors who have "been there" we learn that three eggs usually, if not almost always, constitute a full set of the Wilson's Plover. The collector you mention as taking sets of four we do not consider strictly reliable, for we have known him to continually and persistently send out the eggs of Wilson's Plover for those of the Piping after he had been informed of his error.

H. B. A., Gibbon, Neb., writes:

"While out for a walk this season I discovered the nest of an American Goldfinch placed in a crotch of an apple tree. In this nest, which was built as usual, I found first at the bottom an egg of the Cowbird, over this a heavy lining and on this a set of the Goldfinch. I allowed these to remain. Those of the Goldfinch were incubated, but that of Cowbird did not, probably

due to unusual amount of lining."

N. L. Davis, Brockport, N. Y., says: "On September 19th, I received a woodchuck to be mounted. Its fur was finer than others of the same species and black as jet all over. Can anyone give me a reason why it is so black? It is quite a curiosity."

[Taxidermist Kibbe, of Mayville, N. Y., had a fine black woodchuck in his collection last August, when we had the pleasure of inspecting it.—ED.]

In writing of frequently hearing of "an egg within an egg" of the domestic fowl, A. B. F., Bennings, D. C., says:

"I once found a cantalope seed imbedded in an egg partly in the white and part in the yolk. The fowls had been eating over ripe and cracked melons, but how it came in such a place puzzles me yet."

B. S. B., Phelps, N. Y., comments as follows:

"In the April OOLOGIST, E. S. G. in an article on "Queer nidification," asks a question which I have never seen answered. I therefore offer a possible explanation. I do not believe there was any third party to the Crow's nest, unless he saw two on the nest. Sets of 8 eggs of the Crow, while not common, have been found. I took a set of 8 from a nest in a piece of woods where there were no Crows but the one pair. I also know of a nest of 8 young being found, where the young were fed by but two old birds. In sets of Crows' eggs, as in others incubation is liable to vary very much, so the nest which he found may have had but a single female parent, especially if the young it contained had but just hatched."

"Elanus," Augusta, Ga. Queries as follows, who can answer?

1st. Why is the name interpres applied to the turnstone, why is it a "go-between?"

2nd. I have in my collection a duck which puzzles me considerably, it is a female. It is undoubtedly one of the *Fuligina*. The description is as follows: Crown of head, chin, a large patch on each side of the neck and the whole upper parts, including the fore breast, slaty-gray. Rest of head, neck and under parts, white; lining of wings and

axiliars, brownish-gray. Scapulars with lighter edgings. No speculum; no white on wings. Tail of fifteen feathers. Nostrils in basal half of bill. Bill blue at base, blackening at tip; feet livid bluish. Iris brown. Measures, L. 17.50, ex. 29.00, w g. 8.50, t l. 2.75, t s. 1.25, B l. 1.12, undde toe and claw 2.15. It was killed on the Savannah river. Could it be a female *H. glacialis* 2rd. When will Davie's "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy" be issued?

C. R. B., Little Rock, Iowa. Queries as follows:

1st. The name of a gull (?) about thirteen or fourteen inches long, with head and neck black, back brown or light slate color, upper side of wings and tail ditto, ends of wing feathers barred with black and white, breast, abdomen, sides and under side of wings and tail white, bill one inch long, black, feet webbed.

2nd. Name of gull (?) with black head and breast, back and wing dove color or drab, under tail pure white, feet semipalmated, length eight or nine inches.

Both gulls are common in migrations; following the plows after a rain and eating the grubs plowed out.

Talkative Powers of the Crow not Increased by Tongue Splitting.

In reply to the query in the Nov. OOLOGIST, will say, that I do not think it makes any difference with the crow, except the pain that it gives, whether his tongue is split or not. I have raised a great many, and have had two at one time and I would split the tongue of one and not the other, and I found that the one with the tongue split would not articulate any clearer than the other. My experience is that the male crow will learn to utter a few words if it is something that he hears every day, for instance the name of anyone. My brother had one, he also had a dog by the name of Ponto, and the crow would say: "Hello! Ponto," as plain as I could. The greatest trouble I have in keeping crows is, that after they have been in captivity about

one year or less, they have trouble with their stomach and cannot keep food down and soon die. But after all it is not much of a loss. Should you keep one a year and give him his freedom he will steal you so poor that you will be willing he should die.

A. E. KIBBEE,
Mayville, N. Y.

Meeting of the A. O. U.

The eighth congress of the American Ornithologists' Union was held last week at Washington, Nov. 18 to 20, in the Lecture Hall of the United States National Museum.

The meeting was largely attended, and as will be seen from list of papers given below, was full of interest. It was one of the most successful meetings held since the founding of the Union.

The session of Tuesday was devoted to business and was not open to the general public. At this meeting were read the reports of the secretary, the treasurer and the council. Officers were elected for the ensuing year, and then followed election of new members and reports of committees.

The officers chosen for 1891 were: D. G. Elliot, President; Robert Ridgway and Wm. Brewster, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Wm. Dutcher, Treasurer. Chas. B. Cory, H. W. Henshaw, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Dr. L. Stejneger, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Elliott Coues, Col. N. S. Goss, Members of the Council. At this election there were thirty-eight members present and voting.

The sessions held on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 19 and 20, were open to the public, and were devoted to the reading of scientific papers. The first of these, The American Ornithologists' Union—a seven years' retrospect—was an address by the retiring president, Mr. J. A. Allen, who has occupied this chair ever since the founding of the Union. This was followed by these papers:

Seed Planting by Birds, by Walter B. Barrows. Phalaropes at Swampscott, Mass., by Wm. A. Jeffries. The Birds of Andros Island, Bahamas, by John I. Northrop. Remarks on a few Species of Andros Island Birds, collected by Dr. Northrop, by J. A. Allen. An Experimental Trial of a New Method for

the Study of Bird Migration, by Harry Gordon White. A Study of Bird Waves in the Delaware Valley during the Spring Migration of 1890, by Witter Stone. Our Present Knowledge of the Neotropical Avifauna, by Frank M. Chapman. The Case of *Colaptes auratus* and *C. cafer*, by J. A. Allen. Observations upon the Classification of the United States *Accipitres*—based upon a study of their Osteology, by R. W. Shufeldt. Some Observations on the Breeding of *Dendroica vigorsii* at Raleigh, N. C., by C. S. Brimley. The Trans-Appalachian Movement of Birds from the Interior to the South Atlantic States, Viewed Chiefly from the Standpoint of Chester County, S. C., by Leverett M. Loomis. A Further Review of the Avian Fauna of Chester County, S. C., by Leverett M. Loomis. Some Bird Skeletons from Guadalupe Island, by Frederic A. Lucas. The Present Status of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, by E. M. Hasbrouck. Some Notes Concerning the Evening Grosbeak, by Amos W. Butler. The Spring Migration of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulvicaeus*), by Harry Gordon White. On the Tongue of Humming Birds, by Frederic A. Lucas. Insect, Intuition and Intelligence, by C. F. Amery. The Habits of the American Golden Plover in Massachusetts, by Geo. H. Mackay. Correction to Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, by N. S. Goss. Second Occurrence of the White-Faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis quaranna*) in Kansas, by N. S. Goss. Remarks on the Primary Faunal Divisions of North America, by C. Hart Merriam.

At the last meeting of the A. O. U. it was suggested that especial effort be made to secure, for exhibition at the meeting of 1890, a quantity of photographic material bearing on birds. The committee appointed to take charge of the matter went into it with a good deal of energy and were quite successful.

One of the interesting and popular features of the meeting was an exhibition of photographic slides from living birds and nests taken by Henry M. Spellman, of Cambridge, Mass. These slides were thrown on canvas and explained by Mr. Wm. Brewster, of Cambridge.—*Forest & Stream*.

EXPERT TAXIDERMY.

Manner of Preserving Some Deceased Zoological Specimens from Sells Brothers' Menagerie.

Lying on the floor at the rooms of Oliver Davie, the taxidermist on North High street, yesterday, was seen the carcass of a huge ostrich, which died at Sellsville Monday from the effects of the late cold snap.

The bird is to be made the subject of Mr. Davie's skill, and will be added to that gentlemen's large collection of specimens. Some idea of the magnitude of such an undertaking, may be gained when it is known that the ostrich weighs 150 pounds and is over six feet tall. The skin will first be carefully removed and subjected to a curing process, and impressions of the various portions of the body will then be taken in potters' clay, to secure perfection in form. After being thoroughly tanned, the skin with its coat of feathers will be mounted on a framework of wood and iron, and the body filled out to its natural proportions. The entire job requires the work of two men for the greater part of two weeks.

This is a fine specimen of African ostrich. It is a male with beautiful black feathers, worth more than their weight in gold when sold as plumes for ladies' headgear. The females are gray. The bird is four years old and has been attached to the zoological department of the show for two years. Its legs show enormous strength, the kick of an ostrich being as much to be dreaded as that of a mule. On their native deserts, when put on the defensive, they have been known to disembowel the Arab pursuer with one effort of the enormous claw.

All animals and birds dying during the winter at Sellsville are now turned over to Mr. Davie, and some splendid specimens are thus secured.

A tapir that succumbed to the weather several weeks ago, was given to Mr. Davie and has been added to his stuffed menagerie, which includes also two elephants and a sea lion secured from Sells Bros.

Mr. Davie's collection is one of the finest in the country, comprising many species of North American birds, likewise those native to foreign countries, besides a large number of other members of the animal kingdom, including in all over 1500 specimens.

"Methods in the Art of Taxidermy" will be Mr. Davie's latest work, and a great part of the edition is already sold.

His "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is still fresh from the press. The work about to be issued from the advance sheets show it to be very elaborate and comprehensive. It will contain fifty-four full-page engravings, the drawings for which have been in course of preparation for six years. The first will be known as the edition de luxe, and though very elegant will be sold to advance subscribers at the price of five dollars.—*Sunday Capital*, Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1890.

From New York City.

Arctic Owls have been very plentiful in this vicinity this winter. Especially on Long Island. One taxidermist has had over seventy (70) so far this winter.

On Sunday the 20th I saw a large Bald Eagle on the Sound, in the city limits, so I imagine that the snow-fall has been quite large in the mountains.

Ducks are more plentiful than for several years.

W. J. S.

The following letter from Dr. Mearns is self explanatory and we trust the readers of the OOLOGIST will do all in their power to assist him in the shape of the needed specimens.

It is very rare that so eminent an ornithologist as the Dr. calls upon "the boys" for assistance, but as they are fairly "aching" for a chance of this kind, we fear Uncle Sam will be obliged to add an extra mail pouch to the Fort route in order to deliver the Doctor's specimens.

DEAR MR. LATIN:

I intend to make a critical study of our Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius et rars*) and English Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) during the coming year. It has occurred to me that you could greatly assist me to borrow the necessary material by inserting a notice in your journal. I will be glad to pay the cost of sending material for this purpose (all specimens of these birds) from any part of North America and returning. Will return the borrowed specimens within six

months, and give credit to all who assist me.

I have made arrangements to use all of the specimens of these birds in all of our great museums, and hope that private collectors will also send me their specimens for use.

Mr. Ridgway will loan me all of the Smithsonian material; and Dr. Allen has offered everything in the American Museum. From the members of the A. O. U. I expect a large number of specimens, as Dr. Allen kindly announced my desire at the late meeting, and will insert a notice in the Jan. "Auk."

I remain,

With sincere regards,

EDGAR A. MEARNS,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.,

Fort Snelling, Minnesota,

Dec. 5, 1890.

The modern magazine may be taken as embodying the best literature of the world, as the magazine editor pays the highest price to novelists, scientists, statesmen, soldiers and even kings and princes, for the best they can furnish in the literary line. The well-edited magazine becomes an educating influence in the family circle, whose importance cannot be over-estimated. The children, as they grow up, are attracted by its illustration, and so come in time to have a taste for reading. There is always something that is new, something that is strange, something that is interesting; and we consider that we are doing our readers a positive benefit if we are instrumental in placing such a publication within their reach. The special arrangement which we have made with the *Cosmopolitan* presents very unusual inducements. That magazine is already recognized as one of the most interesting publications of the day. It is seeking subscribers everywhere and obtaining them. The proprietors believe that the *Cosmopolitan* has only to be examined to secure a permanent subscriber. That is why we are enabled to make, if the offer is accepted before January next, the very low combination offer in October OOLOGIST.

A Word In Season.

The barking of a pack of hounds may be music, but the barking of the human family is certainly discord. Stop that cough with Humphreys' Specific No SEVEN.

"Experimental Electricity,"
BY EDWARD TREVERT.

It will give practical information upon the following subjects: Some Easy Experiments in Electricity and Magnetism. How to Make Electric Batteries, a Galvanometer, an Induction Coil, an Electric Bell, a Magneto Machine, a Telegraph Instrument, an Electric Motor, a Dynamo, Electric Gas Lighting and Bell Fitting. Some practical directions for amateurs, some information in regard to Electric Lamps, 176 Pages, 100 Illustrations. Just the book for amateurs. Price, cloth bound, \$1. Send money by Registered letter or P. O. money order. Send for catalogue.

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Plymouth Albums, 21 Views, 25 cents.

Any of the above books will make handsome Christmas and Birthday presents, and will be mailed postpaid on receipt of price.

We have sent samples to the editor of this paper who will vouch for their excellence.

Agents wanted.
A. S. BURBANK,
Pilgrim Bookstore, Plymouth, Mass.

FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

We give the readers of the OOLOGIST our profit on a large stock of Jewelry and Novelties, manufactured from Semi-precious Gems.

During the past few years we have sold hundreds of dollars' worth of the articles listed below from our Chautauqua and other stores. We now have a large stock on hand and in order to close the lot out so as to import new stock for the coming season, we offer our patrons the privilege of selecting anything they may wish at a profit to ourselves that barely covers the expense of handling.

These goods are mostly manufactured in Germany from Agates, from Oberstein or South America. "Tiger-eye" from South Africa, Amber from the Baltic, etc. The same goods are sold to credulous tourists at stores in the Lake Superior, Colorado, Black Hills and Rocky Mountain Country in general as prepared from specimens found in that immediate locality, and at prices much greater than our regular retail ones.

The prices quoted in left-hand column are what we will send you the article described, pre-paid.

The prices in column at the right are our regular prices, at which we are now (Jan. 1st.) retailing these identical articles from our Ann Arbor Store, and at which we can after Feb. 15th. fill your orders.

Our prices in left-hand column will hold good until FEB. 15th ONLY. While of many articles we have dozens, others we have only a single one, so it is advisable to always name your second choice to be used in case we are out of the article ordered.

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" " Black Onyx.....	42	65
" " "Tigereye".....	55	85
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Agate Match Safes.....	89	1 50
Moss Agate Paper Cutters, 7 to 8 in. 1 25	2 25	
" " " 9 in.....	1 75	3 00
Carnelian Rings.....	06	10
Hat Pins, Carnelian Agate.....	39	60
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Agate Pen Holders.....	60	1 00
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" Pencils.....	65	1 00

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Agate Plain Bar.....	35	60
"Tigereye" Plain Bar, small.....	30	50
" " " large.....	40	75
" " " Rolled Gold.....	89	1 50
"Tigereye" Horn shape Rolled Gold Bands.....	89	1 50
Agate, horn shape rolled gold bands.....	72	1 25
" " " Bar rolled gold bands.....	72	1 25
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Agate ball or faceted head.....	18	25to35
"Tigereye".....	18	35
Agate, 3 ball arranged like clover leaf.....	40	75
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" " 3 balls in row.....	50	1 00
" " carved heads etc. on setting.....	50	1 00
"Tigereye" large "eye" setting.....	45	75
" " ball, star mounting.....	40	75
" " " and pearls in.....	50	1 00

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Agate Queen Chain.....	1 50	2 25
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Rock Crystal.....	2 00	3 50
Hematite.....	2 00	3 50
Moss Agate Vest.....	2 50	5 00

CHARMS.

Agate faceted ball.....	40	75
" " edge cube.....	40	75
" " pear.....	40	75
" " Shield.....	25	35
" " Horse's foot.....	30	50
" " Seal.....	35	60
" " Cigar or stiletto.....	40	75
" " Acorn.....	40	75
" " Barrel.....	40	75
" " Long triangular piece in swivel.....	45	85
" " Tambourine.....	40	75
" " Minie ball.....	40	75
"Tigereye" Minie ball.....	47	75
" " Grecian Battle Axe.....	45	75
" " Barrel.....	45	75
" " Shield.....	30	50
" " Horse's foot.....	30	50
" " Pear.....	45	75
" " Tambourine.....	45	75
" " Seal.....	40	95
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MISCELLANEOUS.

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Ladies' tortoise side combs with pearl shell strip at top per	45	75		
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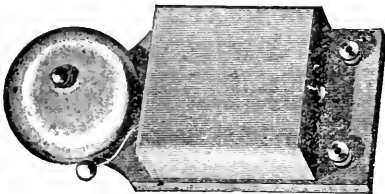
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Vegetable Ivory Goods.

Articles and novelties turned from the Vegetable Ivory Nut.				
Specimen Nuts	07	10		
" " one side turned	15	25		
Needle Cases	22	35		
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Spool holder and cushion with spool silk	22	35		
Thimble cases holding a Vegetable Ivory thimble	22	35		
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Small bone and Ivory charms, Baskets, Book, Hats, Views etc.	10			
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Address, FRANK H. LATTIN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

Electric Bell Complete \$3.50.



With Battery, Metal Push Button, Wire and Tacks. Sent by express on receipt of price. Send stamp for catalogue of Wire, Batteries, etc.

Address, B. F. EVANS,

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JUST RECEIVED
A NEW LOT OF
RARE EGGS!
AS FOLLOWS
FROM ALASKA:
HORNED PUFFIN,

1/2; Mand's Gullmoot, 1/2; Pallas's Murre, From Iceland: LARGE-Billed Puffin, 1-1 Mexico: ST. DOMINGO Grebe, 1/2, 1-5, 1; White-fronted Dove, 1/2.

Other localities: Loon, Black throated Loon, Pacific Loon, Red throated Loon, and many other rare and desirable eggs.
Send 2c stamp for list.

J. P. BABBITT,
TAUNTON, MASS.



Snug little fortunes have been made at work for us, by Anna Page, Austin, Texas, and Jno. Bonn, Toledo, Ohio. See cut. Others are doing as well. Why not you? Some earn over \$500.00 a month. You can do the work and live at home, wherever you are. Even beginners are easily earning from \$5 to \$10 a day. All ages. We show you how and start you. Can work in spare time or all the time. Big money for workers. Failure unknown among them. NEW and wonderful. Particulars free.

H. Hallett & Co., Box 880 Portland, Maine

NATURALIST DIRECTORY

Cannot be ready before March 1st. Terms \$3.00 per page. Prices at same rate. To the first subscriber after this OOLOGIST is read, I will give a first-class egg of the Am. Flamingo with data; first half page egg Brown-headed Nuthatch; for the first Exchange Notice exceeding 25 words 1 egg Trail's Flycatcher. Names inserted free; Exchange Notices 1/2 ct. per word. First name to be inserted will receive 1 egg Lark Sparrow; 10th page subscriber 1 egg Cassin's Auk; 10 half page egg Iceland Hull; 10th Exchange Notice egg White breasted Nuthatch. 25th name to be inserted 1 egg Downy Woodpecker. Part page "ad" will receive eggs in comparison. Send for all information to Box 125, (send no stamps)

JAMES HILL,

Edinburg, Ills.

\$3000 A YEAR! I undertake to briefly teach any fairly intelligent person of either sex, who can read and write, and who, after instruction, will work industriously, how to earn Three Thousand Dollars a Year in their own localities, wherever they live. I will also furnish the situation or employment, at which you can earn that amount. No money for the uncles successful as above. Easily and quickly learned. I desire but one worker from each district or county. I have already taught and provided with employment a large number, who are making over \$3000 a year each. It is **NEW** and **SOLE**. Full particulars **FREE**. Address at once, E. C. ALLEN, Box 420, Augusta, Maine.

OH YES!

MOUND AND INDIAN RELICS, FOSSILS, &c.

12 CORNED HEADS	8	10
12 PINE ARROW HEADS	28	
12 MIXED RELICS	50	
OR ALL FOR	100	

GEO. ROBINETTE.

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NOTICE!

If you want anything in the RUBBER STAMP LINE, write to "FORD," for prices. He will furnish you a four-line stamp with pads and ink for only 25c. post-paid. Address:

R. W. FORD,

BRISTOL, - - - - - CONN.

TYPE.

6 A, 9 A, 23 a fonts of Long primer at the low price of \$1.50 each, post-paid.

The above fonts are second hand but in good condition. Each font contains large and small caps and small letters, periods, commas, dashes, fractions, figures, brackets, reference marks, parenthesis, leaders, etc., a complete font. No stamps taken.

F. T. CORLESS,

Tillamook, - - - - - Oreg.

SPECIMENS OF WOOD.

Price 10c each or the entire lot for \$2.50
Alder, White Pine, White-wood, Black Walnut, Hickory, Box-wood, Am. Chestnut, Curly Oak, Ash, White Oak, Mt. Laurel, Red Oak, Beech, Basswood, Horn-beam, Norway Pine, Rock Maple, Iron-wood, White Maple, Rose-wood, Black Spruce, Burr Oak, Peach, Curly Chestnut, Gray Oak, Curly Maple, White wood, Blk. Birch, Poplar, and Speckled Alder. Size 2 1/2 x 5 x 1/8 in., polished on one side, natural on other, and neatly labeled. No stamps wanted.

F. T. CORLESS,

Tillamook, - - - - - Oreg.

DIRECTORY.

(Formerly The Osprey Naturalist's Directory.) This Directory contains about 1000 names including Dealers, Naturalists, but chiefly the collector of Birds' eggs in all parts of the U. S. and Canada, and over 100 in Great Britain, Germany, and Ireland. Every collector should have a copy. Price 15c each, \$1.25 per doz. They can be obtained of the Compiler, Letson Balliet, Des Moines, Iowa, or H. STANTON SAWYER, Pub. Garland, Maine.

GLASS EYES.

Our new stock of Glass Eyes have at last made their appearance and we can fill your orders by return mail.

FRANK H. LATTIN.

NOTICE!

Bird's eggs for sale cheap, many sets never before offered for sale. Now is the time to make desirable cabinet additions. Send stamp for list.

FRED JONES,

P. O. BOX 50 MARTIN'S FERRY, O.

DUNCAN & FAHRION

- DEALERS IN -

Shells, Corals, Indian Curios, Stamps, Coins, Geodes, Fossils, etc. Price-list sent on application.

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Price, \$1.50 a year. Large discounts to clubs. Sample copies of previous issues free

Sample copies of current numbers 10c each (half price.)

T. S. Arthur & Son,

PHILADELPHIA,

PENN.

LOOK WHAT A CHANCE!

I now offer for sale my collection of bird eggs. It consists of 375 eggs. I also offer several other things. Send for list. The eggs are valued at \$42.00. Lattin's '90 price-list. Send statement of what you are willing to give. All cards answered.

HENRY C. BRIDGERS.

Tarboro.

N. C.

FOR SALE Collection of Birds' Eggs in sets, consisting of 530 American species and 100 British species, nests with many, will be sold in single sets cheap for cash. For particulars address

HARRY G. PARKER,

Chester, Pa.

THE AMERICAN NATURALISTS.

NEW DIRECTORY

Grandest ever published. Names inserted free, 15c per word. Will contain between 1000 and 1500 names, everything must be in by Feb. 15, '91. For information address

JAMES HILL,

BOX 12,

EDINBURG, ILLS.

WANTED

Every person in the U. S. or abroad to send to the Natural History and Art Store, Canisteo, N. Y. for a catalogue of Natural History and Art specimens and supplies, Birds' eggs, Shells, Fossils, Minerals, Curiosities, Butterflies and moths, Corals, Art materials etc. Subscriptions taken for the leading magazines for the Naturalist and Artist, catalogue free. A fine new lot of eggs etc. just received. Send for prices of Naturalists' supplies, climbing irons, instruments, etc. A fine pair of French field glasses \$3.00.



O O L O G I S T



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1891.

No. 2

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

NOTICE!—For every perfect arrow head sent me I will send a recipe for petrifying wood l. M. DRESSER, Georgetown Mass.

FOR EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs in sets with data for the same. Send list and get mine, address T. D. WITHERSPOON Jr. 830 Sixth St. Louisville, Ky.

EXCHANGE.—113 Youth's Companions; for best offer of first-class birds' eggs. All letters answered. HARRY M. GERRY, South Paris, Me.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A Maynard Flobert Rifle Electric top and Davie's Key to Nests and Eggs; for eggs or Natural History specimens of any kind. Enclose stamp for reply. C. F. CARL, 125 State St., Madison, Wis.

WANTED.—Barrows Golden-eye eggs and printing press to exchange for best offer. □ A Harper's ferry Musket and Cabinets made to order. Have you any Golden-eyes? If so write. LETSON BALLETT, Des Moines, Iowa.

EXCHANGE.—650 stamps, (\$5.00) in international album, (\$1.00) and Chicago Air Rifle, (75c) for eggs or Indian Relics. D. SANDERSON, 1142, 4th ave., Detroit Mich.

FOR EGGS in sets with data, pair of climbers, eggs in sets and singles, United States and foreign postage stamps. All letters and postals answered. RONALD BATES, Clyde, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Cocoons of *Attacus Ceropeia* (the largest American Moth) and species of *Chimera Americana* (largest saw fly); for other cocoons and insects. ELMER D. BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

NOTICE! Parties wishing to obtain carefully prepared eggs of this section during the coming season, will do well to address me for list. T. GILBERT PEARSON, Archer, Alachua Co., Fla.

EXCHANGE.—Two vols. Youth's Companion, 1300 postmarks, in albums, 75 tobacco tags and 300 foreign and U. S. stamps all different; for Indian relics and fossils. GEO. A. RODMAN, Kingston, Wash. Co., R. I.

WANTED.—Indian and war relics, stamps, eggs and coins; in exchange for same and tobacco tags and curiosities of all kinds. Wm. M. Randall, Belleville, Mich.

EXCHANGE.—I have eggs of Hammerhead Shark and Cal. birds eggs both first and second-class; for eastern eggs. ED. WALL, San Bernardino, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Complete sets of eggs of the Common Tern, with data; for other eggs. All letters with enclosed stamp answered. C. C. PURDUN, Woods Holl, Mass.

□ FOR every 25 varieties of stamps sent me I will give 100 mixed stamps; I have 100 cigarette pictures to exchange. FRANK OWENS, Brooklyn, Iowa.

I HAVE northern skins to exchange for eggs and skins of other localities, also a 38 Cal. collecting gun and outfit for sale. GILBERT WHITE, 2 Waverly Pl. Grand Rapids, Mich.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Three foxes (female) 8 months old, for best offer of birds' eggs in sets, received before March 1st., or cash. Also eggs in sets with data for same. H. G. BALL, Niagara, Ont.

EGGS & SKINS to exchange for birds in the meat from the coast. Buffalo horns (rough) and first-class skins of Quail from the west. F. M. RICHARDS, Farmington, Me.

A NICELY mounted grey squirrel for \$4.00 worth of first-class eggs. Ridgway's numbers, or \$3.00 in cash. Address, DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, Coldspring, Putnam Co., N. Y.

WANTED.—A pair of climbing irons, will give minerals, fossils, shells, Indian relics, stamps or sea curios for same. I will also exchange any of the above for bird's eggs. GEO. H. PEPPER, Tottenville, S. I., N. Y.

FOR TRADE.—Right to sell in Maryland and Delaware, the "American Rock and Stump Lifter." Dictionary of the Army, Old Suspended Pensions, Niles Register, 6 vols; for offers: Box 30, Charlestown, Jeff. Co., W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—Vol. XXVII of the Century, (unbound) Sea and Land and the Animal Kingdom all in fair condition, for best offer of first-class southern or western sets with data. FRANK H. SHOEMAKER, Hampton, Franklin Co., Iowa.

EXCHANGE.—I have a large supply of well-mounted Blue Jays and Back-capped Chickadees, which I wish to exchange for first-class eggs in sets. Write first, all correspondence answered. Address, MOWBRAY A. SEMPLE, Poynette, Wis.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Good collection of stamps in Scott's International Album for best offer in Zoological books, or taxidermists' supplies. A. P. RICHARDSON, Tarrytown, N. Y.

WILL EXCHANGE stamps for back OOLOGISTS, arrow heads and old coins. Write what you have and make me an offer. HORACE E. BUKER, Rockford, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE Polyopticon, Vol. XIV Ornithologist and Oologist, (two Vols. Youth's Companion); for first-class single eggs with data. Particulars for stamp. BURT CHADWICK, 169 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

WANTED.—To exchange first-class eggs in sets and singles, with and without data, and a S. B. L. shot gun; for a set of Taxidermists' tools, 16 gauge B. L. shot gun, microscope, or a .22 cal. rifle. WILL C. STAAT, 501 Jerome St., Marshalltown, Iowa.

WANTED.—Birds' eggs and Indian stone relics. I have to exchange for same, five vols. St. Nicholas, iron Indian axe, star fish, Resurrection plants, sixty stamps, and autoharp with music and instructions. CHARLES TANN JR., 140 Sixth Ave., Lansingburgh, N. Y.

REMOVED.—Bert R. Hager has removed from Chicago to Sterling, Ills., correspondents please take notice. Will exchange good bird skins of this locality for others. BERT R. HAGER, 50 E. Third St. Sterling, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—150 sets of birds' eggs, first class with data, 120 varieties valued at over \$100.00. Wanted a broncho or mustang, not particular if he breaks, also wanted a kodak camera, a Spencer repeating shot-gun, a colt lightning magazine rifle, or an acme folding boat. Persons having any of the above to exchange please send description to H. C. CAMPBELL, Langsingburgh, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of 110 varieties of birds' eggs in sets with full data, many quite desirable. Wanted, any of the following named articles: 48 in. bicycle, one or more good rifles; .22 cal. Stephen's preferred, B. L. shot gun, high power telescope, field glass or microscope. Good axe, given for any of the above articles. Those wishing to exchange please send for list of my collection with full description of the articles they have to offer. All answered. D. B. ROGERS, Ellis, Ellis Co., Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE. I have at my Ann Arbor, Mich. Store, mounted birds, all good specimens on T. perches, American Crossbill, White-crowned Sparrow, Wilson's Thrush, Bobolink, Crested Flycatcher, Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow, Barred Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Chipping Sparrow and Bufflehead, also Chippmunk and Burble; will exchange the entire lot for the best lot of eggs offered (not less than \$20.00) worthy received by Feb. 15th. FRANK H. LATTIN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

I HAVE for exchange at my Ann Arbor Store a few Palm-to floor mats from the Bahamas, almost non-structurable, can be cleaned and washed to heart's content and will last for years, size from 3 to 3½ feet wide to 5½ to 6½ feet long, for a summer or bath room mat they have no equal; will sell for \$1.00 each, cash, or will exchange for desirable eggs or books on natural history. FRANK H. LATTIN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

WANTED.—A safety bicycle that has only been run one season, must be in good condition; will give \$60. worth of first-class birds' eggs. Write for particulars. J. P. FEAGLER, Waterloo, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Book of British Birds and of North America for Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, cloth. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Smith & Wesson 32-cal. double action revolver for the best offer of eggs in sets. Eggs, single and in sets for same. Send lists and receive mine. W. L. MORSE, No. 6 Onondaga Co. Savings Bank, Syracuse, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have 60 or more good Indian arrow flints for Pupae or Inago of Butterflies or Moths (a bargain). J. KEYWORTH, Marissa, St. Clair Co., Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have a number of new "Natural History" books with 620 pages and over 500 illustrations each. Will exchange each copy for \$2.00 worth of birds' eggs in sets. Everybody send list to N. P. BRADT, Knowlesville, Orleans Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, for printing. Parties desiring to do such, will send sample of work, and write to P. S. NYE, 20 E. Mifflin St., Madison, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A revolver worth three dollars, and a bull's-eye or dark lantern, for the best offer of first-class birds' eggs. Singles or sets. Letters answered. CHAS. W. WORTHEN, Hardwick, Vt.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with data, at \$1, 1800 list, Ridgeway Nos. 290, 278b, 378, 460, 572, 574, 579, 580, 690, 732. GORDON SCHANCK, Libertyville, Ills.

WANTED.—"Manton's Taxidermy Without a Teacher." Will give in exchange, "Wood's Natural History," cloth bound. Also I have to exchange the book "Ten Boys Who Lived On The Road From Longago To Now," cloth bound, for best offer of sets with data. What offers? R. C. KLINE, Standish St., Dorchester, Mass.

OREGON WOODS.—Ten varieties for every set of eggs sent me valued at fifty cents or over. Twenty varieties for every set valued at seventy-five cents or over. Eggs must be 1st-class with full data. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Exchange Block, Salem, Oregon.

PURE THOROUGHBRED Homer Carrier Pigeons, wanted, (squeekers or youngsters). Will give in exchange good offer of birds' eggs or will purchase at reasonable prices. Give particulars. OTTO J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

STRANGE Curios, Chinese and Japanese, quicksilver ores, shells, stamps, fossils, reading matter, star fish and others; for slide-bow eggs, books, ores, shells, skins or curios. U. L. HERTZ, Napa City, Calif.

HAVE Compound microscope, air rifle, Indian clubs, watch. Eggs, Nos. 7, 34, 1c; 12, 6, 1c; 13, 8, 2c; 13a, 6, 3c; 22, 2, 1c; 63, 6c; 122, 10c; 149a, 12, 6c; 153, 2, 3c; 154, 4c; 157, 3c; 197, 5c; 211, 2, 2c; 214, 2, 5c; 254, 4c; 258, 6, 2c; 261, 6, 2c; 363, 10; 270, 3, 3c; 278, 2, 3c; 315, 4c; 320, 12c; 375, 2, 6c; 378, 7, 2c; 460, 7, 2c; 477, 15c; and \$20, 2, 8c. Wanted breech loading shot gun, bicycle and trays. Singles *including*. GEO. H. YOUNGMAN, Me-Yean, Ill.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Birds' eggs, skins, minerals, fossils, shells, Indian and war relics, coins, medals, tokens, stamps, colonial, continental, U. S. and confederate money, state notes, broken bank bills, curiosities, etc.; for same, E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, Calif.

WILL EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of fossils and minerals; for good bicycle, safety preferred. All answered. T. S. HILL, Knoxville, Iowa.

BOYS Useful Pastimes, Rollo's Experiments and Museum, Tyndall's Forms of Water, and Bird Preserving, all in good condition, cost \$1.69 or Ohio Palaeontology, for Jordan's Manual or Lattin's climbers. J. C. GALLOWAY, Montgomery, Ohio.

EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.—I have a few South American birds' eggs, such as Falkland Thrush, Perdx, etc. (for description of latter see Youth's Companion, 1889, No. 51 or 52) to exchange for first-class birds' eggs in original sets with complete No. 8 data. No post-cards wanted. All acceptable offers answered. W. MORGAN MARTIN, St. Louis, Mo.

I WOULD like to correspond with persons, who have got Indian relics, to sell or exchange, from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut. J. W. JACKSON, Belchertown, Mass.

WANTED.—The address of a few western or southern collectors, who would like to collect skins for me this spring, can give good exchange in rare eggs, skins, eyes, or will pay cash. Send list of what you can collect. JAS. P. BABBITT, 19 Hoige's Ave., Taunton, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set of 5 eggs and one of 2 eggs, No. 53 and others, first-class with full data; for pair of climbing irons, strapped, write first. CHAS. WISE, York, Ala.

TO EXCHANGE.—A new model champion single-barrel, breech loading shot gun, 12 bore, side snap, patent fore end fastenings, pistol grip stock, double bolt and rubber butt; for the best offer in bird skins or first-class typewriter. The gun is in perfect order. Gulls and Sea birds preferred. WM. T. SMITH, Wayne, Del. Co., Pa.

TO GIVE Eastern and Southern collectors a chance to procure my lined and unlined trays cheap in exchange for eggs, skins, curiosities, etc., I have moved here. All trays made to order (any size) of strong, pure white cardboard, cloth corners. Send list of what you have. Samples for stamp. E. J. SCHAEFER, 407 Second St., New Orleans, La.

TO EXCHANGE.—Black Walnut shot gun case, worth \$3.00, finely finished and lined with plush, brass mountings, lock and key, places for 50 shells, wads and loading tools; I will exchange for best offer of first-class eggs, with data. GEO. W. MORSE, Box 731, Moberly, Mo.

DOUBLE barrel shot gun, breech loading preferred, repeating rifle, Colt, Remington or Smith & Weston revolver; will give cash in exchange or eggs in sets, books, wads and many other articles, or will exchange for cash. C. BYRON, VANDYCOOK, Odin, Ills.

WANTED.—At once, a pair of climbing irons will give in exchange a magic lantern and slides, worth \$1.50. L. L. KNOX, Giddings, Tex.

WANTED.—To exchange skins of this locality for others. Only first-class skins wanted and sent. Address, GEORGE P. BUTLER, 946 Jones St., Augusta, Ga.

NOTICE!—A watch, rifle and a white swan stuffed to exchange for first-class birds' eggs. All letters answered. Address, STANTON R. CLARK, Mukwonago, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Legerdemain cabinet and 250 cigarette pictures; for good U. S. or foreign stamps. H. G. LEAVITT, 16 S. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A legerdemain outfit Vols. VII, IX and X, Golden Days, and St. Nicholas for '85 and '86; for a detective camera with complete outfit. Write first. FRANK D. JANSVIER, Box 128, New Castle, Del.

LOOK! LOOK!! LOOK!!! I have a collection of eggs valued at \$15; will exchange for a 32 cal. S. and W. revolver. Address, ERNEST E. LEE, Covington, Ga.

WANTED—to purchase a good collection of birds' eggs, side-blown, in sets or single, cash paid for same. A. C. RANDALL, Ast. P. M., 31-33 Main St., St. Johnsbury, Vt.

CAMERA nearly new for \$5.00 cash, outfit complete. Double barrel breech-loader, \$12.00 good as new. Fishing outfit, jointed pole, 75 ft. of line, 20 hooks, 2 snelled hooks 2 feather-baited, reel, bait can etc. \$1.50; will exchange if desirable. LETSON BALLIET, Des Moines, Iowa.

WANTED—to exchange fine job printing for a Flobert rifle or for first-class eggs. W. R. CONE, Gilman, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Four hundred American and foreign post marks, all different; for best offer of bird skins, eggs or Indian relics. J. T. FITCHETT, Beaver Dam, Wis.

WANTED.—A photo outfit, for which I will give first-class bird skins and eggs in sets. Send description and receive list of skins. WM. BERMAN, 1050 Ingraham St., Los Angeles, Calif.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine collection 533 foreign stamps, value \$29; will exchange for books on Ornithology and Oology. GLENN LEVINGS, Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Baneroff's History of the Colonies, new, cloth, 500 pages, 2 vol. in one; for Davie's Nests and Eggs. T. A. CLARK, Carthage, Indiana.

EGGS in sets to exchange for same. All letters answered. MILTON C. HOWE, Monson, Mass.

I HAVE Governor, Costume, Hero, Terrors of America, and Shadow Albums; will exchange for birds' eggs in sets. CLARENCE and EDGAR PARCHMAN, Okolona, Miss.

WILL every person in the State of Michigan who is interested in Ornithology send me their address. ADOLPH B. CUBERT, Washington St. West, Ann Arbor, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—Live Exotic Cooons; for American Cooons and 1 pupae. PROF. CARL BRAUN, Bangor, Me.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few International Revenue stamps which I wish to exchange for first-class eggs in sets. Address, R. A. POMROY, 30 Summers St., Bangor, Me.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have 26 varieties of first-class Eggs to exchange for a good Waterbury Watch, or 22 or 32 cal. revolver, either single or double action. A. B. ROBERTS, Weymouth, Medina Co., Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have the following first-class singles: Ridgeways Nos. 1, 66, 223, 391, 408, 567 and 579. No postals. Address, R. W. PATTERSON, Box 247, Parkersburg, W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—Breech loading shot gun, an 4x5 camera complete also some slate off of John Brown's fort at Harper's Ferry, W. Va.; for best offer in coins and other curios. EUGENE SHUGART, Charlestown, Jeff. Co. W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—Vol. II Golden Days, No. 20 (o.52), Magic Lantern with slides, Hero and Shadow Album and some novels. Yours truly, GUY R. JONES, 103 South 5th St., Allentown, Penn.

COLLECTION of several hundred varieties of first-class Eggs in sets with full data, for sale cheap. Write for list enclosing stamp. N. R. CHRISTIE, Rye Patch, Nevada.

YOU should use my *Oological Labels*, for sale for a short time at 20c per 100. Order now. Samples 2c stamp. O. E. CROOKER, Madison, Wis.

AGENTS

33 RUBBER STAMP
Of 1, 2, 3, or 4 lines with Pads and Ink
ONLY 33cts.

R. W. FORD, Bristol, Conn.

WANTED

Imported Japanese & Indian Silk Worm

Eggs for Seed, in Silk Culture.

Different species, also the celebrated Madras Silk Cocoons, warranted to be raised successfully in this country. Directions given how to raise them profitably. Prices Low.

PROF. CARL BRAUN,
NATURALIST.

BANGOR, - - - - - MAINE.

1891 EDITION NOW READY.
19TH YEAR.

Bullinger's Postal and Shippers' Guide.

Every place in the United States and Canada about 95,000 with the railroad station and express for every place—the cheapest book ever published. You should have the new edition. Price, in paper covers, \$2.50; in cloth covers, \$3.00, delivery to be paid by buyer. E. W. BULLINGER, 75 Fulton St., New York, N. Y.

CHICKENS FOR SALE

Pure Langshans cocks, also a pure Plymouth Rock. Eggs of the finest Langshans for sale, \$1.50 per setting. Send for prices. I will offer the cocks very low for the next 30 days. HENRY C. BRIDGERS, Tarboro, N. C.

AT LESS THAN WHOLESALE FOR CASH.

At my Ann Arbor store I have the following goods which I will sell at the following low rates, for cash, if ordered by Feb. 15th.

If you can use them, speak quick, as you cannot better or equal these prices in America. All goods shipped by freight or express at purchaser's expense from our Michigan store.

500 Milk Stromba's or small White Conchs, good Aquaria or Out-door Ornamental Work, 40c per Doz., \$2.00 per 100.

50 large pieces Bud Coral, *Galaxea cespitosa*, 20c each, \$1.50 per Doz.

50 Cameo or Bulmhorn Shells, dead, 50c size, 15c each, \$1.25 per Doz.

2 Bbls. W. I. Branch Coral, *Madrepora cervicornis*, runs about 2 bushels solid coral to Bbl., \$8.00 per Bbl., \$5.00 per ½ Bbl., \$3.00 per ¼ Bbl. or \$1.00 per gallon.

½ Bbl. finely mixed West Indies Shells, No. 150 Cat., \$1.00 per gallon; 10 Gal. lots, \$7.50.

300 White Murex, 15 to 25c sizes, \$1.00 per Doz., \$7.50 per 100.

300 Spider Shells, 15 to 25c Spec., 75c per Doz., \$5.00 per 100.

100 Sun and Moon Shells, (No. 140 Cat.) for painting, worth 10 to 25c retail, 75c per Doz., \$5.00 per 100; 100 selected 2d quality Shells at 40c per Doz., \$3.00 per 100.

1 soap box full Minerals, mostly Pearl Spar and Calcite Xtal Specimens, lot for only \$5.00.

Large Furblo Clams, 75c each, \$5.00 per Doz.; Medium Furblo's, 35c each, \$3.50 per Doz.

300 Sea Fans, 10 to 50c sizes, assorted, \$1.00 per Doz., \$5.00 per 100.

100 Rose Corals, *Manecina areolata*, good, 75c Doz., \$5.00 per 100; 100 poor, 40c Doz., \$3.00 per 100.

50 large Sea Beavers, 25c each, \$2.00 per Doz.

300 Curio Sponges, assorted at from 50c to \$2.00 per Doz.

Shell, Mineral or Curio Collections at any price from \$2.00 to \$100.00.

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We may close our Ann Arbor store during the latter part of February and would rather bring back the CASH than ship our goods home; hence are willing to let our patrons have the above goods at prices quoted.

All prices quoted in January OOLOGIST for Agate and other goods will hold good through February.

While all goods will be shipped from Ann Arbor, it may be better, in order to reach me personally and avoid any possible delay, to address me at headquarters.

FRANK H. LATTIN,
ALBION, - N. Y.

THE OOLOGIST.

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Flycatcher Notes.

Students of bird life often spend a deal of time studying the habits of new, or rare, species, thus, sometimes, failing to note the greater part of all that goes to make the life histories of our common birds—most of which is written so plain by the little feathered autobiographers. Many, I am glad to say, prefer to cultivate a deeper acquaintance with our common door-yard and wood-land birds. It is this one thing which makes the OOLOGIST worth so much to many of us, presenting, as it does, so many interesting notes on species whose identity is so exceedingly general. With this little note, by way of introduction, I offer the following notes on a few of our common birds.

The Kingbird or Bee Martin is found breeding in this locality in most every place where trees of sufficient size are found, except, in woods. It shows a preference for trees standing alone in the center of our fields and along roadsides where a sharp outlook is kept for passing insects, which it generally takes on the wing. Twice I have found nests in trees standing by a pond and in both instances the nest was about 10 ft. from the shore and a little over that in height from the water. In the next tree to one of those containing one of the above nests was a nest of the Wood Pewee containing a full complement of eggs and, in a grove hard by I found three nests all containing eggs. Runt eggs of this species are often found. Last summer I passed by a tree in an open field, which, from the noise made by a pair of these birds, led me to look for a nest; but when I found it it was empty. As the birds did not leave I got up in the tree and made a thorough search and was all the more surprised

not to find any young birds. I left the tree thinking how nicely the old birds had fooled me, when, looking back, I saw in one of the large limbs a number of Woodpecker holes. Some of the cavities had been partially torn open, probably by some boy, and I thought it barely possible that the young might be in some of them. I climbed up and after rattling on the limb sure enough out they flew,—three of them—and in a few short flights reached an orchard near by. At each stop the old birds became very much excited and seemed to be urging the young to keep moving. They arrive here about May 10th, but nesting is not generally commenced until the latter part of the month. I have found most all my nests in elm trees and never have found an egg of the Cowbird in this species' nest. How is this in other localities? Most writers speak of the pugnacious disposition of this bird but I am led to believe that some exaggerate the truth somewhat as I have found other species nesting in close proximity to them and never noticed any fights between them. I admit, however, that I have often seen them act the part of a "bully"; that their song, if one may call it one, has a sort of challenging ring; and that they have a savage look; but who can say that this may not be but their way of living up to that well known maxim: "In time of peace prepare for war?"

Although dressed in very plain colors and boasting of no song; yet what lover of birds has not listened, on those frosty spring mornings, when the grass is commencing to green and all Nature is awakening, with as much longing for its tinkling "pe-weet" as for the Bluebird's "Bermuda! Bermuda! Bermuda?" I doubt if any bird is better known or loved, throughout its breeding range,

than this one,—the Pewee. Reaching us a little after the first of April, they soon pair off, and, after inspecting all old sheds, bridges, and culverts, they finally settle down in earnest to the nest-making and afterwards to the raising of the hungry brood. A second nest is sometimes commenced before the young have left the nest. One May morning while strolling along the banks of a small stream, which runs along side of a clay bluff (about 30 ft. high) for quite a distance, I noticed a green ball of moss on the perpendicular side of the bluff, and, out of curiosity, threw a stone at it. I was surprised to see a Phoebe leave the spot and climbing to the top of the bluff I looked down and saw a beautiful nest of this species containing a full set of eggs. On account of a number of springs, which trickled down from the top, the moss, of which the framework of the nest was composed, was always kept green. The young reached maturity; yet the danger during rains must have been great. A pair of Kingfishers, nesting in the same bluff, seemed to take great sport in scaring the wits out of the sitting bird and the young by flying back and forth over the nest, just as near as they could, making a great noise; but it seemed to me purely in sport. About two rods from this nest, in the stream, was a stump which had been brought down by the spring freshet and the roots had, become filled with drift material. In this drift, not over eight inches from the water, a Phebe had built her nest, and, while listening to the purring, water had brought up her brood.

Arriving about a month after this species and none the less highly esteemed, by those who do not confuse the two species, is the Wood Pewee.

The songs of the two birds are very much the same but the way Wood Pewee renders his puts him far in advance as a musician. And how beautifully

Wood Pewee can harmonize his song with his surroundings so we ever come to associate it with his haunts, and, when wandering through our beautiful groves, listen, unknowingly, for his sweet cadence. It always gives me a thrill of pleasure when I find its nest, for to me, when containing its complement of eggs, it presents such a beautiful contrast; and I doubt if I ever shall experience as much joy when I find my first Ruby-throat's nest, if I ever do, as I did when I found my first Wood Pewee's nest. Two broods are often raised in a season as I found on Aug. 30, '89 four nests of this species all containing eggs. Six nests, lying before me, average two inches in diameter and three-fourths of an inch in depth inside. One of these nests is lined with wool and I have collected two sets lined with skeletons of leaves with but a slight covering of bark fibers over them. The nests are always on a horizontal limb and sometimes saddled on a crotch. Most of my nests were found in oak trees in woods which are high and dry. Only twice, have I found nests in butternut and once in ash trees. Sometimes the eggs are deposited at quite a little time from each other but I never noticed, myself, whether they all hatched. My friend, Mr. Strong, did watch, however, and he found, in one case, that one egg was deposited nearly two weeks before the rest; but on careful observation he decided that it never hatched. Mr. Strong found, also, a most beautiful nest of this species which was lined with the green seed-pods of a weed found growing near by and when just completed was very striking. It is very easy to locate nests of this bird but not so easy to find them even when you know about which tree they are in so much do they look like the tree.

The Least Flycatcher is often seen in this locality but I never have been so fortunate as to find its nest with eggs.

Messrs. Strong and Sherin have both taken sets here. Mr. Strong taking three sets last season. One of the nests which he gave me looks very much, as Langille and Davie both say, like the American Redstart's nest. My nest measures, inside, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth. It is composed of vegetable fibers, thistle down, string, some silk cord, horse hair, one or two long straws, and a little dried grass. Mr. Strong found in one or two of the nests fibers from the milk-weed. The eggs are out of proportion compared with the size of the nest but would not be apt to be confused with those of other species when acorn panned with nest. Most nests are placed about ten feet from the ground and often in the young growth of trees along our river bottoms; but Mr. Strong has found two nests in orchard trees. They breed about the first of June in this locality; generally a little later.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,
Wauwatosa, Wis.

Collecting in the Marsh.

On May 11th, a friend and I started up the Mississippi River in a small boat for Spring Lake to look for water birds' eggs. After a hard row of five miles, we arrived at the lake at 11 o'clock a. m. We then proceeded to the head of the lake and arrived there at noon. After eating our dinner we left the boat and began to wade among the rushes. I had not gone very far before I flushed a Sora Rail. I found the nest at the foot of a clump of rushes. It contained ten eggs. The nest was made of last year's reeds and lined with a few small pieces of the leaves of the surrounding rushes. It was very compact and did not look large enough to hold all the eggs as some of them were piled on top of the others.

After wading around for some time I found a Marsh Hawk's nest containing

five young birds and an egg. Some of the birds were quite large and showed flight. I took the egg which I afterward found to be rotten. By this time I began to feel a little tired so we got into the boat and started back.

On the way down I found two Florida Gallinules' nests with seven eggs in each nest. The nests were built in a clump of rushes and were composed of last year's rushes, and were lined with the leaves of the same. The eggs were a creamy-buff, thickly spotted with dark brown and amber.

Several Black Terns began flying around us uttering sharp cries. I thought they must have nests and began to search for them. After searching awhile we collected a set of three and a set of two eggs. Also two singles. The nests were on decayed vegetable matter and sunken muskrat houses, and I found one egg on a stump. A few pieces of rushes were on the nests to keep the eggs from rolling off. Eggs were all fresh.

We had not paddled very far when my friend found an American Coot's nest containing seven eggs. They were a creamy-white uniformly spotted with dark brown and black. This lake is a favorite breeding place for these birds. Where the water is clear it is "black" with them. It is quite a sight for the collector when they leave the water. We found a large number of their nests. Some of the birds would not leave the nest until we could nearly touch them with a paddle.

Next we found several nests of the Pied-billed Grebe. The usual number of eggs in a nest was seven, sometimes only six. Most of the eggs were covered with green vegetable matter.

Among other birds that abound here are the Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We collected quite a number of these eggs.

A large number of Ducks breed here, but we were not enabled to find any on that day; although I have found them before.

I hope this will be of interest to the readers of the OOLOGIST and that we will see more articles in its columns on water birds.

F. C. SHEPHERD,
Hastings, Minn.

House Finch.

(*Carpodacus frontalis*.)

A common resident of all parts of California is the House Finch, or as he is more commonly termed Red-headed Linnet. I have found this species of *Fringillidae* very common in Southern California where the serenity of nature is undisturbed by wintry blasts, where frost and storms are unknown.

The House Finch is a sweet songster; from any suitable perch, a tree, chimney, fence, or house-top. The merry song of this bird may be heard in any month of the year. Spring and Summer are to him days of sweetest bliss; feeding and singing, singing and feeding from morning till night. How often does he visit the cherry orchard, but does he not pay for the cherries in songs? I fear, however, the farmers prefer the more substantial, money realizing cherries, rather than the pleasant songs. To-day in mid-winter I heard a little fellow on the top of a neighboring barn singing with all his might. Perhaps the bright sun and green fields reminded him of his distant summer home which he had just left cold, dreary and lifeless. He must have been a stranger for his song seemed to out-class the songs of our birds which have grown somewhat indolent basking in the rays of an ever genial sun. The invigorating sight was conducive to such a song; everything was green with a cloudless sky overhead, the gentlest of breezes played carelessly in an orange grove below exposing, now and then through the leaves as they opened and closed with the varying winds, rich

golden oranges. A strawberry patch lay close at hand and from this the little rascal had just emerged after having a delicious feast, yes, a feast on rich, red strawberries in mid-winter. He sang as if his little throat would burst, his form quivered with the fervor of his song—ample remuneration was given for the few berries he had taken. At last his song ceased, and with a few merry chirps he threw himself into the air and was soon lost to sight. I will wager, however, the strawberry patch will receive another visit from this same roguish little fellow, but let him come with that cheerful song—he is a welcome visitor.

Although his habitat is confined to the temperate parts of Western North America. I venture to say that the House Finch has as much bird knowledge and experience as any cosmopolite in the feathered world. Quick yet dignified in actions, pleasant in appearance, sweet and cheerful in song, the House Finch has made himself a favorite in the homes of the West.

As may be expected, the House Finch is not select in its site for a home. After match-making is over, any place that suits the artless fancy of the birds is chosen as the place for their home, then both male and female go to work with a will collecting roots, bits of paper, strings horse hair, in fact anything readily obtained. The nest is soon constructed and in it are placed four or six bluish-white eggs, dotted with dark brownish black. The eggs are about size of those of the Orchard Oriole, perhaps a trifle smaller. I well remember my first find as an oologist was a set of this species. I remember how I scrambled out on the horizontal limb of an oak, swaying to and fro with the breeze while a friend coaxed me on with flattering terms only used by those who stand on the solid earth. I got that nest and carried it home in triumph,

but alas those eggs are no longer among existing things, they have passed into that great oblivion of demolished oological specimens from which they never will nor never can return.

HARRY C. LILLIE,
Santa Barbara, Cala.

Bald and Golden Eagles in Iowa.

Bluffton is a village about 12 miles from Decorah. As its name indicates, there are a number of high bluffs near the village. Both Golden and Bald Eagles had been seen a number of times by different parties. At last Chas. Jackson made up his mind that there were eagles nesting there, he began to look and, after a time, he found their nest on Silver Creek, about 5 miles from Bluffton, but secured no eggs, as it was then winter.

He then set a trap and captured first a Golden Eagle, (a very large one) then, setting it again, he captured a Bald Eagle measuring 8 ft. from tip to tip.

That there are many eagles there is no doubt. A Mr. Neill, the miller, has told me that he frequently seen them from his mill.

This gentleman also saw one Golden and one Bald Eagle on his way home from Bluffton to Decorah last Friday.

I shall investigate the matter myself in the spring as I am going up there.

A. V. THOMSON,
Decorah, Ia

A Curious Pair of Swallows.

A pair of swallows built their nest in the highest part of our barn; when all the other swallows left I still noticed this pair of swallows flying about catching flies and feeding their young. Now last week, the 19th of Nov., I missed the swallows, and in order to clean the barn I took a stick and poked the old nests down. Now here I found two (2) young swallows so I picked them up

and examined them and noticed that neither had wings nor legs—there was no signs of either. I pulled the feathers away to see, but the skin was just as smooth there as on the breast.

I would like to hear of any of the readers if they ever run across a bird like these two.

V. LINSENBARTH,
Los Angeles, Cala.

Nesting of *Spinus pinus* in the North-west.

Although the Pine Siskin is listed in most of the northern localities as common or perhaps abundant, there has been but little said about the nesting habits.

In this section it begins to carry building material about the 15th or latter part of April and fresh eggs may be found as early as May 1st.

It generally nests in fir trees, but nests have been found in both maple and oak trees. They are placed from eight to twenty-five feet from the ground.

A set of three eggs before me was taken May 7, 1889. The nest was placed on the end of a fir bough, eight feet up, and composed of fir twigs and grass, and lined with hair. The eggs are pale greenish-blue in color, sparingly spotted near the larger end with reddish-brown and pale lilac, and average .63 x .49 in size.

Three eggs seem to be the standard number in a set here, for out of several taken, (among which two sets were incubated) none of them contained over three eggs.

CLYDE L. KELLER,
Salem, Oregon.

Early Nesting of *Bubo Virginianus*.

H. E. Hershey, of Nebraska City, Neb., thinks he is entitled to a medal for taking a set of two eggs of the Gt. Horned Owl, on Jan 17th, but as C. B. Vandycook reports a set of three on Jan. 10th, "ten days along," we hardly think it would be fair to send him one.

THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOCLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

A Correction.

If the observer, who writes from Conn. in January number of the OOLOGIST, had taken a little more pains to inform himself, he never would have made such a random assertion about the Sparrow Hawk as is contained in the latter portion of his article. It does not seem to me to be the part of a *trac* ornithologist to so condemn any bird, without a long series of most careful and accurate observations.

In the works of nearly every ornithological writer, may be found favorable mention of the Sparrow Hawk; and the report for 1887 of the Ornithologist and Mammalogist of the Department of Agriculture furnishes conclusive evidence of this little falcon's good qualities. It is there seen from the table of

stomach contents, that out of 133 stomachs examined, only 29 contained birds of any kind, while 15 of these contained also small mammals, insects, or larvae. Of the remainder a very large proportion contained small quadrupeds (principally mice) or insects.

In light of these facts it is safe so assume that our friend erred through ignorance rather than an intention to mislead.

H. C. OBERHOLSER,
Wooster, O.

A Large Set or Series of the Red-headed Woodpecker.

While looking over some back numbers of the OOLOGIST, I saw recorded several large sets of the Red-headed Woodpecker. I think that I can beat all previous finds, if the following series of eggs, can be considered a set.

On May 5th, 1890, while collecting eggs in an old orchard, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker fly out of a hole in a large apple tree. I climbed up to it. Instead of cutting the hole open in the usual way, I cut a small aperture a little larger than an egg, near the bottom of the nest, and obtained 5 fresh eggs by means of a bent wire. I plugged the aperture with a piece of wood, thinking that the bird might lay again.

On May 12th, I chanced to pass the same tree, and thought I would see if any more eggs had been laid. I found that it contained 5 more fresh eggs. I again visited it on May 17th, and got 4 eggs. I took 5 more from the same nest on May 25th, and 5 more May 31st, and 4 more June 4th.

During a storm, the plug of wood was blown out, and it rained in the nest and the birds deserted it. Three weeks later, to my surprise, I found that the bird had built a new nest in the same tree, and it contained 4 young birds. The entire series of 28 eggs being taken in 31 days.

C. C. BACON, Bell, Ky.

The Barred Owl.

This wonderful bird is found throughout New England. Its plumage is extremely soft and cinereous, which combined with its great breadth of wings, makes it remarkable for its soft, rapid and noiseless flight.

The reports that it preys upon fish are probably false, but if it does prey upon them it is a very rare occurrence, and then only when pressed by hunger. It is very easily tamed and at once becomes a very interesting and amusing pet.

A Barred Owl that is in my possession, I keep in the hay-loft of a barn. When I go to feed it, it flies down and alights on a beam, close by me, and there allows himself to be fed. If a stranger comes into the loft however, the owl at once spreads out his wings, and ruffling his feathers, he snaps his bill and winks at the intruder.

One day a kitten got into the owl's domains and there was at once great confusion. I heard the noise and went to the kitten's rescue but not before her back was bleeding from the sharp talons of the owl. Not knowing whether my bird was able to supply himself with food or not, I did not feed him for eight days. On the morning of the ninth day, on showing him his meat, he grasped it in his talons, and then before eating it he disgorged a ball about the size of silk-worm's cocoon. On examining it, I found that it was composed entirely of fine hairs and the vertebra of a mouse. This showed me he was clearing the loft of its mice and could take care of himself in case of my absence.

When the owl is hungry or lonesome, he utters a long sad wail, which sounds like the cry of an infant. On offering him a pigeon he will ruffle his feathers, and if it is put close to him he will strike at it with his wings.

Most people believe that the Barred

Owl, or any owl for that matter, is only able to see in the dark. Probably this is merely supposition, as my owl can see as well in the day time as any other bird I have ever seen in captivity.

EDWARD FULLER,
Norwich, Conn.

Yellow-breasted Chat. (*Icteria virens.*)

This brightly plumaged warbler is quite plentiful in this locality (Hudson Co., N. J.) though not often seen on account of its retiring habits.

The color of an adult male is as follows: Above, olive-green or olive-grayish; the throat, chest and breast, rich gamboge yellow; belly, anal region, and under tail coverts, white; eyelids, supraloral streak and malar stripe, white; lores deep black. It measures in length from 7.00 to 8.00 inches, wing 3.05 to 3.35, tail 3.30 to 3.60. The coloring in the female corresponds to that of the male, except being some what duller, and the black and white markings less contrasted.

The nest is generally placed in clumps of bushes or briars from two to three and one-half feet from the ground. A nest found May 30, 1890, containing four fresh eggs, which were glossy-white, with a pinkish cast spotted with madder-brown and lilac-grey. The nest (a typical one) was composed outside of withered leaves, grape-vine bark and grass; lined with finer grass. Three to five eggs represent a clutch of this species. The eggs vary in size from .84 to .95 inches length, and .65 to .70 inches breadth.

Icteria virens is an inhabitant of the briars, brambles, bushes and such shrubbery as grows most luxuriantly in low wet places. Its principal food, larvae and insects, seldom leading it higher than the tops of the under brush.

JOHN LUHRMAN,
Jersey City, N. J.

Anna's Hummingbird.

This beautiful little hummingbird is quite plentiful in this locality, being seen in most every orchard and flower garden nearly all the year around. The male is of a green color on the back and top of head, and throat (when held to the sun at a certain position) of a glowing red color. The female being of a plain color and without the nice throat and top of head.

In Nov. and Dec. these hummingbirds begin to mate by flying in pairs one after the other at a very fast speed all through orchards and air, and in as early as Feb. they begin to nest till as late as July.

Last season I took one nest in Feb. and another in March, both not being more than 50 feet apart. I suppose they were built by the same pair.

The nests of this bird can be found in willow, sycamore, live oak, orange, peach and plum trees; in fact they have no special choice. I have found one nest placed on a bud of a thistle; the nest was built of a material of the same color as the bud, thus making it very hard to find.

These birds may be found to nest in orchards, on mountains, in swamps, in canons, and along streams.

The nests are built of the down of trees or other vegetation, and always has such a color as to look the object in which it is built.

As this is one of the commonest of our hummingbirds I take it up first, but later on I will let the readers know something about others of this locality.

A. W. NOLTE,
Los Angeles, Cal.

Birds North of Their Usual Range.

Returning here in June, from a collecting trip along the Mexican Border, I immediately began to look after the birds, hoping to fill up a few gaps in my list of skins or eggs.

While shooting one day on a range of high hills about a mile west of this place, I took a Wood Thrush. This surprised me; as in many years collecting I had never seen or heard of one here before, and the books all agree that their northern limit is farther south.

A few days later I took two others and saw more. They seemed to be common.

I also found a nest with one egg, but when I went to it again it had been destroyed.

Now this place is in the north part of Washington Co., N. Y., on the Vermont line, and about even with the south end of Lake Champlain.

While on the same hills one day I heard the well-known notes of the Yellow-breasted Chat, but did not take the bird. A few days later, however, I shot a fine male in the same locality, and have no doubt the pair were breeding.

Subsequently, in a dense thicket, and three miles away, I heard another Chat singing, and saw a female bird very distinctly. They seem to have the same habits as the Long-tailed Chat of which I have taken a great many. At times I find them singing and have no trouble to shoot them. Again they will get into a thicket of vines and bushes, and I have watched for them two hours, hearing them all the time, but going away without getting a shot.

Now with a very mild winter and early spring, did the birds go farther north than usual that they should appear where never seen before?

I have also known of three instances where the Orchard Oriole has nested in this town.

F. T. PEMBER,
Granville, N. Y.

Egg Collecting—The Two Classes.

For convenience in writing this article, I have divided my subject into two

classes, viz.: Scientific collecting, and collecting simply for the purpose of having a collection. The former should be allowed, the latter suppressed, and the sooner the better.

A great deal of complaint is being made about the destruction of our native birds by killing and by the robbing of their nests, but this complaint is mostly done by those who do not stop to make any distinction between these two classes of collectors.

The destruction done in the name of science is not one-half so great as the wanton destruction done by the boys who collect eggs, put them on a string, and pride themselves on having the greatest number of eggs of the robin or catbird.

One case comes to my mind while writing, of two boys who, in one day, gathered together 64 eggs of the catbird, and all these were broken by them, not one being kept to grace the cabinet of even a "Great American Egg Hog!"

The nests robbed by this class of collectors are mostly those of the small insectivorous birds which nest in our gardens and orchards, the collectors usually lacking that knowledge of birds which enables them to discover any nests except those upon which they stumble by mere chance.

In most states there is a law prohibiting the robbing of birds' nests. I think that scientific collectors should be protected, but the other class should be watched closely and punished to the extent of the law for each and every offense.

To the "Egg Hog" the bird's egg is nothing, and to him it appears as of no more value than an oval stone, while to the scientific collector it is the most wonderful thing in the world.

It makes my blood boil within me to think of the great number of eggs that are taken each year, without the cause of science for the collector to lean on.

But, after all the complaint that has been made against the wanton plundering of birds' eggs, is there any way of putting a stop to it?

If any of the readers of the OOLOGIST have an opinion on this matter, I would like to hear from them, either personally or through the pages of the OOLOGIST.

"AIX SPONSA,"

Nebraska City.

A Perfect Collection.

It has occurred to me to write a short sketch of a valuable collection of eggs made here in Michigan, and of its owner who possesses some peculiar and laudable traits as a collector. The gentleman referred to is Mr. K. R. Wilhelm of this city, Kalamazoo. The sketch given here would appear like an advertisement for him did I not assure your readers that M. W. has never sold any eggs or made any exchanges from his collection.

Mr. Wilhelm has been engaged in the scientific collecting of eggs for eight years and has devoted his spare time to this interesting pursuit from February to July each season. His occupation is such as to demand nearly all of his attention during the spring months and therefore his time in the field is often limited to a very few days. The devotion exhibited in collecting is only surpassed by his superior skill in preparation of his eggs, and for conscientious work in saving specimens advanced in incubation, it is fair to say that he has no superior. To my knowledge he has removed the contents of the larger hawks' eggs when ready to hatch, through one hole of three-sixteenths inch size. His skill and process of preparing eggs are entirely from his own efforts and study and are the outcome of patience and love of a perfect collection.

Mr. Wilhelm is an intrepid climber

and the feats that he performs if recorded would only be believed by others of equal powers. Climbing smooth-barked sycamores of from six to ten feet in circumference are easy performances for him and I have seen him ascend a tree five feet in diameter. Not long since the tackle at the top of our city weather-signal pole became clogged and a big reward was offered to anyone who would ascend the pole and arrange the ropes. All the telegraph pole climbers in the city bluffed at it, but Wilhelm went to the top—one hundred and thirty feet—arranged the tackle and came down again in six minutes. Not less than three thousand people witnessed the performance.

Of course it will be remarked that such a climber would be valuable as a collector of hawks' eggs, and it may be said that his skill as a climber is a direct result of his liking for eggs of hawks and owls, and some of his scores indicate his success in this line of collecting. Perhaps his largest score is one made during the past season, when in a three days' float down the St. Joseph river, he collected one hundred and thirteen eggs of the *Buteos*. On single days he has taken over fifty hawks' eggs and I have seen him collect over forty Cooper's and Red-shouldered's eggs in ten hours. It must not be thought that hawks' eggs are more plentiful here than elsewhere, the point of his success lying in his accurate knowledge of the habits of the birds, covering a large tract of territory in a day and quick climbing.

Many of his hawks' and owls' eggs are blown with so small a hole that nothing larger than a No. 10 shot pellet will pass in and all are perfection; in fact I have never yet seen so perfect a collection as his. He has never added to his collection by exchange or purchase, preferring to collect all his sets alone.

SCOLOPAX.

Texas Notes.

This locality is probably a very rich ornithological field, but there seems to be a scarcity of collectors here.

Though during the last season, I have had very little time to collect eggs, I managed to spend the latter part of the season in the observation of the species here which are mostly new to me, I having lived in Kansas for the last nine years and just arriving in this county at the beginning of the season.

Among the birds which I noticed first were the Nonpareils or Painted Buntings, the Roadrunners, Loggerhead Shrikes and Scissor Tailed-flycatchers, all of whom were new to me. The Shrikes are unusually voracious and will even dash into houses in their attempts to kill canary and other cage birds. The Loggerhead in striking a bird in a cage usually manage to strike it squarely on the neck, nearly severing the head from the body. One raided a cage of my canaries early this year, and was only killed after having made way with one, and seriously wounding another.

The birds which are most common here are Turkey Buzzards, Mockingbirds, Catbirds, Robins and Field Larks, which are here by the thousands at the present time.

While boating on the Brazos, one day, I noticed quite a number of Herons, Cranes and other long-legged birds, but could not get close enough to find out definitely of what species they were.

I have also observed several species of Hawks and Owls, and a solitary White Pelican.

I would like to hear more from Texas collectors through the columns of the OOLOGIST.

J. K. STRECKER, JR.,
Waco, Tex.

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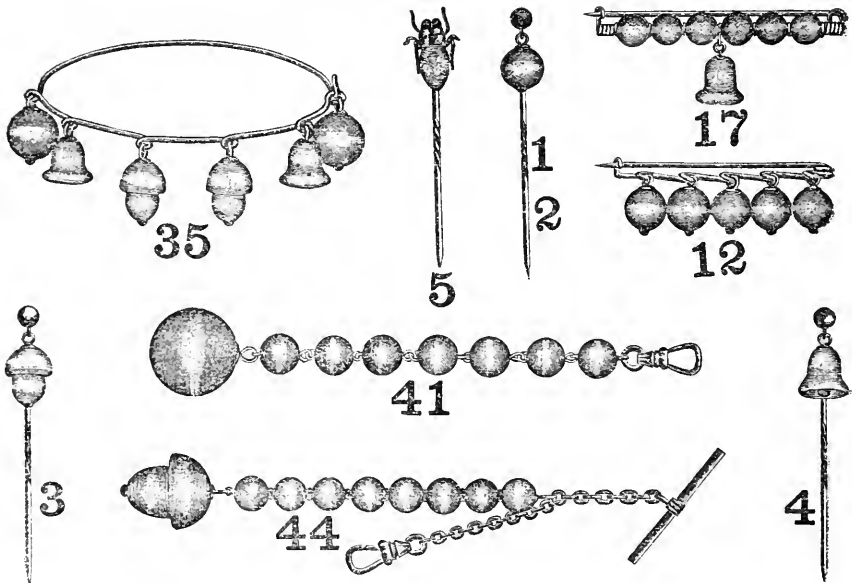
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Parties in the western states and in fact any but the extreme eastern and middle states can save fully two or more days time by having their orders filled from Ann Arbor instead of at our headquarters at Albion or of some eastern dealer, over 700 (seven hundred) miles east of Ann Arbor. On and after Jan. 1st, 1891, we shall have on hand at Ann Arbor, Mich., ready for immediate shipment, one of the largest stocks of Specimens, Curiosities, Supplies and Instruments in the United States west of our Albion, N. Y., headquarters. Our western patrons and parties in the habit of sending way east for their material, will please keep this in mind.

Faithfully yours, FRANK H. LATTIN.

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See description on pages 94, 95 and 96 May Oologist, also letter on pages 224 and 225 November issue.

This work will be published only on condition that there are 500 subscribers; also, only that number will be taken. If the requisite number are obtained the name of each will be published in the work. Write at once for subscription blank, proof pages of the illustrations and for full particulars address

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** To any reader of the OOLOGIST, who will write Mr. Davie for a blank and properly fill the same, stating to him that they subscribe for his work, through the recommendation of the publisher of the OOLOGIST, we will, if you are not more than pleased with the work when published, give you \$5.00 in cash for your copy and present you with a years subscription to the Oologist, for your trouble.

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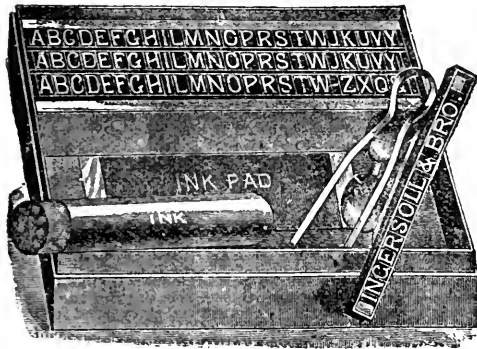
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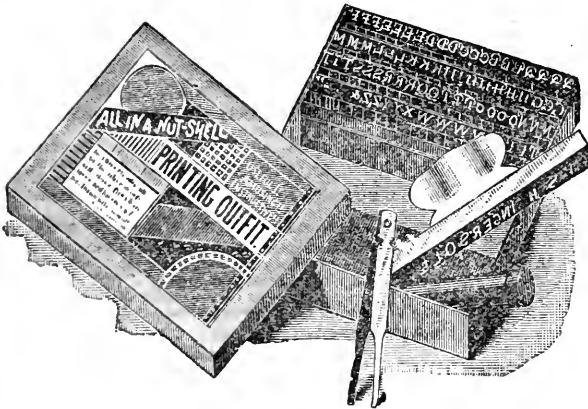
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The Oologist for 1891.

The OOLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its Publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OOLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscription*. On January 1, 1891, the OOLOGIST will enter its eighth volume, and it will be the aim of its publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '91 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover) and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month. The OOLOGIST for 1891 will be sent post-paid to any part of the world.

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Every subscriber received for '91, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed, to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OOLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OOLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25c providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25. This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

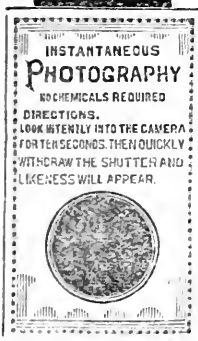
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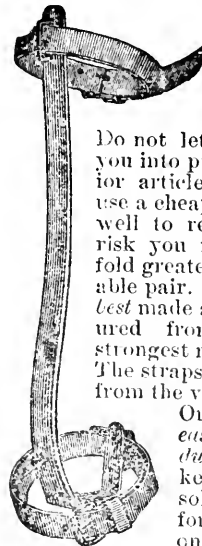


Any person sending us 15c before March 15, 1891, will, in order to introduce our goods, send prepaid the following articles, viz:

Mexican Resurrection Plant, Instantaneous Photograph Camera (will be sold separately for 10c), Japanese Napkins, 1 Japanese Envelope, 1 Leaf from Japanese Book, 1 pkg. Scrap Pictures, 19 varieties of Foreign Stamps. Coupon good for 25c on an order of \$1.00 or over.

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J. P. J., Kelton, Pa.

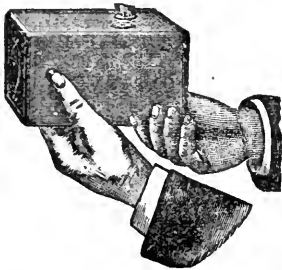
"All the supplies ordered came duly to hand, all O. K. Am more than pleased with them all. The climbing Irons are just what I wanted; the book of dates is immense and the Naturalist's Guide is well worth the price. I wish to compliment you on your method of packing. The goods that I received could hardly have been better fixed for transportation. Am more impressed with your promptness every time I order; and in future, let me say, if there is anything in your line that I need, you may be sure that I shall give you the preference."
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Our prices are as follows: Strapped, ready for use, by express, at purchaser's expense, \$2.50, or prepaid to any part of the United States, \$3.25. Climbers without straps by express, \$1.50, prepaid, \$2.00.

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We will send any of the above publications by return mail upon receipt of price or if ordered before Mar. 15th we will send the entire lot for only \$2.00. If you have already subscribed for the OOLOGIST for 1891, have the copy in this offer mailed to some friend; or if you are now a subscriber to the OOLOGIST and do not care to send the OOLOGIST to a friend or for the premium coupons and the back numbers of the OOLOGIST we will send you the balance of the lot for only \$1.50. This offer holds good until Mar. 15th only.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.



THE OOLOGIST.

Monthly. 50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1891.

No. 3

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements. "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25¢ per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25¢. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

WANTED.—To correspond with anyone that is interested in getting up a collection of minerals by exchange. A. E. COLE, East Concord, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class birds' skins for same. Correspondence solicited. I. CLAIRE WOOD, 101 Abbott St., Detroit, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—South Sea Island Spear Head (bone), Fan Coral and other curios, for eggs in sets with data. THOMAS TRUMBULL, Perkins Place, Norwich, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Legerdemain cabinet and 20 cigarette pictures; for good U. S. or foreign stamps. H. G. LEAVITT, 19 S. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N. J.

WHAT have you got to exchange for 350 Indian arrow points. W. B. SCOTT, 560 Broad St., Augusta, Ga.

I WANT to exchange a 10 lb. font of type for birds' eggs or \$2.50. Answer, as now is your time. C. G. FITZGERALD, Baltimore, Md.

I HAVE in dup. 100 sp. named shells—M. L. and F. W.—which I offer in exchange for named shells; Marine, Univalves preferred. Send list. F. C. BROWNE, Framingham, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have some good books, which I will exchange for minerals and curiosities; write for particulars. WILLIE R. BRID, Mason City, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Volumes 11-12 of "Golden Days," a magic lantern and a collection of stamps, for "Davie's Key" or a pair of climbing irons. F. L. SAGE, 16 Hubbard Ave., Middletown, Conn.

WANTED to purchase for cash. Bulletins of the Nuttall Ornithological Club (odd numbers or complete sets.) Also any other publications relating to N. A. ornithology. Write, stating price and condition. Should exchange be preferred, will give Baird's Birds of America (Pacific R. R. Report vol. IX.) for best offer of Bulletins. J. H. PLEASANTS, Jr., 906 Cathedral St., Baltimore, Md.

EXCHANGE.—Large hand press and type, for eggs, stamps, "Davie's Nest and Eggs of N. A.," bound, climbing irons, oologists' instruments. R. SIGLER, 127 Midland Ave., Montclair, N. J.

ANYONE having specimens or Natural History publications of any kind, that they are willing to donate to the New Natural History Library, please send to Natural History Library Association, F. L. ENGLEBERT, Secy., Des Moines, Iowa.

EXCHANGE.—175 papers of "Golden Days," 450 cigarette cards and shadow album, for best offer of first-class eggs, or sell each separately. All letters answered. SIGMUND H. HILL, Box 25, New Milford, Conn.

WILL EXCHANGE Vol. 1 American Journal of Philately, an Ocarina, and Manton's Taxidermy, for a first-class zither. F. E. DOBSON, 73 Trask Ave., Bergen Point, N. J.

EXCHANGE.—Fossils from Iowa for Fossils, and also an Indian Arrow quiver, for best offer in Fossils or curiosities. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Cerro, Gordo Co., Iowa.

WANTED.—A Bicycle; a Safety or 14-inch Victor, Jr., preferred. Give accurate description. Must be in A 1 condition. Have \$60.00 worth of eggs to exchange. MASON GIBBES, 56 Packens St., Columbia, S. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—My new Directory for 30c in eggs; singles preferred. Only a few left, send at once. Also a herbarium of 50 different plants. Make offer for latter. LETSON BALLET, Des Moines, Iowa.

WANTED.—A collecting gun with outfit (Maynard's preferred); also books for the Naturalist and cabinet specimens of all kinds. I will give a New Roger's Scroll Saw, rare fossils, curios, and stamps. All answered. ROBERT A. CAMPBELL, Hanover, N. H.

WILL EXCHANGE collection of fifty varieties, first-class eggs, mostly in sets, for 12-gauge, double-barrel gun or good rifle. The collection is worth over \$16.00, and includes A. O. U. No.'s 712, 339 1/2, 34 1/2, 313, 313 1/2, 314, 212 1-11, 27 1-1-1, 77 1/2, 507 1/2. Send description of gun and receive my complete list. GEO. H. MATH- EWSON, 625 Sherbrooke St., Montreal, Canada.

I HAVE a lot of Star Fishes, from three to five inches, and the following books: Wood's Botanist and Florist, Packard's Elementary Zoology, Steele's Zoology and several other books on Natural History, to exchange for Indian Relics. Write stating what you have and your exchange price. JOHN B. PERRINE, Valparaiso, Ind.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

EXCHANGE.—I have \$14 worth of first-class sets, with data, including 1-6, 367, 1-5, 296, which I wish to exchange for a 22-cal. rifle; Steven's pocket or Winchester preferred. CHAS. C. TREMBLY, 33 Noyes St., Utica, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—50 No. "Youth's Companion," 50 No. Frank Leslie's Illustrated News-paper, one vol. "St. Nicholas," for the best offer in climbing irons, strapped, or first-class eggs in sets. WALTER JOHNSON, 123 W. Brook St., Galesburg, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Ten cigarette albums, five whole collections of cards, 500 tobacco tags neatly put on a covered board, for eggs in singles. Send your price-list and receive mine. JOHN KINGSLEY, 10 Elm St., Rutland, Vt.

WANTED.—A pair of Chambers. Will give in exchange \$2.50 worth of first-class single eggs. Will also exchange a 42-inch Improved Otter Bicycle, for books on Ornithology and a set of Taxidermist's tools. GEORGE H. SHERIDAN, West Union Avenue, Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Penn.

EXCHANGE No. 3 Kodak Camera, cash value \$40.00, Juno Safety Bicycle, cash value \$30.00, Oxford Pocket Collecting Gun, cash value \$5.00. Wanted for the above, Good Bird Dog, broken. Cabinet, Winchester Repeating Rifle, Eggs in sets with data or first-class Skins. Write first. E. B. PECK, Clifton Springs, N. Y.

500 COCOONS of the Cecropia (largest N. A. Moth) and 50 of the Prometha all alive; for anything pertaining to Birds. WILL D. RICHARDSON, 1116 Washington Boul., Chicago, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE.—Bird Skins of this locality; for Skins of others. HENRY HILLYER, No. 354 Green St., Augusta Ga.

WANTED.—Collectors make money selling our Hame Strap. Good proof, you are not after "specimens." See Ad. on another page. METALLIC HAME STRAP Co.

ONE Sand Dollar for every photograph of Actress, or every 5 cigarette pictures of Actresses, or every two papers on Oology. Box 974, Bath, Me.

4 VOLS. Youth's Companion, Fossils, Geodes, Minerals, Stamps and Indian Relics; to exchange for first-class Sets, Climbers, or Taxidermist's outfit. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

WANTED.—To collect California Birds in meat this coming spring for Eggs in Sets. CLARENCE TRENHOLTZ, Petaluma, Calif.

I WILL give \$20 in Bird Skins for a good \$10 or \$15 Typewriter. \$10 worth for a good Hawkeye or Kodak Camera, write and receive list of Skins. WM. BERMAN, 1050 Ingraham St., Los Angeles, Cal.

I HAVE Winchester Shot-gun, almost new, for sale, \$3.25 worth of eggs, for 22 cal. Rifle, Maynard's Naturalists' Guide, few coins and Animal Album, for Sets with data. Write me for particulars. A. G. POTTER, 438 S. 24th Ave., Omaha, Neb.

WANTED.—Indian Arrowheads; I will exchange a collection of 200 varieties Postage Stamps for best offer of the above. PERCY SMITH, Box 113, Sincoc, Ontario.

COLLECTORS ATTENTION.—I want all your cast off clothing. Can offer for same, rare eggs. Books by standard authors, a shot-gun (13. L.) a double action, 32 revolver botanical specimens, a pair of Climbers, etc. Address, CLARENCE RILLE, Des Moines, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following Cigarette Albums: Governor Album, Terrors of America, Ruler Album and Costume Album, for best offer of Birds' Eggs (single.) E. ROSENTHAL, Swepsonville, Almaine Co., N. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fifty varieties of fine cabinet minerals; for eggs in sets, including Lilac Wernerite, Wernerite xld, Chistolite xld, Green Talc, etc. GEO. L. BRIGHAM, Bolton, Mass.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Stop! Look! A collection of Birds' Eggs, worth \$14.00; will exchange for best offer of fire arms of any description, within the next 30 days. What an offer. All letters answered at once. Address, J. A. Stewart, Covington, Newton Co., Ga.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Gold Watch bran new. A Philadelphia Gold filed cases with nickled works warranted for 15 years; for best offer of Birds' Eggs or stamps. For full description of watch, enclose 2c stamp and address. WILLIS N. FLEMING, Natick Mass.

PERFECT King Crab, for six arrowpoints, Perfect Crab Shed for six arrowpoints, three Skate's eggs for one arrowpoint. Above five for War Club or knife. Sea curiosities, for Indian Relics. ROLLIN T. TOMS, Stamford, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A new compound Microscope, magnifies 2400 times with one prepared object, forceps, etc., all complete, packed in polished mahogany case, valued at \$2.25; for a good set of Taxidermist's instruments in first-class condition. ARTHUR L. POPE, McMinnville, Oregon.

LOUIS T. MERWIN, 1113 Jefferson St., Oakland, Cal., would like to become acquainted with parties interested in Ornithology and Oology living in Oakland, Berkeley, or Alameda.

TO EXCHANGE.—\$20 Varieties Stamps, U. S. and foreign, in album, worth \$6 or \$8; for a S. and W. or Colts 22 cal. revolver in good condition. Address, R. P. Cooke, Clay Hill Acad., Millwood, Clarke Co., Virginia.

WANTED.—To collect Eggs during the coming season for advanced collectors or dealers; egg cabinet, rifle, tennis racquet, Ornithological books wanted in exchange. HARRY S. DAY, 1459, Buckland Ave., Fremont, Ohio.

FOR SALE.—A good Smith and Weston Ranger 22 long Revolver, only been used a few times, self acting seven shooter, heavily nickel plated, rose-wood handle. Will sell for best cash offer. All letters with enclosed stamp answered. CARL C. AMBROSE, 425 Clark St., Evanston, Ill.

I HAVE a volume of a paper published at Utica, N. Y., in 1832. Bound and in fair condition; also a number of rare old books and some polished stones from northern Michigan to exchange for Herkimer Co. crystals or shells. JOSEPH ANDERSON, 131 Allen St., Muskegon, Mich.

Exchanges and Wants continued on second inside cover page.

THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1891.

No. 3

A New Year's Soliloquy.

'Tis New Year's day, and around many of our homes the snow, covers hill and dale, and perhaps is falling fast, while around others, the green valley and hills lie before us, and there we find the many birds who have left their colder clime for the milder.

How many of us to night sit by the open fire place, and with slippered feet against the fender, we are looking over and studying the many notes found in our note book of years past, and then we pause a moment in those fond recollections, and our thoughts wander into the future and we wonder what the coming year of '91 has in store for us.

For the earnest and careful student, of ornithology, this year will bring its many surprises as has the past.

For what can be more pleasant, than when out on some pleasant morning's stroll you stumble (I say *stumble* for this is the way we often come across our most favorite finds) upon some pretty warbler's nest hitherto unknown to you.

This is a surprise indeed, and our hearts seem fairly to leap up in our throats as the saying goes, as we sit down, and write a few hasty notes, thinking to recall the rest when we get home.

But alas we were to hasty, for when we get home, after collecting a dozen sets perhaps, we find we cannot recall definitely which it was that had a certain peculiarity, and in this way lose many valuable points and facts.

Therefore I say, do not be so hasty when you go into the field, take plenty of time have a roomy note book and take down all facts as they appeared and if you collect but one set on your trip it will be of more value than the dozen otherwise collected.

If you find a nest with which you are not acquainted, do not take it but wait until you can procure the bird, for by so doing you have a positive identification, which can in no other way be secured, and when once gotten can never be disputed.

Not only will your work be a pleasure and benefit to you, but to others who perchance may not have had the benefit or advantages which nature has given you.

And again I say collect fewer sets and be more thorough, in the coming—no—in the present year of 1891.

After wandering so aimlessly over my subject we will again return, to where you or I perhaps together with a friend are seated by the open fire place, and comparing our notes books of the old year.

Oh, yes, and here as we turn to page 20, we note:

701, *Cinclus mexicanus*.

Water Ouzel.

First nest found June 2, containing 4 eggs, incubation slight; color pure white; size .97 x .62. Nest placed on shelf of perpendicular rock about 15 ft. above water, and nest made of moss, round with an entrance on side. A hard climb and fall.

Thus you pause a moment and after addressing your friends perhaps somewhat like this, you say:

Yes, I remember well, what a time I had securing this set and nest. As the rocks were nearly perpendicular and directly above water, I secured a long stout pole and placing it slantingly I began my ascent, but oh! when near the top, by some queer freak the pole suddenly turns and I find myself in the bottom of the creek. Picking myself up, although somewhat wet, I again try the experiment and this time

succeed, and reaching the nest, passing my finger in, I discover 4 eggs.

This is all; my story is told, and only those of you who are earnest students can imagine or have realized the feeling I had, in this my first find of the Water Onzel.

And thus it is (as we turn over page after page of our note book, each telling a story in connection with our facts,) that we spend so many pleasant winter evenings, and long again for the spring and summer day, when the feathered warblers will again make their home with us, and give to us new stores of valuable information.

Wishing you all a prosperous new year, I remain

DR. A. G. PRILL,
Sweet Home, Oregon.

An Ornithological Paradise.

May 19, 1890 presented to my view as I opened my bedroom window, an almost matchless morning. A cloudless sky into which the sun was just gliding, a gentle breeze stirring the maple leaves, and the peculiar freshness that spring alone can offer. A splendid day for the woods, so after a hasty breakfast I take my gun, cartridges and fish creel and step across the road to hitch up the horse. Even this early my luck begins for in a small white birch I espy a fine male Cape May Warbler; rather risky to shoot in the city but the rarity of the bird seems to warrant it so a light load is his destruction. In the apple trees around the barn are two Tennessee Warblers but these are left unharmed.

After a drive of two miles in the slushy mud of the city streets I at last emerge into the country and far ahead view my destination, a large clump of pines. Near a farm house I see a pair of Orchard Orioles, the male warbling his pretty song; farther along three brilliant Scarlet Tanagers are indulg-

ing in a free fight over an olive colored maiden while a Red-bellied Nuthatch toots away in applause. In a few moments I am hitching securely to a small tamarack and am just ready to start when I notice a female Yellow Warbler fly into a clump of bushes fifty yards away. Even at that distance something peculiar in her movements arrested my attention and approaching nearer I am delighted to see that it is a male Wilson's Black-capped Warbler. I notice that his movements are rather deliberate and that he is shy, but fearing an escape I suspend further investigation and shoot him at once. In the bushes the Golden-winged Warblers are everywhere uttering a harsh "*che tzay tzay tzay*" while the common birds fairly fill the air with their melody. In all this medley of sound I distinguish a new song proceeding from the lower branch of a young elm; my note book gives the following version: "A clear sweet song, exquisitely modulated, resembling the syllables, *chera che chera che che che*." The little performer is between me and the sun so no alternative is given to the death of the songster; somewhat to my surprise I find I have secured a male Maryland Yellow-throat.

Then comes the pines. How delightful they are! Pushing through a protecting barrier of raspberry vines I stand within the grand cathedral of Nature. A dim semi-twilight pervades the place through which lofty columns fade away into distance. A solemn hush in the air, even the footsteps are deadened by the soft carpet of needles. Lest all might seem bare and desolate a multitude of vines twine delicate forms about the feet. Lest all might seem lifeless hundreds of voices of Nature sing a beautiful hymn of praise. Here the Ovenbird supplicates with his methodical chant, "teach me teach me;" here the Hermit Thrush rolls forth his grand and soul stirring hymn; here the

Grouse booms on a fallen trunk in rising cadence. It seems that if a person could understand all this, could enter into the spirit of the place, he would have gained Paradise.

Much as I would like to linger yet hosts of Warbler voices in the woods beyond call me onward and I am soon in the thick of battle. Magnolia Warblers have begun to sing, something that I believed they never did in this latitude; in the small evergreens the Canadian and Nashville Warblers are in full song, so my note book and fish creel are rapidly filling. Black-throat Blue Warblers have begun their quaint "che che che che z-u-we e e e e" in the maple woods. Far away the whistles blow for noon so I return to my starting point, shooting the first Crested Flycatcher of the season on the way. After my return home I find my brother has shot a female Cape May Warbler, perhaps the mate of mine, near the barn.

STEWART E. WHITE,
Grand Rapids (Kent Co.,) Mich.

"The English Sparrow Must Go."

In the last number of THE OOLOGIST, Mr. B. S. Bowdish, of Phelps, N. Y., very ably expressed himself in an article headed, "Now,—the time to wage war on the English Sparrow." Mr. Bowdish strikes the nail squarely on the head when he says "now," is the time. "Behold now is the accepted day," might be the motto of every ornithologist and collector in our country would they but arouse themselves to action. "Now" is the time, not only because each and every spring brings a decided increase in the myriad hosts of these, the destroyers of "avine happiness," but this season of the year is peculiarly suitable for a war upon this troublesome pest. As Mr. B. says during the winter season this one species is left almost entirely alone, and pres-

ents itself an isolated object to our raids—for *raids* they should be.

Now any sort of weapon that will kill at short range can be used in this extermination, but about the handiest and cheapest we know of is a 22 calibre rifle using B B caps. This is not only effective but almost noiseless, scarcely any sound being made in the discharge, consequently there can be no objection from any one in regard to the noise, and the sparrows can be reached in their haunts even in the midst of the city. In a certain city in Indiana where these birds were very numerous I have used these caps with telling effect right around the business part of town and no objections to my shooting were raised.

Only two years ago, on coming into this town for the first time, I remarked about the small number of English sparrows there were here. To-day their number has increased 150 per cent from what it was at that time. This is only one of many instances of their rapid growth, and this growth, if not soon checked, will end disastrously to the songsters in our locality.

Let us one and all prepare for action and at once exert all our forces to rid our communities of these intruders and thus befriend the bird creation by destroying their chief enemy.

GUY M. WELLS.
Gibson, Neb.

Fond Mothers.

Whether walking in the field or in the forest, in the meadow or by the brook side, one cannot help but notice the peculiarities of instinct manifest in animal life.

This is in all probabilities more noticeable in birds because they are more domestic and more is seen of them. At any rate the instinct which leads birds to the protection of their eggs and young is truly sublime.

If the nest of the Whip-poor-will be discovered, the owner immediately removes the eggs to a place of greater safety by taking them in his or her capacious mouth and flying off with them.

Imagine yourself if you can, for the time being, walking in the meadow on a bright sunny afternoon in early summer. You notice the wild flowers nodding to you as you pass as if they were bowing to welcome you to their home. You hear the songsters pouring forth their little hymn and anthems.

As you walk along musing on all the glories of Nature and listening to the warblers in the neighboring hedges, you are suddenly surprised to see just in front of you that well known and respected little fowl the quail, while running about her in all directions are to be seen the members of her numerous family, each not much larger than an English walnut; but possessing an untold amount of activity. At a cry from Mrs. Quail you know that you have been discovered and each little quail scurries off to the nearest place of refuge. On a second look you see poor Mrs. Quail tumbling about like a decapitated chicken. You think she is hurt and hurry forward to take her prisoner (the usual first impulse of man) but as you approach she jumps along awkwardly trying to elude your grasp, still you follow her, when suddenly she jumps to her feet and is off with the swiftness of an arrow. For a moment you stand in mute astonishment and then turn to see the little ones, which you are surprised you have not stepped on. But on a close examination you see they are no where to be found. You have been decoyed into following the parent and the offspring has made good their escape.

The Black-headed Plover of Africa when it observes any one approaching its nest will, with a dexterous movement of the feet, entirely cover the egg with sand and then, with its head high

in the air, will walk about with as much dignity as a stork as though it would say "Sir, if you are looking for a nest you are in the wrong country."

The Pigmy Swift builds its nests by curling up the tip of a leaf on a species of palm tree. This shallow nest swinging at the top of one the tallest of trees you would naturally think a very insecure repository for the pearly eggs, for the slightest breath of wind would be sure to dislodge them. Ah! but the fond mother has also thought of this and prevents it by sticking each egg down to the bottom of the nest with the glutenous saliva which is secreted by so many of this species.

"ELANUS"

D, Ithaca, N. Y.

Passenger Pigeon.

Editor Oologist:

Why is it that we hear so little about the Passenger Pigeon? I am sure some of the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to learn something in regard to the present status of this famous bird. Can someone tell us anything about its present breeding place? or is it now so nearly extinct that it has no regular roosts or nesting places such as we used to see in Wisconsin and Michigan, where I have seen millions upon millions of them in perfect clouds so thick as to darken the face of the earth.

I notice in some accounts that it is a question whether this pigeon ever breeds alone in pairs, and in this connection I would say that in 1876 I found a nest, containing one perfectly fresh egg, in an oak tree about thirty feet from the ground in a strip of woodland near Waukegan, Ills. I distinctly saw the bird leave the nest and could easily have killed it had I had a gun. The egg is of rather a dull white and measures 1.50 x 1.05. It is still in my collection. At another time a friend and myself while hunting in the woods along the Des Plaines river in Lake Co.,

Ills., discovered a nest and my friend shot the bird on the nest (the female.) Upon investigation we found two well-incubated eggs—one of them had been broken by the shot, the other I still have. There must be many other cases where these birds have been found nesting in single pairs; and there can be no doubt but what they do. Up to the year 1834 the flights of these pigeons in migrating, as seen both in spring and fall, passing along the lake shore near Waukegan, was sometimes wonderful. Many times as I have watched the countless numbers have I wondered where they all came from; but after having seen one of their breeding places I wondered no longer.

During these flights the woods afforded fine sport for us young hunters, and many a time have I shot from fifty to one hundred before breakfast. I remember one time shooting at a single pigeon in a burr-oak and killing nine, the tree was simply alive with them, although I saw but one on account of the foliage.

Now a pigeon is never seen in this locality, when but a few years ago they were so abundant. Is it a fact that the Passenger Pigeon is nearly extinct? and are we destined soon to speak of it only as a bird of the past. I do not think it possible that when less than a decade ago they were so abundant they can possibly be now near extinction. They must have their breeding places still; perhaps in the far north, perhaps in the west, can anyone tell? if so, let us hear from you.

W. B. PORTER,
Chicago.

The Oologist.

Every egg-collector should be a subscriber of at least one magazine devoted to the study of birds and especially their eggs. The comparatively small number published renders the selection

of a favorite no difficult task. There are, however, certain points to be considered before any choice can be safely arrived at.

In the first place, the collector must decide upon the relative value to himself of the several publications. Then, too, if his means are limited the question of price as well as availability comes up. Hence that magazine that combines cheapness with reliability at once commends itself both to the young and advanced student of ornithology.

At the solicitation of no one, I can recommend, as the direct result of personal observation, *THE COLOGIST* as the magazine for the collector. Nay, more. I hold it indispensable to the live collector, in that it opens its columns to the communications of those inexperienced in writing. By that I mean that we contributors do not retain any bit of ornithological news that might prove interesting to our fellow-subscribers, because we feel that our article does not teem with beautiful expressions or the choicest of words. Thus many valuable facts are disclosed and preserved that might otherwise have been lost.

The special efforts of late, of the publisher, Mr. Lattin, to improve *THE COLOGIST*, have not been without success as its many readers can testify. Notwithstanding this, more is promised, if, through our co-operation, the list of subscribers is to any extent increased.

AN OBSERVER,
Wethersfield, Conn.

A Correction.

Editor Oologist:

A little mistake appeared in my article which I would like corrected (Flycatcher Notes, P. 28.) The date on which I collected four sets of Wood Pewee should be Aug. 3d instead of Aug 30, '89.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,
Madison, Wis.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER

Caracara or Mexican Eagle.

(*Polyboros anaeboni*.)

This useful bird is quite common in this section of the state. I have also found them quite abundant on the Gulf Coast, associating with the Black and Turkey Vultures.

Their plumage is very attractive—the white and black being sharply defined—while the yellow of the cere and feet contrasts very nicely.

A friend of mine has collected several sets of two and three eggs annually for several years from the same pair and same nest.

The nest of this pair is placed in a low scrubby tree and is composed of coarse branches laid loosely together forming quite a bulky affair.

On Sept. 12, '90, I shot a beautiful specimen, one shot passing through his head and one of his eyes, thinking him dead, I put him into a sack,—next morning I found him out in the yard; on approaching he left for parts unknown, flying as if hot lead was an every-day diet.

"Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers" and Hummers have visited us in great numbers last season.

I would like to hear from other collectors of the Lone Star State through the columns of the OÖLOGIST or by correspondence.

S. W. PARISII,
Calvert, Texas.

The Cooper's Hawk.

What collector, who on passing beneath the spreading branches of the sycamore or the tall chestnut tree which seems to touch the very heavens, with collecting box at his side and irons strapped to his back, has not seen circling high above his head the graceful and even beautiful figure of the Cooper Hawk?

This handsome bird although not so large, by several inches, as the Red-tailed Hawk, is to my eyes positively, far more grand and imposing. It may be that my closer attention to the Cooper's Hawk gives me that impression, but I am quite certain that anyone who has made himself acquainted with the true character of each will agree with me.

When out collecting one day last May, I got a shot at a Cooper's Hawk, but did nothing more than to wound it slightly in the wing. It fell to the ground, however, and after a short chase (for although wounded, yet it fluttered along the ground), I came up with it. When I put my hand towards the hawk, it immediately lay on its back and drew its claws in close to its body. I did not expect anything, but when I tried to take it up, its claws flew out

with such force as to open the back of my left hand, and leaving a scar when it healed, about two inches long, which I have to this day.

I took out my handkerchief, and after throwing it over the hawk's head so that he could not see, I put one hand around his legs and the other around his throat, and in about half of an hour he had a new home in the shape of an unused pigeon loft.

The Cooper's Hawk feeds upon mice, rats, etc., with now and then a bird for a change. I have seen Cooper Hawks attempt to catch quail and rabbits, but they invariably lose them by their intended prey taking refuge under brushwood. I have no doubt, however, that quail are caught sometimes when the hawk is hard pressed by hunger.

The Cooper's Hawk generally lays four or five pale blue, unblotched eggs; but I have a set of six in my collection which are all blotched more or less with brick-red colorings, two of the set being very handsome eggs, the colorings being so dark and clear. The hawk is very shy and is never seen close to his nest until after the eggs are hatched.

If a person attempts to rob a nest of its young, then the hawk will circle just above his head and utter whistles or screams in high notes, and try to draw away the thief's attention from the object in quest.

EDWARD FULLER,
Norwich, Conn.

Some Early Winter Birds of Linn Co., Oregon.

List of birds observed at Sweet Home, Ore. during Oct., Nov. and Dec., 1890 and Jan, 1891. A. O. U. Nos.

40a Pacific Kittiwake Gull, *Rissa tridactyla pollicaris*. One specimen secured on Dec. 16, '90. Very uncommon in this locality. This bird was found dead near the Santiam River.

132 Mallard, *Anas boschas*. Occasionally seen in flocks of six or seven.

174 Black Brant, *Branta nigricans*.

One specimen shot on Dec. 4, '90, but many seen flying over during migrating season, usually in Oct. and Nov.

194 Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*. Quite common and seen along the rivers and large creeks. It breeds in this vicinity, a pair being located about every half mile along the wooded districts, building their nest in the high firs.

230 Wilson's Snipe, *Gallinago delicata*. Seen in Jan. in flocks of five to twenty, in low marshy ground. Occasionally a single bird is only found. They are not generally found in the same feeding grounds on two consecutive days, but on the third will probably be seen there again. It is a bird swift of flight and hard to shoot.

297a Sooty Grouse, *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*. Seen last in Oct., when they ascend far back and high up in the mountains, returning in April or May, when we are first aware of their presence by the hooting of the males, high up in the fir trees.

300c Oregon Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus sabinii*. Very common and a favorite game bird.

325 Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*. Two birds seen Dec. 20, '90, not common during winter.

360 Am. Sparrow Hawk, *Falco Sparverius*. Seen occasionally sitting on some fence in watch for field mice etc.

375a Western Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. Very abundant and seen the entire winter except at present date, when they have receded to some dense firs to breed.

390 Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*. Quite common along rivers and small streams.

292 Mountain Quail, *Oreortyx pictus*. Very common and may be seen in flocks of five to twenty in their favorite feeding grounds which is generally near some small stream, preferable covered with dense underbrush, but sometimes seen in the open fields and if in severe

weather come into the gardens and barn-yards in quest of food. At these times many are caught in traps.

405 Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophlaeus pileatus*. Seen occasionally in the dense wooded districts. A very retired species.

413 Red-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer*. Exceedingly common the whole season.

485 Oregon Jay, *Perisoreus obscurus*. Very common. The plumage of this bird is less brilliant than its eastern relative, the Blue Jay.

486 Am. Raven, *Corvus cora sinuatus*. A few seen, generally near some dead carcass. Measurements of one specimen secured by me was Alar spread four feet, length 26 inches. They breed mostly in Eastern Oregon.

501b Western Meadow Lark, *Sturnella magna neglecta*. Very common, seen in small flocks the entire season.

581e Rusty Long Sparrow, *Melospiza fasciata guttata*. Quite common, generally seen in the early morning.

588b Oregon Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus oregonus*. Oregon Ground Robin, as it is familiarly known here is very abundant and may be seen in almost any thick hedge or brush heap.

722a Western Winter Wren, *Troglodytes hiemalis pacificus*. Quite common in the partially cleared districts, and seen mostly near some small stream.

761a Western Robin, *Merula migratoria propinqua*. Very plentiful and seen the whole season, especially in the early morning, when they may be seen in larger numbers, leaving their nesting place. I have observed several Robin roosts in this locality.

762 Mountain Robin, occasionally seen in small flocks in mountainous regions and in dense fir groves. This bird is exceedingly sly.

701 Am. Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*. Quite plenty along the rivers and small streams, where they may be seen stand-

ing on some rock just covered with water, bobbing up and down in an exceedingly grotesque manner.

767 Bluebird, *Sialia mexicana*. Observed in Nov., '90 generally in pairs, but uncommon at this date. This bird much resembles the Eastern Blue Bird, only being much lighter in color.

*** Cal. Crow, *Corvus americanus hesperis*. Very common. Seen the entire season and in large numbers.

Several species of Woodpeckers were also observed, but not being sufficiently acquainted with them I omit them from above list. Also a few Nuthatches and Warblers.

DR. A. G. PRILL,
Sweet Home, Ore.

—◆—
Broad-winged Hawk.
(*Buteo latissimus*.)

The Broad-winged Hawk is generally distributed over the eastern portion of North America, but seems nowhere common. It prefers the low swampy woods for breeding and feeds mostly on frogs, and small quadrupeds, occasionally varying its diet with a small bird.

This Hawk is much more easy to approach than is the Red-shouldered or Red-tailed, and is prosecuted fully as much by the farmers, who know all Hawks as "Chicken" and "Hen-hawks" and show no mercy to any. It is probable that when all the Hawks have been driven away or exterminated, the farmer will awaken to the fact that Hawks are of some use, but it is useless to argue this point with them, for they will at once launch off into yarns about devastated poultry yards, and still continue to punish *Buteo* for the capers of the wily *Accipiter*.

The measurements of the egg of this bird are greatly overestimated by authors, being given by one as from 2 x 1.79 to 2.15 x 1.72 inches. Dr. Coles, in his "Key" gives measurements as 2.00 x 1.60 Langille, in "Our Birds in Their

Haunts." gives measurements as 2.10 x 1.65. Davie in fourth edition of his check-list gives measurements as 1.90 x 1.50. I think Davie the more nearly correct.

As I have said before, this bird prefers a low swampy wood near a stream of water, and Mud Creek, near Utica, answers all requirements. The creek proper is not muddy, but near it is a swampy wood, which contains about as much mud to the acre as could be found. In this or a neighboring wood, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks have nested for many years.

Mr. F. J. Davis, of this city, first found them nesting in Mud Creek in 1873, and since then has robbed them many times, often twice in a single season, and still they do not leave.

In this section they prefer birch or beech trees, but have been found nesting in pine, hemlock and elm.

Two years ago I found an Am. Crow's nest in Mud Creek wood, containing four eggs. May 2, 1890 I was walking through the wood with an oological friend, and chancing to think of the Crow's nest, I instinctively turned my steps in that direction, and on approaching the nest was surprised to see a Broad-winged Hawk in the act of leaving the wood, having slipped from the other side of the nest on my approach.

You may suppose I lost no time in ascending to the nest, and found three lavender gray eggs, spotted and blotched with fawn chestnut and umber-brown. Unfortunately in descending I broke one.

CHAS. C. TREMBLY,
Utica, N. Y.

The Extinction of Our Birds.

In no way do our forests show us so plainly how much we are indebted to them for evenness of temperature and rain fall throughout the year than when

a wooded country, covered with "the forest primeval," gives way before the industrious white man's axe. Spring freshets and summer drouths of the streams whose perennial springs the forests fed are the common occurrence. That such changes have taken place, causing great damage, no one can deny. Congress, even, has been called upon to protect the water supply of our rivers. Besides this American push is draining our swamps, irrigating deserts, leveling hills, changing the courses of rivers, and building up as if by magic great cities when but a few years ago waved the farmers' harvests, or Nature, in all her beauty, held high carnival and disclosed her teachings to but a sacred few.

The two great factors in this movement are steam and electricity. These changes have had a noticeable affect on all animal life, and birds especially, causing species in some cases to change their habits almost entirely, others to shift about and appear in new localities, and some to decrease in number. But with all these more or less indirect hindrances man has placed checks on certain species in a more direct way. Torrey says: "Every creature no matter how brave, has some other creature to be afraid of; otherwise how would the world get on?" Probally many birds count man as their worst enemy. States have passed bounty laws on certain species which occur within their boundaries, thought to be harmful, but it is a debatable question as to whether they have received the benefit the outlay of such an amount of money ought to bring. It is certainly no easy task to tell which are useful and which are detrimental, and so complicated is the evidence that one often finds that a certain species, which he supposed detrimental, after studying their ways prove beneficial. Generally it might be said that birds which feed on detrimental plants, noxious mollusks, crustaceans

and worms, carrion, and injurious mammals, are beneficial; again, birds which feed on beneficial plants, shrews, moles, bats, other beneficial birds and eggs, beneficial insects, carrion worms, beneficial worms, spiders, and myriapods, are detrimental. Yes who would say that because a certain species lived for a time on food which might make it for the time being harmful it must be harmful no matter how much good it might do at other times; hence every one should make war against it? If such were the case one robin would have to be called detrimental on account of the fruit and earthworms he eats. The food, which a bird eats, varies at different stages of the bird's life, at different seasons of the year, and to a great extent in different localities. Some birds during migration are a sore trouble to raisers of crops, but it must be taken into account that this does not last forever, and that it may be in their northern homes they are more than paying for the damage they may create elsewhere.

A state, therefore, can not afford to offer a bounty on a species whose identity is not exceedingly general, for the verdict: "Weighed and found wanting," must only be rendered after all the evidence gathered by the many has been thoroughly sifted by the state. The farmer, who keeps his gun loaded for "hen-hawks," and who cannot distinguish the species of hawks common to his locality, will not be able to bring in evidence of any value, as he is down on hawks on general principles and not some one species which may pay his poultry-yard a visit during his absence. It is expert testimony that is wanted, and we can but commend our Dept. of Agriculture for the great work it is doing in this direction.

Many of our game birds are fast disappearing in some sections of the country. The great flocks of Passenger Pigeons which used to darken the sky

for days are stories of the past. In my locality the Partridge has chosen to rear her young amid the secrecy of our tamarac swamps, that is near their edges. I know of two nests having been taken in one of the thickest parts of the swamp. The Am. Woodcock is also fast disappearing in this vicinity except in the most secluded places. It is certain that of some game birds the number shot every year must approach very near the number reared; and when we know how many of our water birds are disturbed in their haunts during the period of incubation is it surprising that we constantly hear of sportsmen petitioning our legislatures? Pot hunters stimulated by prices paid for game in our city markets have made sad havoc among some species. The millinery trade has done its share of the work too, but it has not taken game birds. Whole heronries in our southern swamps have been depopulated by the plume hunter. Of course some may say their destruction may not be felt directly; but who can say it is not felt indirectly? As birds of brilliant plumage are the ones desired, those from the south are most taken, but some of our northern song birds are shot in large numbers. Men spend their whole time collecting skins for the millinery trade, and the business often pays him better than can a Natural History dealer a collecting naturalist, who has spent years in study and collects for strictly for scientific purposes. In some cases they cover their deeds "under the gauzy lace of science," and in others under Fashion's roof. It is to be hoped that in that bright Utopia of which Edward Bellamy gives us such graphic descriptions no store keeper will ever be called upon to punch cards for bird mummies for hats.

While the collecting of eggs and skins by naturalists and others has done much toward furthering the science of Ornithology and Oology, the spreading

of these discoveries has awakened among many the desire to form collections. Any person has a right to study the habits of our birds, and along with careful data to form collections, if the number of specimens he takes is not a serious drawback to that species; but the abuse of this privilege has forced before true Ornithologists and Oologists problems which are hard to solve. One of the problems is: how can we prevent the collecting of eggs and skins by persons, young or old, who, collecting merely for sport, money, or because "it's the craze," do not have the love of the science at heart and do not take pains to carefully identify their specimens? Collecting series of sets should only be practiced by those who intend to give careful study to color, variation, etc. Most states have laws against collecting eggs and skins; but scientific collectors are generally unmolested. Now here comes another problem: where shall collecting end and scientific collecting begin? Who is to judge as to whether a person is a scientific collector? Should a person's age have any thing to do with it? Can a person commence scientific collecting without knowing anything about birds and their habits or must he commence as a novice and gradually grow into a scientific collector? These are certainly hard questions to answer; but anyone can ask hard questions.

Many dangers attend the rearing of a brood. Rains and cold weather may delay nesting, spoil the eggs, or kill the young. Some animals count the young, dainty morsels of food. A cowbird often happens to be an occupant of the nest. In this way I could go on and name numerous perils through which the young go. Diseases, the same as with other animals, are common to birds. No doubt migration carries off many of the sick and old as it is often made in all haste. The number of eggs in a set and the average number which,

when hatched, reached maturity of course has a deal to do with the relative abundance of different species. The length of the breeding season must also be taken into account; in the north where the season is necessarily short, it is evident that if birds are broken up during nesting or are hindered in any way it would be impossible for them to rear a brood as the season passes so quickly. As stated in the beginning of this article, changes in surroundings have had a great affect on the abundance of certain species in different localities. Stated briefly it is as follows: changes in surroundings, when not conducive to the furtherance of that species, have told on the numbers if it has been slow to adapt itself to the new surroundings or to seek others to its suiting; and a species which has not changed as civilizations forced it upon them, and would not seek, or, having sought could not find those surroundings, which were necessary for the continuance of that species, have gradually grown extinct. It is interesting to note that it has probably been these changes which have given us our finest song birds. Listen to John Burroughs in "Wake Robin:" "Indeed, what would be more interesting than the history of our birds for the last two or three centuries? There can be no doubt that the presence of man has exerted a very marked and friendly influence upon them, since they so multiply in his society. The birds of California, it is said, were mostly silent till after its settlement, and I doubt if the Indians heard the wood-thrush as we hear him. When did the bobolink disport himself before there were meadows in the north and rice-fields in the south? Was he the same blithe, merry-hearted bean then as now? And the sparrow, the lark, and the goldfinch, birds that seem so indigenous to the open fields and so averse to the woods,—we cannot con-

ceive of their existence in a vast wilderness and without man."

As to the future, we can only hope our song birds will be able to fight out their war for independence and come out victorious over their British invaders; that our more retired species will accept civilization when it is forced upon them, and that their songs, rehearsed from morn till eve, will grow richer and sweeter as time rolls by.

Some species will, inevitably, grow extinct, and others, much to be mourned, will decrease in numbers; but we will, however, have to count them among the prices, which we are daily paying for an ever advancing civilization.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,
Wauwatosa, Wis.

BLACK GETS A BLACK EYE.

A New York Judge Renders a Decision in favor of the R. S. Peale Reprint of the Encyclopædia Britannica.

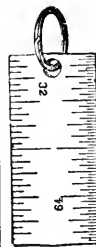
[New York Special]—Judge Wallace, in the United States Circuit Court rendered a decision today refusing to grant an injunction against the firm of Ehrich Bros., to restrain them from selling the "Encyclopædia Britannica," published by R. S. Peale & Co. of Chicago. The complainants are the firm of Black & Co., publishers of the original work at Edinburgh, Scotland. In his decision Judge Wallace holds that rival publishers in this country have a legal right to use the contents of the original edition, except such portions of them as are covered by copyrights, secured by American authors. The defendant's work, he finds has substituted new articles for these copyrighted ones.

This decision is a square set back to the book trust, and directly in the interest of education and general intelligence. As an educational factor in every household, no work in all literature is so important and desirable as this KING OF ENCYCLOPEDIAS, of which it has been said that "If all other books should be destroyed, the Bible excepted, the world would have lost very little of its information." Until recently its high cost has been a bar to its popular use, the price

being \$5.00 per volume, \$125.00 for the set in the cheapest binding. But last year the publishing firm of R. S. Peale & Co. of Chicago issued a new reprint of this great work at the marvelous price of \$1.50 per volume. That the public quick to appreciate so great a bargain is shown by the fact that over half a million volumes of this reprint were sold in less than six months. It is the attempt of the proprietors of the high priced edition to stop the sale of this desirable low priced edition, which Judge Wallace has effectually squelched by his decision. We learn that R. S. Peale & Co. have perfected their edition, correcting such minor defects as are inevitable in the first issue of so large a work and not only do they continue to furnish it at the marvelously low price quoted above, but they offer to deliver the complete set at once, in small easy payments to suit the convenience of customers. It is a thoroughly satisfactory edition, printed on good paper, strongly and handsomely bound and has new maps, later and better than any other edition. We advise all who want this greatest and best of all Encyclopædias to get particulars from the publishers, R. S. Peale & Co., Chicago.

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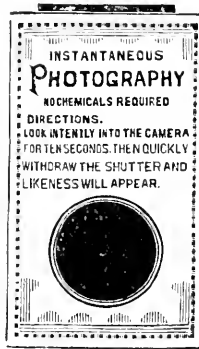
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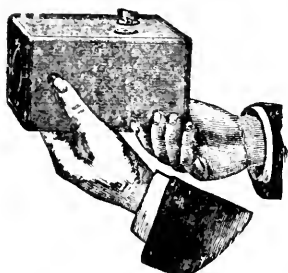
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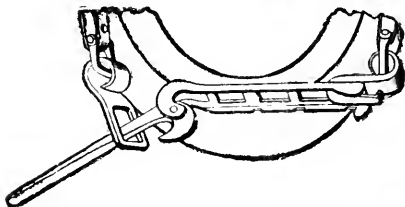
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VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL & MAY, 1891.

No. 4 & 5

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TO EXCHANGE. Single barrel B. L. Shotgun, 3 pair black and 2 pair white Rabbits, 3 cups Wood's Botanical Key, Mounted Loom and G. Horned Owl; for best offer in eggs, or any general property. My new Directory for 3c in eggs. **LETSON BALLET,** Des Moines, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—240 Stamps, Album, 18 OÖLOGISTS; for first-class eggs (sets) or pair of clippers. **J. C. A. MEEKER,** 33 Central Ave., Bridgeport, Ct.

FOR EXCHANGE.—First-class Birds' Eggs in sets or singles, also pair of climbing irons, in good order. **ALF. DOCKERY JR.,** Hermand, Miss.

WANTED.—Perfect Indian Relics in exchange for others. Have for exchange new 32 cal. Stevens' single shot nickel-plated, tip barrel pistol, cost \$3.00. **WM. H. FISHER,** 14 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.

A HARVARD Photographic Outfit, value \$2.00. Camera (2 1/2 x 4) with tripod; for best offer of Sea Birds' Eggs in sets with data. Address Box 152, New Castle, Delaware.

I HAVE 60 Singles that I wish to exchange for Eggs not in my collection, send lists. **B. SWALES,** 1220 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

WILL EXCHANGE.—Land and fresh water Shells; for Eggs in sets and singles also for Stamps. **FRANK STOFFEL,** Penn. Ill.

WANTED.—Cooles' Key in any condition will give cash or good exchange in Oregon Birds' Skins, will exchange Oregon Birds' skins for U. S. Skins or Stamps. Address, **F. T. CORLESS,** Fullmoon, Ore.

FOR EXCHANGE.—An excellent stamp collection containing 675 Stamps, 1/2 of which are U. S., will exchange for Cooles' Key. Address A. McMLIN, Chesterton, Texas.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class camera and Microscopic stand, 400 magnifying power, adjustable lens, light, compact, or complete worth \$75.00 for good offer in Natural History Specimens. **WILLIE T. SHAW,** Poynte, Cal., or Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—Old U. S. Coins for fossils and Indian Relics. Also some Army Swallows for Birds' Eggs. Send for lists. **H. V. HESS,** Edinburg, Ind.

HANDSOME Panama Shell Charms, with gold attachments, also Fla. Shells, in exchange for first-class Eggs in sets with data. Send for list. **PERCY O. BOUQUET,** 20 Arch Ave., Bayville, Mass.

WANTED. Eggs in sets, Bird Skins, and Indian Relics; in exchange for Letter Heads, Envelopes, Dates, Price Lists, Labels, and Tags, with your name, address and business in State what you have for exchange and send for sample of my work at once. **E. C. TAYLOR,** Meridian, N. Y.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED.—Indian Relics and Butterflies and back numbers of Harper's Young People in exchange. Will exchange postage stamps also. R. S. STEENBERG, 51 E. Ross St., Fond du Lac, Wis.

I WILL Exchange Hags in sets or singles and Books for a good 22 cal. rifle with good sights. Address, T. E. STUART, 250 Fletcher St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of 650 different stamps in Album, copy of Davie's Nest and Eggs, a printing press with type; for Eggs in sets. CHARLES A. ELY, Perrineville, Monmouth Co., N. J.

WILL EXCHANGE.—Dead Game Pit Fowl or a Tame Coon for Minerals, Eggs, Live or Mounted Specimens or most anything useful or ornamental. Write anyway if you have time. MILD BILLIS, 66 Lansing St., Auburn, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Collection of about 1005 Postage Stamps and Album no. two alike; for best offer of first-class single Eggs send me your list by Ridgway's Nos. Lattin's list. Address, WM. A. ACHILLES, 1504 Lavaca St., Austin, Tex.

TO EXCHANGE.—3d edition International postage stamp Album and 500 different U. S. and foreign stamps for best offer of Birds' Eggs in sets. JOHN WILLIAMS, Wenham, Mass.

ATTENTION! I have 30 eggs of 46 in sets of 2's and 3's and a number of sets of 367, 431, 436, 389 and other desirable eggs; to exchange for an egg or mineral cabinet, eggs of Ostrich, Rhea, Emu or other desirables. DR. W. S. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ill.

WANTED.—Taxidermist tools, Oologist outfit, Cone's Key, Davie's Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, Bird Skins; will give in exchange, Bird Skins, Eggs in sets, mounted specimens, Buffalo horns, minerals, etc. Send for list. W. W. SEARLES, Lime Springs, Ia.

TO EXCHANGE.—A good nickel-plated Quackenbush "Eureka" air pistol worth \$1.50 and outfit; for best offer of Taxidermists' Instruments, no postals answered. A. MEEBELKE, 100 Frankford Ave., Phila., Penn.

NOTICE.—The undersigned wish to become acquainted with all Collectors in Ontario Co. and to correspond with working Ornithologists throughout the State. E. S. BOWDISH, Phelps, N. Y. E. B. PECK, Clifton Springs, N. Y.

For 50 worth of first-class eggs (not listed less than five), Minerals, or Indian Relics, I will give receipt and full directions for the mounting of Birds and Mammals, without skimming. D. J. BULLOCK, Marshalltown, Iowa.

WANTED.—To exchange singles or sets of Birds' Eggs for single or sets of Golden Eagle, King, Swain's or Goshawk. Parties having such will communicate to M. C. WHITE, Mathews, C. H. Va.

I WOULD like to hear from Collectors, south and west. Am quite desirous of exchanging my collection for a good locality for those from New York. CHAS. TUNISON, No. 59, West 42nd St., New York, N. Y.

T. R. TAYLOR, 90 William St., Rochester, N. Y. desires to become acquainted with persons interested in Ornithology or Oology, living in Rochester or vicinity.

TO EXCHANGE.—676 different foreign postmarks, also two stuffed Ostriches, two weeks old, worth \$12.00 apiece; for best offer in Eggs in sets, with full data. H. L. HALL, Carpinteria, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set of 2 eggs of the Whip-poor-will, 8 of Ruffed Grouse, 4 of Golden-crowned Thrush, 4 of Redstart with nest and egg of Cowbird; for best offer of singles. Rare Eggs preferred, only first-class given or received. M. D. COOPER, Antim, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE.—Collection of over 500 U. S. and foreign postage stamps and many duplicates, cash value \$8.00, and 32 cal. revolver, nearly new, cost \$1.50; for best offer of Eggs in sets. PAUL VAN DEUSEN, 2105 Tioga St., Phila., Penn.

WANTED.—A 1st-class skin of Red Phalarope, spring plumage preferred. Will give exchange or purchase if prices suit. E. E. N. MURPHEY, 44 Teltair St., Augusta, Ga.

LOOK!—A fine collection of birds' eggs, single and pairs, 113 varieties; to exchange for first-class sets with data. WILLARD ELIOT, Thomotossasi, Fla.

NOTICE!—Parties wishing to obtain carefully prepared eggs of this section during the coming season, would do well to address A. H. CRANDALL, Worthington, Minn.

WANTED.—Cone's Key of N. A. Birds, Ridgway's Manual of N. A. Birds, and Nomenclature of Colors. Will give in exchange bird skins. D. A. G. PRILL, Box 11, Sweet Home, Oregon.

A SCROLL Saw with drill attachment and 50 saws, for a "World" or any equally good type-writer. Also will sell a Quackenbush rifle in good condition for \$5.00. J. LOSEE, Richfield, Spa., N. Y.

CHOICE Collection of stamps, with International Album, 300 varieties, valued at \$15. Wanted camera, rifle or revolver. E. G. RUNYAN, 633 "F" St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

WANTED.—Stamps, Indian Relics, Fossils and Curiosities, for same will exchange good fossils and fine quartz and flint arrow points. Only fine specimens wanted. HERBERT E. BROCK, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, Iowa.

TYPE-WRITERS, Revolvers, Musical Instruments, Collections of Stamps, Coins, Relics, etc., wanted in exchange for first-class sets and singles curiosities, etc. CHAS. TURTON, Box 956, Los Angeles, Cal.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE.—Six Volumes (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6) Scientific American, and rare foreign and Native Moths, valued at \$16.25, for a good microscope. Must be in perfect order. Write, giving description, name of maker, cost, etc., and I will send list of moths. All are first-class. RALPH BALLARD, Niles, Michigan.

MINATURE Steamboat, 28 in. long, 17 in. high, 8 in. wide, nicely painted and perfect in every respect, cash value \$10.00, will exchange for best offer of eggs, singles or sets. GEO. W. MORSE, 31 East Coats St., Moberly, Mo.

WANTED.—A Taxidermist's outfit, Oologist's supplies, Collecting gum, Birds' eggs and skins, all in A-1 condition. Address A. V. THOMSON, Decatur, Iowa.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED parties to collect Birds in the meat or 1st-class skins. Please write stating which you can collect, for which I will give 1st-class skins and eggs in sets and singles; also shot gun (double-barrel, B. L.) and Safety Bicycle wanted. A. W. NOLTE, W. 16th St., Los Angeles, Cal.

WANTED.—Back volumes of "Ornithologist & Oologist" of Boston, and "Auk" of New York. Kindly send full particulars, and whether you will exchange for first-class sets of Birds' eggs. Also wanted to exchange first-class sets of eggs with parties of other sections. Send lists. Address, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of shells, (value over twenty-five dollars) and natural history papers, for books on natural history and first-class original sets with data, of Warblers, Vireos, Hummers and Woodpeckers. Send your lists to ED. RAUBE, Giddings, Tex.

FOR EVERY \$5.00 worth of Eggs sent me with data, singles or sets, none listed less than 10c, I will mail a receipt for making Arsenical Soap for preserving Bird Skins used in the Scientific School of Taxidermy in Paris, France, nothing better. GEO. W. MORSE, 311 East Coates St., Moberly, Mo.

FOR EXCHANGE.—100 best Limerick Fish Hooks, assorted sizes, for every 40 cents worth of birds' eggs sent us, 6 good Lines, assorted sizes, for 20 cents worth of eggs. All eggs to be first-class and valued at not less than 5 cents each. Don't miss this chance to get your spring supply of hooks and lines. UNION TACKLE CO., Middlefield, O.

DURING the past season I mounted several birds, which remain uncalled for; these I will exchange for eggs single or sets, rare or common; among them are Western Great Horned Owl, Flicker, Northern Shrike, Long-crested Jay, Song and Tree Sparrows, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Cedar Waxwing, Am. Robins and Blue Jay. Parties wishing any of above will please send list of eggs they have to exchange. JAS. P. BABBITT, 10 Hodges Ave., Taunton, Mass.

BRECH-LOADING shot-gun with tools. Tenney's Manual of Birds with five hundred engravings, Manton's Complete Manual on hunting and preparing and preserving birds, eggs, nests, etc. 32-cal. revolver, 52 in. Volunteer, A.I. condition, with cyclometer, bell, luggage-carrier, whistle, tools, etc., for sale or in exchange for first-class eggs. Have also first-class eggs to exchange. It will pay to write for terms. All answered. JAS. P. ROBBINS, So. Norridgewock, Maine.

WANTED.—First-class sets of Gt. Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Bobolink, Am. Bittern, Osprey, rare Warblers with nests, Cedar Waxwing, Black Tern, Gt. Crested Flycatcher, Whippoorwill, Nighthawk, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Barred Owl, Caracara Eagle, Swallow-tail Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Gt. Blue Heron, Wood Ibis, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Am. Oyster-atcher, Whooping Crane, Leaches Petrel and others. I can offer rare species from Iceland, Alaska and North-west Canada, including Snow and Lapland Buntings, Raven, Martin, Golden Plover, Red Phalarope, Swans Ducks and Geese, Little Brown Crane, Bonaparte's Gull, Am. Loom, Yellow-billed Loom, Pacific Loom, Cassins, Crested and Great Auk and others. W. RAINE, Hayden St., Toronto, Canada.

WANTED.—A good pair of chubbers, for which in return I will pay cash or trade. All letters answered. SIGMUND H. HILL, Box 25, New Milford, Conn.

COLLECTORS!—I have a large lot of Minerals, Fossils, Eggs and Curios, to exchange for Books and Magazines. All answered. T. S. HILL, Knoxville, Iowa.

I HAVE one Manton's Taxidermy without a Teacher, and one of Latini's Taxidermist outfits, which I will exchange for 2 doz. Bass flies. C. C. RENSCHAW, Boyce, Clarke Co., Va.

WANTED.—A good double barreled shot gun, breech loading, 10 or 12 bore, have to exchange for same Venezuelan stamps in any quantity, South American and West Indian stamps, also coins and a few birds' eggs from South America and the West Indies. CHESTER JOHNSTON, 1325 Third Ave., S. Fargo, N. Dakota.

TO EXCHANGE.—\$8.00 worth of 1st-class sets, taxidermist's outfit, value \$4.00, oologist's outfit, value \$3.40 and Horseman's No. 2 Eclipse Camera, for a 30-inch Safty Bicycle. H. A. HESS, Edinburg, Ind.

COLLECTORS!—For every first-class set of Eggs, any kind, with data, sent me, I will send complete directions, how to mount and embalm Birds, without skinning, very easy to learn. For best offer of first-class sets, with data, I will exchange one first-class single each of Short-eared Owl and Am. Osprey. What offers? Address all letters and packages to: THOS. A. SMITHWICK, Walke, Bertie Co., N. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—4 x 5 Camera, 3 fold tripod, 2 double holders, all of polished mahogany, 3 rubber trays, printing frames, quantity plates, chemicals and everything to produce finished photographs; for egg cabinet, Specimen photograph sent. HARRY SARGENT, 399 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

IN THE UPPER Countys of So. Ca. are found in the old fields and new ground, varieties of Sea Shells, in perfect condition and of many kinds. Some very pretty but are small—none over an inch and one-half in diameter. I have just received a large consignment of the above and will exchange for best offers. S. A. TAFT Aiken, So. Ca.

WANTED.—Any of the following Old Violins: Antonio Stradivarius, Nicolo Amati, Giussoppe Guarnerius, Carlo Bergonzi, Paolo Maggini, Antonio Ruggieri, Jacob Stainer, Matthias Klotz, J. B. Vuillaume, George Gemunder, will exchange a 22 cal. J. M. Marlin sporting rifle in good condition, Birds' Eggs or cash. Those having any of the above Old Violins must give a full description of same. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kan.

WANTED.—Copies of the following books: "Ismailla," by Sir Samuel Baker; "Darwin's Voyage of the 'Beagle';" "Du Chaillou's Ashango Land;" "A Naturalist's Wanderings in the Eastern Archipelago," by Henry O. Forbes; "Central Africa," by Col. C. Châllier Lang; "The Heart of Africa," by Dr. Georg Schweinfurte; "Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile," by Capt. Speke; "The Malay Archipelago," by Alfred Russel Wallace. Can give in exchange for any above books Birds' Eggs, Stuffed Birds, War Relics; 1 Cornet, with case; 1 Spencer 7-shot Repeating Rifle; 1 1 x 5 Photo Camera and many other things. THAD SUTHER, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

NOTICE!—I have \$50.00 worth of first-class sets, with data, for a good folding canvass boat. Send description to J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Plymouth, N. C.

I WOULD LIKE to correspond with some young collector in the south with regard to exchanging eggs and skins, the coming season. JIMMIE PHILLIPS, Box 527, Paw Paw, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—Compound Microscope, with forceps and prepared object, magnifies 40 times; all in mahogany case; for best offer of eggs amounting to \$3.00 or over. C. G. SARGENT, Winnebago City, Minn.

WANTED.—Cigarette albums. Base Ball players, or Mounted Birds: will give in exchange \$5.00 worth of the best detective stories. Cards not answered. Address, ERNEST E. LEE, Covington, Ga.

WANTED.—Kodak (No. 3 or 4 preferred) or other good automatic Camera: will give good exchange in nicely made western Bird Skins. Address with full particulars, GEO. G. CANTWELL, 105 Pikes Peak Ave., Colo. Springs, Colo.

35 SECOND-CLASS eggs (\$1.50) 10 story cuts (\$5.00); for 4 lb. Indian clubs, climbers, and others. Best offer receives proofs of cuts. EDW. D. BARKER, 316 Center St., Elgin, Kane Co., Ill.

SETS 211a, 80, 705, 594, 703, 683, 316, 326, 362. A, U, and Sawfish saw; for best offer U. S. or Confederate Stamps. WALTER E. GROVER, 1529 E. Market St., Galveston, Tex.

TO EXCHANGE.—Choice Crystalized Minerals; for Indian Relics, Fossils or Minerals. A nice cabinet specimen for every perfect Arrow head sent me. R. HAGELSTEIN, 93 Stanhope St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

COMMON EGGS WANTED.—I wish to obtain following species, in full sets, with data: Ridgw. Nos. 61, 61a, 67a, 151, 158, 161, 168, 181, 182, 189, 193a, 198, 198a, 202, 211a, 212, 213, 237a, 139, 248, 249, 251, 321, 325, 332, 433, 449, 456, 473, 482, 487, 490, 492, 493, 495, 497, 498, 520, 501, 602, etc. Will exchange for them such species as 581, 483, 161, 469, 473, 15, etc., etc. THOMAS H. JACKSON, Box 1698, West Chester, Pa.

EXCHANGE.—Have 1000 Cocoons of the Southern Polyphemus much richer in color and larger than Northern specimens. Have from 200 to 500 Loph. in papers both American and Foreign. Have a few American Indian Arrow heads and fragments of pottery collected in Aiken Co., So. Ca. about 50 in all. Vol. 1, 2, 3, 1, 5, 6, YOUNG OOLOGIST and OOLOGIST, Vol. 13 Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. 1 Am. O., and O., Vol. 1 O., and O., Semi-Annual and copy of Davie's Key. I want any standard Medical Works, any standard Chemical Works, or any Chemical Paraphanalia (Retorts, test-tubes, etc., etc.) First-class sets with data of the Warblers. Less than three varieties will not be accepted from any one person. Address, S. A. TAFT, Aiken, So. Ca.

Rare California Views.

Enclose stamp for catalogue. Sample of views will be sent upon receipt of 25 cents.

California Art Gallery, Santa Rosa, Cal.

BARGAINS IN TYPE WRITERS:—Four new Merritt Type Writers (best cheap machine made) at only \$12.00. Some but little used good as new for \$11.00. One Odell Type Writer, nearly new for \$11.00. One Hammond Type Writer, bran new, cost \$100.00, will sell for \$80.00. I also have a few Matchless Repeating Air Rifles, all new and strong shooters I will close them out at \$2.25. Address, GEORGE SWING, San Bernardino, Calif.

VICK-MICHIGAN.

It has been decided that the \$1000.00 prizes offered on Vegetables by James Vick, Seedsman, will be contested for at the fair to be held at Hillsdale, Mich., Sept. 28—Oct. 2, 1891.

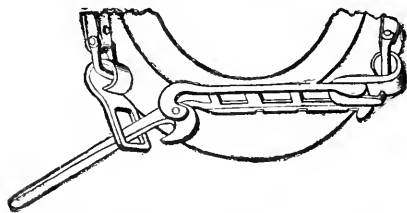
There are four prizes on each of the following eight varieties of Vegetables—first \$65, second \$30, third \$20, fourth \$10, making in all \$1000, which is very large and liberal:

The cost to enter for the prizes is so small we cannot see how the Messrs. Vick make any profit; for instance, one packet of either of the following will entitle a person to enter the competition.

One pkt. Cabbage, All Seasons.....	10c
One pkt. Celery, Golden Self-blanching.....	10c
Potato, Vick's Perfection, 1 lb. 30c. 3 lbs. \$1, peck, 50c. bushel \$1.00, bbl.....	\$4.00
One pkt. Cauliflower, Vick's Ideal.....	50c
One pkt. Tomato, McCullom's Hybrid.....	10c
One pkt. Musk Melon, Irondequoit.....	15c
One pkt. Onion, Danvers Yellow Globe.....	5c
One pkt. Mangel Wurzel, (Beet), Golden Giant.....	10c

Select one or more that you would like to grow and enter for a prize. Be sure and state in your order that you intend entering for competition. Write James Vick, Seedsman, Rochester, N. Y., for Vick's Floral Guide, which will give full particulars.

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Safe, Economical, Convenient, Simple, Neat, Durable. No more broken Hame Straps, no more tugging to fasten or release them. Ours are quickly and easily operated and always secure. Quick seller—Large profits—Recommended by all who have used them. Agents wanted everywhere. Sample by mail 30c. Address, METALLIC HAME STRAP Co. Winnebago City, Minn. m6

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 33 RUBBER STAMP
 OF 1, 2, 3, or 4 lines with Pads and Ink
 ONLY 33cTs.
 R. W. FORD, Bristol, Conn.
 ≡ WANTED ≡

CLOSING-OUT SALE OF STUFFED BIRDS AND EGGS

Consisting of many rare and desirable specimens; and at prices quoted, collectors will do well to fill up the gaps in their collection at once.

We intend after May 1st to carry a large and complete stock of minerals, and being pressed for room, we will have to dispose of the following stuffed birds at prices never before so low. A nice stand goes with each bird, and the whole will be sent post or express paid.

Common Tern.....	\$ 1 10	Sawwhet Owl.....	4 95	Evening Grosbeak.....	2 00
Roseate Tern.....	1 75	Screech Owl.....	2 95	Am Crossbill.....	.65 to 85
Great Blue Heron.....	8 00	Great Horned Owl.....	9 50	Grey-crown. Leuc'stiete	85
Green Heron.....	2 00	West'n Gt. Horned Owl	6 50	Am. Goldfinch.....	40 to 80
Least Sandpiper.....	.95	Hairy Woodpecker.....	.95	Vesper Sparrow.....	70
Semipalmated Sandpi.	1 10	Flicker.....	1 10	Tree Sparrow.....	70
Bobwhite.....	1 55	Phoebe.....	.55	Slate-colored Junco.....	50
Mountain Partridge.....	2 45	Bluejay.....	1 10	Song Sparrow.....	50
Scaled Partridge.....	1 95	Longcrested Jay.....	1 45	Fox Sparrow.....	85
Ruffed Grouse.....	2 45	Am. Crow.....	2 10	Towhee.....	80
Red-tailed Hawk, wings		Cow-bird.....	.75	Northern Waxwing.....	2 45
spread tearing Quail.		Red-winged Bl'kbird.....	.95	Cedar Waxwing.....	85
fancy stump.....	10 00	Meadow Lark.....	1 10	Northern Shrike.....	95
Am. Long-eared Owl.....	3 85	Purple Grackle.....	.85	Black-poll (fall).....	.65
Am. Short-eared Owl.....	3 10	Bronzed Grackle.....	.85	Oven-bird.....	70
Barred Owl.....	4 95				

EGGS.

Full sets with complete data can be furnished of most species, especially the rarer ones. All are strictly 1st-class and correctly identified.

On an order of \$5.00 you can select eggs to amount of \$2.00 extra.

" " " " 10.00 " " " " " " " " " " 5.00 "

Western Grebe.....	\$.35	Bartramian Sandpiper..	30	Bullock's Oriole.....	10
Horned do.....	.25	Gambel's Partridge.....	18	Brewer's Blackbird.....	.05
Holboell's do.....	.35	White-winged Dove.....	25	St. Lucas House Finch..	.04
Am. Eared do.....	.18	White-fronted Dove.....	45	Arkansas Goldfinch.....	.14
St. Domingo do.....	.75	Wild Turkey.....	50	Western Lark Sparrow..	.04
Pied-billed do.....	.08	Marsh Hawk.....	30	West. Chipping Sparrow	.06
Loon.....	1 40	Cooper's Hawk.....	20	Sammel's Song Sparrow	.04
Black-throated Loon.....	1 40	Red-tailed Hawk.....	45	Heruan's Song Sparrow	.08
Pacific do.....	1 75	Red-shouldered Hawk..	40	Towhee.....	10
Red-throated do.....	.70	Fla. Red-sho'd' red H'wk	1 10	Canon Towhee.....	.35
Tufted Puffin.....	.85	Red-bellied Hawk.....	80	Calif. Towhee.....	.05
Puffin.....	.20	Sparrow Hawk.....	18	Black-throated Bunting.	.05
Large-billed Puffin.....	.70	Screech Owl.....	.35	Scarlet Tanager.....	.18
Horned Puffin.....	4 00	Burrowing Owl.....	15	Summer Tanager.....	.18
Black Guillemot.....	.20	Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	.09	Chiff Swallow.....	.03
Mandt's do.....	.95	Black-billed Cuckoo.....	.09	Barn Swallow.....	.03
Pigeon do.....	.35	Red-headed Woodpecker	.05	Tree Swallow.....	.10
Murre.....	.20	Red-shafted Flicker.....	.07	Rough-winged Swallow..	.12
Calif. Murre.....	.25	Whip-poor-will.....	1 20	Loggerhead Shrike.....	.09
Pallas's Murre.....	.70	Night Hawk.....	.30	White-rumped Shrike.....	.05
Brunnich's Murre.....	.20	Arkansas Kingbird.....	.06	Calif. Shrike.....	.05
Razor-bill'd Auk.....	.18	Black Phoebe.....	.15	Ovenbird.....	10
Am. Herring Gull.....	.15	Wood Pewee.....	.09	Am. Dipper.....	.80
Vega Gull.....	.95	Western Flycatcher.....	.19	Mockingbird.....	.20
Franklin's Gull.....	.40	Little Flycatcher.....	.28	Texas Thrasher.....	.31
Black Tern.....	.08	Crow.....	.05	Curved-billed Thrasher.	.20
Least Bittern.....	.15	Fla. Crow.....	.30	Crissal Thrasher.....	.35
Green Heron.....	.08	Cow-bird.....	.03	Cactus Wren.....	10
Clapper Rail.....	.08	Dwarf Cowbird.....	.15	Parkman's Wren.....	.08
La. Clapper Rail.....	.15	Bicolored Blackbird.....	.07	Long-billed Marsh Wren	.04
Sora.....	.08	Tricolored Blackbird.....	.12	Russet-back Thrush.....	.14
Fla. Gallinule.....	.10	Meadow Lark.....	.10	Olive-back Thrush.....	.40
Am. Coot.....	.07	Hooded Oriole.....	.25	Hermit Thrush.....	10

Orders under 50c must contain 10c extra for postage and packing. Larger orders sent post-paid.

JAMES P. BABBITT,
10 Hodges Ave., - - - Taunton, Mass.

TWO NEW BOOKS!

OF INTEREST TO ORNITHOLOGISTS

HISTORY —OF THE— BIRDS OF KANSAS

By N. S. GOSS.

**This Valuable Addition to the Literature of
Kansas is Now Ready for Sale.**

It is unnecessary for us to say to old residents of Kansas anything in regard to Col. Goss or his accomplishments. But to others we will say, that he is a life-long Naturalist; an enthusiast in his chosen study of Ornithology; a member of the Council of the American Ornithological Union, and a recognized authority on his chosen subject.

The Goss Ornithological Collection is solely the work of this author. Each specimen has been obtained and preserved by his own effort, and the entire collection—which is one of the largest in the country, the result of one man's exertions—has been presented to the State of Kansas, and is on exhibition in a room in the State House set apart by law for that purpose; and his entire time and fortune are devoted to its perfection; long and expensive trips are annually made to increase the collection. Within a few years he has generously prepared for the State, without cost, two separate catalogues of Kansas Birds.

The book is handsomely bound in full cloth, with gold embossed back and sides. There are 633 pages, beside the photogravure illustrations of 529 birds.

Price, \$7.50; delivered on receipt of price. Reduced price for quantities. Sample pages showing the quality of the paper on which the book is printed, and the style of the matter and illustrations mailed for stamp.

The Birds of Greenland

By Andreas T. Hagerup. Translated from the Danish by Frimann B. Arngrimson. Edited by Montague Chamberlain. 8vo. Paper. Sent post-paid on receipt of One Dollar.

This is the only complete catalogue of the birds that have been found in Greenland which has been published since 1875, when Newton, of Cambridge, England, issued a list for the guidance of northern explorers. His list, however, was published in a large book, with other matter, and is not well known.

In the Hagerup-Chamberlain catalogue there are some ten species given that did not appear in Newton's list, and several species given in the New Catalogue have not before been known to occur in Greenland.

Hagerup is a Danish Mining Engineer, who spent two and one-half years in Southern Greenland. His notes on the habits of little known birds—several of the Sea Fowl, Gyrfalcon, Ptarmigan, Redpoll, Snow Bunting, Wheatear, etc. are interesting, and many of them are valuable. Some of his opinions upon disputed points differ from those of the chief "authorities," and some of his facts differ from those stated by other observers. These are stated tersely, and are supported by direct evidence drawn from his note-book. His opportunities have been greater than those of any other observer, who has written of the birds of Greenland.

The editor is well known to ornithologists, having been one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, and for several years an associate editor of "The Auk." He is author of The Birds of New Brunswick, Canadian Birds, and numerous minor papers.

Address all orders to

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ALBION, N. Y.**

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A List of the Birds of Elgin County, Ontario.

F. L. Farley, St Thomas, Ontario.

St. Thomas and vicinity where most of these observations were made, is situated centrally in this county, eight miles from Lake Erie, north. Kettle Creek has its source about fifteen miles north-east from here, flowing around the north and west sides of the city, and thence to the lake.

My observations are given briefly, nothing being presumed, only such occurrences as I have personally noticed or obtained from authentic sources are given.

Of the well known and generally distributed species, no reference is made, but when there are only one or two specimens taken, the authority is given, as also the date of the capture, etc.

I am indebted for valuable assistance in completing this list, to Mr. B. P. Wintermute, Mr. William Dodd, and Mr. Orville Foster, local Ornithologists.

1. *Colymbus auritus* (Horned Grebe). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor.

2. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Pied-billed Grebe). Occurs under the same circumstances as the foregoing species.

3. *Urinator imber* (Loon). An uncommon migrant.

4. *Urinator lunum* (Red-throated Loon). A very rare migrant; one was shot on the mill pond west of this city on the 25th of November, 1886, with the chestnut patch on the throat. It is now in my collection. They are seldom taken in this part of Canada in this plumage.

5. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* (American Herring Gull). Sometimes common on the lake during the migrations, a few remain all winter.

6. *Larus philadelphia* (Bonaparte's Gull). An uncommon migrant at the lake.

7. *Merganser americanus* (American Merganser). Our commonest river Duck in winter.

8. *Merganser serrator* (Red-breasted Merganser). Very rare, Mr. Wm. Dodd of this city has one in his collection, taken here some years ago, the only record.

9. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Hooded Merganser). A regular spring and fall visitor.

10. *Anas boschas* (Mallard). Rare, several have been shot on the creek.

11. *Anas obscura* (Black Duck). Sometimes appear in small flocks in spring and fall.

12. *Anas americana* (Baldpate). Migrant, not common.

13. *Anas carolinensis* (Green-winged Teal). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor.

14. *Anas discors* (Blue-winged Teal). Occurs as the preceding, more often seen in the flocks.

15. *Dafila acuta* (Pintail). Migrant, not common.

16. *Aix sponsa* (Wood Duck). A regular spring and fall visitor. A few may breed.

17. *Aythya americana* (Redhead). Rare. Two shot on the creek in November, 1889.

18. *Aythya vallisneria* (Canvas-back). A very rare migrant, several shot on the pond.

19. *Aythya marila nearctica* (American Scaup Duck). Sometimes common in flocks, in spring and fall.

20. *Glaucoctetta chingula americana* (American Golden-eye). A spring and fall visitor, a few remain through the winter.

21. *Charitonetta albicollis* (Buffle-head). Quite a common migrant in flocks on the ponds.

22. *Clangula hyemalis* (Old-squaw). Very rare migrant, I only know of three specimens being taken.
23. *Erismatura rubida* (Ruddy Duck). A common migrant.
24. *Branta canadensis* (Canada Goose). A rare migrant. Occasionally a flock is seen passing over.
25. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (American Bittern) I have found these birds rare, may be more common in other sections of the county.
26. *Botaurus exilis* (Least Bittern). A rare summer resident.
27. *Ardea herodias* (Great Blue Heron). A common summer resident. One of these birds was seen flying over in January, 1880, by Mr. George E. Casey of Fingal. Seven miles north-west of this city there is a Herony, where nearly one hundred pairs breed. I visited it on the 24th of May, 1889, in company with my friend Mr. B. P. Wintemute of this city. It is in an immense swamp, very dense with different kinds of large ferns, and thick bushes, and was nearly knee-deep in water. Several of the trees had as many as eight nests in them. The trees preferred by the birds for nesting in, were mostly black ash. The date of visiting we found was about ten days too late, as most of the nests contained young. However two fine sets of four eggs were taken. On the 12th of the same month in 1890 we visited it again, and that date we also found to be too late; although we secured several fine sets of eggs.
28. *Ardea egretta* (American Egret). A very rare visitor, Mr. Wm. Dodd of this city, has stuffed two that were shot on the creek.
29. *Ardea virescens* (Green Heron). A tolerably common summer resident.
30. *Nycticorax nycticorax navius* (Black-crowned Night Heron). Mr. Jas. Haight of Union has a bird of this species in his collection, that we shot on the pond at that place, a few years since.
31. *Porzana carolina* (Sora). A common summer resident.
32. *Gallinula gulta* (Florida Gallinule). A rare summer visitor near St. Thomas. May be more common in other sections of the county.
33. *Fulica americana* (American Coot). This species is sometimes common in the spring, and again in the fall, but I do not think it breeds.
34. *Philohela minor* (American Woodcock). A common summer resident.
35. *Gallinago delicata* (Wilson's Snipe). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor. Two birds of this species were shot in a sheltered spot south of this city on the 4th of February, 1888, and an old hunter told me that he once found a nest and four eggs belonging to this bird north of this city. He said the bird was lame, and that accounted for her remaining with us.
36. *Tringa maculata* (Pectoral Sandpiper). I find this a rare migrant, having only one record of it, this I shot in the creek on the third of October, 1889.
37. *Tringa bairdii* (Baird's Sandpiper). A very rare migrant, I shot one on the 17th of August, 1889, on the creek, this is the only record.
38. *Tringa minutilla* (Least Sandpiper). A rather common migrant at the lake.
39. *Ereunetes pusillus* (Semipalmated Sandpiper). Appears here as the last species.
40. *Calidris arcuaria* (Sanderling). A tolerably common migrant.
41. *Totanus melanoleucus* (Greater Yellow-legs). A common spring and fall visitor on the creek.
42. *Totanus flavipes* (Yellow-legs). A less common migrant than the preceding.
43. *Totanus solitarius* (Solitary Sandpiper). This bird appears sparingly in the spring, and again in August in increased numbers.
44. *Bartramia longicauda* (Bartramian Sandpiper). Mr. Dodd has one in his collection, shot here about twenty years ago, this is the only record I can find.
45. *Actitis macularia* (Spotted Sandpiper). A very common summer resident.
46. *Charadrius dominicus* (American Golden Plover). A rare migrant.
47. *Ægialitis vocifera* (Killdeer). A common summer resident.
48. *Ægialitis semipalmata* (Semipalmated Plover). Common migrant.
49. *Ægialitis meloda* (Piping Plover). An uncommon migrant.
50. *Colinus virginianus* (Bob-white). A common resident in some parts of the county.

51. *Bonasa umbellus togata* (Canadian Ruffed Grouse). A common resident.
52. *Meleagris gallopavo* (Wild Turkey). A very rare resident, the last taken in the county was one shot out of a flock of eight near Eagle, by Mr. Charles Ax-ford a hunter, in November, 1889.
53. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Passenger Pigeon). A rare migrant now, years ago it was very common.
54. *Zenaidura macroura* (Mourning Dove). A common summer resident.
55. *Cathartes aura* (Turkey Vulture). Several birds of this species have been taken here. Mr. Dodd has three in his collection, shot within a few miles of this city.
56. *Circus hudsonius* (Marsh Hawk). An uncommon summer resident, although I have no record of their breeding.
57. *Accipiter velox* (Sharp-shinned Hawk). A very common hawk during the migrations.
58. *Accipiter cooperi* (Cooper's Hawk). A tolerably common summer resident. Mr. Wintermute took a set of five eggs, in May, 1887, near this city.
59. *Buteo borealis* (Red-tailed Hawk). A common summer resident, a few remain through the winter.
60. *Buteo borealis calurus* (Western Red-tail). Mr. Dodd shot one in the spring of 1885. This is the only record we have of its occurrence in Ontario. It is now in Mr. W. E. Sanders' collection in London.
61. *Buteo lineatus* (Red-shouldered Hawk). A common summer resident. A few remain through the winter.
62. *Buteo latissimus* (Broad-winged Hawk). Sometimes these hawks appear in large flocks in the fall, but this is the only time I have observed them.
63. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (American Rough-legged Hawk). A rare migrant.
64. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle). An uncommon resident, several pairs have their nests in this county, but they are not as common as they formerly were.
65. *Falco columbarius* (Pigeon Hawk). A rare migrant.
66. *Falco sparverius* (Sparrow Hawk). A common summer resident.
67. *Pandion haliaeetus carolinensis* (American Osprey). An uncommon summer resident.
68. *Asio wilsonianus* (American Long-eared Owl). Several of these birds are shot every winter. A farmer living south of this city found a nest of the Crow occupied by this species, out of which he took two eggs, and left two to hatch. He found the nest on the 18th of April, 1889.
69. *Asio accipitrinus* (Short-eared Owl). A rare winter visitor, do not think they breed.
70. *Nyctala acadica* (Saw-whet Owl). Some winters these little owls are found in small numbers, and others they are never seen. Two were shot about a mile west of this city, in the same woods, at different times, in May, 1889, a male and female, which looks as if they had reared their young, or had a nest in that locality.
71. *Syrnium nebulosum* (Barred Owl). They use to be our commonest owl, but of late years they have decreased greatly in numbers. They have been found breeding here.
72. *Megascops asio* (Screech Owl). Resident, not common.
73. *Bubo virginianus* (Great horned Owl). A common resident.
74. *Bubo virginianus arcticus* (Arctic Horned Owl). This bird is quite like the foregoing in habits, food, etc., but is lighter in plumage. I have one shot in November, 1886.
75. *Nyctea nyctea* (Snowy Owl). An irregular winter visitor.
76. *Coccyzus americanus* (Yellow-billed Cuckoo). Common summer resident.
77. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Black-billed Cuckoo). A more common species than the foregoing.
78. *Ceryle alcyon* (Belted Kingfisher). Common summer resident, have seen them in December and January.
79. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* (Northern Hairy Woodpecker). Common winter visitor, but a rare summer resident.

80. *Dryobates pubescens* (Downy Woodpecker). Common resident.
81. *Sphyrapicus varius* (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker). Spring and fall visitant. A few may breed.
82. *Cophlocolaptes pileatus* (Pileated Woodpecker). A rare visitor. I saw three on the 31st of March, 1888.
83. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Red-headed Woodpecker). A common summer resident, a few remain through the winter. These birds are not nearly as common as they formerly were.
84. *Melanerpes carolinus* (Red-bellied Woodpecker.) A tolerably common winter resident, I think a few breed here.
85. *Colaptes auratus* (Flicker). A common summer resident. Have seen them remain through the entire winter.
86. *Autrostromus vociferus* (Whip-poor-will). A tolerably common summer resident.
87. *Chordeiles virginianus* (Nighthawk). Common summer resident.
88. *Chortura pelagica* (Chimney Swift). Common summer resident.
89. *Trochilus colubris* (Ruby-throated Hummingbird). Summer resident.
90. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Kingbird). A common summer resident.
91. *Myiarchus crinitus* (Crested Flycatcher). A tolerably common summer resident.
92. *Sayornis phoebe* (Phoebe). A very common summer resident.
93. *Contopus virens* (Wood Pewee). Common summer resident.
94. *Empidonax minimus* (Least Flycatcher). Common summer resident.
95. *Otocoris alpestris praticola* (Prairie Horned Lark.) Common resident. Generally more numerous in winter than in summer.
96. *Cyanocitta cristata* (Blue Jay). A common resident.
97. *Corvus corax sinuatus* (American Raven). A very rare migrant. I have no record of its having been taken recently in this county.
98. *Corvus americanus* (American Crow). A very common resident.
99. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Bobolink). A common summer resident.
100. *Molothrus ater* (Cowbird). An extremely common summer resident.
101. *Aegialius phoeniceus* (Red-winged Blackbird). Common summer resident.
102. *Sturnella magna* (Meadowlark). A common summer resident, have seen them in January on two occasions.
103. *Icterus spurius* (Orchard Oriole). Until the last few years this bird was considered a very rare summer resident, but of late it has become quite common.
104. *Icterus galbula* (Baltimore Oriole). Common summer resident.
105. *Scolecophagus carolinus* (Rusty Blackbird). A common migrant.
106. *Quiscalus quiscula œneus* (Bronzed Grackle). A common summer resident.
107. *Coccythraustes vespertina* (Evening Grosbeak). An accidental winter visitant, the only records I have of its being taken or observed in the county, are a pair, a male and female shot by Egerton Farley on our grounds, on the 22d of January, 1890, and a third shot by myself a week later, there were about a dozen in the first flock.
108. *Pinicola enucleator* (Pine Grosbeak). A very irregular winter visitant.
109. *Carpodacus purpureus* (Purple Finch). Common as a summer resident, but less so during the winter.
110. *Loxia curvirostra* (American Crossbill). An irregular winter visitant.
111. *Acanthis linaria* (Redpoll). Some winters these birds appear in large flocks, and again they are entirely absent during the whole season.
112. *Spinus tristis* (American Goldfinch). A common resident.
113. *Spinus pinus* (Pine Siskin). An irregular winter visitant.
114. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Snowflake). A common winter visitant, remaining as late as the first week in April.
115. *Pooecetes gramineus* (Vesper Sparrow). A common summer resident, arriving very regularly on the 7th of April.
116. *Ammodramis sandwichensis savanna* (Savanna Sparrow). A tolerably common summer resident.
117. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (White-crowned Sparrow). A common migrant.
118. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (White-throated Sparrow). A more common migrant than the foregoing species.

119. *Spizella monticola* (Tree Sparrow). A common migrant, and winter visitant.
120. *Spizella socialis* (Chipping Sparrow). Our commonest native sparrow.
121. *Spizella pusilla* (Field Sparrow). A tolerably common summer resident.
122. *Junco hyemalis* (Slate-colored Junco). A common resident.
123. *Melospiza fasciata* (Song Sparrow). A very common summer resident, occasionally met with in mid-winter.
124. *Melospiza georgiana* (Swamp Sparrow). A very unobtrusive bird, very seldom noticed by any other than the collector. In some parts of the county it is quite common, especially in the large marshes.
125. *Passerella iliaca* (Fox Sparrow). A very rare migrant, I shot one on the 19th of April, 1888, west of this city, this is our only record.
126. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Towhee). A common summer resident.
127. *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Cardinal). Accidental. Mr. Dodd has one in his collection that he shot about 1860, and Mr. Orville Foster of this city shot one, a male in full plumage, west of St. Thomas, on the 4th of May, 1890.
128. *Habia ludoviciana* (Rose-breasted Grosbeak). A common summer resident.
129. *Passerina cyanea* (Indigo Bunting). A common summer resident.
130. *Spiza americana* (Dickcissel). A very rare summer resident. A nest of this bird was found near Union Pond in 1885, containing four eggs, they are now in Mr. M. G. Kain's collection of this city.
131. *Piranga erythromelas* (Scarlet Tanager). A tolerably common summer resident.
132. *Progne subis* (Purple Martin). A common summer resident.
133. *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Cliff Swallow). A common summer resident.
134. *Chelidon erythrogaster* (Barn Swallow). A common summer resident.
135. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Tree Swallow). A tolerably common summer resident.
136. *Clivicola riparia* (Bank Swallow). A common summer resident.
137. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Rough-winged Swallow). An uncommon summer resident, generally found in company with the preceding species.
138. *Ampelis garrulus* (Bohemian Waxwing). A very rare winter visitant. Mr. Dodd shot several out a large flock about the year 1875, and has two of them in his collection now. He said they were very common that year.
139. *Ampelis cedrorum* (Cedar Waxwing). A common summer resident, often observed during the winter.
140. *Lanius borealis* (Northern Shrike). A regular winter visitant, arriving from the North in October and departing in March or April.
141. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* (White-rumped Shrike). An uncommon summer resident.
142. *Vireo olivaceus* (Red-eyed Vireo). This bird is the commonest representative of this family.
143. *Vireo philadelphicus* (Philadelphia Vireo). A very rare summer resident, our only record was one that was shot by Mr. B. P. Wintermute on the 15th of May, 1889, at Port Stanley.
144. *Vireo gilvus* (Warbling Vireo). A common summer resident.
145. *Vireo flavifrons* (Yellow-throated Vireo). An uncommon summer resident.
146. *Vireo solitarius* (Blue-headed Vireo). A rare migrant, only two specimens taken, both in May, 1888, by myself.
147. *Mniotilta varia* (Black and White Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident, more common as a migrant.
148. *Helminthophila chrysoptera* (Golden-winged Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident.
149. *Helminthophila ruficapilla* (Nashville Warbler). Common as a migrant, and I think a few might breed, but so far we have no record of their doing so.
150. *Helminthophila celata* (Orange-crowned Warbler). A very rare migrant. Mr. Orville Foster and myself each got one, a male and a female in the same orchard, on the 11th of May, 1889. On the 15th of the same month Mr. Wintermute shot a male near Port Stanley.
151. *Helminthophila peregrina* (Tennessee Warbler). The Only record I have of this bird being taken here, is one I shot early in September, 1889.

152. *Compsothlypis americana* (Parula Warbler). An uncommon migrant, might breed.
153. *Dendroica aestiva* (Yellow Warbler). This is our commonest warbler.
154. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Black-throated Blue Warbler). An uncommon migrant, being very irregular in their movements, sometimes not appearing during the spring migrations.
155. *Dendroica coronata* (Myrtle Warbler). A very common migrant.
156. *Dendroica maculosa* (Magnolia Warbler). A common migrant.
157. *Dendroica cerulea* (Cerulean Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident.
158. *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Chestnut-sided Warbler). A common summer resident.
159. *Dendroica castanea* (Bay-breasted Warbler). Mr. Wintermute shot one on the 16th of May, 1889, at Port Stanley, this is the only record.
160. *Dendroica striata* (Black-poll Warbler). A tolerably common migrant.
161. *Dendroica blackburniae* (Blackburnian Warbler). An uncommon spring and fall visitor.
162. *Dendroica virens* (Black-throated Green Warbler). A common migrant.
163. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* (Yellow Palm Warbler). Several of these birds have been taken, but they are by no means common.
164. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Oven-bird). A common summer resident.
165. *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Water Thrush). An uncommon migrant.
166. *Seiurus motacilla* (Louisiana Water Thrush). This form occurs sparingly throughout the county. It is not as common as the foregoing species.
167. *Geothlypis agilis* (Connecticut Warbler). A rare migrant. I shot one on the 30th of May, 1888, and Mr. Wintermute shot one on the 24th of May, 1889.
168. *Geothlypis trichas* (Maryland Yellow-throat). A common summer resident.
169. *Sylvania pusilla* (Wilson's Warbler). I generally find these warblers regularly in the spring and fall.
170. *Sylvania canadensis* (Canadian Warbler). A tolerably common migrant.
171. *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart). A very common summer resident.
172. *Anthus pensylvanicus* (American Pipit). A tolerably common migrant.
173. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis* (Catbird). A very common summer resident.
174. *Harporhynchus rufus* (Brown Thrasher). An uncommon summer resident. They have decreased greatly in numbers during the past five years.
175. *Troglodytes aedon* (House Wren). A common summer resident.
176. *Troglodytes hyemalis* (Winter Wren). These birds generally appear in small flocks, but regularly during the migration. I have never yet observed them in winter.
177. *Cistothorus palustris* (Long-billed Marsh Wren). A very unevenly distributed species. Two of three pairs nest near this city, but these are the only ones I know of.
178. *Certhia familiaris americana* (Brown Creeper). Appears under the same circumstances, and in company with the Winter Wren.
179. *Sitta carolinensis* (White-breasted Nuthatch). A common resident. More often seen in winter than in the breeding season.
180. *Sitta canadensis* (Red-breasted Nuthatch). A common migrant, sometimes observed in winter.
181. *Parus atricapillus* (Chickadee). A well known bird remaining all the year.
182. *Regulus satrapa* (Golden-crowned Kinglet). A common migrant, often observed in mid-winter.
183. *Regulus calendula* (Ruby-crowned Kinglet). Not so common a migrant as the foregoing species.
184. *Poliotilla cerulea* (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher). A tolerably common migrant, might breed.
185. *Turdus mustelinus* (Wood Thrush). An abundant summer resident.
186. *Turdus fuscescens* (Wilson's Thrush). Not as common as the foregoing species.
187. *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii* (Olive-backed Thrush). A rare migrant, I shot one on the 7th of May, 1887.

188. *Turdus aonalaschke pullasii* (Hermit Thrush). A common migrant, I saw several and shot one on the 13th of December, 1878, also saw one on the 10th of December, 1890.

189. *Merula migratoria* (American Robin). An abundant summer resident, often observed in winter.

190. *Sialia sialis* (Bluebird). A common summer resident.

The above list includes 190 species, divided thus:

Residents.....	20
Migrants.....	74
Summer residents.....	75
Winter visitors.....	14
Accidentals.....	7
Total.....	190

Random Notes on the Belted Kingfisher.

(*Ceryle alcyon*.)

The Kingfisher although a "common bird" it's habits are but little known to many of our collectors. It's erratic flight and queer rasping call, demands attention and creates surprise every where. The *Alcedinidae* are known in nearly every country, and in many places they are held in superstitious dread. To the poor ignorant Tartan and Ostiaes of India their feathers are a charm against all evils. They are the halcyon bird of the Ancients from whose habits of incubation arose the term "Halcyon Days" or those days which are particularly peaceful and happy. The English species is smaller than our Belted Kingfisher, also of brighter plumage, though their nesting habits are the same.

To frequenter of creeks or small rivers this bird is one of endless interest. A careless observer would think it to be of no small size (judging from it's bill and head which are grotesquely out of proportion to the weight of the body), as it suddenly dashes by you with its peculiar harsh call and beautiful metallic plumage. Yet upon examination it proves to be scarcely as large as a dove. In South-Eastern Kansas where I took my first notes on this bird it is very abundant, staying all winter.

Many a time while skating have I seen the peculiar antics of this bird in search of small fish around the shallow and unfrozen pools of the river.

They begin nesting about the last of April and raise from 6 to 14 young. Their nests are but rarely disturbed owing to their position. I have found the nest proper as far as 12 feet back from the face of the bank, the tunnel usually sloping from the nest to the opening. Speaking from experience, the collecting of their eggs on the high banks of rivers is no easy thing, were it not that they always tunnel their nests near the top of these steep banks but few could be collected at the locality from which they are taken, for after digging a couple hours to find nothing at the end, is enough to dampen the ardor of the ordinary oologist. Remarkably, on three-fourths of all the nests which have had eggs I would also find a bird, and in one instance the the bird had broken all the eggs when I reached the nest, either through fright or natural meanness.

A Kingfisher may well be called a fit example of patience, upon seeing one sitting quietly for hours at a time on a dead stub or drift near the water waiting for a meal. We might draw a striking contrast. Their manner of catching fish is a very peculiar one, and original to their family. I take an instance

from my notes of last summer, it was June 6, I was walking a long the bank of a creek when my attention was attracted by the peculiar motion of a Kingfisher seated on a snag in the creek, he was moving his head backward and forward, it made a shadow on the water. He continued this for sometime and I was wondering whether he had a "jag" on, so to speak, or whether he had swallowed a fish crosswise, when suddenly he rose obliquely in the air to a distance of about 15 feet when he turned and made a dash for the water almost perpendicularly coming up with a good sized perch. I am inclined to think that the shadow attracted the fish. I have also seen them fall on pieces of flesh from dead animals near rivers and creeks. I at first thought they were after the meat, but after seeing them capture three or four small fish which were attracted by the carcass, I concluded it was the fish and not the meat they were after.

The Kingfisher, all in all, is a very interesting bird and of whose peculiar habits I have never grown tired of studying.

JOHN W. MYKRANTZ,
Ashland, Ohio.

The English Sparrow.

A number of years ago few English Sparrows were to be seen in Nebraska City. When the packing houses located here, they constructed a large number of sheds and yards. This was a perfect paradise, for the Sparrows, for food could be procured easily. Their whole time was occupied in constructing nests and rearing young. Soon this place became too small for their numbers. Some ejected the Blue-birds and Martins from their homes, others laid claim to the woodpecker's holes, still others took possession of the Bank Swallow's burrows along the river.

In the fall of 1889 two lonely Sparrows were seen to alight on my Grand-

fathers farm which is a distance of six miles from the city. Early in March 1890 they returned and immediately established themselves in a nest, that had been built and occupied for years by a pair of Barn Swallows. When the Swallows returned they were promptly driven off by the squatters. Instead of the pleasant twittering and flash of gay wings, we heard nothing but the harsh rasping scold of *Passer domesticus* throughout the whole summer. After the breeding season was over I found by a careful examination, that the flock contained fifteen members. But a sad day came,—they left. Over the side of their old brood-nest an unfortunate Sparrow swayed, to and fro, in the breeze, hung by a horse hair.

I send the following newspaper clipping, hoping the readers of the OOLOGIST who have the future safety of our native birds at heart, will try this way of exterminating this free-booter, who evidently thinks this whole universe, with all its Wren, Blue-bird and Martin boxes were constructed for his especial benefit: "Dr. S. B. Collins, the noted opium and morphine habit doctor of the world, gives a sure and safe way of exterminating the pesky English Sparrow. He says feed them corn-meal and salt, one pint of salt to one peck of corn meal. The salt should be dissolved in water and thoroughly mixed with the meal, then dried. The best time to destroy them is in cold weather, when food is scarce. Within thirty days every Sparrow in the United States can be exterminated."

J. ELLIS MCLELLAN,
Nebraska City, Neb.

A Few Articles for the Collector.

An article which will be found very convenient in collecting, is a cheap fish reel and one hundred feet or more of strong small line. This will be found very useful in hauling up a collecting box, etc., to a high nest, also in measuring height of nest from the ground. It is well to have a small snap hook fastened to the end of the line.

A good collecting case for an extended trip, collecting water birds eggs from a boat etc., is made as follows: Get a box of light material and suitable size—mine is 17 inches long, 11 wide and 7 deep, made from 3-16 inch material, corners dovetailed together. Nail the cover on tight, and saw the box in two so that each half shall measure 17x11x3½ (if your box is the same size as mine). Hinge the two parts together on one of the 17 inch sides so that the case will open like a satchel. It may be fastened with small hooks and, if satchel lock cannot be procured, with a tiny hasp and padlock. The case should be covered with heavy duck canvass, and this should be treated to several coats of asphaltum, which renders it nearly waterproof. The interior may be divided up by thin board partitions into compartments of size to suit the taste. It is well to have one compartment specially for carrying climbers in, and one or two others may be for other instruments. A case like this will hold a great many eggs.

Small nets, of at least three sizes will be found of value, one about five inches in diameter, the other two, two and one inches respectively. These should be made with a good stiff wire frame, and the net made of cotton twine. This will be found to be better and to last longer than cloth or mosquito netting. The two smaller nets may be crocheted and the larger one made as follows: Having got the wire frame ready, fasten it up in a convenient place to work on. Cut the twine in lengths about three times as great as you wish the depth of the net to be (for this net should be about twenty four inches). Double these in the middle and loop them onto frame at a distance apart varying according to the size you wish the meshes of your net to be. After having fastened these entirely around the frame you will have the twine hanging in two strands, each place. Separate

these and tie, forming half meshes. When the first row of knots is complete continue on the second in the same as the first. Continue in this way until the net is nearly as deep as you wish it to be, then narrow rapidly, by tying the succeeding rows of meshes smaller. When the aperture at the bottom becomes so small that the number of strings become troublesome, tie the knots *very tight* and clip off one string from each pair, and continue to tie as before. When the number of strings is sufficiently reduced these may be tied together and the ends clipped off.

The wire handle should now be bent in form on an oval hoop. This net is tied to the end of a pole when needed and is useful in scooping the eggs from nests of Hawks etc., which could not be otherwise reached. The two smaller nets are left with long wire handles and are used in taking the eggs from nests in hollow trees and banks.

A hook made of stiff wire, with loop for tying to a pole, is useful in bringing nests on long slender limbs within reach. The collector should always have plenty of twine with him as he will frequently need it very much.

A climbing strap is of almost as much value as climbing irons, and the collector who wishes to take Hawks and Owls eggs should never be without either. A climbing strap should be at least fifteen feet or more in length, and two inches wide, made of good leather in two parts, buckling together in one place, and fastening with a snap hook and several stout rings at distances of six inches apart, in the other. A good description of a strap will be found in the Mar.—April 1886 number of the OOLOGIST, page 20. A water blower and a case instrument are both indispensable to the collectors. These have both been described in former numbers. A good dark lantern will be found of great service at times, both for investigating nests in holes, and for use in

"shady" night collecting. It is a good thing to prepare a few eggs for substitute for Hawks eggs in case of finding an incomplete set. This may be done by selecting hens eggs as near the size and shape as possible, boiling them hard, and spotting them carelessly with brown paint. Last, but not least, Lat-tin's new Hand-Book should always be in the pocket ready for reference. For constant use it will be found that the flexible leather covers are decidedly preferable to the paper.

B. S. B.
Ontario Co., N. Y.

Screech Owl.
Megascops asio (Linn).

This pretty mottled Owl is found throughout the eastern part of the United States and Canada; west of the Rocky Mountains.

He is known by various names, some of which are, "Mottled Owl," "Little Red Owl" and "Gray Owl."

The female is from nine and a half, to ten inches long; the tail being about three and a half inches; the male is nearly the same size.

The Screech Owl is speckled and barred; the ground color is gray or red, the two colors bearing no relation to age, sex, or season. The two conditions of the plumage, gray and red, generally give rise to the belief that they are two distinct species. This, however, is erroneous.

The food of the Screech Owl consists of mice, insects and small birds.

He has ear tufts about one inch long.

March 17, while I was out for Owl's eggs, I caught a Gray Owl on the nest. Immediately after I had removed her from the hole, she disgorged a ball of fur and bones commonly known as "Owl Spit."

The nest was built in a hollow limb of an apple tree, and composed of sticks, leaves and feathers; to my disappointment there was no eggs.

She is brown on the back with a few white markings; the breast and underparts are white, beautifully mottled and barred with brown; the eyes are large and yellow. When she is disturbed, she grates her beak, (making a noise like that which is produced by snapping the fingers) and puffs out her feathers. It is queer, but so, that I have not heard her utter any noise other than that which I described above.

The eggs, like those of other owls, are pure white and nearly round; they measure on an average 1.40x1.20; from four to six are the number usually laid, but sometimes eight or nine make up the set. The nest is made in a hollow tree, stump, barn or shed. The notes of the Screech Owl are uttered in a tremulous, doleful manner, and may be heard a hundred yards or more. He is an entirely inoffensive species and not unfrequently flies about during the daytime.

H. T. GREENE
Montclair, N. J.

Western Meadow Lark.
Sturnella magna neglecta.

The Western Meadow Lark is found regularly, from that tier of states bordering the Mississippi on the west to the Pacific; to the north as far as British Columbia and Manitoba; and southward into the northern limits of Western Mexico. It is found sparingly east of its regular range within the territory of its cousin, *Sturnella magna*. It is imperfectly migratory and breeds throughout its range.

The Western Meadow Lark is a common resident of California. Almost every grassy plot has at least a pair of these agreeable tenants. The spring breezes that waft across these happy homes come to the ardent student of Nature laden with the delicious fragrance of unnumbered flowers, and the sweet strains of the Meadow Lark.

bestowing upon his mate melodious assurances of fidelity and love. Then a Goldfinch, in undulating flight, festoons the other with its plaintive song. Emulous and with joy-glowing breast, the lark springs from his grassy covert to wing his brief, uncertain course; as he rises on fluttering pinions he glances at every side, his throat swells with blithesome song, the musical accents resound throughout the meadow: his flageoletic song ceases, a short sail and a few flutters terminates his flight.

From morass, thicket and woodland come the voices of Warblers, Wrens and Thrushes, joined in harmonious union, loud rings the concert of approbation; the Mockingbird, accompanying his strains with aerial evolutions, leads the throng; the rhapsody of the Thrasher, the whistle of the Wren-tit, even the sad *pe-wee* of the Phæbe bird help swell the chorus. A swoop and the fierce shriek of a hawk silences all.

The great interior valleys of California, the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, which combined extend over four hundred miles in length and from forty to sixty miles in width, seem to be the natural home of the Western Meadow Lark. I can conceive of no place more thickly populated with these merry denizens of the fields than that part of the San Joaquin situated in the western part of Tulare county known as Lucerne Vale, a district of about four hundred square miles. Here are extensive wheat fields; the monotony of the scene is broken by farm houses, here and there, surrounded with poplar trees and orchards, and also by dark hued fields of Alfalfa, in early summer the color of which is in marked contrast to the ripened grain. Lines of drooping willows, which fringe the banks of capacious irrigation canals, weave their way through these fertile plains and can be traced for miles until they become as threads and are lost in the dimness of the distance.

Far in the east the Sierra Nevadas left their lofty forms in rude grandeur above the plain; Mount Whitney, 14880 feet in elevation, towers above the others and presents to the sun, a glittering, snow-capped peak. The Coast Range mountains can be traced a dim outline on the western horizon. Such is the model home of the Western Meadow Larks.

Unmolested, they congregate here in countless numbers. On driving along the road, they arise in flocks from the road-side, fluttering a short distance and settle again. They are easy to approach—a poor marksman, indeed, is he who must fill his bag with Meadow Lark.

The flight of the Meadow Lark is peculiar. It springs from the ground, glances about as if in fear and beats its wings in a laborious manner; after attaining a certain height it flies and sails alternately, it but seldom enters upon protracted flights, yet when shot at it sails and flies, until lost in the azure depth.

The nesting time is from the middle of April to July; the nest is built in a tuft of grass and is well concealed. The eggs, four to six in number are white, spotted with reddish-brown. The Larks make model parents, showing great solicitude for their young.

HARRY C. LILLIE,
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Hermit Thrush.

(*Turdus aonalaschkei pullasie.*)

Of the family *Turdidae* resident in Southern New England the Hermit Thrush is undoubtedly the rarest. This bird, as its name implies, is solitary in habit; and one must search in the deep woods away from the "haunts of man" to find it.

On the nineteenth of June, 1887 I had the good fortune to discover a nest and eggs of this species in Hartford county, this state. I had set out to look for a

few plants of the Pink Cyrepedium. In my search I entered a deep wood by an unfrequented road. On one side were low trees and saplings intermingled with bushes' where evidently the attempt to clear the land had long since been abandoned. On the other side a forest stood which had not yet yielded to the encroachment of man. Tall pines their lower branches interlocking rendered an ingress a difficult task. Here and there, were open places filled with dense shrubbery and undergrowth. Clumps of Mountain Laurel and the low whortle-berry bushes were interspersed now and then with a bare sandy tract covered with pine needles.

Into this wilderness I plunged to obtain if possible the object of my search (and here let me say, although I was not particularly successful in this, a greater pleasure was in store.) Pushing aside the branches impeding, I advanced into one of the open spots previously mentioned, upon my approach, a Hermit Thrush flew from a clump of bushes near by, and alighted a short distance away. My suspicions aroused—I penetrated the shrubbery from whence the bird had flown. Much to my delight I discovered the nest containing three eggs. The opportunity for making the identity certain was given: for the thrush was still near at hand. The nest was a rather bulky affair composed of grasses, weed-stalks, leaves and strips of bark, lined with dried grasses. It was placed in a whortle-berry bush about two feet from the ground, at the point where the slender branches dividing in several directions form a crotch of varying size. The eggs were greenish-blue in color darker than those of the Wilson's Thrush (*Turdus fuscescens*) and larger. I regret to say that but one egg was taken. This measured .88x.66, as this specimen was partially incubated, the set must have been complete.

AN OBSERVER,
Hartford Co, Conn.

Aves Urbis.

Such a beautiful morning, the air so fresh and clear, the sun so bright! Just the day for a trip in the woods and here you are helpless because of that sprained ankle. Do not give up entirely, there is a good deal of ornithology to be learned in the trees around your city home, and many a pleasant half hour may be spent in the discovery of birds you had supposed unique to the fields.

We dwell in the heart of a city of 62000 inhabitants but have the good fortune of a roomy back yard with five fine apple trees; as many more stand over the fence in a neighbors yard and in this miniature orchard many birds dwell. In and about this yard I have observed 74 species, 21 of which have been found breeding, quite a number for so limited an area.

Of all the aquatic birds but one has been observed, and that a solitary Woodcock flushed from the long grass in early spring. Bobwhite once made us a flying visit for the purpose of eating our grapes. The Raptores sent only Cooper's and Sparrow Hawks as their representatives while the Peidæ were generous enough to bring to notice five species. The Flycatchers have at various times exhibited six species of which Traill's was the most remarkable. Both Orioles, the Cowbird, and Bronzed Grackles comprise our Sternidæ but of Fringillidæ we have a goodly number, fifteen species swelling the list. The tramp English Sparrows have nearly disappeared, thanks to relentless persecution on my part, thus leaving room for their more welcome relatives. Purple Finches pay us visits in spring and fall and are especially welcome because of their sweet songs. White-winged Crossbills and Pine Finches have once dropped in on us but the Red Crossbills are not on the list. Fox Sparrows and Towhees are with us in spring but soon depart, the one for

it's Northern breeding places, the other for the surrounding country. When the apple blossoms are just in their prime, with a true eye for the beauty of contrast the Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks come, catching flies from the tops of the trees. Bohemian Waxwings tantalized me on Sunday morning when I dared not shoot. It is surprising to see how many of his favorites the Warbler admirer could find in haunts apparently unsuited to them. During migrations Creepers, Nashville, Yellow, Myrtle, Black-thr. Green, Oven birds and Yellow-throats are abundant while Tennessee, Golden-winged, Cape May, Black-thr. Blue' Blackburnian, Prairie, and Wilson's Warblers are not so common but still not rare. Other birds one would not expect are Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Wood, Olive-backed Gray-cheeked, and Hermit Thrushes.

With all these who would despair of a pleasant trip among his friends even through fortune may frown on his country attempts?

STEWART E. WHITE,
Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.

A Much Occupied Nest.

A rather peculiar case of the nesting of birds came under my notice lately, and I will try and tell the readers of the OOLOGIST about it, hoping it may be of interest to some.

In a grove not far from the city a pair of crows built a nest in the fork of a tree early in April. Perhaps they fitted up some old hawks' nests; however that may be, they laid their complement of five eggs which were immediately secured by an enterprising young oologist (?).

Not long afterwards (about the 25th of April) another friend while wandering in the grove, shot a nice male Long-eared Owl and shortly afterwards came to the crow's nest on which Mrs. Long-

ear was busily engaged. He "klim" up and was rewarded with a set of four fresh eggs.

For some time this nest "of my tale" had a rest but on May 6, a pair of Cooper's Hawks were hanging around and on the twelfth a set of four were taken and the male, who was on the nest at the time was shot.

Again on May 22d while I was collecting Warblers in the same patch, I noticed a Broad-winged Hawk sail around over the trees and thought I would take a look at the nest. After an easy climb I found one egg of the Broad-wing. Afraid to leave this I substituted a hen's egg in its place and went out two days later and got another, adding another hen's egg decorated with umber "spots" and "blotches."

Two days later I went out again and found that some enterprising oologist had taken the "decoys" and killed one of the birds. I heard later an amateur egg-collector who does it for the "fun" of the thing, relate in glowing terms of the taking of an incompleated set of Broad-winged Hawk's eggs on which the spots washed out, but he added, I have positive identity because I "nailed" the bird!

About the middle of June the nest was again occupied by a pair of crows, probably by some birds who had lost their first set, these birds only laying three eggs. Not visiting the nest any more I am unable to say positively what happened. However I heard that the young birds had been taken by some farmer boys for pets.

Now the only thing needed for this story to make it a "whopper" was for a Horned Owl and then a Red-tailed Hawk to have occupied in turn before the Long-eared Owl, but truth forbids. The nest still stands and I hope will yield more sets the coming spring.

PHALAROPUS,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The Whip-poor-will.

"When purpling shadows westward creep
And stars through crimson curtains peep,
And south winds sing themselves to sleep;
From woodlands heavy with perfume
Of spicy bud and April bloom

Comes through the tender twilight gloom,
Music most mellow.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will
—Will, oh!"

The bosom of the brook is filled

With new alarm, the forest thrilled

With startled echos, and most skilled,

To run a labyrinthine race

The fireflies light their lamps to chase

The culprit through the darkling space—

Mischivous fellow.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will
—Will, oh!"

From hill to hill the echoes fly

The marshy brakes take up the cry,

And when the slumbering waters lie

In calm repose, and slyly feeds

The snipe among the whispering reeds,

The tale of this wild sprite's misdeeds

Troubles the billows.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will
—Will, oh!"

Arriving here about the tenth of April, the return of the Whippoorwill is welcomed by almost every one as a happy signal of the near approach of the balmy days of spring. His familiar notes, which are listened to with such interest by all, are at first heard from some retired part of the woods, but soon he begins to visit the more open fields and roadsides, and frequently ventures within a few yards of our dwellings. These friendly visits have been regarded by the superstitious as omens of disaster, hence we sometimes hear of death or some misfortune which has followed these nocturnal visits. It is very remarkable how the syllable representing the notes of this bird, are changed to suit the fanciful imaginations of different persons. To many it resembles the syllables *whip-*

poor-will, from which its name is derived. To me it is a distinct articulation of *whip-o-will*. Mr. Langille says to his ear it is like "*chick-hoo-rhee*." We are informed by Nuttall that some of the Indians tribes gave to this bird the name "*Wecoalis*," for the same reason that it has been given "*Whip-poor-will*" in English. By the casual observer there is no distinction made between the note of the Whip-poor-will and that of the Chuck-wills-widow, no difference being known between the two birds, as they are rarely or never; as a result; the notes are heard as coming from one bird. This may be an explanation of some of the various renderings by different ears. It is not our purpose to criticise, but unless it be considered as poetic license, which permits the use of *peculiar forms and expressions*, the author of the pleasing and expressive lines as quoted above must have fallen into the same error. Observe "*will-oh*," at the conclusion of each line representing the song which follows each verse. This seems to be a corruption of *wid-ow*, the last two syllables of the Chuck-will's-widow's note; the sound of *d* being displaced by that of *l*. In habits the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow are very similar, retiring to some unfrequented part of the woods during the day, there remaining in perfect silence, and unseen. But no sooner does night spread its curtains of darkness around, then the woods begin to reverberate with their vociferous notes, which is apt to produce a feeling of loneliness upon one if alone in the woods at this time, yet the sound is not unpleasant. These strains die away as night advances, when at the hour of midnight all is silent, but start afresh in the morning, saluting the dawn with their "melodious music."

Many are the erroneous ideas entertained by intelligent persons, who have never taken the pains to ascertain the

true facts regarding the Whip-poor-will. The Nighthawk or Bullbat, which can be seen in summer evenings, a few hours before sunset, skimming over the green meadows, describing his semi-circles and cutting his oblique lines through the air, uttering all the while his harsh note, accompanied by an occasional "booming" is supposed by many to be the same bird whose note a little later is change to the Whip-poor-will's song. There are others, less enlightened, who are possessed with the curious notion that at the first fall of frost this mysterious bird of the night is transformed into a frog, and thus spends the whole winter season in entire seclusion, until called out again by the first sound of thunder in early spring, when he again assumes his former shape, once more becoming a messenger of bad tidings.

Laying begins in this latitude about the middle of May. So far as I have observed both the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow, during the day, remain near their nests or the spot to be chosen for the nest. I have secured eggs of both species by locating the bird. This can be done by going about sunset, to some locality where they frequent, and remaining quiet until the first note is heard, which is usually preceded by a low clucking sound, then creep stealthily in the direction from which the sound comes, so as to get a clearer view of her position. If the effort proves a failure or if there is any doubt as to her exact position, it would be best to try the experiment another evening, until her position is located with certainty. When this is done mark the spot, and return next day, when it is likely the bird will be flushed, perhaps near the spot that was marked, or, if setting, from the nest. Now look carefully in every direction, near every bush, beside every log or stump, within fifteen or twenty yards from the place marked. The

eggs are very likely to be found if they have been laid. They are placed on the bare leaves, no pretensions, whatever, being made at nest building. To follow the above directions, strictly, will require a little trouble and some patience, but remember the way of the true oologist is hard. I hope some of the readers will try this plan and report through the columns of THE OOLOGIST.

M. C. WHITE,
Mathews Co., Va.

Nesting of the Red-tailed Hawk.
(*Buteo borealis*) Gmel.

The Red-tailed Hawk or Red-tailed Buzzard as it is sometimes called is distributed sparingly throughout this section—Eastern Penna.—and breeds, though in some few localities it is considered quite common. Broad meadow and pasture-lands bordered by heavy woods afford this hawk his favorite hunting ground. Wherever squirrels, chipmunks, ground-mice, moles and small rodents abound some species of Hawk will invariably be found breeding and also where crows nest abundantly they are generally found for the crow is in many instances the architect of the hawk's nest. This species is the largest of the common hawks, it may be readily identified by the brownish-red color on the under side of its tail. The nest is placed in the largest trees from 40 to 60 or in a few instances 80 feet from the ground, many of them being practically inaccessible owing to the size of the tree trunks. It varies in size from that of a crow's to a great bulky mass of sticks, grass, twigs, corn-stalks and moss as large in diameter as a buggy wheel, though very large it is comparatively shallow. The number of eggs laid is two or three rarely four. They are bluish-white to a soiled white in color heavily blotched and splashed with red and chestnut with obscure markings of purple on the larger end

or occasionally one egg of a set is marked on the smaller end. In very rare instances they have been found entirely unmarked. The average size is 2.36x1.80 inches. I report my first find of this species for this year on Mar. 20th.

This nest is placed high in the forks of a giant poplar tree in a small grove bordering a stream. Last year a crow built and occupied this nest but owing to its being so admirably located a pair of *Buteos* has taken possession of it this year. It is about 64 ft. high and owing to the size of the tree I think this clutch of eggs will remain unmolested. If any readers of the *Oologist* know of any safe and practical plan of reaching the eggs of species which nest so high in large trees—hawks especially—they will confer a favor by having it published in that live and wide-awake paper to the interest of collectors—THE OOLOGIST. When flying machines are invented I expect to take several sets of Red-tails which so far have defied all attempts on the part of collector to reach them.

JOS. P. JACKSON.

Kelton, Pa.

Cooper's Hawk.

The Cooper's Hawk commonly called the Chicken Hawk by the farmers, is quite common in Western Massachusetts. It is about 18 inches long, and has a long slightly round tail some eight or nine inches in length. This bird can be recognized by its easy flight, and which in the open country, is near the ground, but when in pursuit of its quarry, it is very quick and powerful in its flight, and soon captures its prey. It is a great nuisance to the farmer who wishes to raise chickens for profit. If it once gets a taste from a brood, nothing except a heavy charge of shot fired with deadly effect, will drive it away till every chick has been taken. We remember when a boy, that one of these hawks

commenced to pick up a brood of chickens near the house. They were disappearing fast when one morning on going out to feed them we saw the hawk sitting on the coop waiting for them to come out. We took our gun and followed it to a wood lot near by, and shot the female on her nest, from which we took three eggs. This was in the days when we were beginning our collection of eggs and placing them in our cabinet without blowing out the contents. This nest was in a beech-tree about forty feet from the ground and it resembled the nest of the Red-tailed Hawk, and was built close to the body of the tree. The next year we took four eggs from the same nest. This was about twenty-five years ago. A few years later, while fishing for trout, we found another nest beside the brook about one half mile from the old place containing five eggs. The birds had taken possession of an old crow's nest which they had repaired and used for their domestic arrangements. This too, was in a beech-tree some twenty-five feet from the ground. The eggs were fresh and easily blown, some of which Friend Lattin took in exchange for eggs not in our collection. Our fourth and last nest was found in another beech-tree in the same wood lot, where the first two sets were taken. The birds had taken possession of a Red-tailed Hawk's nest, from which we had taken a set of three eggs a few weeks before. We find by referring to THE OOLOGIST for December 1886, that the three Red-tailed Hawk's eggs were taken April 10, 1882, and that the five Cooper's Hawk's were taken from the same nest May 17th of the same year, a little more than a month later. A description of the difficulties experienced in securing those two sets of eggs, can be found under the subject "A Newsy Letter from Massachusetts" in THE OOLOGIST of that date. This bird usually lays four or five eggs. Probably in those instances

where collectors have only taken three eggs, the set was incomplete or the bird had been robbed of her eggs several times. The eggs are bluish or greenish-white with occasionally a few obscure blotches of dark color, averaging about 1.90x1.50 of an inch in size. In our experience with this hawk we have found that instead of building its own nest, it has repaired either an old crow's or one of the larger species of hawk's nest, and thus has saved a good deal of hard work building such a bulky affair. The breeding season varies considerably, even in the same latitude, with this species. Usually the eggs are laid between the 10th and 20th of May, but some collectors report finding their eggs as early as May 1st. and others as late as June 1st. A set of their eggs makes a fine addition to a collection and are well worthy of notice.

ERWIN G. WARD,
Palmer, Mass.

The Eagles of North America,
BY J. W. P. SMITHWICK, SANS
SOUCI, N. C.

□ In this article I will try to describe the different species of eagles that inhabit North America, and give a few notes on each species. Only three species of these grand birds make this Continent their home; but these are the noblest and finest of the whole family. What nobler bird than the Bald Eagle—the emblem of our Republic—can be found anywhere; and, the Golden Eagle, too, cannot be surpassed in stateliness. Eagles are birds of very great strength and power of endurance, capable of performing the longest journey seemingly, without fatigue.

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.)

This eagle frequents the whole of North America, but is more numerous in Florida than anywhere else. Dr. Cones says in his Key, that it inhabits N. A. anywhere, common—for an

eagle. The size of the Bald-headed species, varies from three feet to three feet and three inches in length; and in extent, from six to eight feet, and I have even heard of them being killed which measured nine feet in extent, but have never met with an instance of this, and therefore I cannot verify the statement. Several years ago, four Bald Eagles were fighting in the air over my grandfather's farm, when two of them clinched and fell to the ground, not many yards away from the house. They thoroughly terrorized the two colored people that were working there, because they believed that Judgement Day had come, and this occurrence was to warn them of its approach. One of them, an old man started for the house to get the gun. When he got to the steps, he changed his mind and thought that he would take them alive, and started back; but when he caught sight of the birds his heart failed him, and he started to the house again half running, only to repeat the same performance as soon as he reached the door steps. My aunt and the colored woman in the meantime assailed the eagles with a board apiece, and in a short time dispatched them both. When they came through the yard gate, each carrying a dead eagle, they saw the old man still running back and forth, calling out, "Oh! Miss S——, where's de gun, where's de gun." In answer to him they held up their eagles, which completely overcame him to think that they should kill them without a gun.

The Bird of Washington which the immortal Audubon thought was a new species was nothing more than the immature Bald Eagle. In speaking of The Washington Eagle, Audubon's own words are: "It was in the month of February, 1814, that I obtained the first sight of this noble bird (meaning the supposed new species, The Bird of Washington), and never shall I forget the delight it gave me. Not even Her-

schel when he discovered the planet which bears his name, could have experienced more rapturous feelings. We were on a trading voyage, ascending the Upper Mississippi. The keen wintry blasts whistled around us, and the cold from which I suffered had, in a great degree, distinguished the deep interest which at other seasons, had been wont to wake in me. I lay stretched beside our patroon. The safety of the cargo was forgotten, and the only thing that called my attention, was the multitude of ducks of different species, accompanied by vast flocks of swans, which from time to time passed us. My patroon, a Canadian, had been for years engaged in the fur trade. He was a man of much intelligence; and perceiving that these birds had engaged my attention, seemed anxious to find some new object to divert me. An eagle flew over us. How fortunate! he exclaimed, 'this is what I could have wished. Look, sir, the great eagle, and the only one that I have seen since I left the lakes.' I was instantly on my feet, and having observed it attentively concluded as I lost it in the distance, that it was a new species quite new to me."

A few years after this Audubon had the pleasure of killing one of this supposed new species, and preserved it. Afterwards he made a drawing of which it took him fourteen days to complete. He gave it the name of The Bird of Washington. As great a Naturalist, and bird-lover as Audubon was he had made a mistake. His new species was nothing more than an immature Bald Eagle. Such must certainly be the case, or some other Naturalist would have seen this new eagle, and noticed it. Mr. Webber in his book, "Wild Scenes and Song Birds" says in regard to the certainly new species: "That Mr. Audubon has made a mistake in regard to the fact, of this being a new species."

Bald Eagles nest in Florida more

than anywhere else on this Continent. There, along the Indian River region, you can find the nest and be able to see one or two more not very far distant.

I know where a pair of eagles nest in this county (Bertie) every year, but that is all I know about it. I have often wished that I could climb to it; but it is useless to wish, since the nest is at the top—the very pinnacle—of a very high dead pine. This pine is in a swamp, on the left hand bank of the Cashi River where it empties in the Albemarle Sound, and if any reader of the OOLOGIST wishes to know the exact situation of an eagle's nest, will take a Geography and look at the place, he will see the place where a pair of Eagles build every year and raise their young ones in safety, from the simple reason that I am not able to obtain their eggs.

GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetus*.)

This species is about as common in California as the Bald Eagle is in Florida. They usually build in the mountain cliffs, but often appropriate trees for this purpose. In all cases their nest is very hard to reach, as they build in the highest trees that they can find, or else upon inaccessible crags of the mountains of which of either they can find a plenty, because the country round about California is noted for these two things. The Golden Eagle is very near the same size of the Bald Eagle, but differ greatly in plumage. The former is of a rich golden brown, while the latter is a vandyke brown with white head and tail. In Asia Minor this species is very common, nesting among the Taurus Mountains in the almost inaccessible crags and clefts. It is with great difficulty that the nests can be reached. I have a set of two in my collection that was collected there, and the description of the nest on the data reads thus: "Nest, was made of sticks, sods, feathers, bones, etc., placed in a cliff, reached by a man being lowered with ropes from above." By the

above you see that it is as hard to get to the nest after you find it, as it was to find it. The Golden Eagle also is known to breed in the mountainous districts of New England and New York.

These are the birds that trouble the sheep-raisers of the West. I have been told that they swoop down upon and carry off the young lambs so unexpectedly and easy that it is impossible to keep a lookout for them and prevent them from catching the unfortunate lambs. But the eagles must be fed, and I suppose that this is as good as any way. It is only a lamb gone, and the eagles feast thereon.

In the cliffs and high trees where they build, they lay generally two, but sometimes three eggs. In color they vary from almost pure white to thickly spotted with brown, with shell markings of lavender and purplish.

GRAY SEA EAGLE (*Haliastur albicilla*).

This eagle is admitted to the Check List of North American Birds upon its occurrence in the southern part of Greenland. As its name implies, it is truly a Sea Eagle hardly, if ever being found far inland. They breed quite commonly in South Greenland, and abundantly along the coast of Great Britain in the rocky cliffs that overhang the ocean. They, like other eagles, lay two and sometimes three eggs—plain white in color.

Nesting of Black-capped Chickadee in Kalamazoo Co., Mich.
(*Parus rtrierpillvs*.)

The Black-capped Chickadee may be found in these parts through the entire year. Although I think it migrates and those found here in winter breed farther north.

Its bold habits make it to most people a well known bird. The nest of the Chickadee when once its habits and general nesting sites are known, is very easy to find. The nest according to my

observations is usually placed in a hole made by the birds in a small stump from four to eight inches in diameter, and from one to three feet from the ground, always in a swampy place or near water. A nest found April 22d, 1889, in a small ash stump 18 inches from the ground. The entrance to this nest was one and one half inches in diameter and the cavity five inches deep, larger at the bottom than top and filled about half way with moss, fur, hair and fibrous bark. The eggs seven in number were covered over, a habit of the Chickadee before leaving the nest.

A nest found April 27th, 1889, in a stub that leaned over a creek. The birds had drilled in from the under side and had a young bird fallen from the nest, nothing would have prevented it from going in the water. The entrance was about three feet from the surface of the water. This nest contained six slightly incubated eggs.

A set of six slightly incubated eggs was taken from a small poplar stump May 6th, 1889. The stump was in a swamp nearly covered with tall, rank grass.

The bird was on the nest when found and had to be removed in order to secure the eggs. Another set taken May 9th, 1890, from a stub that ran obliquely from the body of an alder bush, contained eight nearly fresh eggs, a large set.

The stub was about four inches in diameter and two feet from the ground. when I first found the nest I broke open the hole and found but one egg. I went to a marsh near, got some long grass and with it tied the thin shell back to its place. Ten days later I went to the nest and found eight eggs as above stated. This nest I have in my cabinet. It is built of green moss and bits of bark, lined with bits of fur, hair and a few small feathers.

The eggs of the Chickadee do not dif-

fer greatly and can be distinguished from all others in this locality. Color, white, marked sparingly over the entire surface with reddish-brown spots, chiefly at the larger end.

B. R. W.

Nesting of the Purple Finch.

This species also known as the "Linnet" arrives in this locality about the first of April, and but few remain with us to breed.

I was fortunate enough last year to have the pleasure of finding a nest of *Carpodacus purpureus*, which now is in my possession, with four of the finest specimens of the eggs I ever saw.

While passing through an apple orchard on June 30th, 1890, my attention was drawn to the opposite side by the Canary-like song of the above species, which I did not recognize at first. After walking to the other side of the orchard, there upon the top-most branch of an apple tree sat the male so absorbed in his song as to be oblivious to all around him; glancing to the opposite side of the tree I saw a small shallow nest built upon a branch about eight feet from the ground.

The nest generally consists of a frame work of vegetable fibres, grass stems and strips of bark, and lined with minute fibres closely woven together.

The eggs are oblong-oval, and vary in size and configuration. They are a pale emerald green and spotted with a dark brown.

The average size of the set taken by me was somewhat larger than any I ever saw. The average measurement being .89 by .69 of an inch.

CHARLES A. ELY,
Monmouth Co., N. J.

The Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*.)

The Red-eyed Vireo is a quite common summer resident in this locality, as it is in all the eastern part of this

country. It is one of the most joyful and tireless of our feathered songsters. One can hardly stir out of doors during the spring and summer, without hearing snatches of its melodious song. Its song seems too large for its body, and to swell and burst out without assistance from its owner. It builds its nest between the fork of a small limb generally near the tip. The nest is firmly woven of fibers of bark and lined with grasses or pine needles.

In some parts of the country the nest is said to be placed almost invariably in maples, but I have seen it here in both beech and apple trees. It is usually placed within arm's reach, though I once saw one twenty feet up a cedar tree. The eggs are sometimes two, sometimes four, but generally three and rarely five. They have a pure white ground rather thinly dotted with reddish spots. Those in my possession average .80 x .56. The bird itself is a slim, graceful, olive-brown creature about three inches long. It has a way of jumping and darting from limb to limb, in and out of sight and peering at you when you are near its nest.

W. E. AIKEN,
Benson, Vt.

A Living Egg-Blower.

ONLY A SUGGESTION.

If collectors have tried every possible means of blowing badly incubated eggs, such as eggs that are about to hatch, drill the hole a little larger than usual, and apply a leech.

The leech will suck the blood out of the chick till it becomes so full that it drops off, keep on applying other leeches which in turn will suck their share of blood, till nothing remains but the skeleton and skin, the latter of which oologists already have their methods of removing. Remember this is only a suggestion.

ROBINSON C. WATTERS,
Baltimore, Md.

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*• Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

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We have a bushel (more or less) of queries to answer and notes and items to sift out, which should have appeared in this OOLOGIST. Pressure of other business prevented. Will try and have them in June issue sure.

During the past two years we have mailed the OOLOGIST between the 5th and 10th of each month. Owing to a large amount of extra work, we were unable to mail last month's issue until the 15th. In order to "catch up" and to mail future issues on the *first* of the month we make this issue a double number and mail it on April 25th. We think this change will prove highly satisfactory to our friends as this issue contains double the usual amount of reading matter, and future issues will

be mailed not later than the first day of the month of issue, and possibly on the 25th of the preceding month, in which case, our patrons would receive their OOLOGIST by the first of the month.

All copy for June OOLOGIST must be received not later than May 20th.

Bird Life of an Islet.

BY W. N. C.

Situated in Casco Bay, on the coast of Maine, distant about three-quarters of a mile from the nearest land is an islet which though not large is of interest to the Collector as being the home of a number of birds. The writer has visited this islet a number of times and collected somewhat in the oological line upon it, and now proposes to offer a few notes upon the species occurring there.

□ Although bird life teems I have seen but four species, namely: The Sharp-tailed Finch, Spotted Sandpiper, Arctic Tern and Bank Swallow. I have named these in the order of their abundance.

First let us speak of the Sharp-tailed Finch. They are abundant in every sense of the word; the island fairly swarms with them, but in spite of their numbers they hide their nests so cunningly that it takes considerable time and patience to discover one; since the writer is sadly deficient in the later quality, all of his nests were discovered accidentally. I have found three sets of four and one of six, all placed in the side of the bank that skirts the rocky beach.

The little Spotted Sandpipers are everywhere, and their obtrusive habits make them appear upon one's landing, the most abundant species on the islet. They are the earliest breeders, and on June 24, 1889, I found many fragments of egg shells of this species among the

rocks on the shore. How they got there I am unable to state. It would seem a curious place for the species to nest. The only set found on this occasion, perfectly fresh, and probably a second one, was placed in the long grass of the afore-mentioned bank.

Arctic Terns are quite numerous, but they are decreasing, their number being much smaller last summer than in the two preceding ones, which is as far as my observation extends. Their nesting is as usual. About June 25th is the time to look for full sets. The most nests are found in the driftage which is deposited in patches in the salt grass, but some are found in other locations. Here as elsewhere two or three is the common number, but in this colony it is sometimes exceeded, for in my short experience with it, I have found two sets of four and even one of five. These latter were undoubtedly all laid by one bird since they agreed perfectly in a rather rare type of coloration. I also found six eggs in one nest, but these were easily divisible by markings, into two distinct sets.

The fourth species observed on this islet is the Bank Swallow. There are only a few pairs, nesting in the earth banks with no variation from their habits on shore. They breed earlier than any species except the Spotted Sandpiper.

I have found the bird life of this little islet very interesting, as representing four typical species of our native birds and I hope my account of it may prove so to others.

Migration of the Canada Goose.
(*Branta canadensis*.)

A long time ago, I remember the flocks of Canada Geese that passed on their semi-annual migration flights. I remember the strange feelings I had when I saw the large, rare birds. I had been told that they were going to

or from their breeding grounds which were supposed to be so very far away in the cold north that they had not been discovered. I had read that their nesting grounds were unknown.

When I would see them passing overhead, with strange and beautiful flight I would have that pleasure which an ornithologist has when he sees some rare new bird. Some of the mystery and wondering thought connected with the "Wild Goose" has been cleared away. It is now known to breed not only in the northern part of the United States, but even as far south as southern Illinois, Ornithologists have found its haunts and studied its nesting habits to their pleasure. The migration of any bird is an interesting study, but it seems to me that the study of this movement in the Canada Goose is of superior interest. It passes here in its fall migration on dark, cloudy and often rainy days. I have wondered why it chooses such days to fly, and also why they always fly Southeast, instead of South in the autumn, when they pass over this locality. It is an invariable fact that they choose such days and fly in the directions I have just mentioned. I can only account for it in this way. In the fall, so I have read, great flocks of these birds gather for food and rest, after the work of the breeding season, on the great plains of the West and Northwest. The long dreary fall rains come from those directions, and bring the flocks of Geese with them.

About the time of their migration they are probably warned by an approaching storm—It is said that birds can foretell changes of weather,—and commence their journey, often to be overtaken by it before they have reached their southern destination. Now these storms from the northwest may be the cause of the direction they pursue or it may be they prefer the pleasant waters of the Atlantic or the eastern

part of the Gulf of Mexico to any other.

In the spring they fly in a northwesterly direction, but I can not account for this by the directions of the storms. March 26, 1891, I saw a large flock, perhaps 75 in number, flying nearly directly west. Can anyone account for this direction? I can but guess. They may go to breed in the northwest, or they may gather in large flocks, on the plains and then pass on north.

How many interesting and often perplexing questions are raised by the study of migration! But it is pleasant nevertheless. Last spring on a beautiful bright day I studied the Warblers, near a little stream where tinted Hepaticas were almost as thick as the pebbles at the bottom of the water. I was happy in the woods that day. But all days are not pleasant out of doors. When "the days are dark and dreary" I feel as much pleasure, almost in seeing flocks of the great Canada Geese flying high overhead, as I do when I find some rare beautiful Warbler in the blossoming April woods.

EARLE A. BROOKS,
French Creek, W. Virginia.

Association of American Ornithologists.

A number of the ornithologists, of Washington, D. C., and vicinity, met with a view to organization, on April 11th last. The meeting was held at F. S. Webster's studio of taxidermy, on Penn. Ave., and a partial organization effected.

The following officers were elected:

Pres., Rev. J. H. Langille, Kensington, Md.; Vice Pres., W. H. Aspinwall, 1305 Riggs St., Washington, D. C.; Treas., to be filled; Sec., A. B. Farnham, Bennings, D. C.; Board of Corresponding Secretaries, Chairman, W. A. Merritt, 118 Md. Ave., N. E. Washington, D. C., other Sec's to be supplied.

The above name was determined on and another meeting appointed in two

weeks, when an association organ will be determined on, and other matters perfected. The main object of the association is the effective study of bird life by ways and means adapted to those who are not professional naturalists.

Corresponding members are desired everywhere, especially those isolated regarding ornithological tastes. Such persons gather much that is new to many students of bird life, and as the associations headquarters are in Washington it hopes to offer advantages to such members-at-large, in the way of identification, comparison and the accounts of eminent naturalists. The association having access to the collections and library of the Smithsonian Institution it will be easy for it to furnish its members any such information. Persons wishing to ascertain more regarding the association and membership in the same will please write the Cor. Secretary or any of the officers.

A. B. FARNHAM,
Cor. Sec.

Notes on Wright's Flycatcher. (*Empidonax obscurus*)

The eggs of this species being considered quite rare, I thought a few notes on the nesting habits would be acceptable. I have found this Flycatcher in young aspens, willows, etc., and usually near water, during the breeding season, but never have I gained any knowledge as to the nesting habits, until the season of 1890, when I collected a fine set of three fresh eggs. The nest was a very neat structure, composed mostly of soft grass, but with a few fine strips of bark and a small piece of twine, tightly woven together with a lining of horse hairs. It was placed in some buck-brush, only three feet from the ground and but two feet from a creek. The eggs were a pale buffy-white, but after they were blown, changed to

white with a delicate bluish tinge, yet when held to the light, the buffy appearance is still visible but is very faint.

The parent birds were at least from five to ten feet away all the time I was near the nest, but didn't seem to be excited in the least when I took the eggs, although they seemed to be watching me all the time. Occasionally one would repeat that familiar note which sounds something like *whit*.

Returning to the same locality later in the season I found they had nested again, this time with success. They had raised four young, which were in good plumage for the time being. I secured one to assure identity to the set of three I had previously taken. On the same day (June 25) that I collected the eggs, I found an old nest, which was in all appearances, the same as the one taken, and it was only about thirty feet from it. Probably the same pair builds in that locality from year to year. During the coming season I shall visit the same place with hopes of finding another set of this species.

CLYDE L. KELLER,
Salem, Oregon.

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number of nests, and after the full complement of eggs has been laid and the birds began incubating, to "make the rounds" and gather up all the eggs? Then invite all your ornithological friends to a "Grand Egg Breaking Matinee," have ice cream and cake and enjoy yourself generally over the murder of the *innocents*.

"A. M. S."
Poynette, Wis.

A Correction.

In March COLOGIST in my article of "Winter Birds of Linn Co. Oregon," "No. 762 Mountain Robin" should be No. 763 Mountain Robin or Varied Thrush *Hesperoichla uexia*.

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It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the *Ms.* for a new Oologists' Hand-Book is nearly ready for the printer and, that under ordinary circumstances it will be ready for delivery early in June. The new Hand-Book, for the money, we think will be one of the most valuable works for one interested in birds, ever published. Our old '85 edition was issued as our catalogue—Our new '91 edition will not be a catalogue at all, but simply and purely a Collectors' Hand-Book in the fullest sense of the word, and will contain, at least 150 pages, each teeming with valuable information. It will also contain two or three full page plates and many illustrations. The size of the pages will be about 6 x 4 inches, making a volume that can be conveniently carried in the pocket. Two editions will be issued, one in paper covers at 50c per copy, and the other in flexible leather at 75c.

WHAT IT WILL CONTAIN.

It will give the common and scientific name of every North American bird known at the date of going to press. These names will be numbered, arranged and given according to the A. O. U. nomenclature, they will also be divided and sub-divided into the orders and families which they belong. It will give the numbers of each species as used in Ridgway's nomenclature of 1881 and those used by Cones' in 1883. It will give the value of the eggs of over 600 species and sub-species of North American birds, as fixed by some of the most competent American Oologists, at date of going to press, this fact alone making it invaluable to collectors, as a basis on which to make exchanges. It will give the breeding range of each species. It will give a considerable information about the nest of each species. It will give the shape, color, markings and size of the eggs of each species and will also state the number usually found in a set. It will also mention some of the more common local names by which each species is known in different localities. It will also give a considerable information on the collecting and preparing of specimens for the cabinet and will have something to say about making cabinets, making exchanges, packing, etc., etc. It will also tell how to make a good bird skin, and many other useful hints and items, most of which will be well illustrated.

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52 or more pages, printed in suitable type, on good book paper, bound substantially, in heavy tinted covers. THE PRICE of this directory will be 25c after publication, but to those sending in their names immediately and signifying their wish for a copy, on publication the price will be 15c.

TO ADVERTISERS.

Through correspondence with many prominent collectors throughout the country will find the general opinion is that a good directory is badly needed. We will make this directory a good one. Great care will be taken to make the compilation strictly correct. And as for the typographical appearance, we are sure you will be pleased with it. We solicit your advertisements for this work. Nothing objectionable will be inserted and only reliable dealers need apply for space. PLEASE SEND FOR PROSPECTUS which will explain our plan of securing dealers and others making remittances and gives full explanations.

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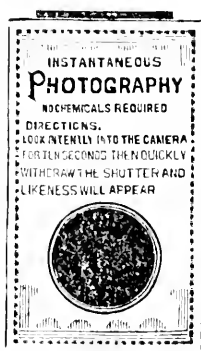
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We have just purchased of the manufacturers at less than actual cost of plating a lot of gold and silver plated charm rules, size and graduations are as illustrated. We have less than 75 all told and until June 1st unless sold before we will mail them prepaid at the following low rates:

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SEND stamp for price list of Birds' Eggs at
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THE OÖLOGIST.

Monthly. 50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1891.No. 6

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," inserted in this department for **25c per 25 words.** Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. **No notice inserted for less than 25c.** Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—Manton's "Taxidermy without a Teacher," bound in cloth in first-class condition; for best offer in Entomologists' supplies. **DAVID A. YOUNG,** Washington Heights, Ill.

EXCHANGE? Will exchange New Jersey eggs for same. Lattin's values as per 1891 Catalogue for yours. 33% off for mine. **W. WILKINS,** Rahway, N. J.

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TO EXCHANGE.—A 22 cal. rifle globe and elevating sights; for Telescope, 4 or more slides good condition. All correspondence answered. **PERRY MARKS,** Newton, N. J.

WANTED.—The correspondence of everyone who is interested in the collecting of Birds' Eggs. Write, you will never regret it. **OSWOLD B. COOPER,** Coffeyville, Kansas.

WANTED. The Boston "Ornithologist and Oologist," previous to the year 1885, also any other magazines or works relating to Ornithology for which I will give good exchange in eggs. **F. L. FARLEY,** St. Thomas, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—Job Printing for Cones' Key, Natural History Specimens and Curio, Datas and Labels any way you want them. Here is your chance, write and make offer. **ELBERT L. POTTER,** La Motte, Iowa.

3 VOLS. Harper's Young People, Old Coins, Stamps, Confederate Money, International Album. Send for list and condition. Send your lists. **F. L. ENGLEBERT,** Des Moines, Iowa.

WANTED. To purchase a good collection of first-class Birds' Eggs, in Sets with data. Also eggs singly and in sets. Address with lists and price wanted. **J. S. McEVROY JR.,** Graham's Warehouse, Park Ave. and Dolphin St., Baltimore, Md.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—900 different kinds of United States and Foreign postage stamps, in album, value \$10; to exchange for best offer. **BERT RAYMOND,** Addison, N. Y.

WANTED. Natural History specimens of nearly all branches, in large or small quantities. Will exchange specimens or supplies, or pay cash. Send list with lowest prices. I have some paper-cover "Davie's Keys" to exchange. **C. F. CARR,** Madison, Wis. J63

DAVIE'S "NESTS AND EGGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS." In reply to dozens of queries we take pleasure in announcing that during the month of June we will exchange Davie's invaluable work for any of the Eggs wanted in our Exchange Extraordinary at the following liberal rates:

Paper cover edition \$1.00 in Eggs and 40c cash	
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EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few more sets and singles of Franklin's Gull which I will trade for other good species, also the following "big cents" for good offer in first-class sets: 1802, '47, '51, '53 (2), '54 (2), '47, '55, '56 (2), '63, '51. Send lists. FRANK HARRIS, La Crescent, Minn.

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WANTED.—U. S. and Foreign Stamps, have for exchange Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, War Relics, Fossils, Minerals, Rocks, fresh and salt water Shells, Butterflies and Moths, Insects, Corals, Curios, Eggs and Woods, all fine specimens. GEO. B. BENNETT, Cor. Beech and Lafayette Sts., Terre Haute, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Guns, Revolvers, Mounted and Unmounted Specimens, Musical Instruments and fancy Horn Work; for Eggs, Skins, Mounted Specimens, or personal property. All correspondence answered. CAPT. TESCH, Lexington, Neb.

THE FAST MAIL will bring you California Eggs, Skins, Minerals, Curiosities, Job Printing, etc., in exchange for your Natural History specimens, Tools, Supplies, Useful Articles, Office Materials, Apparatus scientific, Natural History books. Send lists. U. L. HERTZ & Co., Napa City, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—45 cal. loaded cartridges, second-class Eggs, and a Magic Lantern; for first-class Eggs. JAMES EGBERT, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Full sets, nests and datas, including, 300, 494, 423, A. O. U.; for Remington Rifle or aeromatic Telescope. Write Quick! E. O. GROVER, Hanover, N. H.

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TO EXCHANGE.—First-class original sets of 999a, with complete datata. Name a basis of exchange. CHAS. A. DAVIS, 409, E. 3rd St. Duluth, Minn.

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FOR EVERY \$2.50 worth of Stamps, Eggs, or Curios, sent me, I will mail the formula for making the Embalming Preparation used at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. to mount Birds and Mammals without skinning. GEO. B. BENNETT, cor. Beech and Lafayette, Terre Haute, Ind.

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WANTED A CAMERA.—I have a collection of Eggs, nearly 100 varieties, many rare, a kit of Taxidermist's and Oologist's Instruments, a small Microscope, first five volumes THE OOLOGIST, bound and unbound, books on Taxidermy etc. and a few other articles, to exchange for Photo outfit complete. CHAS. J. THOMSON, 746 North 30th St. Philadelphia, Penn.

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RARE SETS AND SINGLES.—Including Little Flycatchers, Hummers, etc., to exchange for Rifles, Revolvers, Stamps, Relics, etc. Large collections for Safety Bicycle. C. TURTON, Los Angeles, Calif.

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DAVIE'S "NESTS AND EGGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS."—In reply to dozens of queries we take pleasure in announcing that during the month of June we will exchange Davie's invaluable work for any of the Eggs wanted in our Exchange Extraordinary at the following liberal rates:

Paper cover edition \$1.00 in Eggs and 40c cash
Flexible cloth " " " " 65c "
Extra " " " " 90c "

We make this offer for June only and will never renew it. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON JULY 15, 1891.

I want at once the following first-class eggs, either in singles or in sets, in exchange at 1890 prices, or if in sets, I will allow 10 per cent. above these prices, in exchange for the articles mentioned below. Eggs taken in large or small quantities. No exchange amounting to less than \$1.00 can be "bothered with" unless 10 cents additional is enclosed for return postage and packing. If you have any of the rarer species to offer send lists. Species wanted, Ridgway's Nos.:
 2, 4, 26, 27, 41, 42, 47, 50, 51, 56, 68, 99, 128; any of the rarer Warblers, 157, 168, 183a, 191, 198, 198a, 214, 217, 246, 248, 251, 257, 290, 271, 277, 278, 278b, 283, 303, 304, 329, 326; any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 357, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 465, 473, 482, 483; any of the Herons, 497, 498, 501, 505, 507, 516, 520, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 574, 578, 582, 583, 601, 609, 613, 618, 634, 640; any of the Cormorants, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 686, 687, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 760, 761, 763a, 522.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the prices quoted.

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Trilobite (<i>Calymene Niagaraensis</i>)25
Scaphites, from Bl'ck Hills, choice, desirable30
Resurrection Plant15
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Indian Pottery, fine specimen25
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Sea Horse, very fine50
Fossil Polyp Coral25
Fossil Sea Urchin25
10 Wild Potatoes25
Egg of Skate12
" " Shark25
" " Hammerhead or Leopard Shark25
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"O. K." Parer and Slicer25
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Barrow's Golden-Eye 1.25
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Sooty " " " "40
American Eared Grebe50
Franklin's Gull75
American Scoter 2.50
Sennet's Thrasher (13a)40
American Scaup Duck75
White-winged Dove40
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " 1.00
Arkansas Goldfinch20
Velvet Scoter 1.50
Tufted Titmouse40
Carolina Wren30

FOREIGN EGGS.

Bul-bul, from Philippines	.....\$ 1.00
Black-headed Weaverfinch	..... .50
European Blackbird	..... .15
" " Song Thrush	..... .15
Ruddy Sheldrake	..... .50
Med. Black-headed Gull	..... .35
Barbary Partridge	..... .35

Continued on next page.

If you desire to obtain anything on the above list in exchange, send on your eggs at once. If you have no eggs, but have other desirable specimens in quantity, write what you have, with price; or will exchange for collections of fine Postage Stamps or second-hand books on Natural History, or choice Indian Relics.

Only first-class Specimens accepted at any price, all others returned at sender's expense.

We will receive hundreds of packages in answer to this exchange and if you do not write your name plainly on the outside of the packages you send, your exchange will be delayed and packages possibly lost.

This offer will hold good until July 15th only.

Send on your specimens at once in large or small quantities, it makes no difference to us whether you send \$1.00 or \$100.00 worth, but if less than \$1.00 worth, 10 cents extra must be enclosed for return postage and packing.

Large quantities shipped by express or freight, *must be prepaid*. Address,

FRANK H. LATTIN,
ALBION, N. Y.

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All Extra Fine Bright Specimens.

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Strophia glans10
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THE OOLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1891.

No. 6

The Humming Birds of California.

The Hummingbirds occupy a prominent place in the Avi-fauna of California, there being no less than six species found regularly within the borders of the state. Although none of these possess the extravagant features found in some of the more tropical representatives of this family, they are interesting little creatures and command the admiration and attentive consideration of all lovers of bird life. Hummingbirds are strictly American, and in their incomparable beauty are unrivaled by even those feathered fairies of the Old World whose small size and gorgeous colors have won for them the name of Sun-birds.

A visitor to Southern California is impressed with the large number of Hummingbirds seen; in every garden, field and canon, even in the shaded depths of woodland districts and on the bleak, inclement mountain summits, these aerial gems, doubtless the most gorgeously hued of created things, are found in large numbers. In the vicinity of Santa Barbara, Anna's Hummingbird is quite common; the male, Anna's perched upon one of the uppermost twigs of a tree is a familiar sight. Conscious of his ostentatious array, he sits upon his swinging perch and proudly scans the environs stretched below in their magnificent, semi-tropic splendor, and soliloquizes in a creaking tone while his coruscant gorget flashes with fiery tints at every change of position. Suddenly from his lofty perch he sees an enemy, real or imaginary, then high he mounts on whirring winglets until all but lost in the azure depth, now downward he plunges with inconceivable speed—an iridescent spright of the skies—describing an ellipse in his flight,

and when he nears his foe he gives utterance to a shrill shriek of hate and defiance; as he rises again to repeat the performance he poises for an instant to locate his foe. These efforts usually are of no avail and the Hummingbird, seeing his opponent haughtily repudiating the assault, hies himself to a neighboring tree where he consoles himself by casting vague maledictions upon the whole feathered tribe, excepting of course himself and his immediate relatives.

Among the other common Hummers of this vicinity are Allen's, Costa's, and the Rufous. The latter frequents the well watered canons where it appears as it darts hither and thither like the reflections of many jewels. The Allen's is a seclusive bird, the male is seldom seen; the female may be seen flitting about cypress hedges where the nests are likely to be found. The Alexander or Black-chinned Hummingbird is found in this locality but not numerously as its habitat is further south. The Calliope Hummingbird is a mountain species and is only found in the high altitudes.

The nests of all species of Hummingbirds are architectural models; they are composed of fine materials and are made extremely soft and comfortable. The complement of eggs is two.

The identification of the male birds is an easy matter, the females, however, will give trouble. There are but two Hummingbirds in California with metallic scales on the top of the head, these are Anna's and Costa's; and they may be recognized readily by the difference in size and in the color of the helmets, the Anna's being larger than the Costa's and the color of its helmet crimson; the color of the Costa's helmet is violet. The Rufous is easily recog-

nized in its resplendent fiery hues. The Callilope has a lilac gorget set in white, like lilac stars on a white field. The Allen's resembles the Rufous to a considerable degree; the colors are not as bright, however; the back is of a greenish-red color, the underparts light, cinnamon on sides and flanks, gorget fiery red. The Alexander has an opaque or velvety black gorget posteriorly glittering with emerald and sapphire, underparts whitish, green on sides.

The female Anna's resembles the male without a gorget, no rufous any where. The female Costa's is smaller than the female Anna's otherwise resembling very much, outer tail feathers very narrow especially so in male. The female Rufous is extensively rufous, but overlaid with green, underparts white; no gorget. Female Allen's resembles the latter, but the rufous is not so prominent; extensively green on back; slight metallic scales on throat. The female Callilope may be recognized by a white mark under each eye. The female Alexander has a rounded tail, the feathers of which have a dark purplish space near end and tipped with white; no gorget, resembles the female Ruby-throat of the east.

HARRY C. LILLIE,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

Ring Pheasant.

Phasianus torquatus (GMEL)

Common name—Chinese Pheasant.
Mongolian Pheasant.

Habitat—Western United States—Willamette Valley and Southward into California.

Description—Male total length 34 to 40 inches. Length of tail 15 inches to 24 inches. Bill dark, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches long. Iris yellow. Crown greyish-green with a white stripe extending over each eye.

Around the eyes is found a large red patch of hair feathers.

Neck—Changeable green and purple, following which is a circular band of pure white extending around the entire neck, from this it receives its name.

The breast and point of shoulders is a changeable fire red and purplish blue.

The border of the feathers being tipped with blue, following this in the median line is a narrow strip of blue feathers which gradually emerge into black as we approach the under tail coverts which is greyish-brown.

The tail consists of sixteen feathers, the outer ones being shorter, and gradually becoming longer up to fifteen in. or twenty-four inches, the two center feathers being longest.

The under coloring is greyish-bleak, the upper brown with light-grey and black, and brown bars.

Upper tail coverts Irish green bordered with old-gold and tinged with bright green.

Under wing greyish-white. Body light yellow and end of feathers tipped with deep blue.

Female—Is about $\frac{2}{3}$ size of male, and of a uniform mottled pale yellow with slight shades of brown, black and gray, variously intermixed. It has none of the gay colors of the male.

The above description, although very poor and wanting in many respects will at least I hope, convey some idea of the beauty of the species.

A few general notes may also be of interest.

This bird was imported from China, by O. N. Denny.

Six pair were let loose on Peterson Butte about twenty miles from this place. A law was at once enacted for the protection of the birds for six years, this law expiring Oct. 1st, next.

After four or five years the birds became so numerous that a great many of the farmers complained severely that they were very destructive to grain and gardens. There is no doubt but what they frequent such places, but the harm they do is slight in comparison with the

good done, and the pleasure of having such a beautiful bird in our country.

They have been killed in immense numbers and stripped of their feathers, the meat being sent to the Portland market.

The farmers in this county are taking active steps for the protection of the bird in the way of putting up trespass notices, but this is not done with an idea to keep the species, but to kill them at their pleasure (which is at every opportunity afforded) for the benefit of their own table, and I might add they are very delicious for such purposes.

The bird has many cunning devices to deceive the hunter. At the approach of foot-steps they will squat down close to the ground and a person can pass within a few feet of it and not discover it, nor will the bird fly until seen by you, when it is up and away like a flash.

In an open plowed field the bird will lie so close that it can not be seen at a distance of two rods.

They are also very swift of foot, it requiring a good dog to catch one that has been winged.

Their breeding habits is somewhat peculiar also. The female deposits her first complement of eggs about April 15th, or May 1st, laying from seven to fifteen eggs. As soon as the young leave the nest the male takes charge and the hen again lays about the same number of eggs. By the time these are ready to leave the nest, the first brood is able to take care of themselves, and the male again takes charge of the second brood. A third complement is then laid and when they are hatched the male and female both take charge.

Three broods are generally raised in a season by one pair and by a little figuring one can form some idea of the increase of the species.

You can also see the same from the fact that from the six pair let loose in Oregon, the entire western coast has

been densely populated by them in five years, and thousands have been killed.

They nest upon the ground in open fields. Out stubble field is a favorable resort for their nest. The nest is made of leaves and dry grass, placed in a clump of grass or perhaps under some small brush.

In captivity the birds do well, and even nest and breed while so confined.

I have an adult male in confinement and he will eat most anything given him, but prefers wheat and oats, and seeds of all kinds generally. In the wild state during winter they feed upon fir seeds and buds, but during summer they feed upon seeds and green leaves.

They seem to be fearless coming unto barn-yards and feeding with the domestic fowls. Only a short time ago one came within fifty feet of my house right in the village.

The males during the spring, crow similar to a domestic cock and taking advantage of this the hunter locates them and slowly and gently slips up on them and is generally sure of his game.

Much more might be said in regard to this one of our most beautiful birds, but for fear of tiring the readers I will close.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

The Carolina Wren.

When I came South, this species was comparatively new to me. I had studied it in New Jersey, but did not find it numerous there, and it did not reach Western New York. Around Washington it is abundant, and every where it has its peculiar haunts. If one makes a clearing in the woods, setting a portable saw-mill on a little run of water, these wrens are pretty sure to be found afterwards in the stub-piles and among the rubbish. It may also be found in open ravines. For instance it is very numerous along the steep and craggy banks of the Potomac

River above Washington. Here it revels during the sunny days of spring and the long scorching days of summer, never being very far from the moist shady gorges or the springs which discharge themselves like little cascades over the rocky cliffs. Here one associates them early in spring with the crimson mantle of the Judas tree, and later in the season with the flaming blossoms of the trumpet creeper.

They will not infrequently become as semi-domesticated as the common wren, nesting in the corn barn or the hay mow. Last year a pair took up their quarters in the second story of my carriage barn, where the hay was stored. The first nest made early in June was placed in a corner between the post and the brace, and was made of the most flexible bits of hay and the softest clover leaves, being lined with hair and feathers. It contained six eggs, white specked with reddish-brown. The second nest built in August, and containing five eggs, was diagonally across the room in the corner similarly placed, and the same in general construction, but lacked the lining of hair and feathers. The bird was very tame and kept her nest quite closely. I even looked at her once by night with the lantern without disturbing her in the least. The young were raised successfully, and took their departure in the most leisnrely and proper manner.

At Sandy Spring about eighteen miles from Washington, one was known to nest in a corn-barn for several years in succession, building its nest of the silks of the corn. It seems therefore, to make its nest out of any soft and flexible material which may be at hand.

It has various twittering conversational notes, easily identified. Its song, loud, spirited, clear and resonant, and somewhat varied, is cheerful indeed, but not so highly musical to my ear as it seems

to some. Its greatest charm is in the fact that we hear it more or less frequently nearly all the year, for the bird is a resident. It is but a plain artist in song compared with the voluble and rapturous winter wren, as we hear it in the swamps and low woodlands of the north.

J. H. Lanille.

American Dipper.

Cinclus mexicanus.

Hab.—Western North America in mountainous districts.

Des.—The entire bird is of a grayish-slate color.

Length—Six inches, length of tail one and one-half inches, length of bill five-eighths of an inch, length of wing three inches. Iris brown.

A few general notes on this species may be of interest to the readers of the OOLOGIST as I doubt if many of you have the opportunity of seeing it in its natural haunts.

The Water Dipper frequents wild mountain streams where the water is very rapid, where perpendicular rocks line the borders and where the mist and spray of the swift running stream are continually falling on it. Here it loves to stay and may be seen upon some rock, bobbing up and down like a Sand-piper or diving up the swift current, letting the water wash it back upon the rock. The rocks which they frequent most are either just above or below some water-fall.

I have seen this bird dive under the swift running water and come up a distance of thirty feet from where it entered. At other times it will drop upon the water and float down two or three hundred feet, when it will fly back and repeat the operation.

Its song is as beautiful as the mountain stream which it frequents and cannot be surpassed by any. One can sit

and listen for hours to its beautiful notes as it flies back and forth over the water and fairly makes the canon echo with its vibrations.

Its nesting place and nest is in full accord with all these surroundings. It is generally found upon some rock near where the water is swift and where the spray keeps the outside damp. The nest is made of sticks and coarse grass, which are placed in the shape of a dome. This is covered with mud, which makes the whole quite solid. It then receives a coating inside and out of green moss, such as is found growing on rocks. This moss often takes root in the mud, of which the nest is made, and grows very green, so that the whole nest has simply the appearance of a tuft of moss, except to a practiced eye.

It has been my pleasure to find three nests this season, as follows: .

(a) Found May 1, 1891. Contained four slightly incubated eggs. The nest was found on the underside of an old deserted mill. It was on a beam just over the water falls of the mill. It was so situated that the spray from the falls was keeping the moss damp. The nest was made of usual material. The female was shot and the nest and eggs secured and all preserved. Length of nest twelve inches, width eleven inches, height seven and one-half inches. The entrance was placed on one side near the center, but a little below the middle line. In order for the bird to reach the nest proper, she must pass a little upward and backward through the opening. The bed upon which the eggs lie is made of fine grass and moss. The eggs, four in number, are pure white and measure 1.01 x .74, 1.00 x .73, 1.01 x .73, 1.01 x .73.

(b) The second nest was found May 4, 1891, and contained three young. This nest was placed on the side of a perpendicular cliff about four feet above the water and sixteen feet from the top. It was only accessible by lowering one over the cliff by a rope.

(c) The third nest was found the same day. (May 4, 1891), but the female had not deposited her eggs. The nest was located similar to the previous one (b), but not in quite so perilous a position, though one must be lowered by a rope in order to examine the nest.

I will close by adding that although the haunts of this bird are as wild as could well be, the bird itself is not so. It will often light within a few feet of you, and remain for some time

DR. A. G. PRILL,
Sweet Home, Oregon.

Bird Migration.

Following are the dates on which the birds named arrived at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Latitude 37 degrees, 48 minutes, N. Longitude 80 degrees, 22 minutes, W., i. e.:

For March.—House Wren, 1; Phoebe, 17; Meadow Lark, 10; Red-wing Blackbird, 15; Killdeer, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24.

For April.—Osprey, 10; Flicker, 11; Bank Swallow, 13; Brown Thrasher, 14; Yellow Warbler, 15; Whip-poor-will, 16; Chewink, 17; Kingbird, 19; Barn Swallow, 19; Balto Oriole, 21; Warbling Vireo, 21; Green Heron, 22; Least Flycatcher, 23; Spotted Sandpiper, 23; Chimney Swift, 23; Catbird, 26; Redstart, 26; Orchard Oriole and Hummingbird, 30.

For May.—Indigo Bunting, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 4.

On May 1st, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) was seen here. This is the first record for about ten years (May, 1880.) A Northern Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) which is now considered rare here, was also seen May 1st.

I have noted at least five Red-bellied Woodpeckers here this spring, the first for several years. Redstarts are more abundant than I ever seen before as are also Brown Thrashers.

THAD. SURBUR.

May 5, 1891.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
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FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

• Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

On May 24th, while walking through a bushy pasture, about two miles south-west of Albion, K. B. Mathes found a set of three eggs of the Chewink, (*Pipilio erythrophthalmus*) incubation commenced. This species is very rare with us, and this set, the first recorded one found in Orleans county.

A. G.—Lawrence, Kans. As the young Gt. Horned Owls remain in the nest nearly, if not quite three months, we doubt if more than a single brood is ever reared in a season. When the first set is taken, another is usually laid in the same nest. We have our doubts as to whether pounding on the trunk of the tree is an infallible rule for raising the old bird from the nest.

We cannot say as to whether the Turkey Vulture occupies a nest more than one season or not. Who can?

Fred S. Wilder, Worcester, Mass., sends us the following extracts from his '90 notes:

May 18th, I collected a set of seven fresh eggs of Bluebird.

May 21st, found a nest of seven fresh eggs of White-bellied Swallow in a bird-box.

July 11th, I collected a set of five eggs of the European Goldfinch. The nest was in an apple-tree about five feet from the ground, very neatly made of hay and cotton and thread and hair. The eggs are of a dirty-white, tinged with green and streaked around the large end with dark-brown and spots of black, and vary from .62 x .48 to .72 x .42. I have the female in my collection.

W. W. Searles, Lime Springs, Ia., writes:

"While collecting in a heavy growth of timber on April 8, 1889, I found my first nest of the Am. Crow, which to my surprise contained ten eggs. Taking six I found them all fresh. Returning to the nest in a few weeks I found the other four eggs hatched. Do two crows ever lay in the same nest or is this a large set? Since then I have found them breeding very abundant, and never found more than five in a set. The nests are always placed in black oak, and made of sticks, moss, binding twine, hair, etc."

G. L. A., would like to know the name of Gulls quite common on Puget Sound during the winter and early spring months. Who can write us an article on "The Gulls of Puget Sound?"

Our old friend H. W. Davis, now in Bolivar Co., Miss., must think he has struck the sportsman's paradise. Under date of March 9th, he writes of shooting ducks from the back door of the house.

We take the following extracts from '90 notes kindly furnished us by B. H. Swales, of Detroit, Mich.:

"April 13th, saw a flock of about 150 Evening Grosbeaks, tame and easily approached.

April 20th, saw a Large-billed Water Thrush."

Mr. S. would like to obtain a list or book of Michigan birds. Who can help him out?

A. Dockery, Jr., of Hernando, Miss., reports an Albino Bronzed Grackle.

G. H. G., Baltimore, Md., queries as follows: Will some of our older ornithological readers answer?

"Through your query column I would like to learn something concerning the distinction between Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo borealis harlani*) and the common Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*).

1. Has the *Borealis* at any stage of development a yellow eye?

2. Is the tarsus in *Borealis* not feathered half way down the front?

3. Has the *Borealis* never the incision in the primary feathers?

In others words are the distinctions made by Maynard quoted in Langille, p. 97, now considered accurate? I have a specimen corresponding to that description, but since I have seen several specimens labeled "Red-tail," I feel that I may not be safe in labelling mine otherwise."

J. C. G., Montgomery, O.—'Twould be a hard matter to decide from your description whether your eggs are those of the Red-tail or Red-shouldered Hawk.

The Am. Woodcock nests very early, but your date, March 22d, we think more than ordinarily so.

J. E. S., "Jordan's Manual," is a standard and inexpensive key and textbook on the "Vertebrate Animals of Northern United States."

G. K. B., wishes to know the use of the comb-like projection on the middle toe of the Nighthawk, and other members of the Goatsucker family.

G. W. M., Moberly, Mo.—The young Red-headed Woodpecker does not have a red head.

Harry R. Painton, of College Park, Cal., writes of taking a finely marked set of two eggs of the Golden Eagle on March 14th.

H. A. H., Edinburg, Ind.—The signs and abbreviations used to indicate the age and sex of a bird are as follows:

yg—young; ad—adult; sign of the planet Mars—male; sign of the planet Venus—female.

H. W. Carriger, of Sonoma Co., Cal., took three nests of the Anna's Hummingbird on March 2d.

Mr. K. Atkinson, of Dime Box, Texas, writes that the Turkey Vulture frequently kills pigs and lambs, very rarely young calves and that only in two occasions has he been able to closely approach them when on the nest. Mr. A. has been on the Range stock-raising for the past twenty-five years and his observations cover that period.

Hugh Hartman, Ft. Wayne, Ind., writes that a flock of about twenty-five Passenger Pigeons was reported as staying in the woods eleven miles north-east the city last fall.

F. L. Englebort, Des Moines, Ia., writes that he has found Caustic Potash very effective in removing embryos, and says:

"Dissolve in water to form a solution, and insert into the egg by means of a blowpipe or syringe, the process being repeated, after washing out each egg before each insertion, until the embryo is all eaten and removed, and being animal matter, is easily acted upon and dissolved by the potash. Great care must be taken, however, not to allow any of the solution to get upon the hands or into the mouth, as it has about the same effect as lye, but is not so dangerous to handle. I have seen it successfully used for several seasons past, and used it with success myself last season."

U. L. Hertz, of Napa, Cal., says that the English Sparrows persist in making a hay stack of their palm trees but, has cooled their ardor a little by taking 45 eggs at a single raid.

Harry Smissen, of Snyder, Tex., took a set of two eggs of the Bald Eagle on June 20, '90.

F. S. H., Chagrin Falls, O.—Taxidermists use arsenic as preservative (arsenic and alum) as an insect preventative.

The readers of the OOLOGIST are most certainly up with the times—the latest is from Mr. R. C. Watters, of Baltimore, who proposes to slaughter the English Sparrows by the million through the agency of electricity—a cleverly executed drawing illustrates the battery and electrocution perch or wire in position,—operator "pressing

the button," and sparrows coming and falling by the dozens. The scheme has yet to be tested.

C. D. M., Cinti., Ohio.—The Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle and Am. Crow are common in Southern Ohio.

The Ann Arbor taxidermist, Mr. A. B. Covert, of Kirtland Warbler fame, has been so busy on work in the University for the past few months that he has been unable to put in his usual amount of field work this spring. A few days since, however, he writes of collecting a day for the U. of M. Museum and mentions the taking of thirteen warblers, twelve different species.

A photo of a Moose just mounted for the University by Friend C. speaks volumes as to his rank as an artist in the profession.

To many correspondents desiring descriptions, measurements, etc., etc., of the eggs of various species, we *must* refer them to Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." Were we to attempt to answer all the queries of this nature that we receive it would require the entire space of several issues of the OOLOGIST.

H. S. D., Fremont, O., writes of taking sets of two eggs of the Mourning Dove from the *same nest* on April 19th, April 26th, May 1st and a single egg on May 6th.

The following corrections should be made in Mr. F. L. Farley's "Birds of Elgin Co., Ont.," which appeared in the last issue of the OOLOGIST.

No. 176. Winter Wren, "appear in small flocks," should be "small numbers," and No. 188. Hermit Thrush, "shot one in Dec. 13, 1878," should be "1888."

Several errors also appeared in Mr. M. C. White's article on "The Whip-poor-will." The most glaring of which, were as follows:

In the quotation at the beginning, third verse, third line, the word *when* should be *where*. In second column, fourth line, "*Chick-hoo-rhee*," is a misrepresentation of Mr. Langille, the *h* in the second syllable should be *k*. Fourteenth line of same column, the word

seen, which is entirely omitted, should follow the word *never*. In first column, eighteenth line, the omission of *s* in "*syllable*," causes a double error; it should be *syllables*.

Errors also occurred in spelling, etc., as Mr. W's. Mss. was faultless, the poor printer and proof reader must be given full credit.

C. A. H., Mt. Pleasant, Mich., writes: "A week or two ago I noticed a bird fly into one of the electric street lamps here. Yesterday I got permission to let the lamp down and there, on the switch board, I found a nest of the English Sparrow. The nest contained two fresh eggs. It doesn't seem that a bird would build its nest in such a place; as the lamp has to be lowered and raised every day."

C. E. Brown, of Beverly, Mass., writes:

"In reply to 'Aix Sponsa's' article in Feb. '91, OOLOGIST, I would state that the robbing of birds' nest by boys is also a nuisance in this part of the country, and ought to be suppressed. In this State it is almost impossible to get a permit to collect for scientific purposes. Now it seems to me that a man wishing to collect for scientific purposes should be allowed a permit by proving that it is a scientific purpose that he is collecting for. I also think that if permits were granted to this class that they would help to stop the destruction of nests and eggs, as they would then feel that they were not law breaking themselves, and had some authority to speak on the subject. Who is more interested in the protection of the birds than the true ornithologist and naturalist? And they do not feel like trying to stop the small boy from robbing nests at the cost sometime of exposing themselves. In this section there are plenty of people that would be more pleased to catch a man taking birds and eggs, whether for scientific purposes or not and report him than they would a boy robbing a nest for fun."

A Trip to Pelican Island.

The morning of February 17, '91, six of us set out in the yacht Lida for Pelican island on which was quartered a large colony of Brown Pelicans. This

island, four or five acres in extent, is a low tract, barely above the water, and offering excellent nesting sites for the uncouth birds; it is situated in the Indian river about twenty miles south of Melbourne in Brevard County, Fla., and has been known as an assemblage ground for Pelicans for many years. There are not nearly as many birds to be seen about the place as there were formerly, but a sufficient number still nest there to warrant an article for your readers.

When our craft came within three hundred yards of the shore the birds began to get uneasy and when we had approached within fifty yards of the island an immense number arose from the surface and a few stunted trees and flew about. It was not, however, until a gun had been fired, that a good idea of the colony could be had. Clouds arose from the ground and settled on the water, where they watched us on shore. Most of the nests were built on the ground and generally contained two or three eggs or young, rarely four. A few black mangroves offered support for nests on branches from five to fifteen feet from the ground. They differed from those made on the ground in having many more and heavier twigs, and formed with more of a hollow and less in height. Many nests on the ground were built to a height of nine or ten inches and one or two were over a foot deep. As a rule the nests were about two feet in diameter, but some were larger by about five inches and a few were smaller. They were all built of dead and dried grass, very coarse and much resembled straw from a distance. Some nests were constructed very shiftlessly and not over four inches high at the edge. Again many were deeply hollowed. It was evident from an examination of the structures that the birds during incubation, invariably sat on the nest in one position—the head generally facing the water.

In those nests containing large young the nests were generally much beaten down and greatly disarranged.

There must have been two hundred nests containing eggs and young birds. Many contained both eggs and young. In many nests could be seen birds of ages that varied from a few days to two weeks and in one instance the dissimilarity in size of the young was so great that the larger bird in the nest was endeavoring to swallow his diminutive squab relative. We were informed that when the eggs roll from the nests there are frequent fights resulting from anxiety of the birds to gain eggs for their nests. In this manner eggs are frequently introduced into new nests and the emerging of the young is correspondingly differential. We secured about seventy eggs that had not been incubated for our cabinets. The young are fed entirely on fish and the amount which a squab can place itself outside of is truly astonishing. One old one had thirteen fish in its pouch.

In a careful estimate we agreed that there were four thousand birds in the colony and some of our party placed the number as high as ten thousand. Our stay on the island was not agreeable on account of the stench arising from the decomposing bodies of the Pelicans butchered by tourists, and the fish. We could have killed hundreds of birds, but our party contented themselves with ten good plumaged birds.

M. GIBBS, M. D.

Michigan Ornithology.

In last number of the OOLOGIST I notice an article on "An Ornithological Paradise," decidedly interesting to me. Michigan is a great state, one of magnificent distances. The whole state is a paradise for the scientist, and as yet there is much of the state that needs careful exploration by him. There is a great variation in surface, soil and climate, hence a great variation might be

expected in the Geology, flora and fauna. A floral or faunal catalogue made in one portion of the state will be so different from one made in another portion, that one might think it belonged to another state.

Glancing through the article referred to I notice names of birds either very rare or unknown in my portion of the State—the South-eastern.

I have not yet found any of the following species:

Cape May Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Wilson's Black-capped Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Oven-bird, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Canadian Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Maryland Yellow-throated and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

As birds are by no means scarce here, and of many species, I am led to believe that a comparison of the catalogues of the species found in Eastern and Western Michigan, would be of a decided interest to the Ornithologist.

It may be well to remember that while the upper Peninsula may be buried beneath three to six feet of snow, and snow shoes be in every day use, the ground may be bare in the South-eastern portion of Lower Michigan, and rain may be falling. The ground here has been bare more than half of the time this winter, while in the Upper Peninsula the snow has been three feet or more deep.

Pine woods are scarce here, still there is one some fifteen miles to the North-west upon the rather level summit of the great moraine or ridge that crosses South-east Michigan. Perhaps a further study of these pine woods would reveal many of the species I have not met with where I reside. Here upon the eastern slope of the great ridge just noticed, I find a journey of a few miles shows a great difference in both flora and fauna. For instance a few miles east, and the plains of South-eastern

Michigan with their characteristic flora and fauna—to me a decided monotony—are reached.

Eastward and Northward hills and valleys succeed each other in rapid succession, the hills steadily increasing in height and steepness of slope, and an immense number of lakes are found,—450 in Oakland Co. alone—and of course many streams. So a great variation of flora and fauna are found in a journey of but a few miles.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON.

Rochester, Mich.

A Duty to Perform.

Now that the collecting season is actually here, and other things claim our attention, let us still not forget to do our duty by the English Sparrow.

As winter presents a specially good opportunity for the direct destruction of the bird. So summer presents an equally good opportunity to prevent their increase.

This is something that every collector in the land can aid in, there being no one, who cannot prevent these birds from breeding in his special domain, and the hearty co-operation of all collectors, cannot but leave a marked effect on the numbers of the "pest."

Let us then not neglect a duty, so easy of accomplishment, but each covering as much territory as possible, destroy alike, nests, eggs, and young.

This may seem somewhat cruel, but we should remember that it is the ruffian element among birds. That we are destroying those who if left to multiply unchecked, will go on with the work already so keenly felt in many of our cities and villages.

The first Bluebird seen here this spring, had scarcely been noted, before the English Sparrows pitched on to him, and forced him to move on.

A correspondent from Rochester writes me that the first Robin which he

noted in the city, was attacked by "About ten millions English Sparrows," who did their best to make life miserable for him.

Let us then have these things in mind take them home to ourselves, and ask ourselves if we wish the English Sparrow to increase to the partial or entire driving out of our own birds.

If there is any one who doubts the charges made against the English Sparrow he need not take any one's testimony, but let him for one year carefully watch the life and habits of this bird and he will become fully convinced, and I venture to say that whoever he is, he will not hesitate to join the ever increasing number, who proclaim that the "English Sparrow must go."

B. S. B.

Phelps, N. Y.

Gt. Horned Owl.

The Gt. Horned Owl is not a very common bird here. At least I have never been able to find it breeding in any very great abundance.

The bird is very shy and seeks as a nesting place some very retired place, where its nest is to be found in some lofty tree or else in some hollow rotten limb in an almost inaccessible one.

In my experience of collecting I have found it nesting near a house or in a small tree but twice, one of these times it was in a small white oak, not more than 12 feet from the ground in an old crow's nest. The nest contained two young Owls, about two or three days old.

The other instance the tree was a big black oak that was hollow and had been broken off about 15 ft. from the ground, down in the hollow, about two feet was the nest containing two eggs, perfectly fresh. I found this nest on April 15, 1891, the tree stood about 30 rods from a house.

I know of another tree where a pair

of Owls and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks make a home every year, and are liable to for some time to come, as that Oologist who "robs" their nest must be an adventuresome one.

It is in the very top of a black oak, about 75 feet high, the tree leans out over a rocky gorge so that the nest is fully 125 feet from the ground. The old Owls are usually not very savage, but sometimes they are very bold when their nest is molested.

The eggs are nearly round and almost white, different eggs show great variation in size and shape. They average about 1.86 x 2.25 inches.

There seems to be no regularity in the time of nesting, as I have found nests containing young at least two weeks old by the 26th of Feb., and nests containing fresh eggs as late as April, but the last of Feb. and the first part of March seems to be the best time.

A rap on the trunk of the tree is usually enough to scare the old bird off the nest. Sometimes the old bird will stay on the nest until you climb up to it, and sometimes they will leave the nest before you see it. Whenever you hear an old Owl hooting in the spring, you may feel pretty sure there is a nest near the place.

The Gt. Horned Owl is more plentiful here than the Barred Owl. Hoping to hear more about the Owls through the columns of the OOLOGIST I will close.

R. M. FRISBEY, JR.

Sparland, Ill.

Enemies of Our Feathered Friends.

When standing in the dense undergrowth of some shady grove, where no sound but that of nature is heard, do you not often wish you were a bird, with no trouble, no task, and have life seem like a pleasant dream? I do; but then as we look into the habits of the

warblers, whose lives seem so gay, we find there are thorns on their roses too.

First of all there is the cat, who is seen creeping through the bushes trying to jump upon some unfortunate bird, who is not aware of its enemy. Then there is the grass snake, who glides with its flexible body through the grass, trying to find the nest of some bird who builds within its reach, to suck its eggs or kill the young or the old bird.

But worse than these or any other is collector, egg-hog, nest-robber, or any other name you may apply.

Although I profess to be a collector, I don't collect in sets. Some of you may say "not much of a collector," well, think so. If I have one egg of a set and my data shows how many there were in the nest, what do I want of them all, are they not more valuable to the bird than me?

There is a class of boys here, and maybe there is where you live, who don't really collect eggs, but get all they can in the spring, punch a hole in each end and blow the inside out, put them in a cigar box and let them lay around all summer and throw them away in the winter, so as to begin again in the spring. I heard a boy say he had 25 "Growney's" eggs.

I think a nice collection of single eggs, side blown, first-class, with data, is a very nice thing to have and to keep and to collect them is much better than loafing around smoking cigarettes or reading dime novels.

I take a great interest in birds, and should like to learn about them without robbing them of all their eggs.

GEO. R. COOLEY,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Queer Neighbors.

While out collecting last May, in Northampton Co. Va. I stumbled over

an oddity in the way of a rookery, tenanted by Purple Grakles and Green Herons. The former were much the more numerous, their nests numbering a hundred or more while the Herons could probably muster no more than twenty-five pairs.

The colony occupied a grove of small second growth pines, some twenty feet in height, the nests of the Grakles invariably being placed up in the very top of the trees while their less assuming companions were content to dwell in the lower story, so to speak, their "platforms" seldom being over ten feet from the ground and loosely balanced on the top of a horizontal branch. As the breeding ground was some distance from the water it was somewhat surprising to find the Herons so numerous, as in this locality they usually nest singly or in bunches of three or four pairs, on the small islets that strew the shore.

In spite of their dissimilar tastes, the two species seemed to get on well together, possibly because most of them were busily employed in feeding half-grown young at the time of our visit. This seemed to be true with all the grakles, but some of the Herons had nests filled with fresh sets of eggs, doubtless the second attempts of those birds whose earliest efforts had met with disaster.

The difference in the behavior of the young was very noticeable. The young Blackbirds were scattered indiscriminately through the branches and over the ground below, each one making more noise than his fellow. Their lanky neighbors on the contrary knew enough to stay near home and could always be found, silent and perfectly motionless, by the side of their miserable bed of sticks, the whole outfit forming as comical a picture as one can find in a month's collecting.

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THE

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No. 7

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

STAMPS or Eggs wanted. Have to exchange 2 sets 1/2 Bald Eagle 3 sets 1-5 Gt. Blue Heron. Clearing out, write at once, WM. PURDY, Aylmer, Ont., Canada.

D. BIGGAR, Fulton, Wis., wants big cents, V nickles without cents, twenty cent pieces, old dimes and quarters. Can exchange arrow-heads, scrapers, eggs or skins.

WANTED.—Sets with data, for sets and singles. Send your lists and receive mine. An opportunity to get rare Southern eggs. Also stamps to exchange. S. W. PARISH, Calvert, Texas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Will exchange an egg of 622 and 452 for either of 273, 619, 488, 394, A. O. U. Data must accompany all eggs. They must also be fresh. GEO. F. MIMS, P. O. Box 67, Ed-Defield, S. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—A 4 x 2 1/2 in chase printing press. Double roller and six fonts of type, all complete; also collection of stamps numbering 800 in Scott's album, for first-class birds' eggs in sets with data. LOUIS KELLOGG, 150 Water St., Kalamazoo, Mich.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Birds' Eggs, Fossils, Minerals, Curios., etc. Will exchange for a Tent, good Shot-gun, Canvas Boat, Copper and Silver Coin or anything useful. Address, T. S. HILL, Knoxville, Marion Co., Ia.

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WANTED.—Natural History specimens of nearly all branches, in large or small quantities. Will exchange specimens or supplies, or pay cash. Send list with lowest prices. I have some paper-cover "Davie's Keys" to exchange. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis. J63

BIRDS' eggs in sets, including 375, 337, 676, 751, 727, 428, and many others to exchange for the same. J. WARREN JACOBS, Waynesburg, Pa.

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NOTICE.—Parties wishing sets or singles, with datas, of eggs of this section will do well to write to L. B. TOWN, Worthington, Minnesota.

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FLORIDA EGGS and fine specimens of the Florida Phosphate rock to exchange for Indian Relics, Minerals, Fossils or Curios. Send list for same. T. GILBERT PEARSON, Archer, Fla.

TO EXCHANGE.—A pair of Climbing Irons for Ornithological papers, sets of Eggs, etc. What am I offered? W. LOUCKS, Box 478, Peoria, Ill.

EXCHANGE.—Have 1200 post marks in Album. Weeden horizontal engine. 32 Birds. 107 Birds' Eggs, to exchange for Compound Microscope. Mounted Botanical Specimens. Send list. G. A. RODMAN, Kingston, R. I.

TO EXCHANGE.—A live Eagle in perfect condition, stretches 8 ft. 7 in., weight 24 pounds. Will exchange for the best offer. L. V. CASE, Naples, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Birds' Eggs in sets with data, also singles. For eggs not in my collection. Send list and receive mine. H. SAYLES Jr., Abilene Texas.

TO EXCHANGE.—Live Prairie Dogs and Coyotes, Colorado Minerals, Coins, and Photos of Sonix Indians; for Indian Flints, Axes and Curios. Send wants and offers. H. STEPHENSON, Lexington, Neb.

HAVE rare Eggs of Colorado to exchange for microscope, field glass, college text books, scientific works and other books. Must be in good condition and cheap. H. G. HOSKIN, Beloit, Colo.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs, singles for singles, also magic lantern worth \$4.50. Send for description of eggs. Exchange lists. FRANK WILLARD, 510 N. Cherry St., Galesburg, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Birds' Eggs, singly and in sets. Especially want Gulls, Terns, Petrels, Cormorants, Herons, Rails, Hawks and Owls. C. B. JOHNSON, Red Wing, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Two vols. Golden Days, set of Coopers' Leather Stocking Tales, new Scroll Saw with wood patterns etc. for banjo, skates, fishing tackle, or other personal property. S. K. FROST, Pawling, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class original sets of A. O. U. Nos. 12 1-1, 16 1-1, 29 1-2, 31a 1-1, 120c 1-3, 122b, 1-3 1-4, 204 1-17, 330 1-4 15, 373c 1-3, 378 1-6, 413 1-4, 431 1-2 and nest, 464 1-4, 466 1-4, 499 1-4 500 1-4, 501b 1-4, 515c 1-5, 530 1-4 1-5, 531 1-4 1-5, 581d 1-4, 591 b 1-4, 596 1-3 1-4, 99 1-3, 652 1-5, 685a 1-4, 715 1-5, 721b 1-7, 733 1-5 1-7, 742a 1-3, 743a 1-6, 758 1-4; for other first-class original sets. FRED A. SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following first-class Eggs all in sets and singles the number written -3 shows number of eggs in set. In exchange I want only first-class sets with full data. A. O. U. Nos. 12-1, 16-1, 29-1, 123b-2-3, 373c-2-3-4, 431-2 and nest, 466-4, 476-4-6-7-9, 499-4, 508-3, 510-1-5, 530-3-1, 552a-4-5, 581d-3, 591b-3-4, 596-3-4, 599-3-4, 652-4-5, 721a-5-6-7, 758-3-4. Also second class eggs of 16. CORY CHAMBERLIN, College Park, Santa Clara County, Calif.

FOR EXCHANGE.—An A-1 Coues' Key; for best offer of Eggs in sets with data. ALMA KING, San Bernardino, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—700 first-class Eggs in sets of this locality; for Western Eggs. Send lists and receive mine. J. S. SQUARE, Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

FRAGMENTS of Petrified Bones of the Mastodon and Saurian, plainly showing bone tissue, recently discovered in one of the canons of the Grand, also cactus plants in exchange for Birds' Eggs. Address, PAUL E. KENNEDY, Member Western Colo. Academy of Science, Grand Junction, Colo.

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TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Birds' Eggs in sets and singles, and Stamps for same. FRED A. GREGORY, 1214 N. Court St., Rockford, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—First class mounted specimens of Cooper's Hawk, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, for eggs in sets with data; write what you have for exchange. GEO. V. SMITH, Tioga, Tioga Co., Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs in sets, collected by myself on the lower Rio Grande, Texas. A. O. U. Nos.—335, 341, 325, 326, 311, 419, 421, 573, 706, 707, 289b, 293a, 319, 594, 487, 512 and others. Will exchange with reliable collectors for eggs in sets that I can use. D. B. BURREWS, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Elegantly finished photographs of nests and eggs of the following birds: Wood Thrush, Wilson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Whip-poor-will, Ruffed Grouse, Indigo Bird, Worm Eating, Nashville, Blue-wing, Yellow, Black and White and Chestnut-sided Warblers and many others to exchange for sets that I can use. Send lists. H. W. FLINT, care Yale National Bank, New Haven, Conn.

YES! I want a good 22 or 32 cal. Rifle, for which I will give a bargain in Eggs, sets of singles. My list contains: Barn Owl 1-4, Screech Owl 1-5, Burrowing Owl 1-9, Marsh Hawk 1-5, Night Hawk 1-2, Chewink 1-4, Cardinal Grosbeak 1-4, Chickadee 1-7, W. Meadow Lark 1-5, Kingfisher 1-7, Scarlet Tanager 1-4, Killdeer 1-4, Leaches' Petrel 1-1, Prairie Horned Lark 1-2, Downy Woodpecker 1-5, Prairie Hen 1-12, Bartramian Sandpiper 1-4, etc., with full data. Send full description of gun, and list of what you want to MILFORD PEW, Hebron, Neb.

WANTED—To exchange Fossils, Mounted birds and skins. Eggs singles and sets also, Magic Lantern with 200 views, watch, etc., for Minerals, Fossils, Bird eggs and skins, confederate money, relics, coins, stamps, Sea Shells and Curios. Write quick with list, correspondence answered. W. A. & W. E. BRYAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Auk Vols. I and VII, also No. 4, Vol. V; O. & O. for '87, '88, '89, '90; two sets of first three Nos. of O. & O. Semi-Annual; a fine egg cabinet holding 192 trays 3 x 4 inches; 7 doz. trays, 2 doz. 6 x 4; book of dates; pair of Buffalo horns; first-class ostrich egg; Prang's Natural History Series of birds, mammals and flowers (colored plates in holders); and hunting coat. Will exchange above for books on Natural History. EDWARD P. CARLTON, Wauwatosa, Wis.

EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON AUG. 15, 1891.

I want at once the following first-class eggs, either in singles or in sets, in exchange at 1890 prices, or if in sets, I will allow 10 per cent. above these prices, in exchange for the articles mentioned below. Eggs taken in large or small quantities. No exchange amounting to less than \$1.00 can be "bothered with" unless 10 cents additional is enclosed for return postage and packing. If you have any of the rarer species to offer send lists. Species wanted, Ridgway's Nos.: 2, 3, 26, 27, 41, 42, 47, 50, 51, 56, 68, 99, 128; any of the rarer Warblers, 157, 168, 193a, 197, 198, 198a, 214, 217, 248, 251, 257, 277, 278, 278b, 293, 306, 301, 320, 326; any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 257, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 465, 473, 482, 483; any of the Herons, 197, 498, 501, 505, 507, 516, 530, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 571, 578, 582, 583, 601, 609, 613, 618, 634, 639; any of the Cormorants, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 686, 687, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 760, 761, 763a, 522, 231, 304, 315, 400.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the prices quoted.

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☞ Continued on next page.

If you desire to obtain anything on the above list in exchange, send on your eggs at once. If you have no eggs, but have other desirable specimens in quantity, write what you have, with price; or will exchange for collections of fine Postage Stamps or second-hand Books on Natural History, or choice Indian Relics.

Only first-class Specimens accepted at any price, all others returned at sender's expense.

We will receive hundreds of packages in answer to this exchange and if you do not write your name plainly on the outside of the packages you send, your exchange will be delayed and packages possibly lost.

This offer will hold good until July 15th only. Send on your specimens at once in large or small quantities, it makes no difference to us whether you send \$1.00 or \$100.00 worth, but it less than \$1.00 worth, 10 cents extra must be enclosed for return postage and packing.

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ALBION, N. Y.

430

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THE OOLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1891.

No. 7

Some Florida Notes.

Where is there a collector in the United States who has not a strong desire to visit Florida and add rare birds and eggs to his collection? For over a quarter of a century the writer has longed for a chance to go there and spend a few of the winter and spring months, and during the past season I was gratified in my great desire. It occurred to me that some of the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to hear something of that land and of its creatures, and though I cannot occupy sufficient space in the valuable columns to give much of an idea of the country, I can still offer a few suggestions and draw a few comparisons, which to the wise will certainly be worth considering, and I may add a little advice to those who contemplate a trip there.

Bald Eagles breed in abundance in Florida, but a number of full-sized young, which I saw in late February, led me to think that the eggs were laid in December, according to general report. Brown Pelicans and several species of Herons breed in immense colonies and the eggs may be gathered till one is tired, however, the majority of species of birds use the same precautions to hide their nests that they do at the north, and I often thought were even more careful to conceal them. Even with one's best endeavors, and one can collect every day from February first till June, not nearly as large or varied series of bird's eggs can be taken as at the north in the same time.

To be sure I am now past the impulsive age of youth, still I have the same boyish spirit that pressed me a score of years ago. A new bird gives me as much pleasure now as then, and my interest does not appear lessened. And

for these reasons I was all the more disappointed, when only 67 species of birds were recorded on my note book in over three month's time, and of these birds 52 were known to me in my native state of Michigan.

It is needless to say that very little escaped my eye in any quarter I visited and I traveled over 1,000 miles in the state, and from the northern boundary to within three degrees of the tropics on the south, both on the coast and in the interior. When it is a common thing for me to note over seventy species of birds on a spring day in Michigan and I have once recorded 83 birds, the largest number recorded one day,* it is no wonder that disappointment should result in this poor showing.

Now it is not my intention to belittle Florida in the eyes of Collectors or other tourists, on the contrary it is a wonderful state in many respects, and as a winter resort cannot be beaten. All that I am anxious to impress upon my readers, many of whom have heard much of the south and are very desirous of visiting Florida, is that it is not the wonderful paradise of Collectors that it is claimed, and allow me to suggest to the hundreds of oologists throughout the north, that there is just as much glory in working in your local haunts as in trying to cover ground far from home.

The average length of time which an egg collector is engaged in the work is four or five years, to be sure a few last longer and a very few stick to it for a period when they may really, fairly be called oologists, but these scientific collectors are unfortunately quite scarce, the common ephemeral egg crank, who

*One day in May 1879 we noted 88 species between the hours of 4 a. m. and 7 p. m. in Ottawa County, Mich.

rarely gets higher than the lower stage of mediocrity, being in the vast majority. Yet all of these oologists and numerous collectors of eggs have a duty to perform and a work to do, which if properly followed will redound to their credit, as well as give pleasure to the students of the science.

"Dear bought and far fetched" is an expression we hear frequently and is unfortunately applicable too often to collectors of birds, eggs and other cabinets of natural history specimens.

The sooner a boy or man learns that his field of labor as well as pleasure lies all about him in the ornithological and oological line, the better, for attention and study given even to one of our common birds is more to be commended than the purchase of a whole collection of Icelandic or Australian eggs.

Now another word before I close. Don't forget the OOLOGIST. Support it by your example, as well as with your cash subscriptions and field notes. Don't forget to pay when called upon for your dues. Neither should you complain if your articles are not accepted or published. Try again and you will improve and succeed. The little OOLOGIST has done more than any other magazine in its line to elevate and promote oology and should be patronized by every lad interested in natural history.

SCOLOPAX

The New Era in Ornithology.

To those who have studied birds for a quarter of a century or more, the astonishing development of interest in ornithology on this Continent during the past century is most gratifying.

It seems but yesterday when Wilson, Nuttall and Audubon were about the only authorities on the birds of this country. No paper, no pamphlet nor periodical of any kind came to bring us

tidings, either new or old about the birds.

Literature on this subject was so expensive, so unavailable to the student of ordinary means, that he was compelled to do without the charming aid of book instruction and companionship.

By and by the grand work of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway made its appearance, containing so much new matter that the above named works seemed antiquated, but this work was also too expensive for the common reader.

But few of the lovers of birds could pay \$50 for their reading matter. Meanwhile Samuel's work in a single volume, made its welcome appearance. Then that new departure of close analytic method, Cones' Key came to hand, moderate enough in price, to be within the reach of most bird students. Still there was no single handy volume on the birds of Eastern North America, with enough analysis to guide the common reader, and affording pleasing biographies of enough species to make the book at the same time fine consecutive reading and an adequate reference. It is needless to enumerate the works now before the public, on the habits of the different species of birds in our country, while the number of periodicals now greeting us on every hand, bear ample testimony to the aspiration of authors on this subject. A few years since one could almost count on his fingers the writers who were able to speak to the public on bird life, but now one is greeted by new names all over the country of persons, who can tell us something gratifying, often something new about our feathered friends. We hail with joy the rising brotherhood in our favorite science. A happy people indeed must the lovers of nature ever be. For them a pure and peculiar well-spring of joy, gushes up here and there all over the land, a fountain sealed to all else of the multitude of mankind.

But why do we not know each other

better? Is not the time fully come, for a grand fraternity of bird students all over the continent? The American Ornithologists' Union is excellent for the savants in the science, but we of the laity must stand in the outer porch of associate membership, or stay out-doors entirely, if we are too indigent to raise \$3.00 per year for the "Auk."

Let us who are of the people, aye, even those who are in the "primer" of Ornithology, strike hands and with a grandeur of enthusiasm, that can stand alike in the icy cold of winter and the burning heat of summer, talk with each other continually along the various lines of enquiry.

Some of us here in Washington and vicinity have been trying for several months to lay the foundations for such a fraternity. Sickness has hindered some of us from doing our part to push the work rapidly, and the undertaking being one that requires thought and tact, we find ourselves obliged to move slowly. It will probably be some months hence, before we can decide upon the details of the membership. The most difficult part of the organization will be in respect to corresponding members—how to attract them with mutual advantage and how to secure an active fellowship at a distance. In other words, what can we do for them, and what can they do for us? Through some chosen periodical we can give them the results of our researches; we can advise them of the information, which reaches the various institutions at Washington, concerning the birds of North America or the world, and we can reply to correspondence, inquiries, etc. such as can be answered better here, with our immense resources, than elsewhere.

But no one can answer all these letters of inquiry, without a few stamps, a little stationery, and a contribution of valuable time, which his circumstances may not allow him to loose. Yet no

one here wants to make any money out of ornithological students. In other words the most difficult points are the choice of a periodical which shall talk best to the largest number, and fixing of dues for corresponding membership, such as they can conveniently pay and will at the same time enable the corresponding secretaries to give due attention to enquiries.

Any suggestions from friends at a distance on these points will be most welcome.

J. H. LANGILLE,
Kensington, Md.

The Amusing Antics of a Pair of Brown Thrushes.

A few years ago I had the pleasure of securing two young Thrushes for pets. I took the nest before they could fly, and placed it in a large wire cage. Where in a few hour's time, they would take the food from my hand as readily as from the beaks of the parent birds. They soon evinced a great fondness for their captor, and would flutter against the wires of their prison when I would leave them, as though begging to go with me. Sometimes I would take them out, when they would cuddle down in my hand to sleep, as contented as two kittens. When they became almost grown they seemed so tame, I concluded to turn them out and see if they would go away. They never offered to leave the trees and shrubs near the house, until late in the fall, when they became very restless, and also a little shy. They would perch high on some tree top, uttering loud cries, as though trying to attract the attention of others. Each night they would return to their cage to roost, but each day would go farther and farther from home, and seemed to loose all their cunning playful tricks. I became suspicious that they were preparing to take their departure for a sunnier clime than

that (Eastern Indiana) and shut them in their cage. They did not relish that a bit, and at first refused to eat, however, they soon got over that, but would strike savagely at my hand whenever placed near them, and soon began fighting between themselves. I saw that would not do so I turned the most quarrelsome one out again, thinking I could drive it away. But it was not going to be treated that way, and would persist in coming into the house at night.

One night I thought I had succeeded in shutting it out, but next morning it crept out from under the treadle of the sewing machine and flew onto the table to help himself to breakfast. The following night I felt sure that I had him shut out, as I could not find him any place. Next morning he was nowhere to be found, and I concluded he was gone, but to my surprise, about eleven o'clock he crept out of a fold in a window curtain, where he had been concealed all night and morning, and perched on a chair back, with such a saucy triumphant air, as though to say "You might as well give up." I concluded then to let him stay, and turned the other one out again. They never attempted to go away after that.

One of them reminded me of a mischievous stubborn child more than any thing I ever saw in the bird family. It would get into everything it could find in a pan or dish uncovered, and was especially fond of getting into flour. When punished for any of its mischievous tricks it would get on a window sill or on the roof and pout for hours at a time. It could not be induced to either walk or fly. If we would set it on its feet it would fall over as though perfectly helpless. I went into the kitchen one day to find that "brownie" had been in a dish of boiled starch, and a more comical picture of abject misery would be hard to imagine, for the starch had partially dried, plastering

every feather to its body. Its inquisitiveness proved fatal at last and brought it to an untimely death in a water tank. The other one was not so inquisitive, but his propensity for stealing and hiding small articles was equal to any crow. Thimbles, buttons, matches, carpet tacks and all such things were always missing when needed. He would get into the work basket, and everything small enough for him to lift would have to be thrown out on the floor.

He took great delight in unwinding spools of thread by catching the thread in his bill, and either flying or running as far as he could, then going back to the spool and taking a new start. If no one happened to see him he would unwind a whole spool without stopping. I had kept him four years, when a neighbor's cat sprang in at the open door one day and caught my little pet, I got the bird but it was dead, and the cat came to an end a few hours later.

Mrs. LILLIE CONLEY PLEAS.

Clinton, Ark.

The Chewink in Orleans County.

By NEIL F. POSSON, MEDINA, N. Y.

There is an old proverb to the effect that "an unlucky copper always happens around when it is not looked for,"—or something like that. Well—that's a very true saying, as I know all the readers of the "OOLOGIST" will agree, when they find who is the author of this article.

The OOLOGIST has not heard from me lately,—not on account of any lack of *interest* on my part, but more on account of lack of *time* and *opportunity*, but more chiefly (and if the truth were told without reserve) the reason of my silence is purely because of my sympathy for the many readers of the little journal.

I presume I would'n't have "happened

around" yet, if it hadn't been for my reading in the June number on Page 122, something about a nest of the Chewink being found about two miles south-west of Albion by K. B. Mathes.

Now I believe it is the custom always, that whenever anyone reports thh "first recorded set" of any species, that someone else just "happens around" and claims a *previous* record. I think that that has come to be the universal custom. Now, I am not going to do that, but I would just like to call the attention of all interested to a short note on page 163 of the August, 1890 OOLOGIST which relates the taking of a nest of the Chewink near Medina.

The note referred to was in the editorial column of that number; and I quote it here,—"Just as we are going to press, a 'small boy' comes into the office of 'ye Associate Editor' and displays an egg which he found and gives a description of the bird and nest, and we are convinced that it is the Chewink. This is valuable in that this is rather a northerly breeding-place for this bird and this is the *first instance of its breeding here*, etc., etc."

Now I don't know as that set found in '90 was properly "*recorded*," it being found by no-one more significant than a "*small boy*" and neither parent birds taken. However, I would like to add in regard to that set of eggs, that it was a set of *four*; that the egg brought me by the boy, was an egg of the Chewink; and that his careful and accurate description of nest and parent-bird were as good and perfect identity as the most cautious could desire, even if the egg had not spoken unmistakably for itself. And so I hardly think that the nest found near Albion by Mr. Mathes, can be called the "*first recorded nest*" found in our County, since the August, 1890 OOLOGIST, spoke of the above found nest near Medina. No, I think it is true in this (as in most other things) that *Medina* has the start of *Albion*.

Please do not understand me as claiming the honor of this achievement. I did not find the nest, nor is it anything to me, further than that I think that out of justice to science, May 24, 1891 ought not to be considered as the earliest record of *Pipilo's* breeding in our county.

I regret that I am unable to give the date of the taking of the Medina nest, but it was quite late in the season of '90.

And now, as to just what the *status* of *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* in our county is, I think that it just reaches the limit of its northern migration here, and that Orleans County is situated just in the northern suburbs of its habitat, we being visited only by a few of the most northerly migrating pairs.

Mr. J. L. Davison, of Lockport, in his Annotated List of the Birds of Niagara County (September, 1889) speaks of this bird in the following words, viz: "A rare summer resident. On May 1 and 10, 1886, I saw and secured the first I had seen of this species, both females. On June 14, 1887, I saw a male and female; did not succeed in finding a nest, but concluded that they breed here." (Niagara County I might add, adjoins Orleans County directly on the west, and as regards latitude and other conditions relative to the migration of the Chewink, it is just the same in all particulars.

In the List of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity by W. H. Bergtold, M. D., we find in regard to the Chewink: "*Tolerably common. Breeds.*" But when we consider that this list of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity includes notes from a *very large* vicinity, and that even such southern counties as Cattaraugus and Chautauqua are included in the word "vicinity," we are not surprised to find *Pipilo* rated as a trifle more common in that list.

I am of the opinion that we would not have to go far south of our county

to find the Towhee Bunting increasing appreciably in numbers.

We are peculiarly located (as I take it) just on the north edge of the Chewink's habitat. The bird arrives quite early. The first one I ever saw, was noted on the 7th. of April (1888) and I think that that is about the date of its arrival in these parts.

The Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos.

In this vicinity both of the Cuckoos named above are quite common. The Black-billed, although considered the rarer through the country as a whole, is, I think the more common of the two here. It may be distinguished from the Yellow-billed by its different figure, being thicker and perhaps a trifle shorter bodied, and by its darker plumage. Also, as its name signifies, by its dark colored bill. Its nesting place is evergreen bushes, such as cedar and hemlock bushes but its favorite nesting place is in pine shrubs where it builds a loosely made nest of sticks lined with a few leaves. It lays from two to five eggs in this nest which is from four to six feet from the ground.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a trimmer built bird than the Black-billed. Its bill is yellow and curved downwards and the bird has light spots on the underside of its tail. Its favorite nesting place in this vicinity is in beech or hardhack saplings from five to ten feet from the ground. Its nest resembles the Black-billed. The cry of the birds are much alike being something like "cow-coo cow-coo" several times repeated varying to a clucking sound when driven from the nest. Either bird will stay on its nest till one is very near them. It is not uncommon to find an egg of either bird in the others' nest. The number of eggs of the Yellow-billed are from two to four.

W. E. AIKEN,
Benson, Vt.

Changes in Michigan Ornithology.

In less than twenty years a great change has come over the flora and fauna of the south-eastern portion of Michigan. Of course a similar change has taken place in a large portion of the state, but I propose to notice more especially the changes in the ornithology of the south-east portion of the state, simply noticing the Ravens and Bald Eagles, once very abundant in most parts of the state, especially in the Upper Peninsula, are now local chiefly in the Upper Peninsula. In 1885, the only Ravens I found in numbers were near Escanaba. Young Bald Eagles were not rare along the lake shore. By the way, the difference in the appearance of the young and old Bald Eagles is so great that it is difficult for one not familiar with them to believe that they belonged to the same species, however, an Eagle is always a royal bird, and could not be mistaken for one of another race.

It is decidedly interesting, when boating on the great lakes, to round a cape and suddenly surprise a pair of these royal birds standing upon the beach, looking for fish cast up by the waves.

Eagles are now rarely seen in south-east Michigan. Ravens have entirely disappeared. Crows are as numerous and noisy as ever, so are Blue Jays, Robins, Blue-birds, Bob-o-links, Baltimore Orioles, Cedar Wax-wings, Red-wing Black-birds, Cow-birds, etc. While the Bronzed Grakles are still common, owls and hawks seem less abundant, still the Great Horned Owl is by no means scarce, and the blood-curdling cry of the Screech Owl is still heard in some localities. Four or five other species are now rarely met with. Ruffed Grouse, Wrens, Indigo birds, Swallows, Martins, Snipes, Plovers, and most waders and swimmers, are less common than formerly. The Great Blue Heron, however, still holds its

own,—decidedly an interesting bird. Bitterns are also fairly common in some localities. Loons make the nights about many inland lakes hideous with their weird shrieks, during their spring migrations greatly to the disgust of early campers. One who has never experienced a night in such localities, can not imagine the horrible noise a dozen Loons can make. It is terrifying to one not acquainted with it. Coots are still numerous and decidedly bold, as they will swim about on the mill-ponds in cities or villages, as will also the beautiful little Dipper Duck. Gallinules and Rails are not yet exterminated, as I met both last year.

But what has become of the millions of Passenger Pigeons that literally passed over here in clouds twenty years ago, when making their migrations from and to the south? Had any body predicted in those days that in a year or two, those mighty flocks would cease to journey north and south, he would have been called a fool. Yet these migrations suddenly ceased. What was the cause? Where have the Passenger Pigeons gone? Where do they breed now? Have they become exterminated? If they still have breeding places, where are they and what route do they take to reach them? Since 1874, few Pigeons have been met with here. In 1871 or 1872 they began to decrease, but the great migrations ceased suddenly three or four years later. I sometimes find breeding places where three to ten pairs build their nests and rear their young. Unlike the Mourning Dove, so solitary in its habits, the Passenger Pigeon prefers to have the company of its fellows, and single pairs are seldom found nesting here.

Wild Turkeys, once very numerous here, suddenly disappeared about the same time that the Pigeons did. Once they were met with in nearly every woods, now they have utterly dis-

appeared, and I have not heard of one since their sudden disappearance. Where have they gone? Are they extinct in Michigan? [While waiting for a train at Lawton, Van Buren Co. a year ago—an old sportsman, from the country told me he heard one call that morning and that they were not uncommon in his neighborhood.—Ed.] Where are they abundant?

When they were abundant, I often met with hybrids or cross-breeds between the wild and domestic Turkeys,—hybrids, if the Mexican Turkey, the parent of most of our domestic Turkeys is a distinct species; cross-breeds, if it is not. It is my opinion that they are distinct species, for a critical comparison of the two when pure reveals a great difference in general appearance. Still the Bronze Turkey is evidently a descendant of the northern wild Turkey or a mixture with it,—if the latter, a possible example of a fertile hybrid, something not entirely unknown.

A careful research will show that Pigeons and Wild Turkeys disappeared immediately after the timber was removed from a large portion of Michigan by lumbermen and by the terrible fire of 1871; and without a doubt the removal of the forests caused the disappearance of the birds.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Wood Thrushes and perhaps the White-breasted Nuthatch are on the increase. All these are now found in or near cities,—a decided change in the habits of the two first named. The Indigo Bird also some times enters villages. The Brown Thrasher is less abundant now. New species of birds have also appeared in this state. Conspicuous among these is the Black-throated Bunting—a welcome addition, and the European House Sparrow—a nuisance.

I have written this hoping that other observers may give us more light.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON,
Rochester, Mich.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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My First Nighthawk's Nest.

The 8th of last June, while out walking with my brother on a large hill east of our city, I found a Nighthawk's nest. It was a warm day and not having anything to do, (it being Sunday) I determined to take a walk. So I went to the hill, named above. This hill is very rocky, and there are a few small pines and poplar growing there.

While walking along, suddenly a large bird flew up directly in front of me, which I soon determined was a Nighthawk. It circled around for some time, and then alighted on a log fence near by. Thinking there might be a nest near we went to work to try to discover it. Neither of us ever having seen or found a Nighthawk's nest, we did not know where to look. I had

hardly taken more than three steps forward when I saw two eggs lying on the ground. There was not the least sign of a nest. The eggs were simply lying on the hard bare ground. They were so much like the ground (which was greenish-black) that it was hard to distinguish them from it.

I was surprised to see the eggs in so conspicuous a place. There was nothing in the least to conceal it. I probably should not have found it, but for the bird leaving it. Soon as I found the nest I went off and hid to see what the bird would do. After waiting for some time, the bird flew off from the fence, and began circling around in the vicinity of the nest. This it kept up for about five minutes, when she settled down on her nest. While flying around she seemed to be trying to make out if her eggs were in their accustomed place for sometimes she flew directly over it and within a few inches of it.

Soon as she had settled down on her nest we went away. The next day I returned to see if any more eggs had been deposited, but finding that none had I took one of the eggs and left the other there, to see what she would do with one gone.

The egg I found when I came to blow it, was slightly incubated. For a day or two I was detained from going to see how my bird was getting on, but when I did go I found that the nest had been deserted, and so I took the other egg. I now have a fine set of eggs of the Nighthawk in my collection.

I have often seen it asked whether a bird could tell if any of her eggs were missing. I have come to the conclusion that they can, or else why should this bird have left her nest when I took an egg, but stay there when I did not take any? I have also noticed the same with other birds.

U. N. CLARK,
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

The Wrens of North Carolina.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, SASS SOUCL. N. C.

Carolina Wren. (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). As its name implies it is the Wren of Carolina, inhabiting the state from the wave beaten coast to the grandeur of the western mountains. There are perhaps more of this species in the state than all the rest, put together, leaving out the little Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes hiemalis*).

Early spring mornings about the first bird you hear is the "Long-tailed Wren" [It is generally known by this name.] sitting on some favorite limb or fence, warbling forth his unexcelled ditty to the rising sun and his mate that is just in that clump of briars near there. He is a faithful husband and on no account will he desert his mate. They are affectionate parents and I have often seen them following fine broods of young Wrens, trying as if it seemed to get them to do this way or that, which of course was resented by the youngsters if it did not exactly agree with their wishes. They are *free* and want to enjoy their freedom. Who blames them? I do not.

The Carolina Wren is rather an early nester, and nestbuilding often commences in March, and any time from then until the middle of June. I know that they raise two broods in one season, and am inclined to think that some pairs raise three broods, as I have seen three sets of young near the same place. In the sets that I have taken I find five the usual complement of eggs; variation, four to six, and in rare instances, seven.

Bewick's Wren, (*Thryomanes bewicki*), is a rare winter visitor, but perhaps oftener seen on or near the coast than in the western part of the state.

House Wren, (*Troglodytes aedon*).—Rare transient. Possibly may breed.

Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes hiemalis*).

A common winter visitant in the eastern and middle section, but Mr. John S. Cairns reports it as rare in Buncombe County. In this locality no other small bird is more seen (except the gregarious species) than the Winter Wren. Every pile of brush has its little occupant. They leave in March for their northern homes, and return in November.

Long-billed Marsh Wren, (*Telmodytes palustris*). Tolerable common migrant.

There is a legend—better a "saying"—among the people of this section, that one day a Hawk caught a Wren that was trespassing, and was going to eat him, when his pity was moved by the hard pleadings of the Wren. The Hawk desisted for a while, but after all let the Wren go upon his promising the Hawk that he would never be caught flying higher than the fences. To-day if you ask any of the people why a Wren keeps close to the ground, they will at once enter into half an hour's job to tell you that about the "Hawk and Wren."

There is another such tale about the Buzzard, giving the reason why their heads are bald. Perhaps I may give it to you later.

What Causes the Quick Notes of the Whippoorwill?

In the OOLOGIST for Aug., 1890, page 155, the "Arkansaw Hoosier," writes among other things of the Whippoorwill, and says:

"Often when whistling they seem to get excited, or in a hurry, and repeat the words very rapidly for a time."

The following incident was observed under my window. One evening, before it was too dark to see, and while we were sitting quietly without any light in the room, a Whippoorwill lit in the yard, some eight or ten feet from the house and began his song. He had not sung long until another lit within

two or three feet of him. As the last one was lighting, the singer rattled off his notes with great rapidity, and then ceased. Immediately swelling his feathers, he began walking around the new comer, uttering a low peculiar noise similar to that made by a male tame pigeon when voicing its mate. A slight noise made by me in endeavoring to get a better view of their actions, caused both to take wing. Now how can we account for this action?

Do the male Whippoorwills thus call the females to them, as do turkey gobblers? Or do they mate like Robins and Blue Jays?

Will the "Arkansaw Hoosier" or some other observer note if the song does not always cease after the quick notes; and is not this an evidence of the arrival of the female?

Let us hear from others on these points.

J. C. ELLIOTT,
Swanwick, Ill.

A Better Report from Texas.

While perusing the February number of your publication I noticed an article from the Lone Star State by Mr. J. H. Strecker, Jr., of this city, which does Texas an injustice, and I hope that you will allow me the space in your very valuable monthly to correct same and give Texas a better "send off" than Mr. Strecker, Jr., did.

The gentleman's observations most certainly were not very close, as he names a very few of the feathered inhabitants of this part of the country.

Texas is a very rich ornithological field and if his "nibblings" will take a little stroll up the Brazos and Bosque rivers he will find something besides "Turkey Buzzards" and "Field Larks," for in my stroll I found in abundance the Robin, Red Bird, Blue Bird, Black Bird, Jay Bird, Blue Finch, Sparrow, Dove, Wren, Quail, Prairie Chicken,

Kildeer, Snipe, Plover, Ducks of many varieties, Swallows, Crows, Geese, White and Blue Crane, Pelican, Hawks and Owls too numerous to mention, Buzzard, Carrion, Crow, Chapparells, Birds of Paradise, Wheat Bird, Snow Bird, Field Lark, Woodpecker, Red-head and other varieties, Martin, King fisher, Humming Bird, Rain Crow, Oriole, and the Mocking Bird.

Not being an ornithologist am unable to give the scientific name of our birds, but their common names.

Hoping to hear from other Texas correspondents, I remain yours,

Very truly, ED. N. McDONALD,
Waco, Texas.

Items of Interest from Florida.

Fla. Blue Jay; a common bird here, breed abundantly but the nests are hard to find as they are always well hidden in a bunch of moss. The most common nesting site is in tall pines about fifty feet from the ground. It also nests in oak trees and orchards.

Between April 13th and May 20th, '89, I took fifteen nests, all except one contained four fresh eggs. The color is a greenish ground rather evenly dotted with bronish spots more numerous near the large end. The average size 1.12 x .65.

Fla. Screech Owl; a common bird, and a friend to man because it carries on a relentless warfare against roaches and vermin of all sorts. The 'Screecher' begins nesting the last of March and I have taken full sets on the 29th of March, but fresh eggs may be found as late as the 15th of April. The deserted hole of the 'Flicker' is its favorite nesting site, usually about ten feet from the ground, but I have taken them as high as fifty feet up. The full set is three pure white eggs, nearly round, the average size is 1.30 x 1.13.

Fla. Nighthawk: this is a rather smaller species than the northern bird, it nests in the month of May; have taken

fresh eggs as early as the 7th and as late as the 3d of June. Two eggs are laid on the bare sand, the ground color is greyish white and the egg is so blotched with brownish black that it is sometimes difficult to see the ground color; average size 1.15 x .90.

Bald Eagle: this bird is common in this section and I have seen three or four at one time. The nest is built in tall bushy pines about fifty feet from the ground, is made of sticks and moss about five feet broad by four thick; the nest is flat on top except a hollow in the middle just large enough for two white eggs, average size 2.75 x 2.20.

Am. Sparrow Hawk: one of our commonest birds, no piece of timber is complete without one or more pairs of this little hawk. In spite of all that is said against feathered friend it is a great insect destroyer and should be protected. Nesting begins early in April or latter part of March, as I have taken full sets of eggs as early as the 5th of April. The favorite nesting site is in old 'Flicker' holes from fifteen to sixty feet from the ground. Out of fifteen sets that I taken the last two seasons all except one had four eggs each, the other had five. The color is white, speckled with reddish brown, sometimes the ground color is entirely concealed; size 1.40 x 1.10.

WILLARD ELLIOTT.
Thonotosassa, Fla.

The American Osprey.
(*Pandion haliaetus*.)

Surely the most interesting of all predaceous birds is the beautiful American Osprey, or Fish Hawk, whose range is the whole of North America. As the Osprey lives entirely upon fish, it is generally found along the sea-coast or along the banks of some large river or lake. When fishermen see the Osprey strike for a fish, they hasten to the spot and draw their nets for they will be sure to have a good haul.

The Osprey breeds year after year in the same spot, generally choosing the top of some lofty tree as its building site. It lays two or three eggs—rarely four—of creamy tint and largely blotched with reddish-brown colorings, which are generally collected around the larger end of the egg.

Like the Eagles, the Osprey is monogamous, but if either of the pair dies the remaining bird soon finds another mate to whom it is extremely affectionate and loving.

If the female bird loses a limb or disables itself in any way, its mate insists upon his partner staying at home on the nest while he goes in search of food for his hungry family. The feet of the Osprey are unnaturally large in comparison with the size of the bird, but are just what are needed in catching fish.

The flight of the Osprey is extremely easy and elegant, which one would naturally expect, as its body is but twenty-two inches in length, while its breadth of wing is nearly five feet and a half.

The Osprey may be seen on a clear day sailing in wide undulating circles, as it hovers over the water intently watching for its prey. As soon as a fish comes in sight the Osprey shoots down like a meteor, and dashing at the luckless fish so as to raise a cloud of spray, he grasps it in his strong claws and bears it away in triumph to his loving mate, who has been watching all the while, perched on a limb near her young.

In commencing to describe how the Osprey is often robbed of its hard-earned food, I hope all who read this will pardon me for quoting just at this point from what has been written by an eye-witness. "The Bald Eagle, who is a sort of omnipresent predator wherever the primeval nature holds her own upon the continent, sometimes makes his appearance suddenly on his wide-visiting wings amidst these solitudes,

that seem rightly to the Fish-hawk alone. His hoarse bark startles the deep silence from afar, and every natural sound is mute. Wheeling grandly amidst the dim blue cliffs, he subsides on slow and royal spread upon some blasted pine beside the lake-river, and with quick short screaming, announces to awed nature that its winged monarch has come down to rest. The friendly Fish-hawks, in silent consternation, dart hither and yon in vexed uncertain flight, and tiny songsters dive into the deep thickets, while the shadow of that dread sound passes over all. But now the kingly bird grows quiet, and with many a shift of feet and restless lift of wing—while fierce far-darting eyes are taking in all the capabilities of his new perch—he sinks into an attitude of deep repose, one yellow-heated eye upturned, watching the evolutions of the startled Fish-hawks, whose movement, becoming less and less irregular as they wheel to and fro, gradually subsides into the measured windings of their habitual flight in seeking prey, while the buzz, the hum, the chirup, the chatter, and the carol creep up once again, and nature becomes voiceful in her happy silence."

Then the Osprey, at last quieted, sweeps down from on high, and grasping a fish in his claws he soars away uttering an exultant scream. Now is the time for the couchant tyrant, and elevating his war-crest and spreading his wings, the Bald Eagle leaps upward in pursuit. The Osprey becoming alarmed wheels upward with all the strength of his powerful wings, but as the Eagle approaches nearer and nearer, the poor Fish-hawk losing all hope of escape, utters one last despairing cry and dropping its would-be prey, sails away to seek its rest upon the branches of some tall pine. But the Eagle poising for a second, as if to make more certain his aim, drops like a shot upon the falling fish and clutching it just as it reaches

the water, he soars away with boastful pride to a spot where he can either hoard or eat his stolen meal.

Sometimes, however, the Ospreys congregate to defend their rights and then it generally goes hard with the overbearing tyrant. A gentleman who witnessed a scene of this kind, says of the Ospreys: "They seemed to have formed a sort of colony for mutual protection, and the moment their foe, the Eagle, made his appearance among them, the cry of alarm was raised, and the vigilant colonists, hurrying from all quarters, attacked the robber without hesitation, and always succeeded in driving him away.

There was always a desperate battle first before the savage monarch could be routed, and I have seen them gathered about him in such numbers, whirling and tumbling amidst a chaos of floating feathers through the air, that it was impossible for a time to distinguish which was the Eagle, until, having got enough of it against such fearful odds, he would fain turn tail, and with most undignified acceleration of flight would dart toward the covert of the heavy forest to hide his baffled royalty, and shake off his pertinacious foes amidst the boughs."

The general color of the Osprey is dark brown, but it is pleasing variegated with various shades of black, gray and white, making it a truly elegant bird. The crown of the head and nape of the neck are covered with long gray-white feathers streaked with dark brown, while the under surface is white, with the exception of a light brown band which extends across the breast. The primaries are brown tipped with black, and the tail is barred above with a light and a deep brown, and below with brown and white. The legs, toes, and cere are blue, while the eyes are of a golden yellow hue, and the beak and claws black.

I cannot end without again mention-

ing the singular beauty of the Osprey. Wherever it is, soaring aloft, covering its eggs or young, or perched on the top of some lofty tree, it is still the same handsome bird, and anyone who has spent any time by the seashore or on the banks of our large rivers, will always remember with a mixed feeling of admiration and pity, our most beautiful of predaceous birds, the American Osprey.

EDWARD FULLER.
Norwich, Conn.

Nesting of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

The eggs of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee, like the Pine Siskin and Wright's Flycatcher, (on which I have previously written) are quite rare.

This bird is not distributed over so much territory as the other two species therefore their eggs must be of more value to the collector, than either *Spinus pinus* or *Empidonax obscurus*. (Their value, however, is not given in "The Oologist Checking List" of 1890.) On May 27, '89, I took a set of five eggs, it being my first set of this chickadee. It was situated in a snag, five feet up, the excavation being one foot deep. I also found a fresh set of seven eggs of *Parus rufescens* on May 3d, this season.

This nest was in an alder stump three feet from the ground, composed of moss, hair, wool and a few feathers, felted together.

The eggs resemble those of the Common Chickadee or the Oregon Chickadee in a general way, but average larger in size and the markings are larger also, with an inclination to form a wreath near the larger end.

There can be no mistake as to the identity, for in the first instance the birds were observed carrying building material to the nest, and in the second, the female was caught; then, too, the Chestnut-backed and Oregon Chickadee's notes (as well as their plumage) differ very much. I also observed an-

other pair digging in a tall snag on April 17, '91, but upon visiting it again later on, found they had disappeared.

CLYDE L. KELLER,
Salem, Oregon.

Owl's Tenacity of Life.

I see in the January OOLOGIST in an article by Mr. Joel A. Harrington of Butte, Mont., that he wonders much at the great tenacity of life in a Great Horned Owl.

Now the solution is simply this: In all birds there is a communication between the lungs and the large bones, and the wing being broken when the strap was placed around his neck the bird obtained his supply of air through his broken wing.

How wise is Nature in her provisions for her creatures!

A. V. THOMPSON,
Decorah, Ia.

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Re-Written and Greatly Enlarged, with an Introduction by J. Parker Norris, and Full Page Illustrations of Nests, etc. by Theodore Jasper, A. M., M. D., and W. Otto Emerson.

This work is descriptive of the Nests and Eggs of the Land and Water Birds of North America, which includes all the species known to exist—those that occur or are indigenous north of the Southern United States boundary, including Greenland and the peninsula of Lower California.

The breeding range of each species is given, the time of nesting, the exact number of eggs laid, their color and size together with the chief characteristics of the birds.

The arrangement of the work is according to the new nomenclature of the A. O. U. Code and Check List, and the old numbers (Ridgeway's), as used in former editions, are placed to the right of each species. Throughout the text all the common names of the birds are to be found. And a COMPLETE ANALYTICAL INDEX of these is given.

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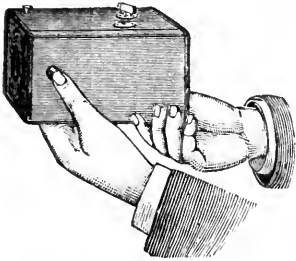
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THE OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1891

No. 8

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this Oöologist?

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TO EXCHANGE. Eggs in original sets with data; for others in sets with data. Send list and receive mine. B. L. FOX, New Sharon, Iowa.

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TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Birds' Eggs, in sets or singles; for Bicycle, Typewriter, Printing Press, or Printing Material, Firearms, or others. Give accurate description, cost condition, etc. Write and make offers. ELMER J. GILLETT, Barre Centre, Orleans Co., N. Y.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

HAVE YOU NOTICED new list of common eggs wanted and desirable eggs offered in Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this Oologist?

DR. A. G. PRILL, late of Sweet Home, Oregon has changed his address to Springville, Erie Co., N. Y.

I WANT AT ONCE INDIAN RELICS.—MOUND BUILDERS OR MODERN—WILL PAY CASH OR GIVE GOOD EXCHANGE. WRITE WHAT YOU HAVE QUOTING PRICES—WHICH MUST NOT BE FANCY. AND STATE WHAT IS WANTED. FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following California eggs for others not in my collection. I shall send out none but first-class sets, small, clean-cut holes, thoroughly cleaned, with unquestionable data. Will require same in exchange. Advantageous exchanges will be given. A. O. U. 378 1-8 1-9, 430 15-2, 431 18-2, 447 1-5 1-3, 458 1-4 1-3, 462 2-3, 466 3-2 5-3 4-4, 508 2-3, 519c 3-3 2-4 4-5, 530 4-3 8-4 3-5, 531 1-3 1-5, 552a 2-2 5-3 6-4, 581c 9-3 10-4, 591b 2-2 10-3 9-4, 596 2-2 4-3, 599 6-3 5-4, 620 2-2, 622b 3-4, 627 2-2, 629a 1-3, 633a 1-2 2-3 1-4, 683a 3-2 7-3 7-1, 703 2-4, 721a 2-6 1-4 1-3, 743a 2-6, 758 2-4 1-2. Also singles of above and of 123b, 221, 273. M. S. HAINES, Box 1185, Station C., Los Angeles, Cal.

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THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON SEPT., 15, 1891.

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1, 2, 7, 11, 22, 26, 27, 41, 42, 47, 51, 56, 63, 67, 53, 115, 123, 135, 149a, 151, 153, any of the rarer Warblers, 157, 168, 170, 197, 198, 198a, 201, 204a, 211, 214, 217, 231, 242, 248, 251, 254, 257, 258, 277, 278, 278b, 282, 289, 293, 301, 304, 306, 315, 320, 326, any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 357, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 460, 465, 473, 480, 482, 483; any of the Herons, 497, 498, 501, 505, 507, 510, 520, 522, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 574, 578, 582, 583, 601, 609, 613, 618, 634, 640, any of the Cormorants, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 689, 687, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 760, 761, 763a. Eggs of Warblers, Owls and Hawks, listing at over \$1.50 not included in wants.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the price s quoted.

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Pod of Sabre Bean, very curious.....	.35
Rajah or Beetle Nut.....	.15
Brown-banded Sea Bean.....	.10
Red Sea Bean.....	.03
Gray Sea Bean.....	.03
Trilobite (<i>Calymene Niagarensis</i>).....	.25
Scaphites from Black Hills, choice, desirable.....	.30
Resurrection Plant.....	.15
Barnacle, Pacific, choice double specimens.....	.25
Polished Agate, pendant.....	.25
Indian Pottery, fine specimen.....	.25
Sea Fan, 6 in., extra fine.....	.35
Alligator Tooth, fine.....	.25
100 Foreign Stamps, all different.....	.30
Flat Sea Urchin Zebu Channel, Philippines.....	.25
Sea Horse, very fine.....	.50
Fossil Polyp Coral.....	.25
Fossil Sea Urchin.....	.25
Egg of Skate.....	.12
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" " " " Singles.....	.35
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" " " " Singles.....	.25
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Continued on another page.

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FRANK H. LATTIN,
ALBION, N. Y.

THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1891.

No. 8

The Story of a Flood. By *Fulica americana*.

June 12, 1891, was almost as beautiful as any member of the avian or any other order could wish for. I was sitting on my nest of rushes over water near the edged of one of the numerous sloughs of Northeastern Buena Vista Co., Iowa. My eggs were well advanced in incubation and I was expecting to soon have a dozen little Coots to provide for.

All around was peaceful. No sense of impending calamity depressed our spirits. In the different slough around me the Black Terns were gathering insects or incubating their eggs, which were laid on bogs, small piles of rushes or even on nests deserted by some of my own species or *Podilymbus podiceps*.

Many nests of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, containing eggs and young, were situated in the sound green rushes among which my nest was placed. Near the shore were those of the Red-winged Blackbird nearly all containing young. Numerous nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, some of them containing newly laid eggs were there also.

The nest of the Pied-billed Grebe which looked like the bottom of an overturned wash basin, was floating near mine. It contained half-a-dozen eggs, nicely covered with the material of which the nest was composed, viz.: mud and decaying vegetation. A little way out from this an Am. Bittern was setting on her nest of rushes, guarding her precious, drab-colored eggs.

The Wilson's Phalaropes were incubating their eggs on the low ground near the water's edge. All feathered creatures were intent on the propagation of the species. As for the human race, they were all busily engaged in

cultivating corn so as to have it ready for the Blackbirds to feast on just before going south in the autumn.

A long toward evening it became somewhat dark in the west. A small shower in the southeast seemed to be going all around us. This came nearer and it began to sprinkle. The farmers sought the shelters of their houses and the birds cuddled more closely over their eggs and young. We were getting a fresh water bath for nothing and did not trouble ourselves about it.

About 7 o'clock, somewhat to our surprise, it began to rain harder. Then still harder and harder and harder! Oh, my, how it rained! It poured! It fell with all the fury of a demon bent on destruction. Soon the water in the pond began to creep, creep, upward, while my nest seemed to be gradually sinking. Then as water began to run into the sloughs from the adjacent hillsides it rose faster and my eggs were submerged. I left the nest and the wind and waves took my eggs off of it and scattered them in every direction. My nest, following the waves was carried out and deposited among other drifting material on the shores. Some of the eggs had followed the nest and were floating upon the water near it.

Sick with despair I looked around to see what damage had been done my neighbors during the two hours rain that was the heaviest known in the history of the county.

It had stopped now, and the stars were shining pitifully down upon us, while the moon breaking through the rapidly receding clouds gave us a glimpse of her friendly face.

The Pied-billed Grebe's nest was still floating on the water and the covering had not allowed the eggs to be washed. It was some feet from its accustomed place however, lodged in a bunch of

rushes. This particular bird, however, was very lucky, many of the same species had shared the fate of the Coots. The nest of the Am. Bittern was completely submerged as you may suppose, the water having risen nearly two feet, while the nest was built only a few inches above water.

It had not yet reached all the nests of the Blackbirds, though many of them were under water, but the wind and waves had robbed all of their contents.

The nest of Wilson's Phalarope was covered with water, and it would have been so with a much lighter rain than the one we had.

Every bird was sorrowing and disconsolate, mourning for their lost nests and young. There were many sufferers besides those I have named, but I was unable to learn the extent of the damage, though I think from the sad voices of the Kildeers and other birds who had their homes in the plowed fields; that their nests were washed under or eggs carried away by the current. The Ruddy Ducks also must have been sufferers. They were just laying, and one of their eggs lay on the shore of a slough where the bird had deposited it after the flood.

The Black Terns were all heavy losers, scarcely a nest remaining, though I did see one with its eggs among a thick cluster of rushes where the wind could not well reach it.

But we could not lose much time for we all wanted to raise a brood of little ones, so we set to work to construct other nests and lay another complement of eggs. The Grebes and Terns got in their work first, as many of the former found their nests still floating flush with the surface, and the latter could utilize some bog.

At present writing, just one month from date of the great freshet, many birds are rejoicing over pretty little nestlings, myself among the number.

Others are nearly ready to hatch, and

some of the more backward ones will have to wait several weeks yet.

We learned something by the flood and built our nests very much higher than usual.

One King Rail's nest was nearly a foot high, and just as she finished laying an oologist who lives here—J. V. Crone by name—came along and took the eggs. Dirty trick wasn't it? and the only excuse he had to offer was that he had not taken any earlier, and that he had none in his collection. The Am. Bitterns wisely (or unwisely) resorted to dry land of meadows, for their second nest, I say unwisely for when the above oologist is mowing hay he finds their nest, and they lay a \$1.25 egg you know.

The Phalaropes left. I guess they could not bear the thought of trying to nest again, for I have not seen any since the flood.

The Yellow-legs are back from the north already. I wonder if they had a flood up there too. May be they had a snowstorm.

Well dear readers in spite of the heavy rain and large amount of damage, the above is written by a very happy

MUDHEN.

Feeding the Birds in Winter.

How many of the readers of the OOLOGIST have ever tried this plan as a means of enabling them to study more closely the habits of our winter visitors? I will tell you of my experience in this, at my happy child-hood home in Eastern Indiana.

During a long cold winter a few years ago, I found many small birds that had evidently died from a lack of food, as a deep snow had covered everything for several weeks. The thought occurred to me that it would be indeed a labor of love, as well as an act of charity, to induce the little feathered songsters to come to a certain place to be fed. I

placed some boards on a barrel in the most sheltered corner of the yard, on the sunny side of some evergreen trees, which the birds were in the habit of frequenting. I then prepared for the feast by strewing the table with bread crumbs, crushed hickory nuts, bits of cooked meat chopped fine, and various kinds of seeds, "borrowed" from mother's store of garden seeds. The next thing was to await the coming of the diners; and it did not take them long to begin to put in an appearance, for cold and hunger had made them very brave. Black-capped Chickadees, Crested Titmice, White-bellied Nuthatches and Snow Buntings were about all that came, for very few birds had been able to live through those dreary weeks of ice and snow.

The next winter I prepared for them before the cold weather had fairly set in. I fixed their table under shelter of some evergreens near the house, where I could watch them from a window, myself unseen. It was a delightful past-time, to listen to their chatter of delight, and watch their cunning movements as they flew from table to branch, for they preferred carrying their food up to a limb before eating it. The table was replenished almost daily, thus their food was always fresh. It seemed as though all that had been there the previous year, had returned, bringing all their friends with them. There were Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice, Snow Birds, three or four kinds of Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and a few Cardinal Grosbeaks, and Robins that were brave enough to face our winter winds. The Nuthatches were especially fond of pumpkin and sunflower seeds, and greedy little fellows they proved themselves to be. They would not only eat what they wanted there, but would carry away what they could not eat, and by spring every crack and crevice about the trees was filled with seeds, securely wedged in by the busy little Nuthatches.

A piece of fresh meat placed in a tree, out of reach of the cats and dogs, was a source of never failing delight for the Chickadees and Titmice. Many a noisy quarrel arose among them, but they were of short duration, and soon forgotten.

The Chipping Sparrows were my tamest friends during the summer, coming daily for their allowance of crumbs. They grew so tame they would readily come into the house to pick up crumbs that were strewn on the floor for them.

I feel that I was a thousand times repaid for my trouble, for many, many hours were spent in watching their merry actions. I think any of the readers who will take the trouble to feed the little feathered jewels, will be amply repaid, by the pleasure thus afforded, and the knowledge gained of their habits.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Arkansas.

Nest and Eggs of the Rufous Hummingbird. (*Trochilus rufus*.)

On the morning of May 1, '91, I awoke early and was soon on my way for a collecting trip. A cloudless sky, a refreshing atmosphere and an approaching ray of sunshine, together with a well filled basket of edibles, were a few of the features that foretold an eventful and pleasant experience in oology, and sure enough my days outing was successful in its entirety.

My first find was the subject of this article, and my delight was at a premium.

I had not gone far into the woods when a female Rufous Hummer flew by with a buzz, which told me there was a nest near at hand. Upon looking around, I at once discovered its nest. It was at the end of a branch, in a small oak, five feet up. Upon investigating closely I found it contained two eggs which were almost fresh. Their sizes are .50 x .31 and .51 x .32. Eggs of this Hummingbird like the rest of the fam-

ily *Trochilidae* are always white and usually two in number, but I have known of one instance where three eggs were taken from one nest. The nest is a handsome structure, composed in the main of willow-floss and plant-downs. The outside is covered with bits of green moss and light colored lichens, much resembling the bunches of moss found in oak trees.

On June 2d, I again went collecting in the same locality and noticed a pair of Rufous Hummers acting rather queer. They had been flying at several warblers that came near a certain oak tree, for some time so I seated myself under its shade to study their actions, trusting the female would alight on her nest. Sure enough she did, and I was again rewarded with a set of their eggs. The nest was on a horri-zontal limb and in make up was similar to the first, but the eggs were longer, being .54 x .31 and .53 x .31 in size.

All nests of this species found by me have been near some creek and placed in oak trees. This seems to be their favorite nesting place. In the spring of the year when the wild currant is in blossom, one has a splendid opportunity in observing the habits of these little beauties as they glitter in the sun light.

CLYDE L. KELLER,
Salem, Oregon.

The Chewink in Broome Co.

By WILD N. CLUTE, BINGHAMTON, N.Y.

The article in the July OOLOGIST, on the Chewink in Orleans County, developed several traits of the bird that are so much at variance with what we know of him in this (Broome) county, that a few words in regard to his habits here may prove interesting.

Orleans County, although farther north, is much less elevated than ours, and this, together with its proximity to the great lakes, should make the two counties very nearly equal in respect to climate, and, therefore, to the flora and

fauna. That this is so is shown by the Chewink's time of arrival from the south in spring. Mr. Posson places the bird's appearance at about the 7th of April. That date is much too early for us. A record of bird-arrivals for the last six years, gives April 19, 1888, as the earliest date of the Chewink's arrival here, and May 10, 1889, as the latest. It would, therefore, seem that our seasons are later, and the Chewink ought to be as common in Orleans Co. as here.

From what I have learned of the Chewink's habits, he seems to prefer an elevated region for his dwelling place. In even large pieces of woodland on the level, the voice of the Chewink is seldom heard; but when we ascend to the retired upland woods, the bird must be marked as common. He does not, however, seem partial to the deep woods, but is found commonly in the scrubby growths and slashings that usually adjoin large tracts of timber. A rambler in such places, in summer, is sure to hear the Chewink's call above all others, and to get a glimpse of black and white as the bird flits from one clump of bushes to another.

In conformity with his other habits, the nest is seldom placed far in the woods. One that I found on the 8th of June, 1888, was placed in the edge of a little bank that skirted a cart-path through a bushy field. Some brush, lately cut, formed a sort of concealment for the nest, which contained four fresh eggs.

Since the Chewink is not equally common in localities in nearly the same latitude, it may possibly be due to the higher elevation of the favored region.

The Carolina Wren Again.

Since my sketch on the Carolina Wren, sent to you early in the spring, I have had an interesting item of observation on its nesting.

On the 21st of May last, I found a nest with 4 eggs, the usual number, nearly fresh. It was in a new field, on low ground near a spring. The nest was neatly tucked into a recess between the roots of a chestnut stump; well hooded over, so that the bird seemed to enter through a large hole in the side, a tuft of grass screening the entrance. It was composed mostly of dried grasses, very fine and feathery, a few dried leaves, intermixed with the outside, the lining mostly of horse hair. The fine white eggs specked with reddish brown, look more like those of the Titmice and Warblers, than like those of the Wren family. Though the eggs of that family vary greatly.

Let me here tack on a little note along with Mr. Posson in your last issue, on the Chewink in Orleans Co., N. Y., and around Buffalo. I used to regard it a very rare bird in your Co., and believe with the above writer, that the south shore of Lake Ontario must be about the northern limit of its habitat. It is true, however, that it is quite common in the immediate vicinity of Buffalo, as stated by Mr. Bergtold.

In like manner, I used to find the Brown Thrush very common around Buffalo, while it was not at all common in Orleans Co., N. Y. This species, however, extends its habitat much farther north. I found it common on Manitoulin Island and in the LaCloch Mountains, just south of Lake Superior.

J. H. LANGILLE.

A Trip to Smith's Island.

On the morning of May 21, '91, I left Cobb's Island, Va., with two friends at 6:30, and sailed down to Smith's Island in order to get a few specimens of the Great Blue Heron. Smith's Island is about 20 miles down the coast, but the way we had to go was fully 30 miles. We had a head wind all the way, and it

was 11:15 when we arrived at our destination.

As soon as we landed the Fish Hawks commenced flying around us, screaming all the time. There were lots of their nests about, but I never saw any thing to equal those of the Great Blue Heron.

Some trees had as many as five in them. I tried to climb to some, but as I had no "irons" with me, I had to give up the job. The trees were tall dead pines, with no bark and as smooth as a telegraph pole.

I know a great many of the nests contained young, because there were lots of egg shells on the ground, and when the old birds would fly over, high in the air, the young ones would stand up in the nest and stick their heads out toward them.

I expect to go to Cobb's Island again next May, when I hope to be more successful in the egging line.

WM. N. FISHER,
Baltimore, Md.

More about the Iowa Eagles.

About two days after receiving my February OOLOGIST, I was told that an Eagle had been caught and was on exhibition in Chas. Trizainski's barber shop window. I started at once for the barber shop and upon arriving there I saw one of the largest Golden Eagles that "grow," and which measured six feet, six inches from tip to tip.

It measured about two feet in length. Its plumage was very ragged but still showed its beauty. It was of a beautiful gold color on the head and dark all over the body; two light spots on the wing, tail light, legs very strong and feathered to toes, color yellow, bill blue black and very large. It seemed to take kindly to captivity and has become tame. It can be fed from the hand and does not care at all if any person pets or strokes it, provided you do not touch

its wings. It is, on the whole, a most noble bird and inspires one with a feeling of not exactly awe but something similar.

A gentleman from Nebraska, who has seen many, says this is a very large one, the largest he ever saw and this is a young one.

This bird was captured about twelve miles from Decorah and in a different direction from Bluffton.

A. V. THOMSON,
Decorah, Ia.

Some Notes on the Breeding of the Carolina Snowbird.

Junco hyemalis carolinensis.

BREWS.

Davie, in his "Nest and Eggs," says, "According to Mr. Wm. Brewster this new variety of the Black Snowbird differs from *J. hyemalis* in being larger, with lighter, blue and more uniform coloration, and a horn-colored instead of pinkish white or yellowish bill. Mr. Brewster found this bird at Highlands and on the Black Mountains of Western North Carolina. He states that it is probable that the birds represent the form which breeds on the mountains of Virginia and Pennsylvania."

I know of at least two breeding grounds of the Carolina Snowbird in West Virginia, one on Job's Knob, the other being Cold Knob in the western part of Greenbrier county. At the last named place only have I studied their habits. Here at an altitude of probably 2500 feet I found them breeding abundantly during May, June and July. I am positive from notes taken and observations made they raise at least two broods in a season, probably three as I found a nest containing three young, a few days old, the latter part of August, 1889.

Their nests may be looked for along the roadside under the overhanging bank and in tussocks of grass at the foot of a bush, but I have never yet

found a nest in a bush, although I have found at least twenty nests during two years collecting. They are quite tame, allowing one to approach within a few feet before leaving the nest which they do somewhat in the manner of the Oven Bird. The nests are generally a small quantity of moss and fine roots lined with fine rootlets and a few feathers; they are about the size of the nests of the Phoebe in interior diameter.

The eggs cannot with certainty be distinguished from eggs of the Black Snowbird, but probably average larger. One set of eggs in my collection measure as follows: 16.5 x 13.1; 16.4 x 13.0; 16.0 x 13.1; 16.0 x 13.0 millimeters. The average size of 30 specimens is 15.5 x 13.0 millimeters.

Mr. Wm. D. Doan, in his list of "Birds of West Virginia" (Bulletin No. 3, West Va. Agricultural Experiment Station) says: "Resident in the higher mountains. I found them August 26th, on Rich Mountain, where I was informed they breed."

Dr. Wm. C. Rives, in his "Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias" says, "They are not found in the main Alleghany Range near the White Sulphur Springs."

If they are not found in the main Range they are very near it. Cold Knob only lies 25 miles north-west of White Sulphur Springs and near to the main Alleghany Range, or at least a spur of it.

THAD. SURBER,

June 8, 1891.

A Curious Find.

On the 26th day of April my cousin, Thos. A. Smithwick, took a set of Brown-headed Nuthatch of four eggs, which also contained one single Bluebird's egg. Can any one else record a case like this?

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

Black and White Creepers. (*Mniotilta varia*.)

This is one of the little birds which ought to be respected by farmers and husbandmen generally, on account of his extreme usefulness.

He clears their fruit and forest trees of myriads of destructive insects, particularly ants, although he does not serenade them with his songs.

He seldom perches on the small twigs but circumambulates the trunk and larger branches, in quest of ants and other insects with admirable dexterity. He is evidently nearer related to the Creepers than to the Warbler, for his hind claw is the largest, and his manner as well as his tongue, which is long and five pointed and horny at the extrem-

ity characterize him strongly as a true Creeper.

He arrives here toward the latter part of April and begins soon after to build his nest.

One which I had good luck to discover was fixed in the crack of the trunk of a large tree, and was composed of some fibers and dry leaves, lined with hair and soft cotton like down.

It contained five young ones recently hatched. This was on the 28th of April.

At about the beginning of Oct. the whole tribe leaves again for the warmer climate, probably the West Indies, though I have been informed that at least several of them have been perceived in the Gulf States during the whole winter.

The male and female are nearly alike in plumage.

E. E. HAMMETT, JR.,
Cleveland, O.

Nesting of the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

In my collecting this year I have come across two nests of the Sharp-shinned Hawk; (*Accipiter fuscus*) built, no doubt, by the same pair of birds.

On May 16th, while starting out on a collecting expedition with a companion, I observed a Hawk flying over a large wood with something in its claws. I watched it and saw it go down in a patch of pines about a quarter of a mile distant. The pines, to which we immediately went, covered perhaps five acres, and were sparse and tall at one end and low and thick at the other. While searching for the Hawk's nest, which we believed to exist in the pines, a male Sharp-shinned came around us several times uttering his peculiar cry. At last we found the nest in the thin pines, about thirty feet from the ground. It was built uniformly of dead pine twigs, was about seven inches across inside and one inch in depth, and contain-

ed two perfectly fresh eggs. They are of a creamy-white ground color, marked with confluent blotches of light reddish brown. These eggs are the same size at both ends.

The other nest we found May 31st. It was situated very near the first, and, like it, was near the top of the pine tree where two limbs branched off from the body.

It was similar to the first except in being a little deeper, and in having a slight lining of pine bark scales and a few feathers. This nest contained five eggs, incubation just begun. These differ from the others in being decidedly pointed at one end, and in being very much lighter, the markings being hardly darker than ash-color, on an ashy-white ground.

The female bird was very bold. While we were both up the tree packing the eggs she flew over us so close that I could have reached her with my hand, one of her wings actually striking my companion on the shoulder. After we had descended, he succeeded in shooting both the birds with his rifle.

We were particularly struck with the difference in size they exhibited.

HAROLD B. STABLER,
Sandy Spring, Maryland.

Danger in Using Arsenical Soap.

As several cases (one fatal) of poisoning by arsenical soap have come to my notice, I think a few words on its dangerous properties might not be amiss.

The common white arsenic of commerce (Oxide of Arsenic) when mixed with some animal matter as the fat in soap, fat skins, or any other albumenoid substance, forms one of the most, if not the most dangerous poisons known, the Ptomaine of Arsenic, as follows:

All flesh and fats after a short exposure to air begin to decay, one of the products of decay is a cadaveric alkaloid, called a Ptomaine, the decay suffi-

cient to form Ptomaine might not be noticeable.

Now when you make Arsenical soap you probably take some cheap soap that has been made out of half putrid fat, mix your Arsenic with it and cork it up, now this corking up seems to favor the formation of the Ptomaine, or keep it from evaporating, as it has always been noticed that matter that has been exposed to the air and then closed up contains more Ptomaine than those just exposed to the air.

This Ptomaine as soon as it forms unites with the arsenic and forms Ptomaine of Arsenic.

The poisonous qualities of arsenic and the Ptomaine of Arsenic might be compared to 1 and 100, besides which the following must be considered, that there is no antidote for the Ptomaine, while Per-Oxide of Iron, or iron rust is one for arsenic, that it is volatile and can be inhaled, while arsenic is not; that it can be absorbed through the pores, while the little arsenic it would be possible to absorb would act only as a tonic, while the Ptomaine acts only as a verulent septic poison in all cases; that the lye in the soap favors the entrance of the poison by softening and more or less removing the epidermis of the skin.

Many taxidermists have remarked the effects of arsenical soap. I find the following by Maynard:

"It is a fact to which I can bear painful testimony that they are, especially when applied to greasy skins, poisonous to the extreme. I have been so badly poisoned when working on the skins of some fat water birds that had been prepared with arsenical soap as to be seriously ill."

Cones' also makes remarks to the same effect.

It is not necessary to injure you to take enough of the Ptomaine to kill you, as a small might produce much trouble not easily accounted for.

I may say in conclusion though Arsenical Ptomaine may form in skins prepared with pure arsenic there is not nearly the danger, as with the soap, but it is as Maynard says: "Arsenic and grease are generally a blood poison."

HARRY B. SARGENT.

Interesting Notes from Oregon.

I send you a few extracts of my '91 notes thinking perhaps they might possibly be interesting to some of the readers of the OOLOGIST.

April 5th. Found a Steller's Jay's nest completed. The bird began laying the 14th and April 20th took a set of 5 eggs. Nest made of sticks, twigs and moss, lined with rootlets, measured 9 inches across and 6 inches high on outside, $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. x 2 in. inside; and placed on a limb of a fir tree about 16 ft. high; eggs pale, greenish, spotted, rather thickly at larger ends; average size 1.23x.88.

April 19th. Took a set of 14 eggs of Mongolian or Ring Pheasant.

The nest was in a field of thick "Oak Grubs" placed under an oak grub, made of leaves in hollow in ground, measures 8 in. across and 3 in. deep. Eggs were a brownish cream with a faint green tinge, average size 1.56 x 1.32.

The Pheasant's note or "crow" consists of two syllables uttered with a harsher voice than our domestic cock and resembles *er er*; immediately after crowing they flap their wings making a noise like the Ruffed Grouse.

I set three eggs and succeeded at the end of 22 days in hatching one little Pheasant looking very much like a brown leghorn chick.

The little fellow done well and followed the hen, but persisted in going ahead; in three days it required a lively pace to catch him, but one morning nothing was to be seen of it.

May 11th. Took a set of 13 fresh

eggs of Mongolian Pheasant. Nest in same field and under an oak grub the same as the other, eggs pale, greenish, cream, a few spotted sparingly with olive, average size 1.66 x 1.23.

May 12th. Took a set of 7 fresh eggs of the Oregon Ruffed Grouse. The nest, unlike most nests of this species, was not concealed or at least did not seem so, as it was placed between two fir saplings in plain sight 10 or 12 ft. away; it was hollow in ground, lined with leaves.

Eggs cream, three being spotted very sparingly with light brown, average size 1.60 x 1.24

June 14th. Found a nest of Mongolian Pheasant; it was a hollow in a tussock of timothy containing one egg laying on bare ground; there was not any more next day, and its a puzzler to me to know how that egg got there. Can anyone make a suggestion?

The following receipt I have used for the last year successfully for removing stains, although may not be new to many I hope it will to a few:

Cover the eggs 18 or 24 hours with butter-milk, too long will spoil them; care should be taken to wash the eggs thoroughly, immediately after taking them out of the butter-milk.

ARTHUR L. POPE,
Yamhill Co., Oregon.

Where is the Southern Breeding Limit of the Robin?

I would like to hear from any reader of the OOLOGIST who has in his collection eggs of the Robin (*M. migratoria*) taken in either of following states:

Georgia, Alabama or Mississippi. Or in Arkansas or Indian Territory, near or south of latitude 35°. Also along the southern border of Tennessee. Am trying to find the southern breeding limit of this bird in the Mississippi Valley.

Would like especially to hear from

observers residing in above states (in proximity to latitude 35°) as to whether this bird nests in their localities.

J. T. PARK,
Warner, Tenn.

Queries Answered.

C. D. H., Newfane, Vt.—Your sparrow is doubtless the White-crowned.

R. B., Claremont, N. H.—The description of your nest and eggs resembles that of the Acadian Flycatcher.

R. H., New Castle, Ind.—Is not your bird the Song Sparrow?

E. L. Y., Thornton's Ferry, N. H.—Your nest was that of the Gt. Crested Flycatcher.

A. H. C., Nobles Co., Minn.—Writes of taking a set of Black-throated Bunting and wishes to know if it breeds farther north.

B. S., Detroit, Mich., writes:
"On June 3, 1891, I found the nest of a Song Sparrow built in an apple-tree about six feet from the ground containing three fresh eggs. The nest was in a sort of hollow at the end of a limb. Isn't it rather unusual for the Song Sparrow to build in a tree?"

The Song Sparrow's nest has been found almost "everywhere"—finding them in an apple-tree is rather an unusual, but not a rare, occurrence.

C. E. H., Russellville, Ind.—The birds which you describe are Indigo Buntings.

C. W., York Sta., Ala.—The crow of your locality is undoubtedly the common variety.

Answers to that Turkey Vulture Query.

In the OOLOGIST for this month you ask who can tell if the Turkey Vulture occupies a nest more than one season. Two instances have come under my observation where they have been known to occupy the same nest more than one season, one having been occupied two

years, the other three. Two sets were taken from the latter in one year (1890) and one set has already been taken this season.

JOHN HOWARD,
Tarboro N. C.

In regard to Turkey Vultures occupying the same nest more than one season would like to give you a few lines here and there from my note book.

March 28, 1888. Took a set of two fresh Buzzard eggs from a hollow stump at Levy Lake.

Mar. 15, '89. Took a set of two fresh eggs from the same nest which resembles very much the set taken the previous year, undoubtedly the same bird.

Mar. 20, '89. I took a set of two fresh eggs from a little cave in an open field.

Mar. 15, '90. Took a set of two eggs from same cave and on April 30th took one more egg, incubation advanced.

This season (91) I took two more sets from the same nest. The set taken Mar. 16, was fresh, the last set taken May 28th, was badly incubated. I know of still another nest from which a set of Vulture eggs has been taken every season since 1887.

However I know of instances where Vultures have deserted their old nesting site after having been robbed, but once, so could not say that they always use the same nest more than once.

T. G. PEARSON,
Archer, Fla.

In reply to A. G.'s query would say I know of a hollow tree which has been used for six years by a pair of Turkey Vultures, and have heard of two other trees which have been used for about ten years. I find when they are once robbed they desert the tree or stump, I have collected four sets in the last six years and could have taken others, but I am no egg hog. I am satisfied with a few sets. From what I know of their habits I believe they would always lay in the same nest if not disturbed.

Mr. K. Atkinson, of Dime Box, Tex., says he has only been able to approach them on two occasions. Would say of the four sets I collected I had to raise the bird off the nest of three, the first I found by accident, while walking through the thick brush I stumbled over a hollow stump and the Vulture flew past me; on looking in stump I discovered a set of two fine eggs perfectly fresh. If a Vulture remains on nest,

tantalize with a stick she will vomit and then the danger is over as she cannot renew the attack or at least they never have for me.

C. BYRON VANDYCOOK,
Odim, Ill.

"Meadow Larks and Turkey Buzzards" (?)

Oh yes, Texas has some birds besides Meadow Larks and Turkey Buzzards. I have been interested in our feathered friends for some years; have also been a collector in a small way. 'Tis true one may ride an entire day behind a slow horse and never see a bird in Texas, but that has been my experience only on the Staked Plains, but even there around the little settlements one meets our little friends. I have seen there the Lark Sparrow and his sweet song can be heard almost any moonlit night, and to my mind 'tis as sweet a song as our caged yellow pets ever uttered, true it may not be so varied, but the sweetness of tone is superior. This little bird is I fear much underrated by those who see him most. His Texas name is Wheatbird.

I have found nesting in Dallas and adjoining counties, the Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel, Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, Cardinal, Black-capped Titmouse, Blue Gray, Gnatcatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, House Wren, Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Chuck-Will's-Widow, Night Hawk, Screech Owl, Yellow Warbler, Crow, Blue Jay, Bob-white, Bronzed Grackle, Crested Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bird, Belted Kingfisher, Pinnated Grouse and several hawks and owls that I've never placed. This is only a partial list, there are many others I don't call to mind just now. I have spent many pleasant hours tramping about and trying to get better acquainted with our birds and deducting Mead-

ow Larks and Turkey Buzzards have found plenty to study and admire. While we are on Meadow Larks I'll tell you of an egg I have of that bird, 'tis one of a set of four, regulation size and ground color, but the reddish brown patches are as large as a finger nail and nearly hide the ground color. Let us hear from our Texas boys.

FRANCOIS,
Dallas, Texas.

Seaside School of Biology.

Mr. Frank H. Lattin; Dear Sir:

Our school of Biology will open July 6th, continuing to Aug. 29th. The deanship is held by Geo. Macloskie, D. Sc., L. L. D., of Princeton College, who will be assisted in terrestrial work by John E. Petere, A. M., D. Sc., and in the Laboratory work by Arthur M. Miller, A. M., Prof. of Biology, Wilson College.

Mr. Dumas Watkins, of Princeton Col., will be the collector of marine specimens.

Students having microscopes are requested to bring them. A dozen microscopes will be supplied for the use of experienced persons. Instructions will also be given in the use of the microscope.

The building is planned to have separate floor and foundation and the north-west corner specially well lighted for fine work.

We will have this year accommodations for 30 or 40 students. Two boats are in service, a well arranged library, also cases for preserving mounted specimens and a herbarium. Running salt and fresh water, and aquaria and other appliances will be found in the laboratory.

Come and see us.

WM. M. ALBERTI, Sec.,
Avon-by-the-Sea, N. J.

Sorry we cannot be there, but trust many of the OOLOGIST's readers will join the class. They will find it of interest, profit and pleasure.—Ed.

World's Fair Notes.

An extensive display of postage stamps may be expected at the World's Fair. The American Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Society of New York have both appointed committees to work to that end.

California may show at the World's Fair, as a part of its exhibit, the finest collection of minerals in the United States. Instead of making a special collection as was done for the New Orleans, Philadelphia and Paris expositions, there is a strong probability that the state will send the magnificent collections belonging to the State Mining Bureau Museum. The State University has the collection of the State Geological Survey, the Voy collection, Hanks collection, Keene collection, and several others. These are all classified, arranged, identified and labeled. Each county and district in the state is properly represented. Every department of the mining industry has its separate place with locality indicated. No other state or territory of the Union has any such collection as belong to California now.

Tulare, California, proposes to furnish a very novel exhibit for the Fair. From a gigantic redwood tree, 390 feet high, and 20 feet in diameter, will be cut two lengths forty-five feet long, and these will be transformed into full-sized railway coaches by hollowing out the interior. The rough bark of the tree will be left on the roof and on the sides the natural wood will be left unpolished. The interior will be finished after the style of Pullman cars. One will be a buffet dining car, with bath, barber-shop and kitchen, and the other a sleeper, with observation room. Ordinary car trucks will be put underneath, and the men of Tulare, with their wives and children, will make the trip to Chicago in these strange coaches and live in them while there. The intention is to keep these cars in the Exposition grounds and to sell as mementos the portions of the tree cut away in their construction.

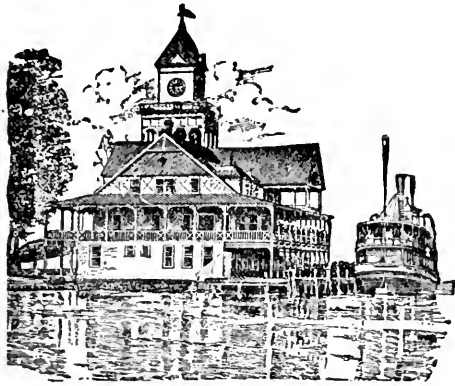
Captain Alexander Rodgers, the special World's Fair Commissioner to Brazil, reports that the botanical exhibit from that country will be the finest ever made. The director of the botanical garden at Rio de Janeiro, Dr. J. Barbosa Rodriguez, probably the leading scientist in that republic, is taking a

great interest in the work of preparing a fine display for Chicago. He will send the fullest possible collection of plants, and make a full exhibit of orchids and palms, on both of which he is a high authority, having himself discovered over five hundred new varieties of orchids and fifty new varieties of palms. He will send also his private ethnological collection of over a hundred pieces, the most valuable and the rarest that he found during his stay in the Amazon country. Dr. Ladislao Necto, the director of the national museum at Rio, is also very earnest in having a fine exhibit at Chicago, and has already made requisition for funds for that purpose. Dr. Necto organized the Brazilian section of the Berlin fisheries exhibition, and promised to get up a similar display for Chicago. This may be given to the United States fishery commission in exchange for something of theirs.

The fish exhibit at the World's Columbian Exhibition is to be a wonderful one, and not the least interesting portion of it, naturally, will be the Aquarial or Live Fish display. This will be contained in a circular building 135 feet in diameter, standing near one extremity of the main Fisheries building, and in a great curved corridor connecting the two.

In the center of the circular building will be a rotunda sixty feet in diameter, in the middle of which will be a basin or pool about twenty-six feet wide from which will arise a towering mass of rocks covered with moss and lichens. From clefts and crevices in the rocks crystal streams of water will gush and drop to the masses of reeds, rushes, and ornamental semi-aquatic plants in the basin below. In this pool gorgeous gold fishes, golden ides, golden tench, and other fishes will disport. From the rotunda one side of the larger series of aquaria may be viewed. These will be ten in number and will have a capacity of seven thousand to twenty-seven thousand gallons of water.

The entire length of the glass fronts of the aquaria will be about 575 feet or over 3,000 square feet of surface. They will make a panorama never before seen in any exhibition and will rival the great permanent aquariums of the world not only in size but in all other respects.



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During July and August, 1891.

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—TO BE HELD AT—

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AUGUST 25, TO SEPTEMBER 4, 1891.

Frank H. Lattin will have a "carload" of Birds' Eggs, Sea Shells, Corals, Natural History Specimens and Curiosities of all kinds.

Duplicate specimens will be sold at surprisingly low prices.

"Lattin will personally attend the exhibit during the Exposition and would be pleased to meet any of his patrons. Should you visit the Fair, do not fail to visit Lattin's Exhibit, which you will find on the second floor, at the south end of the main building (same location as in '89-'90.) The exhibit will occupy 500 ft. floor space with 50 ft. frontage.

AT THE
Inter-State Fair and Exposition

TO BE HELD AT ELMIRA, N. Y.

SEPT. 1st-9th.

We have agreed to make a big exhibit of Indian Relics. If you attend the fair do not miss seeing our exhibit we expect to have \$2,000.00 worth of Indian Relics on exhibition all of which will be for sale.

"Lattin" expects to personally be at Elmira, Sept. 7, 8 and 9 and would be pleased to "shake" with any of his numerous patrons of that vicinity, who happen around.

At Elmira we shall doubtless have a good assortment of Shells, Curios, and Souvenirs for sale at wonderfully low rates.

WHY NOT

Make An Exhibit at Your Fair?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth, of shells, agates and curios to add a variety to your present collection, and make an exhibit at your own and neighboring Fairs this Fall?

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At a good Fair, with a suitable display you could sell from \$10. to \$100. per day, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG profit.

Now we will have lots or just such material on hand at Chautauqua, Detroit and Elmira, that will remain unsold, rather than ship back home will sell at very low rates, if it would be inconvenient for you to personally make your selections at any of the above places, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection for you that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewellery and Novelties. Write what you want.

Faithfully,

FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.

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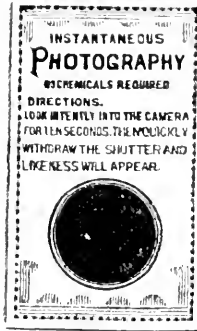
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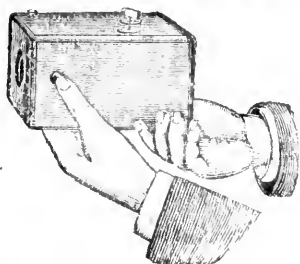
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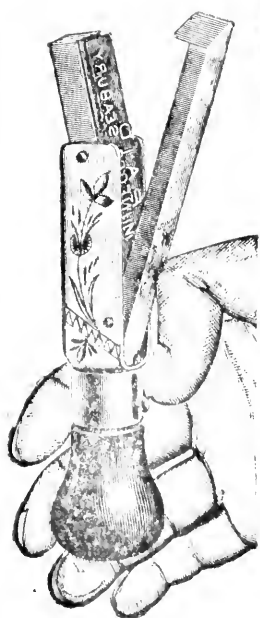
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OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per

VOL. VIII

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1891.

No. 9

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

WANTED.—To exchange, Mississippi Kite 1-2, with datum, for other sets with data. Semirare. Address, J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have first-class California sets and singles to exchange for Eastern sets with data. Send your lists and receive mine. ALMA KING, San Bernardino, California.

HAVE YOU NOTICED new list of common eggs wanted and desirable eggs offered in Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

WANTED.—A. O. U. Nos. 333, 360, 373, 377a, and any other desirable eggs. For which I will give stamps or eggs. HARRY O. TROUNCE, 41 Collier St., Toronto, Canada.

EGGS IN SETS with complete datas for exchange for same. Also a few singles. Send your list and receive mine. All letters answered. W. A. OLDFIELD, Port Sanilae, Mich.

SEE!—I will give twenty-five periwinkle shells, from Lake Erie, for every ten cents worth of curios. sent me. ALLEN OGDEN, Brocton, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Buffon's Natural History in fine condition for best offer of perfect Indian arrowheads. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kans.

TO EXCHANGE.—For the best offer of tennis racquet set 1/2 436, set 1/2 225 (Kidgeway's) 1 Indian tomahawk and grinder. ART. BIDWELL, Box 248, Baldwin, Kansas.

WANTED.—Double-barrel breech-loading shot-gun 12 or 16 gauge; will give "First steps in Scientific Knowledge" (Paul Bert) 100 clean cigarette pictures, 100 varieties foreign stamps, thirty arrowheads, Indian axe and club, collection of end-bit eggs, value over \$45.00. Write and send lists; great bargain. Address, ARTHUR DUGAN, West Point, Miss.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—I have fine f. c. bird skins and eggs to exchange for the following: Chambers, shot-gun, rifle, books on taxidermy, ornithology or oology, camera, telescope or violin. All letters and cards answered. JNO. L. HOOPEK, Lake Mills, Wis.

SETS WITH DATA and singles of this locality for Western eggs. Send list and receive mine. GEO. H. GRAY, 1326 N. Mount St., Baltimore, Md.

EXCHANGE.—Will exchange minerals and woods for same. Send list and receive mine in return. Letters answered. CRITT C. IVORY, Smithville, Jeff. Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Hérons, Grackles, Mockingbird and other eggs from this locality. for same. Send list. JESSE MILLER, 184 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

A BARGAIN.—400 eggs, 60 different kinds, in sets and single. First-class in every respect. Collected in this locality. O. H. BRAUGHLER, Santa Rosa, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Beautiful Mineral Specimens from Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. What have you to exchange? Write. EARLE A. BROOKS, French Creek, West Virginia.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sixty Argosies, twelve books and water blower, for the best offer in birds' eggs. Address, LOUIS WEHLE, 631 E. Main St., Rochester, N. Y.

WANTED.—Files or odd copies of any Natural History publications. Send lists. Will give first-class job printing for files, for what I can use. WILL A. CROOKS, Gilman, Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Will exchange single eggs of 507, 501, 465, 461, 438, 494, 387, 388, 511b, 505, 508, 613, 652, 704, 756, 619, 622a, A. O. U. for singles not in my collection. Send lists of what you have to exchange. W. J. WIRT, P. O. Box 23, Oak Orchard, Orleans Co., N. Y.

BIRDS' EGGS.—First-class sets of 212, 214, 387, 434a, 447b, 538, 539, 605 and others for same. Two Burrowing Owls for best offer of eggs. MERLIN C. JOHNSON, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

ATTENTION COLLECTOR.—I have Oliver Dyer's latest work on the birds and eggs of North American birds bound in cloth and gilt in perfect condition, new and old. I will exchange for best offer of old stamps, half dollars, quarters, dimes, half dimes, copper cents. Send lists stating year and condition. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kansas.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—A heavy 22-cal. rifle, War-nant action, for best offer of first-class land birds' eggs in sets. STANLEY E. WYLLIE, Sanford, Fla.

WHAT AM I OFFERED for Davie's Key 3rd edition, cloth bound, new four dollar field-glass, two volumes of OOLOGIST and taxidermists' implements. PAUL HUNTINGTON, 826 Mason St., Green Bay, Wis.

WANTED.—Best offer for Ornithologist and Oologist for '87, '88, '89, '90. A complete file of OOLOGIST down to present, for first-class birds eggs in sets, or duplicate volumes of Ornithological magazines. I desire to obtain several volumes of the Auk. If you have any, send price. Address, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets and singles with data of 305 5-1, 316 7-2, 387 1-1 1-3, 44 1-3 3-4, 466a 1-3 1-4, 467 1-3 1-4, 474b 1-4 1-3, 485 15-1, 498 1-1 1-3, 501 1-3, 511b 1-5 1-4 1-3, 529 1-4 1-3, 604 1-4 1-3, 610 2-3, 613 1-5 1-4, 652 1-5 1-4, 704 1-4 1-3, 761 1-4 1-3, (A. O. U. Nos.) for sets with data or a "Eureka" shot-shell crimpers (second hand) or a few lined trays. CARLETON BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Large collection of South Carolina Birds' Eggs, Indian and War Relics, Petrified Shells from Darlington; also Large collection of Stamps for Safety Bicycle. A. W. HOFFMAN, Darlington, S. C.

I WANT GOOD TYPICAL selected nests of Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Wagtail, Wren, Golden-crested Wren, Blue Yellow-backed Warbler, Blue-winged Yellow Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Starling Ovenbird, Phoebe, Yellow Warbler, Indigo, Red-winged Blackbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a number of Natural History books, each containing 620 pages, with over 500 illustrations, exchange price \$2.00 per copy. Wanted desirable eggs in sets; send lists. N. P. BRADT, Eagle Harbor, Orleans Co., N. Y.

WANTED a pair of Screech Owls. (*scops asio*) in good condition. State lowest cash price. P. DELAFONTAINE, 121 Honore St., Chicago, Ill.

EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. No.'s in sets, 51a 1/2, 105-1, 201 1/2, for sets from other localities. D. W. RAYMOND, Norwalk, Conn.

800 CIGARETTE pictures, 4 albums, second class eggs of 357, 516 and others, to exchange for eggs. Make offer. R P. GILLESPIRE, Starkville, Miss.

FINE Specimens of Opals 15 and 25c exchange for sets only, 25, 35c. Agates 15c exchange 25c. Both from Pacific, also sea-moss and shells for exchange. ED WALL, San Bernardino, Calif.

FIRST-CLASS Singles, Ridgeway, 85, 186, 198, 202, 218, 241, 246, 320, 355, 492, 520, 525, 512, 643, 475, 683, 739, 285, 290, 290a, 193, 268, 256, 678. A. O. U. 339a, and sets 640 1/2, 585 1-1, 494 1/2, 495 1/2, 541 1/2, 609 1/2, 641 1/2, 665 1/2, 306 1/2, 312 1-5, 61 1/2, for first-class original sets. I have a hunting-case, stem-winding watch to exchange for best offer of sets. Send on your lists. W. L. MORSE, No. 6 Onondaga Co. Savings Bank, Syracuse, N. Y.

HAVE YOU NOTICED new list of common eggs wanted and desirable eggs offered in Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

WANTED.—Arrow points and Birds' Eggs in sets and singles. Have in exchange Fossil Shells, Fossil Coral, petrified Moss, fresh and salt-water Shells, 50 varieties of wood in three different forms. All the above goods are first-class. I will send my goods first. I would also like to correspond with collectors in Florida and Texas. W. R. BIRD, Lock Box 507, Mason City, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class singles and original sets with data, for like singles and sets. Send list and receive mine. Address, JOHN HAMMITT, College Hill, Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—New Winchester and Marlin Repeaters and Shattuch's guns. Want a double breech loader, a large telescope and a camera. CHAS. FOWLER, Princeton, N. Y.

WANTED.—First-class single eggs of hawks, owls, herons, gulls, terns, shrikes. Will exchange rare U. S. and Foreign stamps, air rifle and printing press. HARRY M. BLACKBURN, JR., 65 Charles St., Toronto, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with full data of 128, 155, 197, 282, 300, 375, 420, 431, 439, 494 and commoner ones for other sets. L. N. ROSSITER, Lake Forest, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Tame Red Tail Hawk, Howard Camera and Eggs, Sets and Singles, for best offers of Eggs or anything. Send lists and receive mine. THOS. GADSDEN, 199 Whitaku St., Savannah, Ga.

WANTED.—"Birds of Long Island" by Girard, cash or exchange, new or second-hand. Address, stating price or conditions, F. E. BAXTER, Babyton, L. I.

EXCHANGE.—A six-drawer, glass-covered, oak cabinet, for first-class eggs in sets. No postals. GUY A. MOORE, 1436 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ills.

FIRST-CLASS SINGLES of A. O. U. 75 1-1, 79 1-1, 123b, 294, 337, 360, 373c, 378, 417, 431 m-1, 458, 462, 464, 466, 476, 499, 501b, 510, 519c, 530, 581d, 591b, 596, 599, 614, 624, 627, 715, 721b, 743a, 758 and 761a to exchange for first-class original sets. I also have sets to exchange. FRED A. SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cala.

TO EXCHANGE.—Pair Indian clubs, 70 tobacco tags, Bruin or the Grand Bear Hunt, Gulliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen for first-class eggs in singles. TOM FLOURNOY, Clinton, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a general collection of fossils, minerals, etc., to exchange for other fossils not in my collection. Write me what you have. C. S. HODGSON, Albion, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—A pair of live fox squirrels for eggs, coins, Indian relics or Coues' Key. Cards not answered. Send your lists to F. E. SMOUSE, 704 19th St., Des Moines, Ia.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs, including (Ridg. Nos.) 52, 77, 95, 408a, 432 for eggs, coins, books and curios. Send lists to ELMER G. BENNETT, Box 236, Guilford, Maine.

WANTED.—A good printing press, self inker, chase not less than 6 x 8 inches, also curiosities of any kind. Have for exchange eggs, curiosities, etc. H. E. PENDRY, Eustis, Fla.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fine sets of Franklin's Gull, Least Bittern, Yellow Head and Redwing Blackbird. Mounted birds to exchange for eggs or other offers. **WHIT HARRISON**, La Crescent, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—First and second-class eggs for same and books on ornithology. Second-class eggs for anything. Letters containing lists answered. **F. B. WILLIAMS**, 222 Cedar St., Ottawa, Kansas.

WANTED.—All collectors who have been defrauded by dishonest collectors or dealers during '90 or '91 to communicate at once with **JNO. V. CRONE**, Marathon, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class birds' eggs for the same or books on ornithology. Second-class eggs for anything. Letters containing lists answered. **F. B. WILLIAMS**, 222 Cedar St., Ottawa, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE.—First and second-class single eggs, a water blower and sets of Black Crowned Night Heron's eggs, for first-class eggs in sets. **JOHN WILLIAMS**, Wenham, Mass.

WANTED.—A 30-in. safty bicycle and a No. 4 kodak. Send for a list of the articles I will give for them. Please mention this paper. Address, **H. A. HESS**, P. C. C. & St. L. R. R. Union Station, Indianapolis, Indiana.

I WANT to exchange my entire collection and duplicates of birds' eggs for a good bicycle in good condition. I have about 120 different species and most of them in sets with data. The whole amounting to over \$55 catalogue prices. **H. J. ROGERS**, Burnside, N. Y.

WANTED.—Fancy and Homing Pigeons of all kinds and colors. Will give in exchange live Horn Frog, bird eggs in original sets with complete data or will pay cash. Parties having or knowing persons that have thoroughbred stock of the above pigeons will kindly send their address to **O. J. ZAHN**, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS and those in "rare" localities, write. Specialty, nests and sets. Bird skins offered for eggs. References given and absolutely required. **P. B. PEA-BODY**, Owatonna, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A new model champion single-barrel, breach loading shot gun, 12 bore, slide snap, patent fore end fastenings, pistol grip stock, double bolt and rubber butt; for a Marlin or Winchester repeating rifle 38-caliber, or best offer in first-class bird skins. The gun is in perfect condition and shoots well. **WM. F. SMITH**, Wayne, Delaware Co., Penna.

LARGE NUMBERS of desirable single eggs, many varieties, worth from 5 cts to \$1.25 each, to exchange for sets with data of any species worth not less than 5 cts. per egg. I wish to hear from every single egg collector or any exchanger who can use desirable singles. **J. R. CRAIGUE**, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a set of Mississippi Kite at \$10 each and a set of Florida Red-shouldered Hawk at \$4 each to exchange for singles, only, by Lattin's 1891 list. **E. K. COLLETT**, Austin, Texas.

I HAVE Golden Eagle $\frac{1}{2}$, with datum, to exchange for a good double case Type Writer. Send description to **J. W. P. SMITHWICK**, Trinity College, Trinity, N. C.

INDIAN AXES, Scrapers, Drills, Hammers, Knives, Sinkers, Cets, Pestles, Arrowheads, and Oregon Points to exchange for first-class eggs in original sets with data. **WM. H. FISHER**, 14 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.

A Book of 500 Pages.

On treatment and care of domestic animals, horses, cattle, sheep, dogs, hogs and poultry, sent free. Address **Humphreys' Veterinary Specifics**, Cor. William and John streets, New York.

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EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON OCT., 15, 1891.

I want at once the following first-class eggs, either in singles or in sets, in exchange at 1890 prices, or if in sets, with data. I will allow 10 per cent. above these prices, in exchange for the articles mentioned below. Eggs taken in large or small quantities. No exchange amounting to less than \$1.00 can be "bothered with" unless 10 cents additional is enclosed for return postage and packing. If you have any of the rarer species to offer send lists. Species wanted, Ridgway's Nos.:

1, 11, 41, 42, 47, 51, 56, 67, 83, 149a, 151, 168, 170, 197, 198, 204a, 211, 214, 217, 231, 242, 251, 254, 257, 277, 278, 282, 293, 301, 304, 306, 315, any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 357, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 460, 465, 473, 480, 482, 483, any of the Herons, 498, 501, 505, 507, 516, 520, 522, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 574, 578, 582, 583, 601, 606, 613, 618, 634, 640, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 750, 761, 763a. Eggs of Owls and Hawks, listing at over \$1.50 not included in wants.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the price \$ quoted.

SUPPLIES.

No. 1, 8-100 Egg Drill.....	.08
" 2, 12-100 " " .....	.12
" 3, 15-100 " " .....	.15
" 4, 18-100 " " .....	.18
" 5, 21-100 " " .....	.20
Nickel - plated 4 1/2 in. Embryo Hook .....	.30
Oologist's Hand-book, 1885.....	.15
Hand-book on Insect Collecting.....	.15
17 Back Numbers OOLOGIST.....	.50
OOLOGIST (no prem.) last 6 mo. of '91.....	1.00
" with " for one year.....	35
Card for one Ex. Notice in the OOLOGIST. A few Incomplete Copies of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America," newly bound in boards and leather, (Publisher's cash price \$18.00).....	15.00

BIRDS' EGGS.

Texan Cardinal.....	.50
Dwarf Cowbird.....	.25
Limpkin, extra fine, 2nd-class.....	1.00
Noddy Tern, set of one, with data.....	.75
American Scoter.....	2.50
Sennet's Thrasher (13a).....	.25
White-winged Dove.....	.40
Mountain Plover.....	2.00
Canvas-back.....	2.00
Burrowing Owl.....	.30
American Bittern.....	2.00
Summer Tanager.....	.25
Mexican Ground Dove, (fine 2ds).....	1.00
Louisiana Water-Thrush.....	.75
Yellow-throated Vireo.....	.40
Florida Screech Owl.....	1.00
California Screech Owl.....	1.00
Costa's Hummingbird.....	1.50
Hummingbird Nests.....	.50
" on sticks.....	1.00

FOREIGN EGGS.

Bul-bul, from Philippines (fine 2d class).....	\$.50
Black-headed Weaverfinch (fine 2d-class).....	.25
European Blackbird.....	.15
" Song Thrush.....	.15
Ruddy Sheldrake, sets 7 to 10, per egg.....	.60
" Singles.....	.50
Med. Black-headed Gull, sets 1 1/2 1/2 per egg.....	.45
" Singles.....	.35
Barbary Partridge, sets 8 to 14 per egg.....	.35
" Singles.....	.25
Python from Ceylon, large and curious.....	3.00
Egyptian Vulture.....	5.00
Also Specimens, Shells and Novelties offered in Aug. OOLOGIST,	

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

We offer from one to a dozen of each the following articles in our Exchange Extraordinary offer this month.

Ano Kato, Express.....	\$ 1.00
Electric Top.....	.75
Palmetto Sun Hats, either for Ladies or Gentlemen, are simply non-destructible, can be washed when dirty, made for us by a native on the Bahamas.....	1.00
Matchless Repeating Air Rifle, 65-shot, Ex.....	8.00
Challenge Air Rifle, Express.....	4.00
Plymouth ".....	6.00
Sporting Rifle, No. 3 on our Cat., used one season, express.....	15.00
\$18.00 World Type-writer in Walnut push- tinted case, not used over a dozen times, express.....	30.00
Album giving photo views of the chief cit- ies of the world.....	.35
Suction Hat Hook.....	.10
Combination Tool, Pincers, Nippers, Nut- cracker, Glass-cutter, Cork-screw, Screw- driver, etc., in one tool.....	.40
Set of 3 Blank Books in Case, Handy for taking Notes, etc.....	.25
Set of 60 Bird Cards.....	.25
Bliss Telephone, copper wire, etc., complete.....	1.50
Excursionist Pocket Cook Stove.....	3.50
Climax Folding " ".....	1.25
Multum in Parvo " ".....	2.00
Electric Door Bell with Outfit (Battery, etc.) Express.....	5.00
School Ma'am's Call Bell.....	.50
Eel Spear, Seven-tined, Socket Handle.....	2.50
"Express" signifies that they are shipped in that manner at your expense.	

If you desire to obtain anything on the above list in exchange, send on your eggs at once. If you have no eggs, but have other desirable specimens in quantity, write what you have, with price; or will exchange for collections of fine Postage Stamps or second-hand Books on Natural History, or choice Indian Relics.

Only first-class Specimens accepted at any price, all others returned at sender's expense.

We will receive hundreds of packages in answer to this exchange and if you do not write your name plainly on the outside of the packages you send, your exchange will be delayed and packages possibly lost.

This offer will hold good until Oct. 15th only. Send on your specimens at once in large or small quantities. It makes no difference to us whether you send \$1.00 or \$100.00 worth, but if less than \$1.00 worth, 10 cents extra must be enclosed for return postage and packing.

Large quantities shipped by express or freight, *must be prepaid.* Address,

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

THE OOLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1891.

No. 9

The Black-and-White Creeping Warbler.

That seems like a long name, but it is really appropriate, for it is true to the structure and habit of the bird; and so the very name gives us a glimpse of that black-and-white warbler, which does not flit from limb to limb and spray to spray in the bushes and tree-tops, but genuine Creeper-like threads the trunk and larger limbs.

Everywhere in Western New York; in the region of the Great Lakes, in Ohio, and Nova Scotia, I have been accustomed to find this bird; and here in Maryland and Virginia, around the Capital, this little species is common throughout the migrations and the breeding season. I have seen its nest here, within a few rods of my house, on the ground, after its usual custom. Sometimes, however, mistaking the top of an old rotten log, or even the decayed top of a stump when overgrown with rubbish, for the ground itself, it builds its nest of dried leaves, fibers of bark, etc., even there. Dr. Brewer reports a nest hid away in the drain of a house. Commonly it keeps to the thick woods.

Mniotilta varia, for that is his scientific name, is not altogether a warbler in structure. His front toes are a little more joined together at the base, his hind toe a little longer and his bill somewhat curved at the tip. Not only his creeping movements, but also his breeding habitat which is throughout Eastern North America, is decidedly like that of the Brown Creeper.

The thin wiry, but pleasing song—*Kitsee-Kitsee-Kitsee-Kitsee*, is familiar to every one who knows this species; but comparatively few have heard his beautiful warble, now and then delivered in the dense shrubby of the forest. The former song is thrown in by the way as

he climbs the trees, but this latter is delivered in true artist's style, the bird being regularly perched, and his head thrown up.

To-day being Sunday, a day of rest, I sat me down in the fork of two roads in the woods—roads not used for several years and so quiet relapsed into a state of nature—there I waited, still as the trees around, to hear what the birds would say to me. Presently I heard a soft, sweet, whistling warble which I did not readily recognize. I soon spied the Black-and-white Creeping Warbler, only a few feet from me; and saw as well as heard him render his song. Nothing of the creeper about his movements now. He perches regularly, and flits from limb to limb, in true warbler style. Thus in habit as well as in structure, he is in part at least, a warbler.

Very interesting is this double affinity of some species, standing apparently between two different families, and so shading and softening the lines which separate families and orders.

If any reader of the OOLOGIST, in Eastern North America, lives and studies where this bird is not found, will he be so kind as to report, and so let us know if there is any blank in his commonly accepted habitat.

J. H. LANGILLE.
Kensington, Md.

Aug. 2, 1891.

An Indiana Heronry.

The Philadelphia Press claims that Dr. W. E. Hughes, the well known, ornithologist, has discovered "the largest heronry existing within the knowledge of any scientist, in Valley Hills, Chester Co., Penn." I think I have "discovered" a greater "find" in Indiana.

On the 18th of July with two friends I boarded a train at Chicago to spend a

day in the country. Our friends awaited our arrival at the depot, and we were soon on our way to the farm, where we were to spend the following day. I had before heard of a large number of "strange" birds having been seen in the vicinity and the next morning proceeded to investigate and find out what kind of birds they were, as none were sure as to the identification.

Driving two miles through the fields we left the horses and went about one mile further on foot through grass, wild rice, etc., as high as our heads.

There was little air stirring, and the sun beat down upon us unmercifully, making the atmosphere about us nearly as warm as a furnace, giving us who were bird's nesting on Sunday, a foretaste of our future existence.

We were some time wandering about in the marsh, which is of vast extent, in quest of the birds and had found no appearance of their late visitations, when one of the party called "down" and pointing to the northward said, "there is one of the birds now."

We remained hidden in the grass until the bird had alighted, then wended our way toward the spot, and were compensated for our toil and perseverance, (and it was required on this occasion to travel far,) by seeing, not one, but hundreds of Black-crowned Night Herons rise out of the grass, lazily fly a short distance and descend again.

There were acres of ground covered, more or less, with the deposit of the birds, and the long grass was literally tramped down in places where they had roosted.

The grass being so high, it was difficult to ascertain how many nests were there, but a party who visited the breeding place in the spring declares that at least there were eight hundred (800) nests, and from my own observations I have no doubt that he does not exaggerate in the least.

He states that the nests were at that

time surrounded by water but built up about fourteen to sixteen inches above it. At the time I visited the heronry the ground was dry.

Having secured several birds, mostly young, the old ones being minus the occipital plumes, we took our way homeward feeling fully repaid for our exertions.

I hope next spring to visit the heronry and secure some eggs which I was too late for this season. Should I have the success I anticipate, will give, if desired, a further account of my observations.

Very respectfully,
ROBERT C. BENNETT.

The Cuckoo in South Dakota.

For the past three years I have been collecting eggs in the vicinity of Aberdeen, and have never found a Cuckoo's egg until this last spring.

While looking for a set of Mourning Dove's eggs on the 9th of June, I passed through a thick clump of box-elder trees in a timber claim one mile from the city, and happened to look up just in time to see a Black-billed Cuckoo leaving her nest. I examined the nest, which was about six feet from the ground, and found two fresh eggs.

I revisited the place four days later, and found a fine set of four eggs, and secured the bird also. I have the eggs in my collection now. They are of a deep greenish blue in color, and nearly elliptical in shape.

Since then I have found six sets of the black-billed and four of the yellow variety.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,
Aberdeen, S. Dak.

The English Sparrow in Bay City, Mich.

In the first place, there were millions of them. Every street was crowded

with them, and you could nearly pick them up. Around the flour mills and wholesale houses, there were vast numbers of them, that came to get the wheat and oats.

The place where the most of them stayed was in the M. C. R. R. freight depot, where swarms of them stayed there the year around, building their nests inside on the rafters and scantlings.

They increased very rapidly as no one molested them.

Most every large poplar and elm tree, in town had from one to half a dozen nests in. In one nest myself and a friend found thirteen eggs (probably two or three pair in the nest.)

And also the gutter pipes of private houses made a place for many nests.

If you would put up a bird house for swallows, these little pests would soon drive them away.

My brother put up a house and in an half hour it was occupied by a pair. I shot the female and at noon the male came around with another wife which I also shot, and I kept on until I had relieved him of four wives. This did not disappoint him, and he soon had another which we allowed to stay, and they furnished a nest and laid five eggs, which my brother has with the nest in his collection. This sounds like a mammoth "fish story," but it can be proven.

One day my friend and I started out to rampage them. We went to an old vacant house and went on top and pulled off a piece of cornice and we could hear the young ones squealing "by the wholesale." We got lots of eggs and killed many old and young ones.

There is a law in that state allowing three cents a head for them and great numbers were killed every day. During the first two weeks over 800 were slaughtered, 200 of which were killed by one boy.

Farmers' boys loaded their shot-guns with number ten shot and shot them in

flocks around their barns and straw stacks. One boy killed seventeen with one shot with a number ten gun. My friend and myself did our share too.

Now they are very shy and hard to approach, and less numbers are killed.

From December 1st to the middle of last May over 900 certificates were issued to sparrow killers, all of them for ten or over and many of them for over a hundred.

It is a common occurrence to find their nests in electric light lamps.

WALLACE L. BRISCOE,
Minneapolis, Minn.

Michigan Notes.

I send you a few extracts from my '91 notes which might prove interesting to some of the readers of the OOLOGIST. I have collected this year and have in my collection 33 different sets of eggs. For a starter the American Redstart is not a very common summer resident of Bay City and there are very few ever seen around the trees. One afternoon, on the 3rd of June, as I was walking in a small wood looking for Vireos nests I happened to notice a small nest about three feet from the ground, situated in between a limb and the trunk of a thorn tree. It was composed of small fibres and cotton and lined with grass and feathers and quite deeply cuped. I shot the female and took it to Mr. Newell Eddy, who identifies all our specimens for us, and he told me it was an American Redstarts nest. Oh! but I was very glad when he told me what it was because I have made the *only* record of finding a set of three American Redstarts in Bay City or vicinity. In Davie's "Nest and Eggs of North America Birds" it says as regards to the number of eggs laid by the American Gold-finch "some writers state that the eggs range from three to five, but I can say different because all of my sets—and I have collected five of them—are five and one

set of six, on July 31 I took the latter set. [They range from five to seven with us—Ed.]

Another set which I have is a set of four Spotted Sandpipers which I took the 6th of June along side of a very much used rail-road track, among the long grass.

Black-billed Cuckoos are quite common but awfully hard to find fresh eggs. I have a set of two blown and took a set of three but could blow but one of them. Wilson's Thrush's are quite common too, a set of four with two cow-birds in it was what I found on the ground under a gooseberry bush and have found other sets of them. Blue Jays are not very common, but I have found one or two sets of them. Mostly all incubated quite badly and in pine trees ten feet from ground. The Sora and Virginia Rails are very common. I have taken sets when I did not know much about collecting by the hatsfull, and then not taken all of them. The largest set which I ever took was a set of 12 and the smallest was eight of Virginias. The largest set of Soras was 12 and the smallest seven. Seven sets of Virginia's and two sets of Sora's is all I have collected this year. The nests are composed of reeds of last year and built up in between this year's reeds. The bird will fly up and fly for a short distance with dangling legs and drop as if dead. They generally have a covering for their nests and slip out sideways to get off it.

Swamp Sparrows, Phoebes, Long-tailed Marsh Wrens, Bronzed Grackle, Brown Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, Baltimore Orioles, Blue-birds, Wood Pewee, King-bird, Purple Martins, Woodpeckers, Meadow Larks, Least Fly-catchers, Tree Swallows, Shrikes, Field Sparrows and House Wrens are all very common.

Next year I will get some Gallinules because I have found a place where they breed every year and have not

been disturbed at all. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered and Cooper Hawks are quite common. Have found two nests of Screech Owls, but never got any eggs out of them, because I caught the bird on the nest and took her home and let her go.

E. K. "GALLINULE."

Gambel's White-Crowned Sparrow.

(*Zonotrichia gambeli.*)

This bird like a large number of the Sparrow family, frequents brushpiles and low bushes, where it may be seen, accompanied with the White and Golden-crowned Sparrow, the Rusty Song Sparrow and Oregon Towhee, hopping from one branch to another or perhaps on the ground looking for insects, occasionally climbing to the top of some tree to sing its song which although short is pleasing to the ear, and can always be remembered by those who are interested in our feathered friends.

They arrive the latter part of March or first week in April and remain until most of the summer migrants have returned to their southern homes. Nesting season with the species begins about the fifteenth of April and fresh eggs can be found as late as the last of June.

This season I have taken four sets of four eggs respectively, which are of considerable value as a series, to show the variation in color and markings.

My first set of the season was taken May 19th, the nest was in a cypress tree 5 feet and 8 inches from the ground composed of weed and grass stems and lined with finer grass and horse hair. This set comes nearer than any of being a typical set. The ground color is pale greenish-blue, evenly spotted over the whole surface with liver brown.

Set number two was taken on the 24, of May. It was on the ground under a small bush. The female was on the nest and flew as I neared it. This set

resembles the first in a general way, but the spots vary in size more, showing the ground color more plainly. The nest is not so bulky when found on the ground as in trees.

The next set was also placed on the ground under a small fir and so well concealed that I had to look some few minutes before discovering it. The female, as in the second case flew as I passed near the nest. This set is the most peculiarly marked one of the small series. Egg number one is light greenish-blue, heavily blotched near the larger end with umber and purplish brown, number two is of the same ground color but has only a few faint markings of lavender-gray, number three and four are smaller in size and the color is light blue. These two specimens much resemble eggs of *Sialia sialis*, but if closely observed, fine brown specks can be seen.

My fourth and last set was taken June 19th, from a willow bush, two feet from the ground. I flushed the female and discovered the nest which was composed of dead leaves and grass and lined with finer grass and horse hair. The eggs are bluish-white, finely covered with brown specks, which form a wreath at the larger ends of three of them, the fourth being so thickly spotted as to almost hide the ground color at the larger end.

Later on, the first pair built again in a small fir near their first nest, but for some reason or other they left the nest. Gambel's Sparrow is one of the several species that sing at night. I have often heard it sing at eleven and twelve o'clock at night. The cause for its singing at this hour is not known, but it is thought that the bird is awakened by some passer by, or could it be that it was singing in its sleep?

CLYDE L. KELLER.

Salem, Oregon.

A Rambling Mixture from Connecticut.

I see so much in the OOLOGIST about what to do to drill eggs quickly, blow them and about nesting; also on the merits of poison ivy and stumach, when you get poisoned, leads me to think that I might try to add some more experience, advice, etc.

1st. If you are poisoned and are not very fond of salt in food, that is not want it all salt; you will put some salt upon the blisters and put enough hot water on to moisten it, and then rub it in; you take hot water too; try this several times a day, and it may make a decided change in your case, as it did on mine which proved successful.

2d. When you have touched or pressed Poison Ivy, wash your hands or face immediately and if water is scarce spit on "em" and wipe it off on some soft vegetable, such as leaves or moss, and if your skin is more sensitive than mine there is not any hope left.

3d. When in a swamp or near one, look out for Poison Shumach, and if you are touched with anything or touch any bush that gives you a peculiar twinge, look and see if its this "P. Shu" and if it is, well you want to wash the hands or face quickly, and don't mind about rubbing the moisture off, as you may accidentally scratch your face which would be serious in a second collision.

I have been very easily poisoned years back, but after experimenting with sugar of lead, etc., I invented these rules and have not been laid up for three years.

I was going through a mud-hole in search of nests, when I slipped off a log and landed in the mud up to my waist which was not comfortable when you know the mud is over seven feet deep; well I grabbed hold of the first tree in reach and I felt queer stinging in my fingers and I looked and it was a Poison Shumach.

Well, Providence sent a thought into

my head to get off that clump of trees as quick as possible and wash my hands and I did; in my jump for the brook I found my first Maryland Yellow-throat's nest with eggs in it and I washed my hands and did not get poisoned, or since that time, and the eggs were new to my collection at that date.

In May, this year, I found a Cooper's Hawk's nest in a tree and did not pay special attention to the tree until it was time to climb up.

Well, I went over into the swamp and scared off the hawk and then! Well, I looked at that tree and decided for a good while whether to blow the nest up or hire some body to climb it for me, but as it was only twenty feet up, I mustered up grit and climbed up, and was rewarded with a set of five eggs.

Then I climbed down, set the eggs down and washed my hands, wrists and face pretty thoroughly in a puddle of water in the swamp, and then I picked up my climbers, eggs and walked out, when I had got out of sight, I heard the female hawk say (over at the nest) that she thought I was a hard case, a fellow that will climb a poison shumach tree and run the risks of getting poisoned ought to die, she ended this with an angry cry and came over and got some chickens at one of our neighbor's.

And I escaped being poisoned to death after having climbed such a poisonous tree, and touching my face against the branches and the little sprouts on the way up, and breaking limbs that came in my way.

HENSLOW'S SPARROW.

This sparrow is a summer resident, although have not heard much of in papers, still some may have a pair within the limits of their farm and not know it.

In May you may hear a *see-wick*, with first word considerably dwelt on, and you can hear it all day, and far into the night coming from some pasture, with swamps and dry uplands in streaks, and perhaps if you listen long enough

to tell the exact place, and walking to it a sparrow starts up and flying nervously drops again about a rod off and you can scare it up two and more times, without any other result unless you are very lucky and find their eggs and nest. The birds stay for the most the time on the ground in a growth of spare or thick short grass, and will not go off a large lot except when they migrate.

Last year two pairs of these birds bred here, and they both raised two broods of 4—5, one or the number according too the choice of Mrs. H. Sparrow. I was not successful enough to obtain the eggs, but had the pleasure of seeing the nest, and the old birds teaching the young to fly.

The nests in both cases were placed in meadows of swamps and with dry places also, and had a thin hay crop on them.

In 1891 one of the old birds was seen again, and it was feeding and uttering the note *see-wick* quite frequently, and just now though I have failed to hear it or see the bird, for a day or more, but I hope to be able to get a set if possible and get better acquainted, if it will breed again this year at the same place and grounds.

A. M. LINSLEY,

Northford, Connecticut.

Unusual Occurrences.

I have three rare finds which I have taken this season.

On May 10th, Song Sparrow with five Cowbird's eggs and four of the owner; the nest was just about full.

May 25th, Ovenbird with seven Cowbird's eggs and one of owner; one egg was the only one layed by Ovenbird.

May 17th, Chickadee 1-6 and Bluebird 1-3 in same cavity; the Chickadee's nest was built on top of the other and you may imagine my surprise when I took the nests out.

ERNEST MARCEAU,

Dubuque, Iowa.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

Correspondence.

W. H. LaPrade of New Orleans, La., writes:

"I learn from strictly reliable parties that an Albino Blue Jay was killed in Wilkes Co., Ga. There were some small, faint grey spots on each wing, but at a small distance it looked pure white."

W. S. Catlin of Annapolis, Ind., writes of taking a set of two fresh Ruby-throated Hummers on Aug. 7th—undoubtedly a second set. He also writes of taking eggs of the Turkey Vulture from the same nest, both this and last season.

R. J. Joslin of Webster, Mass., writes:

"On the 30th of last May, I found, at the top of a high maple tree, a Baltimore Oriole's nest, in which was a set

of eggs, one of which is most curiously marked.

Upon it is seen the small and almost perfect image of a bird, which appears to be upon a branch."

We once took an egg of this species which had "Sin" in plain, bold markings, scrolled, upon the larger end.

Geo. G. Morrison, Fox Lake, Wis., writes:

"I have tried to keep the English Sparrows busy for the past few months laying eggs.

Have visited a locality here every two weeks regularly since May 22d, for their eggs, and always found them very plentiful.

I got 64 May 22d, 90 on June 4th, 60 the next time, 78 the next and so on up to date. If all the collectors would do this, their numbers could be held down much better. Collectors let us rid ourselves and all the feathered family of this 'Bull-dog,' the English Sparrow."

A Few Notes on Ornithology and Ornithologists.

In the migrating seasons the ornithologists which live in the Middle and Southern States have much more work than those who live in the north, as they have to study all the movements of the resident and summer resident birds, and from the last of August to the first of December, they must keep a careful lookout for strange birds, from the northern tier of states and Canada, that they do not pass unnoted. And in the spring the number of migrants is, of course, equally great. Yet the difficulty of the study is not so much greater in the south as might, at first, be supposed.

I believe, as a general rule, the resident and summer resident species, of this section, are not very difficult to study. The Yellow, Kentucky, Hooded, Parula and Worm-eating Warblers, and the American Redstart, Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Golden-crowned Thrush and Louisiana Water Thrush are the commonest re-

representatives of the Warbler family, in the south Atlantic States.

These are the easiest members of this family to study, as the variations, in plumage are slighter than in those which pass farther north. Of course, we cannot judge of the character of the bird life of a region by one family but in many places we can fairly estimate by the Warbler family, as it is so large and difficult, indeed, in some places, it forms no small proportion of the bird-life judging either, from the number of individuals or species.

More than one-fourth of the migrating birds which were noted, last spring, by me, were warblers.

There is plenty of time in the breeding season to study the resident and summer resident birds; then, in migration time we can study the habits and plumage of the transient visitants and winter residents. A few hints may help some one who is just beginning the study of migrating birds in the Southern States. A young ornithologist is apt to find some species which so nearly resemble each other in color, nesting or song, that he has to spend many days in finding some characteristic, by which he may distinguish one kind from another. Many species, in some form of plumage, approach, so nearly in color, that the task of identification seems almost hopeless.

Nearly related species are apt to be most puzzling, as their habits and family or generic characteristics are almost the same.

This fact may be noticed in the fall plumage of the Bay-breasted and Black-poll Warblers.

Their habits, size and shape are, almost, exactly the same, but there is a shade of difference in coloration which is generally perceptible.

The Black-poll has a greenish tinge on its breast while the Bay-breasted retains, in a slight degree, the beautiful color which covers its breast in the

breeding and spring migrating seasons.

They come about the same time, in large flocks, from the north, and seem very fond of keeping together, thus making the slight contrast, in color, show more plainly. At a little distance or when on the wing the very dull green and bay do not show enough to distinguish between the two birds. This same resemblance may, sometimes, be noticed in birds that belong to widely different families, as the Fox Sparrow and some of the Thrushes.

The *Sylvicolidae* abounds, throughout with species which are easily distinguished in the spring, but in the fall they come south bringing their young ones with them they have changed their feathers to dull and sober colors, as if dressing in mourning, on account of eggs wantonly stolen and many other home tragedies.

Olive seems to prevail in fall, with, now and then, a spot or stripe of yellow or red which seems to have been kept in memory of the days and flowers and trees of April, May and June. This general sameness of color makes the study of birds very difficult, but when the slight differences, which always exist are discovered the trouble of identification add much to the pleasure of the knowledge obtained.

EARLE A. BROOKS,
French Creek, W. Va.

The Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

This beautiful little bird is quite a common resident with us, and is probably too well known to require a description here.

There are very few persons within its range who are not familiar with its graceful form and brilliant plumage, but many have not had the opportunity of seeing the nest and eggs, which are no less wonderful than the birds themselves.

The birds arrive here early in May,

and spend the greater part of that month disporting in the sunshine and searching for food among the flowers of our fields and gardens, in some instances even entering houses through open windows to search among the flowers of house plants.

They are very familiar with man and do not seem to regard him as a dangerous enemy, although they frequently have occasion to do so.

They begin nesting about the 1st of June, and fresh eggs may be found by the 10th.

They nest in orchards, shade trees and woods.

When in the latter trees that stand along the borders of openings and roadways are usually, though not always, selected.

The nest is built upon a crotch near the extremity of a drooping branch, from eight to forty feet from the ground.

It is a felted cup-shaped structure, composed of plant down and the nests of insects, covered externally with lichens bound on with cobwebs.

In beauty and workmanship the nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is surpassed by that of no other bird found in this locality.

It is so soft and pliable that it may be crushed between the fingers and then restored to its original shape.

We can readily comprehend the necessity of this quality of the nest when we remember that it is the cradle of as frail a creature as a young Hummingbird.

The lichens are usually fastened with their scalloped edges upward.

The cavity measures about .90 in diameter by .75 in depth.

The nest is difficult to see, appearing as a moss covered knot upon the branch when viewed from below, but the habit the bird has of leaving the nest at the approach of an intruder, and the peculiar humming of her wings as she hov-

ers around it lead to its easy discovery.

All a person has to do when he hears the buzz of the bird's wings is to locate her, then remain motionless a few seconds and he will see her settle upon the nest.

The eggs are elliptical-oval, two in number, pure white and measure about .50 by from .30 to .35.

They are deposited before the nest is complete.

Soon after incubation has commenced the male bird leaves his little mate to fight the battle of life alone, which she does in a manner to be despised by none.

This bird has not the power of song, but utters a few rather feeble squeaky notes.

It makes its music with its wings.

W. H. OLNEY,
Poland, Ohio.

Of Interest to Oologists.

In June, 1890, I had the rare luck to find a set of Albino eggs of the Bluebird which were most perfect in shape, color and size, the set averaging .75 x .62. The nest was built in an old willow stub which was in height nearly five feet, leaning out over the river at angle of about forty-five degrees.

One day in June, 1889, while in a thick, secluded mountainous piece of woods, I observed a Brown Thrasher sitting on her nest and on going to it she flew off, but imagine my surprise when on looking into the nest to see two Catbirds and two Cowbird's eggs, but no sign of the Thrasher's eggs. At first I thought perhaps some one had played a trick on the Thrashers, but then again I thought that it could not be for it was a lonely secluded spot hardly ever visited by anyone. Incubation was about seven days advanced.

Some years ago (in 1886) a pair of Chipping Sparrows built a nest in one

of our apple trees and had laid three eggs, as I found on taking a peek at them one day, but what was my surprise to see a fourth and larger egg with the rest, the color of which was white. The egg in size was about the same as a black-billed Cuckoo and I have always thought that it was an Al-bino egg of this bird.

[More likely of the Cowbird.—ED.]

H. MILLER,
West Chester Co., N. Y.

How I Found a Killdeer's Nest.

Killdeers are very numerous in this neighborhood, although, I only found one nest last season. I was out collecting one day when I came across a pair of Killdeers they seemed to be very much frightened about something. I thought they must have a nest near, so began to hunt for it, but after looking for a long time I gave it up as a bad job. I came back the next day but met with no better success. At last I thought I would play a trick on them. There was a stone fence near by, so I turned as if starting for home when I had gotten to the fence I got over it, but instead of going home I stooped down and looked through a hole in the fence. The Killdeers still ran about screaming just the same way that they had done when I was right by them. After a while they quieted down and then went to a rock that had a hollow in the top and one sat down in the sand on top the rock, while the other stood up on the highest part of the rock as if watching. I then got back over the fence. As soon as the Killdeer that was sitting on the nest saw me she slid off and ran around the rock and came around on the other side and sat down in the sand as if she had her nest there, when I came around she jumped up making a great deal of noise, but I knew she was trying to fool me so I went straight to the top of the rock

there I found four eggs in a hollow in the sand about an inch deep. The nest had no lining and was situated on a steep rocky hill over-lookigg a stream of water.

J. T. BURWELL,
Millwood, Va.

Range of the Towhee.
By F. T. PEMBER.

Granville, Wash. Co., N. Y.

In the July, '91 OOLOGIST is an article entitled, "The Chewink in Orleans Co." The writer refers to two nests of that species found in the county, and evidently considers the bird rare, and that the extreme northern limit of its migration is reached in that section. Now I have nothing to say against Mr. Posson's well written article, but feel sure that the Chewink, in some localities, has a more northerly range.

I have collected eggs and skins for many years here, and about Lake George, and the southern half of Lake Champlain, in this state, and to the base of the Green Mountains in same latitude, in western Vermont, and have found the Towhee a very common bird, if the surroundings were such as they prefer. It is not a "Swamp Robin," and I never found it in swamps, or in the low valleys, but it is most abundant on high hills or low mountains, particularly where the timber was cut off ten to fifteen years ago, and where a new growth of maple, beech, birch, poplar and cherry has sprung up. The borders of such places if well covered with briars and vines are the chosen home of the Towhee, and I can shoot a dozen any day within a mile of this village. I take fine sets of eggs every season if here at the proper time.

This bird is very abundant about Lake George, and by this I mean that I could shoot a dozen on a morning tramp. Now the localities where I have found them plentiful are from fif-

ty to one hundred miles north of Orleans County, and for all I know they may range much farther north. In the A. O. U. 1886 catalogue they give it as "Eastern U. S. and southern Canada, west to the Plains." In Cones' Key he says "Eastern U. S. and British Provinces, N. to Canada, Minn. and Dakota."

Samuel in his *Birds of New England* says that "it begins to grow scarce in northern Mass.; and, before we have passed twenty miles beyond its northern limits, it is very rarely seen." But Samuels' is wrong for the birds are by no means scarce one hundred miles north of Mass. In Gentry's superb work, "*Nests and Eggs of Birds of the United States*," he speaks of the Towhee as reaching the Selkirk Settlement on the north-west, and quotes Wilson as giving it as a bird of Maine and New Hampshire. In the *Natural History of New York* by De Kay, 1843, he says, "it extends its migration north to Labrador." In *North American Birds*, by Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, they give it as reaching the Selkirk Settlement on the north-west, and quote Verrill, as giving it as a summer resident and breeder in western Maine.

Perhaps some of our collectors further north can give us more light on the subject. Will add that in California and Arizona I have taken many Oregon, Spurred, Brown, Aberts and Green-tailed Towhees along river bottoms and among willow thickets—places never frequented by our own bird in this section.

Owls as Pets

In the spring of '89 I caught two young white owls, these I kept until fall; it was amusing to watch their antics; they would eat young birds or mice whenever I could catch them.

Once when an enterprising —?— started to burrow through their cage they had an extra dish.

One of our neighbors had three maltese kittens—they were the prize of the neighborhood, but one of them came too near the slats and one of the owls caught him and pulled him through; that ended the kitten experience.

After living in captivity four months one of the owls died; as the other seemed lonely I stuffed him.

This spring I caught another of the same kind; he is about ten inches high and is in a healthy condition; he will eat all I give him and yet seems to be always hungry.

Every morning he takes his bath and then rolls in the dust of his cage; his favorite food is young rabbits which the boys around town bring in to see him eat; his cry is a hissing noise which he utters with his mouth at full stretch, but when he is mad he utters a sound like the snapping of fingers or clucking.

He sometimes hops around in his cage in a dancing motion, whether he does this for exercise or to scratch up the dust to roll in I do not know.

Though owls may seem very tame I would advise one never to trust them, for in my experience they like nothing better than to tear one's hand open.

V. B. ALLEE,
Paola, Kan.

Michigan Notes.

May 10th—Took a set of five Chickadee's eggs from a nest situated in a hollow post. The eggs were fresh. This is the first nest of this bird that I ever found around here.

May 24th—Yellow-billed Cuckoo, set of three fresh eggs, nest in an ironwood tree about twenty feet up, also took two sets three and four Brown Thrashers, three Wood Thrushes, four Wilson's Thrushes and three Olive-backed Thrushes.

May 25th—While egging in a swampy piece of land near Detroit I found a nest

of the Am. Woodcock containing four slightly incubated eggs. The nest was placed at the foot of a small bush, and was composed of dried weeds and grasses. I also found several nests with young.

June 5th—Scarlet Tanager, took a set of four incubated eggs from a nest situated in a hemlock. This bird is more abundant than usual this season, excepting '88.

June 10th—I went collecting in the marshes to-day, and found three sets of Black Terns, one set of Red-winged Blackbirds, set of eight Horned Grebes, and six or seven sets of Florida Gallinules, and many Long-billed Marsh Wren's eggs. Some of the latter were pure white. I found one set of six nearly perfectly white, and several speckled with light brown.

June 12th—While collecting in the same place as on the 10th, I found a set of two Least Bittern eggs. The nest was a platform of dried weeds.

June 10th—I took many sets of Black Terns, Coots and Gallinule's eggs here. Horned Grebes were here in considerable numbers, and I collected about twenty eggs and about the same number of Pied-billed Grebes. I think the American Bittern breeds here, but I cannot locate the nest.

B. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

A Nest Within a Nest.

In previous articles of the OOLOGIST I have read about an egg within an egg, but I do not think many of the readers of the OOLOGIST have seen a nest within a nest.

On July 7th, while destroying some European House Sparrows' nests a nest was thrown down which upon examining proved to be a Robin's nest within the House Sparrow's. The sparrow's nest was built completely around the Robin's. The inside of the Robin's nest was lined with hen feathers upon which

were laid three English Sparrow's eggs.

The Sparrows evidently thought that the Robin's nest would make a firm fastening to the maple limb or that it would make a good receptacle for their eggs.

HAROLD WILDER,
Atlantic, Mass.

A Rose-breasted Grosbeak Widower.

On June 1st as I was walking around the yard, I found a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, lying under a maple tree dead.

I knew there must be a nest somewhere near, as I had seen both male and female daily, for sometime past. So I walked along under the row of maples and box elders bordering the street, to the end of the block, but could see nothing of it.

On my way back I heard the male's voice, which sounded as if it came from a box elder tree a short distance ahead. I walked along, the bird singing at short intervals, till I seemed to be directly under it, still I could see nothing. I stepped into the middle of the road just then the bird sang again. Looking up I saw the little fellow sitting on the nest singing "with all his heart." I tried to get him to leave the nest, tossing up stones so they would strike the boughs, but no, he paid no attention to this, continuing his song, as if still unseen.

How to get at the nest was a doubtful question, as it was placed at the end of the limb near the top of the tree. I concluded that it would be best to climb the tree next to it, and with the aid of a rake I might be able to pull the limb with the nest towards me.

I got the rake, climbed the tree and not until I had pulled the limb toward me quite a little, did the poor little widower leave the nest.

I brought it near enough to reach with my hands. The nest, unlike others of this species was very bulky, being

composed of fine rootlets and other fibers, making a very pretty nest.

The complement was complete, there being five perfectly fresh eggs of uniform size and color.

I took a set of two from the tree adjoining May 24th last year. I think it was probably the same pair that built both.

Upon opening the stomach of the dead female, I found that it was filled to its utmost capacity with husks of a certain seed.

She had probably made a breakfast of the seeds, and the husks being soaked with the juices of the stomach, became swelled, which caused death, by clogging up the passage way from the stomach.

GEO. G. MORRISON,
Fox Lake, Wis.

Errata.

In Rev. J. H. Langille's article in the Carolina Wren in Aug. OOLOGIST where the number of eggs were mentioned as "4" it should have been 6.

A Request.

I am preparing to study and make records of the spring and fall migrations of the birds in that portion of the country that is bounded by a line commencing at the western extremity of Florida, curving a little to the west, and terminating at Lake Erie and the western end of New York; thence, down Lakes Erie and Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean. In doing so, it will be necessary to have observers at different places throughout the above defined territory. I now have them at the following places: Milford, N. H.; Amherst, Mass.; Pawtucket, R. I.; and Medina, N. Y. I have written to a number of gentlemen in all sections, but a good many failed to answer my letters, and some were otherwise employed so that they could not assist me; and I take this method of securing a sufficient number of observers in all portions of that section.

I would like an observer at each of the localities named below, where none are now, and without which the work would be very incomplete.

Two wanted in Florida—one at the

southern part, one at the northern; one in central part of Georgia; one in central part of South Carolina; one each in Virginia, W. Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey; one in western part of Pennsylvania; one in northern part of Vermont; two in Maine; one in the more eastern part and one as far north as can be had; one in New Brunswick; and, one in that portion of Quebec which is on the southeastern side of the St. Lawrence River.

I will have blanks printed out so that the number of species and birds of each species can be recorded as seen every day. These, I will send around to each observer.

I hope to receive at least one communication from each of the above mentioned places.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,
Sans Souci, N. C.

P. S. When you write, please let me know exact latitude of your place, i. e. in degrees and minutes.

World Fair Notes.

Commissioner Capt. G. P. Cotton, who is now at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, stirring up interest in the World's Fair, has secured a collection of over 400 varieties of birds, some of which are quite unknown to the outside world, which will be exhibited with other products of Honduras. The extraordinary collection of butterflies and insects will not be far behind, and arrangements have been made to forward a fine selection of orchids to Chicago at an early date, so that they may be growing and blooming there in 1893-

The Very Reverend Doctor Peralto, Bishop of Panama, has tendered for exhibition at the World's Fair his very remarkable historical and ethnological collection which has been for some years in a museum connected with the bishop's palace. It is one of the most superb private collections of antiquities in the world, including ancient gold and silver ornaments, vessels and objects of worship exhumed from the tombs of the extinct race that once inhabited Columbia, rare vases, pottery and earthenware, rare ornaments, vessels and missals that date back to the time of the conquest, paper and manuscripts, and various others articles of historical interest. The offer has been accepted and the collection will be shown at Chicago.

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FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.

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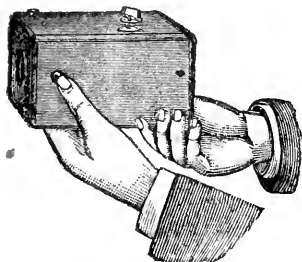


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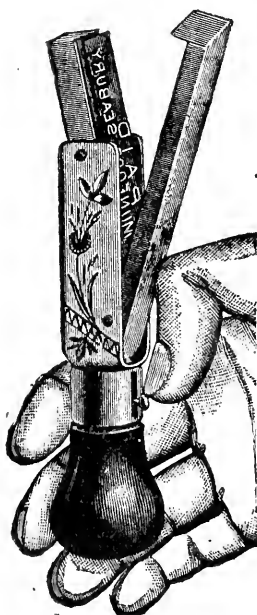
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Monthly.

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VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1891.

No. 10

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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THE OOLOGIST

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1891.

No. 10

The Screech Owl.

Throughout the temperate regions of North America few species among our nocturnal birds of prey have a wider distribution. Who is there, who has not listened to their plaintive cry, as it alternates from high to low, and is occasionally varied by deep guttural trills that cause a ghostly desolation to creep over the listener in spite of his efforts to console himself with the assurance that it is only an Owl. Where, too, is the school boy who has not spent many an hour in pursuit of the little fellows as they sail swiftly by on noiseless wings in the dusk of evening; or, who has not climbed tree after tree during the day, to find each time that his bird was just a little beyond his reach.

When disturbed during the day, they will very often stare vacantly at the intruder, and act very much like a child suddenly awakened from a sound sleep, and then drop off their perch backwards as though dead. They are not dead, however, as I have learned by experience, more than once, by having their sharp claws buried in my hand while attempting to pick them up.

They are fond of low meadows, and old barns where they devour great quantities of the small quadrupeds which infest such places. The immense good which these Owls do in the destruction of vermin should command for them the respect of everyone, but not unfrequently the most cruel persecutions are the only reward which they receive. Through ignorance and superstition they are made the scape-goats for a multitude of sins committed by some of their larger and less scrupulous brethren. Fortunately there are localities where their true worth is recognized, and where they are held in high es-

teem. Here they become very unobtrusive, nesting and roosting in very public places. I once knew a pair to make their nest in a hollow apple-tree, some five or six feet from the ground, which stood in our garden. They would sit quietly in the opening and watch us come within a few feet of them. Some times they would fly away, but would oftener drop back into their nest. They seem to court rather than shun human society. The hole generally chosen for their home is one which has been previously made by some of the Woodpecker family, but where this does not exist, a decayed stump is chosen.

The cavity is placed at varying heights, which seem to depend a good deal on the character of the neighborhood. In localities near to human habitations the nest is seldom placed at a greater height, and many are placed not more than five or six feet from the ground, while in wooded regions a height of forty feet and upwards is often chosen. The nest is placed in the bottom of the cavity, and consists of a few dried leaves and grasses, with an upper layer of feathers. In some instances the material of which the nest is composed is thrown into the hollow in a promiscuous heap entirely regardless of either order or elegance. The nest being finished, the female deposits her eggs; one a day, until the full number is reached. Incubation begins at once, and continues for fifteen days. This is claimed to be chiefly the work of the female. When with eggs or young the approach of an enemy is greeted with a hissing noise, and if the hand is put into the nest, will very often meet with a sharp reception.

The characteristic plumages of these birds seem to be purely individual.

since in the same nest may be found both red and gray young ones, while the parents may be both red or both gray, the female red and the male gray, or the reverse. I have mounted a great many specimens of both colors, but my experience has been that the per cent. of red ones is much the larger. A nest investigated last spring, April 13th, some thirty miles south of here, contained one young one, one pipped egg and one rotten egg. One old one was red, the other gray. The young one was covered with snow-white down.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

The Divers.

The OOLOGIST is so useful in raising up young students of bird-life, that I have determined to prepare for it, a series of articles on Typical and Familiar Birds.

So, according to the present received system of classification, I must begin with the Divers, represented by the Grebes and the Loons. They are in a special sense *water-birds*. The former, indeed, scarcely leave the water at all; and the latter only leave it with great difficulty.

No student of birds, should fail to strip the skeleton of one of these species,—removing the flesh from the bones by thorough boiling—and compare the peculiar bony structure with the life history and habits of the class of birds in question. It will at once be seen, how remarkably the feet and legs are constructed and placed, for swimming and diving; and how the specializing for this purpose, has about destroyed all adaptation to life and activity on the land. "Straight as a loon's leg," is an old adage, well taken as far as the loon's leg is concerned, but even it does not point out the lengthening of the bone of the heel and the immense leg muscles, by which the powerful upward

stroke is given with the foot, in order to throw the bird under water in an instant,—between the flash and the arrival of the charge of the gun.

Everything about the Grebe, even to its plumage, is a most interesting study. Nor is anything in connection with it more interesting, than its habits of nidification. The Common or Thick-billed Grebe, may be taken as representative. Its nest is a sort of a pier or mound, built up from the bottom, in water anywhere to a foot or eighteen inches deep made of various kinds of decaying vegetable matter found under water in the locality, and extending a few inches above the surface, this cylindrical shape some eighteen inches in diameter, and neatly rounded and depressed on the top, contains some six or eight eggs, 1.25 x .87 inch, white, rather rough, and tinged and waved with light green. These eggs generally very much soiled, are always more or less covered with the wet material on the nest, and the bird always manages to get off the nest without being seen. The eggs, however, are always warm as those of any other setting bird.

You need not look on the nest for the younglings, however recently hatched. Bring your boat up ever so stealthily, the instinct of fear is so strong, that they will get away before the motion of the water sways the frail fabric, or your eye can detect them thereon. But they peep like chickens among the rushes, while the mother whistles plaintively but wholly out of sight. Should you succeed in finding them, you cannot but admire their beauty. Jet black, with six narrow white stripes lengthwise along the back and up the neck, with reddish markings about the head, bill red, they are white underneath. Now hide away carefully. Soon the mother's soft whistle brings together the scattered brood; and as she swims deeply, they may mount on her back and take a ride; or, should they take alarm

they may dive. The young getting under the mother's wing as they go under, but coming up out of the water again before she makes her appearance.

These Grebes breed abundantly on St. Clair Flats, and still more abundantly to the North-west. They feed principally on fish, also on aquatic insects, varying their diet to some extent with water plants of different kinds.

J. H. LANGILLE,

Kensington, Ind., or Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

In Favor of an Organization.

It was with pleasure I read the article by J. H. Langille in a former number of the OOLOGIST, and was much surprised that it received no reply in the last issue. I am sure it was not from lack of interest that all was silence along the line. Perhaps others, like myself, were waiting to hear from someone else.

I am very glad this subject has at last been brought up and after a plan that I hope will materialize in such a way as to prove of lasting benefit to those interested in ornithology. For some time I have thought what a grand thing it would be if a fraternity like that proposed by Rev. Langille could be formed. The necessary foundation for an organization of that order could hardly be other than the chiefs among ornithologists, and it did not seem possible to me that they could under any circumstances give their valuable time to aid us, though we, even as they are trying to learn something of the mysteries of creation. But now that one of these men has interested himself in our behalf and is working for us, let us do all we can to further any plans for the formation of some such society as may be consistent with our circumstances.

From my study of birds, and all nature as well, I steadfastly believe we were all created for some purpose, that

each one of us have some peculiar faculty belonging to ourselves, and that by study we may develop that ability in such a manner as to be able to give to others the benefits we have derived from its possession. Now, even we may be in possession of just what is needed to throw light on some obscure point in science, and by communion through correspondence with these men be able to develop the germ that is within us and pursue to a logical sequence that which now has no definite form.

Thus we may in time repay to some extent what these men may do for us thorough the mediums of a fraternity. But the question is what can we do now? Will not some one come forward with a plan? How much we have lost in the past by not having the facilities that would be presented by an organization of this kind each one of us can realize, to some extent at least. Not what we might gain from now on by the aid of such a society we dare not estimate.

L. O. D,
Litchfield, Minn.

What is the Highest Northern Latitude in Which the Chewink Breeds?

That discussion in the OOLOGIST regarding the most northern region in the state of New York in which the Chewink breeds, is decidedly of interest to me, as I reside in nearly the same latitude in Michigan as the counties named (42° 0' 40"). The Chewink is here, one of our most common and abundant birds, and always breeds here. I had supposed we were much south of its northern breeding limit. It certainly breeds in Lapeer Co., the county north of this (Oakland), and I think somewhat farther in the two southern tiers of townships in Lapeer Co., it is about as abundant as in Oakland Co. (Latitude 43° 2' 5"). The habits of this

bird are very interesting. It arrives very early in the spring and about the first indication of its presence is a great scratching among the leaves and brush.

It is very vivacious and active. It is found in most woodlands, but seems to prefer hilly woodlands, wooded slopes, and especially where the woods slopes toward some stream or lake. It moves about with a series of quick jumps, suddenly pausing now and then and causing its feet to make a series of very rapid movements, throwing the dead leaves about in a lively manner. In the presence of man it is very familiar, all the while peeping just out of reach, its sharp eyes regarding every movement of the intruder, now and then crying out "Cheewink." Like most of the Thrush tribe, it is very inquisitive and a good singer.

I would miss few birds more than this jolly, good-natured fellow. Whenever I hear a sudden and very lively stirring of the leaves, I always know the Cheewink is about. When passing through a still woods, this sudden rustling among the leaves is decidedly startling to the uninitiated.

Will some Michigan correspondence tell me our northern breeding limit for this bird?

WILFRED A. BROTHERLON,
Rochester, Mich.

Notes at Random.

Mr. H. L. Spinney, a taxidermist living at Georgetown, Me., has a Least Bittern taken near his place March 4, 1891. The bird is very rare in this locality: it weighed only $1\frac{1}{4}$ ounce.

The same gentleman has a curiosity in the nest of a Chickadee. The nest was built in a hollow apple tree limb and five eggs were laid. Another nest was then built over these eggs and seven more eggs laid. He sawed the limb off so that the lower eggs were visible from the bottom of the nest.

While camping near Mr. Spinney's this summer, I took a Maryland Yellow throat's nest built in a juniper bush about two feet from the ground. The nest contained four fresh eggs. I have never before heard of the Maryland Yellow-throat building above the ground. Who has?

This summer Mr. Spinney and I took several sets of eggs of the Arctic and Common Terns on the rocky islands at the mouth of Kennebec River. We shot fine specimens of both birds when flying above the eggs. I know that I have these two kinds of Tern's eggs, but I am unable to distinguish them. The birds were very wild and we could devise no method of capturing them on their eggs.

The nests were of a great variety. There were a few nests made of hay and weeds. Others were simply a hand full of small stones, while a majority of the eggs were laid upon the bare rock or upon a little turf collected in the hollows of the rock. We found two sets of six eggs each and several of five, four, three and two. The eggs in the largest sets were apparently laid by two birds.

In these sets two or three were of the same shape and color and the others of another shape and color, while the incubation of the one kind was in nearly every case *very much* different from the incubation of the other kind. These facts together with Davie's statement that the birds lay only from two to four eggs, very rarely five, have led me to the conclusion that the eggs in the largest sets were laid by two birds and perhaps by two species. The eggs were taken June 28 and July 27.

Davie, in his Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, under the heading, Common Tern, says: "Mr. Worthington informs me that he never saw but one set of more than four eggs in the thousands he has collected." Let us hear from others in regard to the Common and Arctic Terns.

A. B. CALL,
Townshend, Vt.

Ornithologists' Association.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Ornithologist's Association met Sept. 15th at Washington, D. C., and the following persons were proposed for membership in the Association:

Active.—A. Lake, 1337 U St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

Corresponding.—Frank H. Shoemaker, Hampton, Iowa; Bert H. Bailey, 402 A. Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville, Erie Co., N. Y. J. Alden Loring, Owego, Tioga Co. N. Y. Richard D. Lusk, Tombstone, Cochise Co., Arizona.

As no objections were made they will be admitted to full membership on payment of dues.

I quote from the By Laws, "The dues of all active members shall be one dollar, and of all corresponding members fifty cents, per annum, payable semi-annually in advance."

HARLAN'S BUZZARD AND THE RED-TAIL.

Some time ago the question as to the differentiating points between these two species was raised in the OOLOGIST and there was a reference to my book, "Our Birds in Their Haunt," in which I quote C. J. Maynard on said points. That quotation makes the four outer primaries "incised on the inner webs," a main point of difference. This diagnosis is at fault, and shows how we may err in quoting others without independent reflection and examination on our own part. It is strange that Mr. Maynard should not have known that *all* the *Buteos* have the inner webs of the four outer primaries incised.

Nor can anything definite be affirmed as to difference in the size of the two species; for the extreme measurements of *harlani* may be said to be included in the extreme measurements of *borealis*.

What then is the difference? Simply

the color. In structure they are identical. This difference in color is for the most part in the tail. The clear chestnut red of the tail of the mature *borealis* the regular dusky subterminal band, and the regular crossbands of light and dark dusky in immature birds of the species, are in marked contrast to the streaked and clouded tail of *harlani*, in which streaks of red are but occasionally seen, and white or whitish soon becomes the prevailing characteristic.

Another point of difference is to be found in the absence in *harlani* of the ochreous or reddish shades so common in *borealis*, especially about the head and neck. The dusky or black so dominant in *harlani*, giving it a blackish general effect, is however, only on the tips of the plumage, the inner parts being white. This white becomes aggressive with age; and, as the under parts tend to be pure white, the species finally becomes decidedly hoary.

Allow me to note here, that Mr. Ridgeway regards one specimen from Iowa as intermediate; and hence believes *harlani* to be simply a geographical variety or race.

Harlan's Buzzard is a Southern variety, inhabiting the Gulf States and Lower Mississippi Valley, sometimes straggling to Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa.

EGGS OF THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

A query was raised in the OOLOGIST sometime ago, as to the size of the eggs of the Broad-winged Hawk. There is a very small series in the National Museum. The average measurement is 4.93x1.56.

Please notice that this article is the substance of a discussion in the Ornithologists Association, which is now fairly, on its feet and in working order.

J. H. LANGILLE.

Mr. E. J. Brown during a trip to Cobbs Island, Va. the past summer

found that the Terns once very abundant there have been nearly exterminated by the millinery skin-hunters.

They were slaughtered by the thousands, and even the native gunners declared it a shame to continue the work they were engaged in.

Reed-birds and Sora Rail have not been very abundant, so far, on the Anacostia marshes but the gunners are persistent. One man reports having killed 60 Rails with only a paddle when the marshes were inundated by a freshet.

It seems to be nothing unusual here (D. C.) for Rail as well as Woodcock to be found under the telegraph wires, killed while migrating at night.

Is not Sept. 16th rather late for Virginia Quails to be incubating? The undersigned examined a nest of 13 eggs which will probably hatch in a few days.

A. B. FARNHAM.

Sec. and Trs. of Ornithologist Assoc'n.

An April's Outing.

It was a beautiful day, the 20th of April last. The sun gave down a genial light that bathed the hills and flooded the valleys, and shed a mild, invigorating warmth that made all nature exult. The sky was clear save for a few pearly clouds reposing upon the western horizon which were melting away in the swelling tide of day. The haze, which in California so often obscures the vision, was absent; the eye could range unrestrained over the vast expanse of ripening grain, and view the verdant lustre of the surrounding hills and the rugged desolation of the distant mountains.

From the redolent fields, yet sparkling with dew, the Lark had ushered in the morn with joyous strains—now the air was freighted with the melodious mingling of unnumbered sounds and scented with the fragrance of myriads

of blossoms bursting from their night's repose.

It was on such a day that two Oologists, the writer being one of the number, clad in antiquated garments, wended their way through the less frequented streets of Santa Barbara, past the limits of the city on the outing that this article concerns. Passing through a canon contiguous to the city, we, with our enthusiasm at its height, searched every bush and tree that could afford concealment to the nests of birds. Descending to the bed of a stream walled on either side by precipitous banks, we with no little difficulty, forced our way through the tangled growth of bushes, vines and weeds that grew so rank along the watered way, and now and then scrambled along the faces of the encroaching cliffs, which, crumbling beneath our weight, afforded us but an insecure passage. My companion, who was in the lead came to a sudden stop and peering over his shoulder in the direction indicated by his staff I saw hidden among the leaves of a wild rose bush a nest of the Hermann's Song Sparrow from which we obtained four eggs. Meanwhile a pair of California Towhees that seemed unusually interested in our proceedings had attracted our attention. We searched for some time for their nest and finally espied it, in a bush at the top of the cliff, and after a hard scramble reached the nest and obtained three eggs. After proceeding a short distance we found a second nest of the Hermann's Song Sparrow similarly situated and containing the same number of eggs as the first. By this time we had reached a mass of flags through which we could scarcely advance. However, we essayed the passage, and upon pushing aside the flags to facilitate our progress, a nest containing four eggs of a Western Yellow-throat was disclosed. At first we were doubtful of their identity but the timely appearance of the parent bird dispelled our doubts.

When we emerged from the flags, we quit the stream for an adjacent canon where the voices of numberless songsters were lifted in generous emulation and countless bees roved hither and thither culling nectar for their succulent stores. Here we noticed Parkman's Wrens in considerable numbers and found several of their nests, which are built in the cavities of trees. This bird builds its nest as far back in the cavity as possible, filling the interior with a collection of small twigs, which protruding from the opening invariably betrays the presence of the nest. The nest is composed of horse hairs and feathers with a piece of snake's skin added by way of adornment.

We obtained three sets, one of nine eggs and two of four. The eggs of this species resemble those of the eastern House Wren in color, size and shape. In the pendulous foliage of the oak the California Bush Tit weaves its beautiful nest. This nest is a marvel of bird architecture and entirely out of proportion to the diminutive size of the builder. It is the result of many days arduous labor, and many miles must be traveled by the tiny birds in collecting the thousands of particles of wool, weeds and lichens used in its construction. The nest is cylindrical in form with a lateral entrance near the top. The walls are composed chiefly of wool and lichens, but strings, bits of weeds and twigs are used to good advantage; the bottom is lined with feathers and vegetable down. The average dimensions are as follows: Length 8 inches, breadth 5 inches, walls $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, except at the bottom, where it is increased to 2 inches. The eggs are pure white in color and measure scarcely one-half inch in length. Both the musical Wren and the trooping Bush Tits do the farmers an incalculable good in the destruction of insect pests.

When the sun had attained the zenith, we found ourselves upon a hill com-

manding a view of the ocean, which lay as calm as any inland sea. Here while lolling upon the green sward we partook of our lunch.

In close proximity lay a woodland through which ran a deep ravine. Thither we took our way and renewed the search. While wandering about we found a nest of Nuttall's Woodpecker in a bee tree. My companion visited it a few days later on and procured from the nest a set of six eggs. A little further on two owls flew out of a hollow tree. My companion ascended the tree and after gazing down the cavernous depths announced the discovery of a nest. Our buoyant hopes rose higher and higher. Gazing down the cavity until his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, my companion beheld, reposing upon the questionable debris contained therein, a solitary egg of hugh proportions. In size and conformation this egg proclaimed its parentage, while its voluble odor, as it permeated the circumambient atmosphere, firmly convinced us of its age. It was doubtless the relic of a pair of Western Horned Owls whose fate is an unsolved mystery.

Next we entered the ravine: where, enclosed around with bushy sides, and covered high with a foliaceous canopy, supported by the bare and rugged trunks of sycamore's and oaks, a silence reigned in mildness, loneliness and peace, while here and there a few straggling sunbeams found an entrance and flickered in the gloom. As we advanced the ominous denizens of this umbrageous retreat, startled from their slumbers, sought refuge in soft-winged flight. A Barn Owl sweeping by attracted my attention and I turned to watch its course. As I did so a large owl sprung from the bank directly opposite me, and so soft was its flight, that, had I not been looking in that direction, it certainly would have escaped my notice. It being no more than twenty feet distant, I obtained a good view of the bird

recognized in it a species strange to me. A subsequent consultation of Coues convinced me that the bird was the rare desirable Spotted Owl (*Syrnium occidentale*), which is known to breed in Southern California.

My dash up the bank was perhaps indecorous as well as speedy. I searched around the ferns from whence the owl had flown and soon found the object of my quest resting upon a few dry leaves in an arched recess in the ferns. The eggs were two in number, pure white, and measured as follows: 2. 12 x 1.68; 2. 24 x 1.63.

While I was thus engaged my companion, having been attracted by the cat-like cries of the Spurred Towhee, searched in the dense mass of ferns, leaves and grass that carpeted the bottom of the ravine for some depth, and formed a nest containing five eggs. A second Towhee was flushed in the same vicinity and we began to search for its nest. We could not find the nest and were about to discontinue our search when a California Partridge arose from between us and fluttered away in a perturbed manner. So dense was the vegetation that it required a lengthy search to find the nest, but our eyes sparkled when we finally glanced into the nest, fairly lined with the speckled beauties, nineteen in all. Barn Owls were numerous, but we found none of their nests. Parkman's Wrens were noticed in considerable numbers and several of their nests observed. Now and then the buzz of a Hummingbird was heard as the little fairy darted about in the passive shade. Several of their nests were found but no eggs secured.

We were now nearing the limits of ravine and, as the hour was late, we concluded to make our way homeward. About a mile from the ravine we added to our well filled boxes a set of four eggs of the California Woodpecker.

The day was rapidly drawing to a close; the shadows stretched their

lengthening forms across the valley's, and from the distant tile-roofed mission reposing serenely at the foot of the circumjacent hills, came the faint murmur of the evening chimes. When, tired and hungry, we reached the city night was at hand; naught but the last rays of the sinking sun flickered in the Western skies. A quiet peace prevailed the land, while from the neighboring copse rose the thrashers song, the last requiem for the parting day.

H. C. LILLIE,
Santa Barbara, Cal.

Eggs of Sharpe's Seed-eater.

As the eggs of *Sporophila moreletii sharpei* were unknown until a very recent date, and I believe are described in none of the works on oology, a description of a set of these in my collection taken with the nest at Brownsville, Texas, May, 20 1891, and positively identified, may be of interest to the readers of the OOLOGIST.

Their ground color is a light bluish-green, which is more or less spotted and blotched over the entire surface with dull brown, more numerous toward the larger end. Two of the eggs are also marked on the larger end with very dark brown (almost approaching blackish) spots and blotches. They measure .64 x .52, .65 x .51, .66 x .52.

The nest was situated in a small bush in open wood and near a running stream. It is rather a frail structure, yet well-cupped, and measures outside, 1½ inches high and 2¼ inches in diameter; while inside it measures 1½ inches in depth and 1¼ inches in width. It is composed of a small yellowish root, round grass stems, weeds and a little Spanish moss, woven through with horse hair.

The eggs, I believe, are known to be contained in only twelve collections.

H. C. HIGGINS,
Cincinnati, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

How I Obtained an Oriole's Nest.

About May 27th, I chanced to find an Oriole's nest in an oak tree some thirty feet from the ground. Oriole's eggs being somewhat scarce in this county I thought of all possible means by which the nest might be obtained.

Finally I thought of a plan that was worked successfully with a Hummingbird's nest.

Taking a pole that would just support the nest by resting it on the ground, I drove two nails in the end for the twigs to rest in which held the nest.

Then planting it firmly on the ground, making sure the limb was supported by the end of the pole, I took a 22-cal. rifle and shot the limb off just above the place resting on the pole, and by some

means the limb fastened itself around the pole and came sliding down. I caught it when it was "catchable," and on inspection I found it to contain three finely marked fresh eggs, not one of which had been broken.

The nest was sensibly built containing chicken feathers with the sharp ends stuck through to the out side, making a safe resting place for the Oriole Jr.

GEO. MIMS,
Edgefield, S. C.

Shall We Have a General Association of Scientists?

Organization is the rule to-day among all vocations but that of the scientist.

To-day there is not a single general association of scientists, founded upon sufficiently liberal principals to enable it to do effective work, for, our profession as an entity.

We are scattered abroad far and wide throughout the land, and have no facilities for becoming acquainted and cannot resist the attacks of our common enemies, who are thoroughly organized. Have scientists enemies? Certainly they have. Take the scientific profession as an entity, and you cannot find a profession accomplishing more for the general good of humanity, or one upon which mankind in general, are more dependent. And yet everywhere we meet only blind bigotry and intolerance, a relic of the barbarous age of the past, when the scientist was considered a magician in league with devils, hence to be persecuted, tortured and put to death. To-day scientists are considered vandals, cranks, fools, fanatics, etc., butts of ridicule for the ignoramous.

And this same spirit of intolerance and persecution has pervaded all our legislative halls, and left its imprint on all our statute books.

In Michigan this is especially the case. No scientist working in any department

is safe in doing the work legitimately belonging to his profession.

The Geologist, Botanist, Ornithologist, Ichthyologist, or Mammalogist finds himself confronted on every hand by laws which, were a complaint made, would subject him to severe penalties. The Ichthyologist makes himself a law-breaker if he preserves a specimen of a fish. The law distinctly says that no minnows or small fish fry shall be taken for any purpose except for bait, and makes the possession of a fish scale, fish tail, or a fish's fin, *prima facie* evidence of a violation of law. Woe unto the Biologist who attempts to make any investigations.

The Ornithologist only is recognized and he only is insulted and treated as a vandal. He must get a special permit for each month to take two of each species in one county only and only of such species as are named in his application. A fine of \$5 is imposed for every bird's egg collected, and no permits issued.

A Botanist may be arrested and punished for any specimen of plant he may dig up. The Geologist for any specimen he may collect.

That there should be some laws protecting birds, fish, game, etc., is plainly proper, but the scientist is not the vandal that calls for these laws. It is the professional sport, the small boy, the vandal who kills the small birds to obtain their skins to ornament some so-called lady's head, that need to be regulated. Some scientists may be wantonly destructive, what vocation has no black sheep? these should also be restrained. But it is an outrage, and insult, that no other vocation would bear to be treated as the Michigan statue books treat us.

Shall we as scientists continue to tamely submit to such treatment? Is it not evident that we must combine for mutual protection? And, what vocation is not benefited, enlightened, and advanced by an organization, and con-

sequent meetings? Someone asks, why is a general organization desirable? For the reason there is really but one great broad field of science comprising to be sure of several departments, each department having its own special corps of workers, and yet all these departments are mutually related and workers in each department have mutual interests with those of every other department.

Besides there are generalists among scientists, Linneus, Agassiz, Darwin, Baird, et al, were generalists, notably Linneus, who left his imprint upon every department of Botany and Zoology, one cannot glance over works in these branches without profound astonishment at the vast amount of work accomplished by these workers, as evidenced by the vast numbers of species that he named in both the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Darwin worked in the same fields, Agassiz and Baird left their imprint upon all branches of Zoology.

No worker in any branch of the vast field of science can proceed far without finding golden chains binding all branches of science together. Then why not a general organization for mutual protection, improvement, and advancement.

Four classes of labors should be recognized in such an organization,—the professional, the amateur, the student, and the friend of science. Each should be duly noticed and encouraged. Suitable fields for work may be found for each of these classes, bigotry and intolerance should be frowned upon.

There should be national, state and local organizations, and national, state and local meetings. Each organization should own and control a museum and library. Scientific expeditions should be fitted out. Annual encampments in localities specially fitted for field work and others practical work, should not be neglected.

In this organization let us have no discrimination regarding sex, race or color.

But let us have one great brotherhood,—remembering that we all belong to the great Brotherhood of man.

And let us each remember that we as scientific investigators are but students of the great book of the works of God, the great Creator of all things, and we but His children. What we now need most to bring about such an organization is enthusiasm and earnest work.

It can be done. Let us go at it, Fellow-workers in the field of science! We are brothers! Let us recognize our relationship and combine together that we may protect ourselves and build each other up, as well do more to enlighten our fellow men. Let us hear from all.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON,
Rochester, Mich.

A Trip to Cobb's Island.

May 19, 1891.

Arrived at the island this afternoon. On the way out from the mainland stopped in New Marsh for the afternoon shooting, which we found to be very poor.

Saw a good many Curlew, but they would not decoy. Killed two Gray-back, seventeen Turnstone, three Black-bellied Plover, one Greater-Yellow legs, ten Red-backed Sandpiper and a lot of smaller fry.

May 20th. This morning I walked up the beach about two miles, and put out decoys on edge of surf. Bagged a pair of Black-bellied Plover and four Turnstones, when I had to pack up and make tracks for home on account of a heavy thunder storm. Saw a great many American Oyster-catchers near the upper end of Island, but did not have time to look for their nest then.

May 21st. Left Cobb's early this morning and sailed down to Smith's Island after Great Blue Heron. On the

way down we passed Mockhorn Island, where there were hundreds of Willet breeding.

Saw a great many Curlew, and about a dozen Cormorant.

At Smith's Island there is a large heronry of the Great Blues, but all the nests were in tall dead pines, which (as we had no "irons" with us,) we were unable to climb.

There were also a great many Fish Hawks' nests on the island.

May 22d. As this was to be my last day on the island, and the men had reported a few Robin Snipe as having been seen, I took my gun and a dozen tin decoys and walked up the beach.

About a mile up, I stooled out on the edge of the surf, and in a very short time had nineteen fine plump Robin Snipe inside my blind.

Along with these I bagged about two dozen Plover and smaller birds. After putting up my decoys and game, I walk-home through the marsh, and filled my hat with Clapper Rails eggs.

During my whole trip I saw very few Terns or Gulls of any kind. Also found Yellow Legs very scarce.

One peculiarity about the island, and a very good one, is the total absence of the English Sparrow.

Wm. H. FISHER,
Balto, Md.

One of Indiana's New Laws.

The Ornithologist has won and is happy. Indiana has at last got a law that if the birds could read, would make them feel very secure. I thought that perhaps the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to hear this law and find how they can get a permit. The following is the law in full:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That it shall be unlawful for any person to kill any wild bird other than a game bird or purchase, offer for sale any such wild bird after it has been killed, or to destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird.

Sec. 2 For the purpose of this act the following shall be considered game birds: the Anatidae, commonly called swans, geese, brant, and river and sea ducks; the Rallidae, commonly

known rails, coots, mud-hens and gallinales; the Limicolae commonly known as shore birds, plovers, surf birds, snipe, woodcock and sandpipers, tattlers and curlews; the Gallinae commonly known as wild turkeys, grouse, prairie chickens, quail, and pheasants, all of which are not intended to be affected by this act.

Sec. 3 Any person violating the provisions of Section 1 of this act shall upon conviction be fined in a sum not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars to which may be added imprisonment for not less than five days nor more than thirty days.

Sec. 4 Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not apply to any person holding a permit giving the right to take birds or their nests and eggs for scientific purposes, as provided in Section 5 of this act.

Sec. 5 Permits may be granted by the Executive Board of the Indiana Academy of Science to any properly accredited person permitting the holder thereof to collect birds, their nests or eggs for strictly scientific purposes. In order to obtain such a permit the applicant for the same must present to said Board written testimonials from two well-known naturalists certifying to the good character and fitness of said applicant to be intrusted with such a privilege and pay to said Board one dollar to defray the necessary expense attending the granting of such permit, and must file with said Board a properly executed bond in the sum of two hundred dollars, signed by at least two responsible citizens of the state as sureties. The bond shall be forfeited to the state and the permit become void upon proof that the holder of such permit has killed any bird or taken the nests or eggs of any bird for any other purpose than that named in this section and shall further be subject for such offense to the penalties provided in this act.

Sec. 6. The permits authorized by this act shall be in force for two years only from the date of their issue and shall not be transferable.

Sec. 7. The English or European house sparrow (passer domesticus), crows, hawks and other birds of prey are not included among the birds protected by this act.

Sec. 8. All acts or parts of acts heretofore passed in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. An emergency is declared to exist for the immediate taking effect of this act, therefore the same shall be in force and effect from and after its passage.

You see that the birds of Indiana are pretty well protected if the law is carried out but it seems as though people don't care whether it is or not, for they will let boys and men go shooting Night hawks, (commonly known as bull bats), as if there were no laws to protect them I have a report indirectly from Columbus that they were being killed by scores and just for pleasure at that. It is also reported that they are wantonly killed here in Indianapolis. Now what is the use of having a law if it can't be upheld and I think every bird loving person should rise up and uphold this law

which is complete in every detail, It would be very interesting to the readers of the OOLOGIST I should think to have the laws of every state published that is those laws that concern the protection of our native birds so let us near from others on this subject.

H. A. HESS,

Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada,

Finely Illustrated with Photo-Engravings and Colored Plates.

Price, \$2.00. To subscribers ordering before October 30th, \$1.25.

The above book gives an account of a collecting trip to the North-west. It describes in an interesting manner the experience of the writer and his collectors in a region which might be called the Ornithologist's Paradise. The country explored stretches from Winnipeg to within sight of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of nearly one thousand miles, and, as might be expected in such a wide tract of country, many rare birds were found breeding. It gives a full account of the nesting habits of such birds as Canada Goose, Baldpate, Buffle-headed Duck, Canvasback, Little Brown Crane, Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope and Snipe, Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, White Pelican, American Goshawk, Hawk Owl, Rusty Grackle, McCown's Lonspur, Chestnut-colored Longspur, Pigeon Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull and other rare species. It also contains plates of many of the above birds' nests and eggs; and also gives colored plates of eggs of Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, Knot, etc. The eggs of the Knot have never previously been figured in any ornithological work.

This book will be found interesting reading to British as well as American Ornithologists, as it describes the nests and eggs of many species which occur in Europe as occasional visitors.

The price to subscribers ordering before October 30th will be \$1.25: to British Ornithologists 5 shillings. The illustrations are worth the money.

Send in your order at once as only a limited number of copies will be printed.

The above is a portion of a circular received from Mr. Walter Raine, the well-known Canadian Oologist, of Tor-

onto. The readers of the OOLOGIST desiring a valuable addition to their library will wisely procure Mr. R.'s work, or at any rate send for complete circular announcement.

American Microscopical Society.

We have before us a "special circular" briefly outlining the fourteenth annual meeting of the above Society— at Washington, on Aug 11-14.

In conclusion this circular says:

□ "It is hoped that all members will use their best endeavors to make the aims and purpose of the American Microscopical Society known to those of their friends or acquaintances who do or should take an interest in microscopical study or investigation, and to induce them to join. The dues are so small, and so much is to be gained by association in such science, that we should have on our role, every one in the United States, who uses a microscope. By a small effort on the part of each member, a large accession of new members can be obtained at the next meeting.

It is difficult for the secretary of the Society to find out in our great country, the names of all those, so numerous, who are interested in the microscope, and who would be likely to become members of the society, if its character and work are made known to them. It is therefore particularly desired, that every one who knows and is favorably disposed toward the society, will make known to the secretary, the name and address of any who may be induced to become members, so that the secretary can send them the circulars, etc., published from time to time by the society, and that they may in this way become acquainted with it and be induced to join it.

Blank applications for membership may be obtained by addressing the secretary Dr. W. H. Seaman, 1424 11th St., Washington, D. C."

Fremde Eier im Nest.

(Another Bird's Eggs in the Nest.)

The above is the title of an unique work recently published by Dr. Paul Leverkühn, C. M. A. O. U., C. M. Z. S.,

etc., of Munich, and offered to American collectors through his agent, Mr. A. E. Pettit, Box 2060, New York. The volume contains 212 pages bound in paper and as the heading suggests, is printed in German, price prepaid, \$2.

This work is not a money making scheme and the Dr. desires to sell copies only sufficient to pay actual expense of publishing, and only one hundred copies have been allotted American Ornithologists. We especially recommend the work to our German patrons and to our many bird-loving readers who are or have been students of the German language. A German friend kindly reviews the work for us as follows:

The author, well-known in Germany as an Ornithologist, discusses what is to us a somewhat novel ornithological subject: The behavior of parent birds against eggs not deposited by themselves in their nest, but introduced by other birds of the same species or another one, or by men. He gives a mass of details under each head of the four divisions, into which he divides his theme and he takes many from the American literature, which he knows in a surprising manner. All little journals are searched and investigated. Our brother ornithologists in Europe spent the highest pride and acknowledgement to the work so to the Edinburgh Newspaper the "Scotsman" writes in his review of books:

"Mr. Paul Leverkühn has studied the matter with a care that goes to the ground of it and seems to leave nothing to be done by a successor."

Similar criticisms appeared in the Ibis, Zool. Gard., Ornith. Monthly, Nature, Feathered World, Helios and many other periodicals. We recommend the handy volume, printed in large Cicero type on good paper to all our readers.

READ THIS.

When suffering from Malaria or Bilious Fever, don't wreck your general health with quinine or other nauseous drugs. Humphreys' Specifics Nos. Ten and Sixteen effect a speedy and permanent cure.

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WHY NOT

Put in a Curiosity Counter?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth of Bazaar Goods, Shells, Agates and Curios to add a variety to your present collection, and put in a curiosity counter in your store for the Holiday trade? If you have not a store, place the counter in the store of your father, uncle, cousin, friend or anywhere you can obtain a suitable location and make advantageous arrangements.

Such a display would prove the biggest "crowd catcher" in town and from that stand-point alone would more than pay any merchant for the space occupied.

There's \$ \$ In It!

In a good location, with a suitable display your curio counter would bring in from \$100 to \$1000 during the season, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG PROFIT.

Now I have lots or just such material on hand left from my Chautauqua and Exposition trade, rather than carry this surplus over for another season will sell at very low rates, if you cannot personally make your selections, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection for you that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewelry and Novelties. Write what you want.

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

THE STANDARD DIRECTORY FOR '91

Is now ready for delivery. It contains the names and addresses of the principal Ornithologists and Oologists of North America, etc., 50 pages, printed on good book paper and bound in heavy antique covers.

Price Post-paid 25 cents.

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Gilman, Ills.

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That our office is now fully equipped with new type of the latest styles, new presses and new stock, and that we are prepared to furnish **JOB PRINTING**

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The Bulletin Printing Co.,

(Successors to W. A. Crooks & Co.)

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I WANT AT ONCE INDIAN RELICS.—MOUND BUILDERS OR MODERN—WILL PAY CASH OR GIVE GOOD EXCHANGE. WRITE WHAT YOU HAVE QUOTING PRICES—WHICH MUST NOT BE FANCY. AND STATE WHAT IS WANTED. FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

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An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving to order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

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Big bargains. List for stamp.

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500 BIRDS
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We will POSITIVELY GUARANTEE you to personally receive 500 Samples, Books, Letters, Papers, Magazines etc., FREE also, insert your name and address in bold type in the guaranteed American Directory, which goes WHIRLING ALL OVER THE WORLD. The entire lot, Postpaid to you, for 20 cts., FREE FROM ALL FURTHER EXPENSE. Send to-day. We reply by return mail. Address,
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100 FINE PRINTED Envelopes, white or colored, with name, business and address, for 10c, postpaid. Cards and Letter Heads at same price. 100 each for only \$1.00. Agents wanted. Big pay. Until 5c. A. M. EDDY, Albion, N. Y.

Euclid Avenue Business College!
 88 TO 92 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND, O.

The Greatest Business University in America; over 1800 students attended last year, more than twice as large an attendance as all other business colleges in Cleveland combined; more than 1400 students who attended last year are now holding good positions. The Euclid Ave. Business College employs a corps of 45 men, nearly one-half of whom have formerly been college presidents. With such a faculty is it any wonder that its graduates are sought by business men. 183 Graduates received diplomas at our last graduating exercises; of that number 175 were holding good positions within 30 days from that date. Nearly 300 will receive diplomas at our next annual commencement. Send for circulars or call at the main office, 10 Euclid Ave. Telephone No. 539. M. J. CATON, Pres.

N. B.—We have branch colleges in Buffalo, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich. Scholarships good in any of the colleges belonging to the Caton system.

TRAPPED BIRDS. Parties wanting live birds such as Cardinal, Grosbeaks, Texan, Bob Whites and many others. Address with stamp KIP ATKINSON, Dime Box, Texas.

A STEVENS 22-cal. rifle in fine condition, for \$9 cost \$18. EDWIN WEBB, 611 E. Front St., Bloomington, Ill.

TO ALL INTERESTED IN SCIENTIFIC MATTERS.—Will all interested in any branch of science please send me their address? Shall we not have a general association of Scientists for protection and mutual advancement, to include professionals, amateurs and students of science as well as friends of science? WILFRED A. BROTHERTON, Rochester, Mich.

GEO. F. GUELF,

Practical Taxidermist, Brockport, N. Y.

Dealer in Bird Skins, Eggs, Mounted Birds, and Curiosities. Send for price lists. Taxidermy executed in all its branches. Work the finest prices the lowest. Can furnish mounted to order any bird obtainable. Correspondence solicited.

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Is the Name of a 40-page Monthly Magazine

Published at Mount Holly, North Carolina. All persons wishing to learn all about North Carolina, her unlimited resources, unrivaled climate, and unparalleled inducements offered new settlers, also a full history of her flowers, birds and natural curiosities, should send 5 cent postage stamps for copy of OUR SOUTHERN HOME and receive also our little book entitled "The Grape, Fruit and Trucking Industry of North Carolina." Address, M. H. PRIDE, Mount Holly, North Carolina.

BEAUTIFUL Michigan Wild Flowers. Some discovered by me by Columbian Exposition Authorities. Three catalogues, each free. No. 1, descriptive Retail list. No. 2, Wholesale trade list. No. 3, Carp Pond list.

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400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

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W. F. GREANY,

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FOSSILS, 10 Species, 35c; 20 for 75c; 35 for \$1.50; 50 for \$3.00; 75 for \$8.00, Ill. List. Ayr FRANK KINNE, Knoxville, Iowa.

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I make a specialty of mailing birds same day as skinned, or sent in the flesh after subjecting them to a preservative preparation. Enclose stamp for Price List.





OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1891.

No. 11

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

TO EXCHANGE. I have first and second class eggs in singles or in sets to exchange for same. **RALPH MATTESON,** 111 North St. Galesburg, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE. Minnie Bells of the late war, old bank checks, etc., for Rebes, Curios, Coins, Confederate Stamps, Fossils, etc. **LWIN L. DAVIS,** Tullahoma, Tenn.

EMBALMING! The only life-like way of mounting birds. I will send full receipt for every 25c worth of eggs sent. **ARTHUR J. BAKER,** Fortville, Ind.

FOR SALE. A collection of postage stamps comprising 10 varieties in Scott's \$1.50 album for \$1.00. Write for particulars. All letters answered. **CLARK HAMA,** Cheyenne, Wyo.

I HAVE 11 full sets of Cool's Gallinules, Grebes and Bites to exchange for eggs, skins, shells and minerals. Also have sixty species of land and fresh water shells to exchange. **Dr. W. S. STRODE,** Bernadotte, Ill.

WANTED. Collection of desirable eggs, as many as you have. Send list of eggs, also state what you want. **G. W. ERWIN,** Box 243 Giddings, Texas.

TO EXCHANGE. Snowy Heron 10, 57 Dwarf Cowbird, 84 Fla. Grackl, 54 24 Mock, Ingbird 23, 54, and other sets with dates, for sets with data. **JESSE MILLER,** 184 Dana St., Houston, Texas.

A TELEGRAPHICALLY and sounder, an old Col's powder and ball Exchange, and meg-eggs of Clapper Red in exchange for Indian Bells. **J. HARMAN'S FISHER,** Jr., 16 South St., Baltimore, Md.

TO EXCHANGE for book on Ornithology, or Taxidermists' Tools, the following first class sets with data: 5 sets 49¢, nest 2 sets 49¢. Address, **TOM STANLEY,** Caymana, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE. An International Stamp Album (57c), ninth edition, almost new, with 400 stamps valued at \$1.00 for an egg, unmet. All cards answered. **F. G. HARGRETT,** 278 Hooper St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE: 100 Tobacco Tags, 100 cigarette pictures, 50 5c novels, to exchange for best ones in Indian Bells. Address, **L. M. PRESSLER,** P. O. Box 151, Georgetown, Mass.

WANTED. Live Squirrels of all kinds, will give first class eggs or cash. **R. H. THOMPSON,** 109 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md.

WANTED. A first class side-blown egg of White Plover. Will pay cash for same, any person having above for sale address, **E. B. SCHRAGE,** Pontiac, Mich.

WANTED to exchange a live Horned owl, partly gentle, for eggs, sets or singles, climbers or Taxidermists' tools. All inquiries answered. **T. KEYWORTH,** Entomologist, Marissa, Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE. Hartz Mountain Carnaries, Parroquets and other land birds, Parrot and other cages for first class Sea Shells, Corals, Curios, Bird Skins and Eggs. **C. F. CARR,** Madison, Wis.

WANTED. Ornithological magazines and works, and a pair of climbers. Will give Golden Days and other papers, and 100 Stamps. **RALPH H. ROCKWOOD,** Waterville, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE. I have a limited number complete sets of the Wisconsin Naturalist which I will mail to anyone sending me \$1.00 worth of Birds' Eggs, Skins, Curio, or Sea Shells at list prices. **C. E. CARR,** Madison, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE. Carpenter Tools, Reading Matter, Curios, Minerals, Woods, Shells, Foreign Journals, Books, Job Printing, Calendars and others for Miner's Tools, Shells, Tape, Sewing Books and others. **J. L. HERTZ,** Nepa City, Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE. A pair Roller Skates, an Abino Sparrow, a Phoebe, Fox Squirrel, Red Heron, Chip Munk, and Navy Revolver. **GEORGE T. BROWN,** Alma, Mich.

WANTED. Eggs, many common sets, as well as rare ones. Have to offer in exchange sets of Grebe, Hawks, OWL, Gulls, Herons, Plover, Warbler, etc. (15 and common). Minerals, Minerals, Stamps. Send lists to a representative in return. **CHARLES E. DOD,** 35 Corn-bark Ave., Providence, R. I.

WANTED. At once Coins, Key last edition. If in good condition will, in exchange, each set of the Black-throated Hummer or four sets of Anna, and four of the Black-throated all last edition, sets of two eggs each with dates, and no 18. **M. L. WELCH, Jr.,** Cor. 1st and Hill Sts., Los Angeles, Calif.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class California eggs in sets and single with data, also strapped climbing irons, for eggs in sets, skins, fire arms etc. **KAY L. WILBER,** Riverside, Cal.

WANTED.—Fine Minerals, Crystals, Indian Relics, Nat. History specimens, Curiosities, etc. for same from Kans. Correspondence desired. **G. E. WELLS,** Manhattan, Kans.

EXCHANGE. Animals in the meat, Eggs, Naturalists, Supplies, Stamps and Patriotic papers for coins, eggs, Taxidermists Tools, Indian Relics, Books on Ornithology and Natural History and live stock. **R. L. WHEELER,** 15 Varney St., Lowell, Mass.

I WILL give \$5 worth of good sets for a pair Climbing Irons with straps, Lattin's latest style and in good condition. **FRED A. SCHEFFLER** College Park, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs with data: 12, 15, 20, 30, 40, 108, 120, 125, A. O. U. Want good 32 Cal. rifle, large Colt. or Smith & Wesson revolver, large hunting knife and tennis racket. **E. R. ZION** Stanford University, Menlo Park, Cal.

TAXIDERMISTS! For every 25c worth of eggs sent me I will mail a sample bottle of my Tanning Liquid, which I have used exclusively for years. Sample of work done in 12 hours free, write for particulars. Address, **J. E. HOUSEMAN,** Box 361, London, Ont.

HAVE a fine telescope, and cast of Gt. Auk, to exchange for Cones' Key, Ornithological papers etc. **W. LOUCKS,** 166 1st Ave., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

DETECTIVE CAMERA of some good make wanted, will give a bargain to the right party, have to exchange rare western B. & L. Skins over 400, Washburn Guitar, value \$22.00, or pay part cash. **GEO. G. CANTWELL,** 105 Pike's Peak ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 20 bore gun with 100 shells and implements complete. Will exchange for 45 worth of first-class skins with full data, or will sell for \$24 cash. Only parties having such need apply. **BRAD A. SCUDDER** Highland St., Taunton, Mass.

LOOK.—I have a photographic apparatus and outfit worth \$90. Will sell for \$30, or exchange for best offer of Birds' Eggs, Coins or Indian Relics. **V. MUELLER** 346 9th St. Milwaukee, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE.—An advanced Taxidermists outfit containing the following: 2 pairs pliers, one large and one small, 1 Scalpel, 1 pair tweezers, 5 awls, 1 small mallet, 1 set chains and hooks, 1 set 6 curved needles, and 2 taxidermists file. Will exchange for sets of birds eggs or perfect arrowheads. **K. B. MATHES,** L. Box 84 Albion, N. Y.

WANTED. Double-barreled Breech-Loading Shot Gun, 12 or 16 gauge, will give the following for a good gun: One 32 cal., double Action Revolver, and the following eggs in sets with data: American Barn Owl 1/2, Screech Owl 1/5, Burrowing Owl 1/6, Night Hawks 1/2, Chickadee 1/6, Marsh Hawk 1/2, One American Bitnork, Red eyed Vireo 1/2, and 40 Common eggs. All letters answered. **ISADOR S. TROSTLER,** 628 Farman St., Omaha, Neb.

WANTED. To correspond with Botanists for the purpose of arranging exchanges for the coming year. Send List of plants common to your locality. **ALBERT GARRETT,** Lawrence, Kansas.

A BARGAIN.—For every 1st or 2d class egg cat, 10 cts. or over, sent me I will send one fine skate egg. Also fossils and curios to trade. **J. W. MYKRANTZ,** Ashland, Ohio.

EXCHANGE.—Magic Lantern and Slides (\$1.25) Upright Engine (\$1.00) and Books, for eggs, Stuffed Birds and Curios not in my collection. **W. E. MOUNTAIN,** 368 William St. East Orange, N. J.

WANTED.—The following sets, for which we will pay cash, if prices are moderate. The sets must be 1st class with authentic dates, showy eggs, number in set a full average, and in all respects desirable: A. O. U. Nos. 7, 132, 144, 145, 159, 185, 221, 230, 225, 260, 271, 285, 289, 300, 303, 310, 365, 491, 534, 671. Have about 40 varieties in sets if any one prefers an exchange—1st class. Address **M. S. BAINES,** Box 1185, Station C, Los Angeles, Cal. No postal.

TO EXCHANGE.—A s. s. 11 gold enamelled locket, has not been worn only two or three times and is in perfect condition, wholesale price \$5.00 For best offer of Minerals, polished shells or Indian Relics. **GEO. W. DIXON,** Watertown, S. D.

WANTED.—Cones' Key, Mineralogy, Eggs, Minerals, and Skins, A. O. U. 332, 379, 381, 405, 393, 264, 267, 271. Can offer Eggs, Skins, four vols. Youth's Companion, Taxidermy by Mantou, 300 pp. by Geo. T. Jones, Printing Press, Adventure by George M. Stanley (600 pages), Mount-e-Cam for best offer of eggs or minerals. Letters answered. **NATHAN L. DAVIS,** Box 221, Brockport, N. Y.

Chestnut-bellied Scaled Quail.

We have just received a large series of very fine sets of the above species, ranging from 7 to 15 eggs to the set, until Jan. 1st of supply holds out we will sell in sets at 1/2 usual price, or at the low rate of only 25c per egg single eggs 50c each. Order early. **FRANK H. LATTIN,** Albion, N. Y.

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—COLLECTOR OF—

Birds, Mammals and Eggs,

LOVELAND, COLORADO.

I make a specialty of mailing birds same day as skinned, or sent in the flesh after subjecting them to a preservative preparation. Enclose stamp for Price List.

IMPORTED JAPANESE AND INDIAN SILK WORM EGGS

For Seeds in Silk Culture. Different Species.

Also the celebrated *Mabius* Silk Cocoons, warranted to be raised successfully in this country. Directions given how to raise them profitably. Prices low.

PROF. CARL BRAUN,

NATURALIST.

Bangor, - - - - Maine

FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WHY NOT

Put in a Curiosity Counter?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth of Bazaar Goods, Shells, Agates and Curios to add a variety to your present collection, and put in a curiosity counter in your store for the Holiday trade? If you have not a store, place the counter in the store of your father, uncle, cousin, friend or anywhere you can obtain a suitable location and make advantageous arrangements.

Such a display would prove the biggest "crowd catcher" in town and from that stand-point alone would more than pay any merchant for the space occupied.

There's \$ \$ In It!

In a good location, with a suitable display your curio counter would bring in from \$100 to \$1000 during the season, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG PROFIT.

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Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewelry and Novelties. Write what you want.

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

6 THANKSGIVING OFFERS 6

FOR \$1.00.

I will send you \$1.00 worth of eggs or 75c worth of anything I advertise, and the Oologist, with coupons, one year.

FOR \$2.00.

I will send you \$2.00 worth of Birds' Eggs, or \$1.50 worth of anything I advertise and a copy of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." \$1.25 edition.

FOR \$3.00.

I will send you \$3.00 worth of Bird's Eggs or \$2.00 worth of anything I advertise, and a copy of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." \$1.75 edition.

FOR \$5.00.

I will send you \$5.00 worth of Eggs or \$4.00 of anything I advertise, and a copy of Langille's "Our Birds in their Haunts." \$3.00 Edition.

FOR \$10.00

I will send you \$10.00 worth of Eggs or \$6.00 worth of anything I advertise, and a copy of Ridgway's "Manual of North American Birds" \$7.50 edition.

FOR \$15.00.

I will send you \$15.00 worth of Eggs or \$10.00 worth of anything I advertise and a copy of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America." Publisher's price \$18.00.

IMPORTANT! Books and Eggs will be sent *prepaid*, other articles as per conditions in catalogue. In all offers Eggs or articles are of your own selection. Eggs may be either singles or sets.

THE ABOVE OFFERS WILL HOLD GOOD UNTIL DEC, 1st, 1891. Address plainly,

FRANK H. LATTIN, - Albion, N. Y.

THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1891.

No. 11

The Great Carolina Wren.

The half has not been told of these pleasing little birds. Here, they are with us all the year; and every day we are delighted with their sweet song from the time the first streaks of morning light begins to appear in the East, until approaching darkness compels them to seek shelter for the night.

They are hardy little fellows, enduring the winters of the Middle States. They may recede from their more northern abodes, yet they are as common in winter as in summer, at least from Maryland southward. There they are said to be common at all seasons, though never in great abundance. Here they are more plentiful than any other of the Wren family.

We have the Bewicks, Winter and House Wrens, but none of them are very plentiful. The Carolina Wren frequents shrubery and undergrowth of all sorts, where it is oftener heard than seen. Not that it is at all a timid bird, for it often comes about the garden and out-houses, and will frequently take up its abode in an unoccupied dwelling house, if it can find an open or a crevice of any kind that it can possibly get through. When we came home from the North, last Spring, a pair had taken up their abode in our kitchen, placing their nest over a window. The previous spring they they came in and started their nest on a mantle in one of the rooms, but that did not seem to suit their fancy, so they changed it to a shelf in one corner when they completed their nest and deposited five little speckled eggs which now grace our cabinet. They are so capricious in the matter of a nesting place, that one can hardly say what their preference is, if indeed, they have

any choice. They will build in any odd nook or cranny—entering out-houses through a knot hole or between loose boards like the House Wren; taking a hollow stump or tree; settling in the midst of a thick bush or in a piece of bark curled upon a fence rail; anywhere in fact, that offers a snug retreat. Neither are they particular as to the kind of material of which to build their nests, which is rather bulky structure composed of fibrous roots, leaves, grass in fact, any trash they can find convenient. It is more or less shaped like a ball, with a side entrance. In this they lay five or six eggs, and by the time the little ones are ready to leave the nest, they have grown 'till the little home is completely full. After they leave the nest, the parents keep them about them for a few days, during which time they are in a state of perpetual panic, showing their intense worry in redoubled restlessness. If we attempt to approach the nest, the bird slips quietly off and hurries away with a low fluttering near the ground, or scurrying and hopping from one bush to another, invariably mocking us with its rollicking song as soon as it feels sure it has lured us away from its nest. It shows however the restlessness and prying curiosity of its tribe, and if we keep still a few minutes, it will return to take a sly look at us, peering from among the leaves with an inquisitive air, and performing odd nervous antics, as if it were possessed with the very spirit of unrest. When disturbed it chatters in a harsh tone, as if resenting the intrusion. This is its ordinary note when angry, alarmed, or in any way distressed. Its song is quite a different thing—loud, clear and highly musical. I scarcely know of a bird that possesses a richer voice. It also has the power of mock-

ing the other songsters, which it does with great energy and accent.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

A Timely Letter.

Editor Oologist:—A young advertiser in your columns recently sent me a mixed lot of Tern eggs, marked with ink, most of the holes $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter; most of the holes chipped, and data partial and imperfect) I notified sender to forward postage for their return. They are still on my hands. The joke of it is that the young gentlemen wanted once-and-a-half their value in nice specimens.

Another advertiser to whom I sent for a series of E. S. eggs forwarded fifteen specimens, nicely selected, indeed, but with the holes in most of them at least as large, by actual measure, as the holes in the Murre eggs which I sent him in exchange. I remonstrated with the following reply. "I know the holes were large, but that doesn't hinder the eggs being first-class." Now will you kindly say to this young person, and to all his genius, that with a large class of careful and fastidious collectors it *does* make a difference, a great deal of difference.

A third advertiser has presented the best joke of all. A much grey speckled egg of English Sparrow, well blown; and marked as follows, in pencil:—"E. S.—8-5." Now some body has written in ink, above the hole the number 85, and sent out the egg as that of the Nashville Warbler. A better example of ignorance and impudence kissing each other was never seen—even in the collection of an ornithologist.

Your paper has done much for young Oologists, will it not add another favor by way of warning them against the tricksters that are prostituting ornithology for gain? And will you not emphasize the fact that large drill holes

save where incubation is nearly complete are unnecessary, unsightly, slovenly? I hereby pledge myself to hold for postage and return all received specimens prepared thus, unless by special arrangement and I trust that all who feel as I do in this matter will send their names to the OOLOGIST for publication so that any of you egg-collecting fellows that are too lazy to drill small and smooth blow-holes and riuise thoroughly, may give us a wide berth. You dont want anything to do with us unless you decide to turn cranky and join our army. In the cause of honest and careful oology I beg to remain

Yours very sincerely

P. B. PEABODY

[Every *true* oologist will enroll himself in Bro. P.'s brigade. Ed.]

Western Robin.

No. 761a, *Merula migratoria propinqua*, Ridgw.

Habitat.—Western United States, Pacific Coast, from Mexico northward.

This species is very abundant, and from this fact I judge not much appears in print, concerning it. However it is an interesting bird. It brings to us the balmy spring days and awakens us from our winter slumbers, with thoughts of the near approach of nesting season, and we proceed to prepare for work.

The Western Robin is a resident of Oregon the entire year, and the largest numbers are seen during winter or the rainy season.

They congregate in large numbers in the fall (generally about November), near some small stream lined with bushes and trees, and from my observation, remain there the whole winter.

In the morning early they may be seen leaving these roosting places, and spreading out to feed for the day, returning again about five or six o'clock

in the evening. I have observed two of these Robin roosts near Sweet Home, Oregon, for the past two years.

In winter they feed much upon the fir buds but as the ground is always bare, they have no lack of food, insects and worms being abundant.

They nest in April and May, selecting a low fir bush generally, although I have found them in scrub oaks and apple trees, but I have not found them nesting in barns and out-buildings the way the Eastern Robin does. They are not inclined to build as near the habitations of man either.

The nest does not differ radically from that of *Merula migratoria*, and the complement of eggs is invariably 3, sometimes 4, but rarely 5.

Out of some twenty nests examined all, but four contained three eggs each, three contained four eggs and only one five eggs.

They were in various stages of incubation from perfectly fresh to nearly full term.

The eggs do not vary from those of *Merula migratoria*, but perhaps will average a little larger.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

**Western New York Naturalists
Association.**

PHELPS, N. Y., Sept. 18, 1891.

A meeting of the Naturalists of Western New York was held here Sept. 15th, for purpose organizing an association of same. Though the attendance was not all that was hoped for, yet a successful and enthusiastic meeting was held, and the Association was started, under the name of the Western New York Naturalists Association. Officers elected were, President, Ernest F. Short, Chili, Monroe Co.; Secretary, B. S. Bowdish, Phelps; Treasurer, E. B. Peck, Clifton Springs. Committee's appointed, executive committee, Neil F. Posson, E. Kirk, and T. R. Taylor; Com-

mittee on Constitution and By-Laws; E. B. Peck, E. Kirk and B. S. Bowdish; Committee on incorporation, B. S. Bowdish. Active membership is limited to fifty. Resident in the counties: Wayne, Ontario, Steuben, Allegany, Livingston, Wyoming, Genesee, Erie, Orleans, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Monroe, initiation fee, \$50, yearly dues, \$25; associate membership limited to residence in North America, no dues; Honorary and corresponding membership left open, subject to further action. All members wishing to join as active or associate members, are requested to communicate inclosing stamp, with the Secretary. A cordial invitation is extended to all of both sexes to join.

B. S. BOWDISH, Sec.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.
(*Milvulus forficatus*.)

This handsome bird is common in northern Mexico and Texas, and according to Davie, is found as far north as Indian Territory and Missouri. It arrives here late in March or early in April, and begins to lay about the last of May.

Its eggs have a pure white or creamy ground, sparingly spotted, chiefly on the larger end, with dark red and brown, occasionally with black and lilac. Five is the usual number laid though sets of four and six are not uncommon. The eggs measure about .86 x .67 in.

What I consider a typical nest is composed of cotton and weeds, lined with cotton. Situated from four to thirty feet from the ground in a tree that stands alone. I have never found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher's nest in thick woods.

Milvulus forficatus is one of the most pugnacious birds in this county (Travis). It will attack and put to flight crows, jays, buzzards and sometimes hawks.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is often confounded with the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus tyrannus*), as in the second edition of Davie's North American Birds.

J. H. TALLICHET,
Austin, Tex.

California Thrasher.

(*Harpophynchus redivivus*.)

One who has wandered through the many retired glens of the coast region South California has surely been attracted by the brilliant song of the California Thrasher, and perhaps studied the habits of the plainly robed bird. This curved-billed, drab-garbed bird, in company with the California Towhee, frequents the districts where mosquitos and scrub-oaks abound, and here it dwells throughout the year, a happy tenant of the wooded glades.

It is pleasant, indeed, to withdraw one's self from the fevered and strife of the world and seek some secluded nook that still lingers in its pristine wilderness and beauty, where the untrodden flowers bloom and the very air seems like a breathing from a rarer world, and there, amid the splendor of vernal garniture, listen to the varied strains of the Sylvan choirs. Such are the haunts of the Thrasher and thither must the lover of birds repair to catch the most eloquent strains of the Thrasher's melody:

"Here, like the nightingale, she pours
Her solitary lays,

Nor asks a witness to hear her song,
Nor thirsts for human praise."

When the first notes are heard, guided by the sounds, glide noiselessly through the green, quiet vale until but an intervening shrub screens you from the musician and, reclining upon the scented sward, prepare to listen to the joyful song. The bird first indulges in a few tentative notes while secreted in

the foliage of the underbrush. These seem satisfactory, but he must ascend to the top of the tree before he breaks into song. Up he flutters, limb after limb, stopping at intervals to test his voice anew. Soon he disdains any inferior perch and mounts to the topmost limb of the tree. His throat rolls, his notes come forth full and clear; his throat swells and his breast throbs as his song grows louder and sweeter; mingled with his natural tones are bits of consummate mimicry. The bird seems carried away with the fervor of his song, his whole frame is agitated, he is transported to realms of bliss.

So enraptured is the listener that the song of a more distant bird scarcely breaks upon his ear, no sooner had the lay of the Thrasher echoed throughout the vale than a second bird burst into emulous song, thus they sing in generous rivalry and make the quiet haunts reverberate with their varied strains.

The song of the Thrasher is not limited to any particular season but can be heard throughout the year, and in winter it seems as rich and varied as in the days of courtship and match-making. Oftimes the Thrasher wanders from his accustomed haunts and seeks the presence of man to entrance him with his powers of song.

The hours usually chosen for their musical exercises are at break-of-day and eventide. Long before the other birds are stirring or the streaming light breaks upon their nest, e'er the condor; majestic monarch of the boundless realm of air, sweeps from his craggy perch, the Thrasher awakens from his slumbers, dashes the dew-drops from his wing and seeks a lofty altitude to herald the coming day. The first sound that breaks upon the quiet vale and echo through the gnarled oaks is this morning carol. But it is when the last sun rays are fading in the west, in the ravishing gleam of twilight when,

"A slumberous silence fills the sky,
The fields are still, the woods are
dumb,

In glassy sleep the waters lie"
that the Thrasher sings at his best.
The low warblings turned to an even-
ing's song sweeter far than the music of
the lute, touch upon the ear like the
beatings of seraphic wings, and with
them come a feeling of content, a spirit
of rest, that lulls one to the slumberous
land of dreams.

The bird is a continual resident
wherever found. When spring blos-
soms with the gentle rains, the Thrash-
ers are at match-making and scarcely
has summer come before the fledglings
have abandoned the nest. The eggs
are of a bluish green color, dotted with
reddish brown, and number from two to
four, usually three. The nest is placed
in some thickly foliaged tree at no
great height from the ground, it is loose-
ly constructed of grasses, roots, twigs,
and moss. The bird is a close sitter
and remains on the nest until almost
touched by the hand.

H. C. LILLIE,
Ann Arbor, Mich.

Ornithologists Association.

SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the monthly meeting the following
new members were elected:

Active members:—Wm. McKnew, 212
G. St., N. E., Washington, D. C.

Corresponding members:—E. H.
Short, Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.; Wm.
A. Achilles, Cor. 15th and Lavaca Sts.,
Austin, Tex.

Remarks were made by President
Langille on the Ring-billed Gull and its
nesting in Georgian Bay.

Mr. Aspinwall reported the taking
during the past season of a set of six
eggs of Least Bittern at Colonial Beach,
Va.

E. J. Brown has a set of five Albino

eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren,
that they are eggs of the Long-billed.
There is no doubt as they have been
examined by both Prof. Ridgway and
Capt. Bendire, who pronounced them a
great freak of nature.

Some incidents regarding the Blue
Grosbeak were given which I give be-
low supplemented by a few of my notes
on that bird.

The Blue Grosbeak is rather smaller
than its Rose-breasted and Cardinal
relations and bears quite a resemblance
to an overgrown Indigo Bunting.

Its range is rather southerly but it
has been taken as far north as New
York and Michigan.

It is mentioned as a straggler only in
but one of five lists of the birds of
Chester County, Pa., hence I conclude
that this section (D. C.) is nearly or
quite its northern-most breeding range.
In Coles and Prentiss, *Avi Fauna
Columbiana* it is given as a summer
resident, rather rare, breeding.

They state that it frequents and
breeds in much the same situations as
the Cardinal, though it is also found in
orchards and open grounds.

I first made the acquaintance of this
bird in the summer of '87 when a pair
nested twice on my father's farm about
one-half mile east of the District Colum-
bia. As both nests were near the build-
ing the opportunity for observations
was good.

On June 24th I took the first nest and
four eggs, from the fork of a peach tree
about seven feet from the ground near
the barn,

The eggs were colored much like a
blue-birds and considerably larger.

The nest was much neater than the
Cardinals, was lined with horse-hair
and had a snake skin nicely woven in.

In August of the same year the same
birds (evidently) nested in a small cedar
tree not more than twenty feet from
the front of a hen-house which was
used by about fifty fowls.

The old birds became rather tame and did not greatly resent my frequent examinations of their family affairs.

This time they were allowed to raise their young and depart in peace.

This nest like the first one was partly composed of snake skin. As the only other nest which I have seen (one in the Smithsonian Institute collection) also has a snake skin in it, I have wondered if the Crested Flycatcher did not mingle its distinctive habit with the Blue Grosbeak.

I have observed the Blue Grosbeak every season since, but have found no more nests. If anyone can give me any further information on the nesting of this bird. I would be pleased to hear from them.

A. B. FARNHAM,
Sec. Ornithologists Association.

Albino Birds.

In the February 1890 No. of the OOLOGIST you will find an article from your humble servant entitled, "Albino Blue Jay." That was and is to-day a fine bird although in confinement.

Now I wish to speak of another Albino. When a boy in Wisconsin as far back as 1856 I saw an Albino Swallow and also an Albino Black Bird. I have often spoken of it but people would say "Impossible, a black bird, cannot be white!" Very well, an old Scotch adage goes "a mon's a mon for a'l a thal" color cutting no figure whatever. So also with my White Black Bird.

On October 1st, 1891 I received by mail from Frederick Nordin, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota a lovely albino specimen of *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Red-winged Blackbird). I think it is a little smaller than average Red-wing, but that it is one there can be no doubt. Head and neck tinged with the very lightest shade of salmon, bend of wings bright orange with the least tint of red one black feather under right wing (out

of sight), the balance of the plumage immaculate white, eyes light pink, bill and legs white or flesh color. Mr. Nordin writes, "the air was clouded with birds when I discovered the Albino, I drew my gun up and fired both barrels, rejoice with me, I got my bird and some twenty-three black ones. When I received the bird he had been three days upon the road and began to get a little old, but I have him nicely mounted and fixed up and he is now one of the chief attractions of my ornithological collection.

R. D. Goss,
New Sharon, Iowa.

Nuttall's Poor-Will.

Aug. 30, 1891.

DEAR SIR:—On Aug. 13, 1891 while hunting for my cows, I flushed a Nuttall's Poor-will, and after a close hunt, it being at dusk, I found the nest, or rather, there was no nest, eggs being placed on the bare ground beside a rock on the eastern slope of a hillside. A latitude 6000 to 6500 feet. One egg was just hatched and the other was picked.

The little bird just hatched was covered with down like a young duckling, returning a week later they were gone.

I would like to hear through the OOLOGIST the experience of others concerning this interesting species. They are quite common here, though this is my first nest.

P. L. JONES,
Beulah, Colo.

Notes Wanted on the Yellow Warbler.

I am very much interested in the habits, etc., of No. 93 the Yellow Warbler; or Summer Yellow Bird, *Dendroica aestiva* and will be very much obliged to receive notes, etc., from all; also narratives of peculiar nestings, etc., etc.

R. G. FITCH,
55 N. Union St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

SENT BY THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

Chewink or "Chewee."

Mr. Editor:

The April number of the OOLOGIST was the first I have seen of your interesting little paper, and its popular and unscientific make up, and style of printing the letters of the people, who love birds and I suppose flowers, but who have not probably great ornithological attainments; at once enlisted my attention and interest; and I have read each number since carefully that comes to our City Library.

These facts may explain to some the following rambling, rollicking letter about the Chewink.

Each number of the OOLOGIST since March, I think has one or two articles concerning the Chewee or Chewink.

This fact of itself, to some extent

measures the popularity of this bird. Have we any other bird in this latitude so well known to men, and so well liked, or better loved? I say "known to men," because only those who go about the woods or forest, are going to see our dear little friend, the Chewink. Ladies will see the Robin, the Blue-bird and the Swallow, and the Pewee, etc. He does not dwell in the fields or pastures, or come to the garden and berry patch. He is out in the woods, and over the fence, and out a space in the woods, and in shady woods, not in clearings. I always from a child liked all birds, and before I was six years old I was familiar with all the common birds and their habits in that part of New Jersey, where we resided; knew the form of the nest of each, and the material in it, and their locations, number and color of their eggs, and how often they breed in a season, and their notes I could well, from much practice imitate.

We removed to Ohio in 1835 when I was six years old, and I have never since seen the nest or eggs of some of these birds; as the Wood Pewee (*Muscicapa sayi*) and but once the nest of that wild bird, whose egg is so peculiar in appearance and looks as though a pen dipped in purple ink, and held by a paralytic hand had been drawn in wavy lines from pole to pole of it. I mean the olive-green Pewee, or Quaker bird, we call it, perhaps from its plain colors and appearances. It is the (*Muscicapa crinita*) of Alexander Wilson. But this (*Pipilo emberiza*). I more than liked, and while we often like our fellows from an undefinable something about them, yet I think some of the appearance and mental characteristics, (if I can speak of a bird's mind) aroused my sympathies and love for the Chewee.

Now, I suppose a lover, sees beauty where uninterested eyes might ridicule, and I must thus be excused for avowing my admiration for the beauty

of the Chewee. I love his sharp red eyes and how much of beauty we humans carry in our eyes; or lose when our eyes are not lustrous and mild and interesting.

He gets his name "*Erythroptalma*," (*Erythroptops*, red and *thalmag* eyes) the Greek for "red eyes" from the deep red of his eyes in the summer season. He sees everything that takes place in his neighborhood, out of these all observing eyes, and shows it too and shapes his conduct accordingly. But I find his greatest beauty in his possession of generous quantities of black and brown colors.

Now, neither of these colors alone, perhaps is much to be admired.

Everyone seems to like pink color, but how seldom do we see this color in flowers, where its beauty is not heightened and set off by the presence of a higher shade of red, or union of green with it; but where pink fades into the polished white of the sea shell, or in the hectic cheek of a lady whose early fading away is thus heralded: it is the loveliest tint of nature. This combination of the black head, tail and sides of the Chewee, with the dark brown of the wings is to me his great "beauty spot."

Will our lady readers pardon me, when I tell them that the first "nice dress" I bought for my wife after we were married, was this very combination in a silk pattern, a broad black stripe and a narrower brown one, called in those days, forty years ago, *biadere* (byadare) stripe,

There is something about his mind (the Chewee) that forbids him to eat idle bread. He always seems busy. It is true we do not see what he kicks up the dry leaves so far, and makes such a sudden racket that a thrill of fear often comes over us, lest a viper or a *crotilus horridus* (rattle snake) is about to strike us, and when we see the harmless cause of our fright, we feel vexed at him. How often he has thrown my heart in-

to my throat; for we often hear him, before we see him; for indeed it would be difficult to seem him, generally, if he should observe proper decorum in the dry black and brown leaves and not begin to kick them up, and make this frightful racket.

By the way, if I do like him so, as I have said above, I hope there will be nothing lacking of true friendship, if behind his back, I should institute an inquiry into the cause of this peculiarity of his kicking up the dry leaves and making a disagreeable noise. I certainly do not think he does this all day long, when he is alone. Does he do it then in our presence out of vanity, to leave the impression that he has a great deal to do in making a support for himself and family? Or to scare a person who invades his haunts? I wish to be charitable and to put the best construction I can upon the actions of fellow-beings, but it seems to me that his little crop could not hold the fourth of the fat bugs and vermin he could find by scratching over a quarter of an acre of leaves in a day, as he ought to do if he is as industrious in our absence as in our presence.

One of the reasons for his popularity is his sprightliness. He is never dull, or undecided as to what next is duty. When we come upon him, he gives a few lightning kicks at the dry leaves; hops upon wings, flits, (hardly flies) a few feet to a log, a dead brush or low limb; turns half around a time or two, cries Chewee! Chewee! and jumps down again into the leaves and apparently resumes his duty.

How different the dull and striped robin who will fly to some stake or post or rail or the fence, and there sit as motionless as a pump on a log for 10 or fifteen minutes, and exhibiting no more signs of life except a few short, nervous jerks of the tips of his wings, than a piece of casting.

See too all the *muscicapa* tribe, which

sits still indefinitely on a limb or stakes waiting for a job, tramp-like, till a bee or bug or butterfly comes that way, then seemingly with a painful effort they hop off their perch and execute their capias and then return as quickly as possible to get another rest; and instead of going off like our enterprising Chewee to hunt a job, they sit still again as though they were tired, till something else again "turns up."

I intended to say a word about his habitat. I think we must accept Dr. Cones as authority on his habitat, which makes it in the northern Atlantic states, English provinces and 43° in Michigan where I have seen it—particularly on the Wisconsin river and West into eastern Kansas, and up the Missouri river as far, at least as 43° and south of course in the southern states.

W. D. F. LUMMIS.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 26, 1891.

Our Birds in Their Haunts.

A SPECIAL OFFER.

I am about to issue a new edition of "Our Birds in Their Haunts." The points claimed for this work are:

1. That it is a complete treatise on the birds of Eastern North America at a very low figure, \$2.50 being the retail price of the new edition.

2. It makes a specialty of oology and nidification.

3. It contains much new matter not found in other printed works.

4. It is prepared with special regard to the pleasure of the reader, that is, readableness is a prime consideration. The birds are grouped in relation to season and locality, are studied "in their haunts," the question of habitat receiving particular attention.

The second point given above, has never been sufficiently emphasized in any notice of the work. The location, composition and structure of the nest;

the size, form and color of the eggs are all noted with the utmost interest and care. To the author oology has always been one of the most charming features of bird-study.

Under the third item, the points particularly new, are contained in the distribution of certain species, and especially the history of the water birds on the great fresh waters of the interior. It is safe to say, that no other book on American birds, will duplicate many of the facts here given; and that technical ornithologists have passed this line of facts by without due attention, simply because the book was in popular style.

The special offer is, that all persons sending in subscriptions, or *bona fide* applications by January 1st can have the book for \$1.60 including postage, provided that the number of applications be sufficient to enable the author to bring out the work on the present plan. The number of names pledged should not be less than 450. If the number sent in is not adequate no one will be holden for his application.

J. H. LANGILLE,

Kensington, Md., or Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

P. S. Applications should be sent at once to my address. In this case time is money.

The Lark Bunting.

The Lark Bunting arrives here the first of May. Frequenting the open prairies in company with the Night-hawk, the Prairie Horned Lark and the Mountain Plover, it rears its young and then departs for winter quarters the latter part of August.

This species commences nesting the last of May. The nest is placed on the ground at the base of any weed or small bush, but the common thistle is usually selected. The nest is composed of grass blades, stems and weeds lined with fine rootlets and occasionally a few

hairs. The eggs are from four to six in number and of a uniform, light blue color. Occasionally sets will be found which are sparingly spotted with fine brownish dots. During the season of '89 a set of five spotted eggs were brought to me for identification which from the description of the bird and nest were undoubtedly those of the Lark Bunting. On the 23d of May of this year, I found a set of four spotted eggs of this species.

I would like to hear from others through the columns of the OOLOGIST in regards to spotted eggs of the Lark Bunting; also where it passes the winter.

HARRY W. MENKE,
Garden City, Kansas.

**List of Birds found Breeding in the Vicinity
of Peoria, Illinois.**

191. *Botaurus exilis*, Least Bittern, tolerable common in the sloughs.

201 *Ardea virescens*, Green Heron, common, formerly a small Heronry of this species existed near here.

219 *Gallinula gelecta*, Florida Gallinule, a common breeder in the sloughs.

221 *Fulica americana*, American Coot, a common breeder.

228 *Philohela minor*, American Woodcock, quite plentiful in the river bottoms, as far as the writer's knowledge no nests have been found but the young have been shot early in the season.

263 *Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper, breeds sparingly.

273 *Ægialitis vocifera*, Killdeer, rather common, nests and eggs have been taken.

289. *Colinus virginianus*, Bob-white, a common summer resident, breeds.

300 *Bonasa umbellus*, Ruffed Grouse, an uncommon summer resident and breeds very sparingly.

305 *Tympanuchus americanus*, Prairie Hen, Summer resident, but not so common as *Bonasa umbellus*.

316 *Zenaidura macroura*, Mourning Dove, common summer resident, breeds everywhere.

333. *Accipiter cooperi*, Cooper's Hawk, tolerable common breeder.

337. *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk a common Hawk and breeds early.

360 *Falco sparverius*, Sparrow Hawk a common species.

373. *Megascops asio*, Screech Owl, our most common Owl.

375 *Bubo virginianus*, Great Horned Owl, a resident the year around, breeds sparingly.

387 *Coccyzus americanus*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a common breeder.

388 *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Black-billed Cuckoo, not so common as the preceding species.

390 *Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher, a common bird along our streams.

393. *Dryobates villosus*, Hairy Woodpecker, a tolerable common breeder.

394 *Dryobates pubescens*, Downy Woodpecker, this species is not found breeding so often as the preceding species.

402 *Sphyrapicus varius*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as far as the writer's knowledge this is a rare species. Two sets were taken by the writer in the river bottoms from the same birds.

406 *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Woodpecker, a common breeder.

412. *Colaptes auratus*, Flicker, more abundant than the preceding species.

417 *Austrostomus vociferus*, Whip-poor-will, rare, two nests with eggs, have been found.

420. *Chordeiles virginianus*, Nighthawk, common, some nest on the tops of buildings.

423 *Chætura pelagica*, Chimney-Swift, this is one of our most common birds.

428 *Trochilus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, tolerable common, not many of their nests are found.

444 *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird, common, nearly every orchard contains a pair.

453 *Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher, abundant, more so in the river-bottoms.

[456 *Sayornis phæbe*, Phæbe, very abundant, breeds early.

461 *Contopus virens*, Wood Pewee, a common bird in the wood.

465 *Empidonax acadicus*, Acadian Flycatcher, not very common, confined

to the low damp woods along the river where it breeds.

466a *Empidonax pusillus*, Traill's Flycatcher, not very common breeds sparingly.

474b. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, Prairie Horned Lark, common, nests early.

477 *Cyanocitta cristata*, (Blue Jay,) a common breeder.

488 *Corvus americanus*, American Crow, abundant, breeds early.

494 *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink, not very common, only one nest to my knowledge has been found.

495 *Molothrus ater*, Cowbird, very abundant and breeds everywhere.

498 *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Red-winged Blackbird, abundant, hundreds breed in the river bottoms.

501 *Sturnella magna*, Meadow Lark, common in our meadows.

506 *Icterus spurius*, Orchard Oriole, common, I have not only found their nests in trees but in hedges and bushes.

507 *Icterus galbula*, Baltimore Oriole, common, seems to prefer cottonwood trees to nest in.

511b *Quiscalus quiscula seneus*, Bronzed Grackle, abundant, more so in the river bottoms.

529 *Spinus tristis*, American Goldfinch, a common bird but not many nests are found.

Passer domesticus, European House Sparrow, This little pest is found everywhere.

546 *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*, Grasshopper Sparrow, not very common, I have only succeeded in finding two nests.

552 *Chondestes grammacus*, Lark Sparrow, tolerable common, breeds sparingly.

560 *Spizella socialis*, Chipping Sparrow, a common breeder.

563 *Spizella pusilla*, Field Sparrow, very common, a bird that can be seen in every field.

587 *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, Towhee a common summer resident.

593 *Cardinalis cardinalis*, Cardinal, tolerable common, found more abundant in the river bottoms.

595 *Habia ludoviciana*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a common breeder, seems to be decreasing in numbers.

598 *Passerina cyanea*, Indigo Bunt-

ing, a common bird, breeding in the thickets.

604 *Spiza americana*, Dickcissel, very abundant, delights to build in clover fields.

608 *Piranga erythromelas*, Scarlet Tanager, a tolerable common breeder and confined chiefly to the oak woods.

611 *Progne subis*, Purple Martin, a common breeder, confined chiefly to the city.

612 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Cliff Swallow, common, breeds in colonies.

613 *Chelidon erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow, not so abundant as the preceding species.

614 *Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Swallow, common, confined to the river bottoms where it breeds.

616 *Clivicola riparia*, Bank Swallow, tolerable common, along our streams.

616 *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, Rough-winged Swallow, rare, one nest found by the writer.

619 *Ampelis cedrorum*, Cedar Waxwing, a rare breeder here.

622a *Lanius ludovicianus excu bitorides*, (White-rumped Shrike,) quite common, breeds chiefly in the hedges, certain specimens of skins from this County are found to be nearer *L. ludovicianus* than *L. ludovicianus excubitorides*.

637 *Protonotaria citrea*, Prothonotary Warbler, a common bird in the river bottoms where it breeds.

652 *Dendroica aestiva*, Yellow Warbler, very common especially in the river bottoms among the willows.

673 *Dendroica discolor*, Prairie Warbler, rare, only one nest has been found and that by the writer.

674 *Sciurus aurocapillus*, Oven-bird, not very common, breeds sparingly.

681 *Geothlypis trichas*, Maryland Yellow-throat, abundant and found everywhere.

683 *Icteria virens*, Yellow-breasted Chat, common, nests chiefly on the hill sides covered with hazel brush.

687 *Setophaga ruticilla*, American Redstart, abundant, confined to the river bottoms, where it is as abundant as the Yellow Warbler.

703 *Mimus polyglottos*, Mockingbird, doubtful, an egg shown me, was said to have been taken here and a farmer told me of an instance where he

took the young from the nest and raised them.

704 *Geothlypis carolinensis*, Catbird, very common and breeds abundantly.

705 *Harporhynchus rufus*, Brown Thrasher, very common, majority nest in hedges.

721 *Troglodytes aedon*, House Wren a common little bird, very abundant in the river bottoms.

735 *Parus atricapillus*, Chickadee, a common breeder.

751 *Poliophtila caerulea*, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a rare summer resident. The writer found three nests this season, but was not lucky enough to secure any eggs, F. E. Kinney took a set of four near here.

755 *Turdus mustelinus*, Wood Thrush, common summer resident, most abundant in the low woods along the river.

761 *Merula migratoria*, American Robin, very common breeds abundantly.

766 *Sialia sialis*, Bluebird, abundant and a common breeder.

The above list, which is very incomplete, the writer hopes will act as a foundation to build upon by other collectors of this locality.

Many species have been omitted on account of the uncertainty that attends their breeding here. As many more have not been looked for or studied, and certain localities have not been visited.

W. E. LOUCKS,
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

World Fair Notes.

Sir Walker Bullard, who owns the finest collection of native Maori curiosities and paintings in the world, has applied for space in which to display his collection, and intends visiting the Exposition with his family. Maj. John Wilson, of Auckland, has submitted a proposition to the Foreign Affairs Committee to bring a colony of Maoris to the Exposition, house them in one of their native-built forts, and let them show their native costumes, home life, and methods of warfare. The propo-

sition is regarded with some favor, as it would add greatly to the value of the general ethnological exhibit of the Exposition.

Relics by the Wagon Load.

Under the direction of Prof. Putnam, Chief of the Department of Ethnology, of the World's Columbian Exposition, a party of men has been making extensive excavations of the prehistoric mounds in Ohio and Indiana, and according to reports, received from time to time, most gratifying success has been met with. Many skulls, skeletons, copper hatchets, pipes, ornaments, altars of burnt clay weighing 400 to 300 pounds, flint spear heads, etc., have been secured.

In one mound, situated near Anderson Station, Indiana, 7,232 flint spear heads and knives were discovered. The bulk was so great that it took four horses and a large corn wagon to haul the flints to camp. The total weight was a trifle over 4,700 pounds. The implements were found in a layer one foot in thickness, extending over a space twenty by thirty feet. Many of them were over eight or ten inches in length; some of them even larger, while the majority ranged from seven to eight inches. They are made of gray flint found only in Indiana, and show that there were from sixty to seventy flakes detached from each one in order to fashion it.

The largest find of flint implements made in one place hitherto in America did not exceed 1,800 specimens. In one of the caverns occupied by primitive man in the valley of the Seine, below Paris, 2,300 implements were found in one deposit. As it is reasonable to conclude that early one day's work was expended on each implement, and as each one exhibits almost absolute perfection as far as flint chipping is concerned, the find will be of special value to ethnological research.

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In April '90 OOLOGIST, we published the following notice:

"Collectors having eggs of Bridled Tern that they obtained direct from me, will please keep the same in their possession until a question which has recently arisen, can be settled.

My collector on the Bahamas was a man of experience, and old army captain, and who, for the past dozen years, has spent from six to nine months annually in active field work. In '88 and '89 he brought home from the Bahamas several skins of the Bridled Tern and a few eggs which he positively identified as coming from the same species. That my collector is honest in his belief in the identity of the eggs, is unquestionable, but one of the best, if not the very best Oologists in the United States—or the world for that matter—writes me that they are not the eggs of the Bridled Tern.

My collector is now in Central America somewhere and this matter cannot be straightened until his return which is not expected until July.

While I shall refuse to fill orders for eggs of this species until his return, I shall also refuse to redeem any of the eggs that I have sold for that species during the past eighteen months until the matter can be straightened. Should it be decided that the eggs are genuine, or should it be decided otherwise, notice will be given in the OOLOGIST and I shall straighten the matter to my patrons' entire satisfaction."

The eggs have proved to be those of some other species, but we now have, however, a stock of genuine Bridled's and our patrons having the spurious specimens obtained directly from us can return the same and we will send a genuine specimen by next mail.

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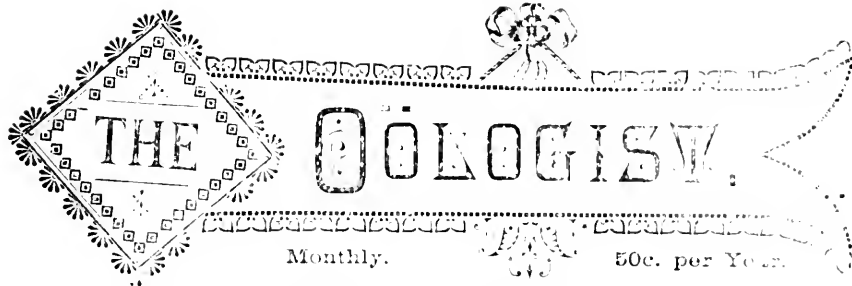
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THE OOLOGIST.

Monthly. 50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1891.

No. 12

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 20c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

BIRDS' EGGS. L. W. BROKAW, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Cala.

WANTED. To correspond with collectors of Beetles, in Texas and the Gulf States. WILLIAM D. RICHARDSON, box 223, Fredericksburgh, Virginia.

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THE OOLOGIST.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED. To correspond with advanced ornithologists and oologists in all parts of America for the purpose of making exchanges of the coming winter. **TRUMAN R. TAYLOR**, 90 William St., Rochester, N. Y., 696 1/2 st. Ward's Natural Science Est.

TO EXCHANGE.—Western eggs, sets with data, singles for a good 22 or 24 cal. rifle, pair climbing; minerals; books or magazines relating to Natural History. Address **EDMUND HELLMER**, R. 2, Colusa, Calif.

WANTED.—Dried berries, seeds, etc., prepared in exchange for eggs, sets, etc., minerals. Books of 30 cal. 30 cal. or any branch of Natural History wanted. **E. S. PARKER**, 1150 Pleasant St., Des Moines, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Mounted Specimen of White-winged Swan for mounted birds and skins. **P. J. BULLOCK**, Marshalltown, Iowa.

I HAVE 375 tobacco tags and stamps to exchange for best ones in birds' eggs or books on Natural History. **MALCOLM M. THOMPSON**, St. Croix Falls, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—One Simplex Camera complete and in good condition, 8 1/2 x 11, and fine collection of works on Stamps, for Samuel's books on birds eggs, Latham's No. 3 out fit, oologist's supplies, including climbing irons. **ROBERT D. WAINWRIGHT**, 129 Freemason St., Norfolk, Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—22 cal. rifle for the best offer of first class eggs in sets with full data. **JAMES McBRACEEN**, 1151 Noble Ave., North Side, Chicago, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE. Italian Violin, bow and instructive book, in good condition, for best offer of eggs of insects, references given and required. **C. G. SERGEANT**, Whimbago City, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—54 varieties cigarette pictures, 135 varieties tobacco tags, 22 caliber rifle "Chemical Word Book" (Youth's Companion pamphlets), small electro-magnetic coil, for skins, eggs, oologist supplies. **F. BOGHEUTTAUS**, B. Florence Court, Minneapolis, Minn.

EXCHANGE your U. S. stamps for first class race-eggs, at catalogue prices, for each. The following for stamps: Marsh Hawk 1-3; Prairie Hen 1-2; and 1-4; Red-tail Hawk 1-3; King Rail 1-4; 1-4 Crow 1-5; Bewick's Wren 1-7; Tufted Titmouse 1-9; Am. Golden Plover 1-4; Killdeer 1-3; and 1-5; Swainson's Hawk 1-4; Golden-winged Warbler 1-4. Have many common eggs as well. Let me hear from you. **O. W. BRIGGS**, Paw Paw Bluffs.

FOR EXCHANGE. The following 1st class skins with full data, mostly in pairs: 1-6 male and 1-7 female, A. O. C. Nos. 692, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 687, 657, 510, 511, 514, 565a, 522, 528, 529, 535, 608, 611, 612, 616, 619, 566, 578, 748, 749, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000. **Desire in return**, Eggs, books or full data, Books on Ornithology, Cameras, 22 or 24 cal. rifle. What have you? Let me hear from you. Correspondence with working Ornithologists desired. **Dr. A. G. PRILE**, Springdale, Erie Co., N. Y.

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(For full description see page 307, Oct. OOLOGIST.)

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BRIDLED TERN EGGS.

In April '90 OOLOGIST, we published the following notice:

Collectors having eggs of Bridled Tern that they obtained direct from me, will please keep the same in their possession until a question which has recently arisen, can be settled.

My collector on the Bahamas was a man of experience, and old army captain, and who, for the past dozen years, has spent from six to nine months annually in active field work. In '88 and '89 he brought home from the Bahamas several skins of the Bridled Tern and a few eggs which he positively identified as coming from the same species. That my collector is honest in his belief in the identity of the eggs, is unquestionable, but one of the best, if not the very best Oologists in the United States—or the world for that matter—writes me that they are not the eggs of the Bridled Tern.

My collector is now in Central America somewhere and this matter cannot be straightened until his return which is not expected until July.

While I shall refuse to fill orders for eggs of this species until his return, I shall also refuse to redeem any of the eggs that I have sold for that species during the past eighteen months until the matter can be straightened. Should it be decided that the eggs are genuine, or should it be decided otherwise, notice will be given in the OOLOGIST and I shall straighten the matter to my patrons' entire satisfaction.

The eggs have proved to be those of some other species, but we now have, however, a stock of genuine Bridled's and our patrons having the spurious specimens obtained directly from us can return the same and we will send a genuine specimen by next mail.

Faithfully,
FRANK H. LATTIN.

Carr's Natural History and Bird Stores.

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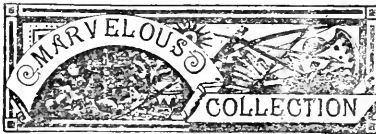
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THE YOUNG NATURALIST'S



A chain specimen of anything on the list will be sent post-paid for \$2.00 or less with the entire collection, 45 specimens, packed in a neat wooden box post paid. **PRICE ONE \$3.00 CASH.**

- No 1 Description Plant, Mex.
- 2 Card, Maraca Alamo, Maraca's Vineyard
- 3 Egg, Foreign Sparrow
- 4 Egg Shell, Noddy, Bahamas
- 5 Starfish, Cape of Good Hope
- 6 Back from Tort, Tree Toad
- 7 "Big Toad", Bark, Mariposa, Calif.
- 8 Small Turtle, Casco Bay, Me.
- 9 Chinese Gun
- 10 Tree Shell, China
- 11 Green-tipped Coral, Singapore
- 12 Cypress Leaf, Singapore
- 13 Cypress Leaf, Australia
- 14 Cypress Arrow, N. I.
- 15 Red Sea Bush, Bahamas
- 16 Gray Sea Bush, Nassau, Bahamas
- 17 Heavy-banded Sea Bush, Bahamas
- 18 Screw Shell, China
- 19 French C. shell, Bahamas
- 20 Arrowhead, Orange Co., Indiana
- 21 Acorn, Maraca, Florida
- 22 Leaf, Coral, Bahamas
- 23 Quartz Crystal, Hot Springs, Ark.
- 24 Sea Urchin, Atlantic
- 25 Shaving from a Mosser, Cochulla, N. M.
- 26 Money Cowry, Cayton
- 27 Duck Creek, Caroline Isles
- 28 Indian Pottery, Orleans Co., N. Y.

- 29 Albatross Tooth, Indian River, Fla.
- 30 Crinoid Stem, Cumberland River, Tenn.
- 31 Ovary, Spigee, Bahamas
- 32 Feathered Wood, Sayona Co., Okla.
- 33 "Albatross" Bone, Jeff. Co., N. Y.
- 34 Small Shark Teeth, Atlantic
- 35 Flexible Coral (Lithothamnium), Tampa Isles
- 36 Tarsus, Bahamas
- 37 Wood-toothed Shell, Nassau
- 38 Small Shark Tooth, F. C.
- 39 Operation on Shell Power, Bahamas
- 40 Noddy Limestone, Magnet Cove, Ark.
- 41 Olive Shell, Zanibar
- 42 of Glass Peak, Bahamas
- 43 Piece of Limestone, Japan
- 44 Egg of Coral, of Florida, Atlantic
- 45 Piece of Tree Cork, made by Co. No. 1, Live of Socorro Isles.

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THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1891.

No. 12

The Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Little has been said through the columns of the OOLOGIST about this little compound of pluck and ferocity: is it because of its scarcity? or is it because it is not deemed worth the space. Now this bird is to me one of the most interesting of the *Falconidae*; itself satisfied dash alone being enough to bring it into prominence. Although it is a bird that is fond of the seclusion of deep woods; it is perfectly at home in the town; several times I have seen one of them skimming laboriously over the ground, with a thrush nearly its own size in its talons, and this too in the city streets.

As I look over my collection, I see two small but beautiful eggs, the bold chocolate marking agreeing well with the character of the author of this being. Well do I remember that day when crossing a dense swamp, the quick, decided flight of the Sharp-shinned Hawk caught my eye, and through the bush and over fallen logs I followed that bird.

As as the hawk was aware of being followed, it became excited and dropped the bird it was carrying, and perched upon a high limb of a dead tree and scowled at us fiercely.

Soon after we found the nest not far up in a large pine tree, and I commenced the ascent with the execrations of the hawk and his mate who had flown from the nest, delivered rapidly in a high and shrill key. Now and then he would vary the proceedings by making a bold swoop at the intruder, every time feigning to miss the mark by a few feet, and flying into a neighboring tree to watch the effect, and then when I reached the top of the perilous climb, and put my hand into the nest I found

" * * * simply nothing,
Not a single thing in it,
Not even an egg-shell,—
No, nothing at all."

A few days after, I returned to the nest with two spotted hens eggs with which to replace any hawk's eggs I might find. The two eggs I did find were altogether unlike, in size or markings, the eggs I brought. The birds were meanwhile more excited than before and often passed so near me that I could feel the rush of their wings.

What an ecstasy of delight is that of the young collector scouring his first set, how well do I remember the excitement of that moment, the hurried questions, the snail-like pace to the nest all heightened by the quick sharp chirps of the birds, and still, whenever I look over my collection and see the two brown and drab beauties my mind reverts to that scene in the bush: the tall stately pine, the beautiful and pure white trel-linns; and the beautiful birds dashing and screaming around my head.

Although the label in the tray prosaically says:

Fam. *Falconidae*,

Genus, *Accipiter*.

332 *A. velox* (Wils.)

Sharp-shinned Hawk, .

My memory thinks only of the beautiful and poetical. Truly it can be said of the oologist what Bryant says to the evening wind:—

"Pleasant shall be thy way where mock-ly bows

The shutting flower, and darkling waters pass,

And where the o'er-shadowing branches sweep the grass."

W. H. McNAIRN,

Toronto, Ont.

A White Crow.

I noticed in November OOLOGIST an article headed, "Albino Birds." Now I wish to speak about such birds as these.

On the 27th of November, 1891, my brother and I went hunting for ducks at Pequot Lake, which is situated about eight miles from this city. Well we arrived there and were walking along the shore of the Lake, when we heard an awful cawing, as though the whole creation of crows were assembled together and seemingly trying to outdo every sound.

While trying to approach the crows, I started them all on the wing, about two hundred strong.

But what should I perceive among the whole troop—a white bird wheeling and keeping right in their midst.

The thought flashed through my mind, could the white bird be a Albino Crow, impossible.

I again slowly approach the place where they had alighted in a large field when most of the crows again took flight, but several of them, perhaps fifty, settled on an old rail fence, and among them the white bird, which alighted on one of the top rails.

We stood and watched the white bird two or three minutes, the shape of its body, pose, etc. making sure that it was, without doubt, an Albino Crow. I am also quite sure that I distinguished its cry from among the others, it seemed more harsh and guttural.

I again, for the third time, advanced; my eyes seemed growing bigger and bigger, and a firmer grip of the gun did I take, as I neared, step by step, to the diamond among the setting of coals.

The black crows, one after another flew away. Could it be possible that I should get within range? But, alas, he flew, but had the credit of being one of the last to do so. I watched him fly away towards the North with his fellow but black brethren.

That it was an Albino Crow, I would be willing to stake almost anything upon it, his manner of flight, size, actions, and the immaculate white that clothed his *corvus* body.

There is a taxidermist who resides in this city who has a mounted Albino Blue-Jay, and also an Albino Bank Swallow; and another friend of mine has in his possession a finely mounted Albino Gray Squirrel.

ALBERT N. ROBERTS,
Holyoke, Mass.

The Pileated Woodpecker.

During my career as a naturalist and reader of scientific papers, I have not noticed a single article on this grand species.

The Ivory-billed is some larger and more scarce, but it cannot be more interesting than the Pileated, which Doctor Cones says is rare. It is quite common here, and is heard more than any other species.

They are very wary birds and if once they see you, it is useless to pursue them with a view to getting a shot at them. They are very fond of picking in rotten logs or stumps in search of ants and other insects which inhabit such places, and can often be taken while thus engaged.

I have often heard father and mother tell how tame these birds used to be when Eastern Indiana was new. When father was a boy he used to kill them with a stick, by striking around the stump on which they were at work. Mother has caught many a one in her sun bonnet by slipping up to the stump on the opposite side from the bird, and when he would put his head into some hole or crevice in search of ants or worms, would quickly put her bonnet over him.

Here, during the fall months they feed a great deal on wild grapes and berries of the Black Gum, and later on

the Dogwood berries. I have a fine pair mounted in my collection, one of which was shot a few days ago by my husband, the other by myself.

It is almost impossible to get a shot at them unless they are feeding.

A few mornings ago I heard an unusual commotion in some trees near the house, and went to see what it was all about. It proved to be a Sparrow Hawk trying to catch a Golden-winged Woodpecker for his breakfast. Soon another Golden-winged put in appearance, and in a few minutes a Pileated came to the rescue. He would swoop down on the hawk from his elevated position in some tall tree, and drive it screaming away. He would then return to his chosen position uttering his loud metallic cry, and await the coming of the hawk. They kept up the battle till the hawk seemed completely tired out, and gave up in despair.

They utter but one note, so far as I have been able to discover. This is a series of *enk, enk, enk*, with each letter sounded, thus *enk* (short), repeated many times in succession, with a variation in pitch of voice and rapidity. The note somewhat resembles that of the Golden-winged Woodpecker, though it is much louder and more metallic.

The towering top of some dead pine furnishes a good "lookout," and from these the males keep watch in the morning hours uttering their peculiar note and making the hills for miles around resound with their "music."

There are Tailor-birds, Oven-birds and Masons, and the Woodpecker is truly a carpenter. He shapes his home to suit his taste, the entrance being made with the precision of a compass. He is not a "jack of all trades," but works only in wood, and often in live hard timber, making large excavations which are sometimes three feet deep. The eggs are placed at the bottom of these excavations, the complement being from three to six, (generally three or

four), crystal white eggs, small for so large a bird; size about 1x1.25.

The adult is about 18 inches in length color, black, with a narrow white stripe above the eye; a wider one from the nostril feathers (inclusive), under the eye and along the side of the head and neck.

The chin is white, tinged with sulphur-yellow. Entire crown from the base of the bill, with a well developed occipital crest, bright scarlet. Cheek patches of the same.

The female and young male lacks the red on the cheek, and the anterior half of the top of the head is replaced by black.

These birds inhabit North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in timbered districts, but seem to shun civilization; for, as a country becomes thickly settled they all disappear.

I took a set of four fresh eggs this season from a large dead white oak tree three of which were average sized eggs, and the fourth not more than half as large and almost spherical.

Mrs. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

◆◆◆◆◆

Russet-backed Thrush.

No. 753. *Turdus ustulatus* (NUTT.)

Hab.—Pacific Coast Region of North America.

This bird is a common resident of Linn county, Oregon, during the breeding season, and can be found in the low shrubbery along the many small mountain streams, at any time during the nesting season. During the morning and afternoon the birds are generally silent, but in the evening twilight, its song rings forth and fills the hills and valleys with its joyous melody. The bird is generally perched upon some small bush, head erect and thrown back while singing. At these times one can approach within a short distance, with-

out the bird showing the least fear, but during the day it is different, one can hardly approach within gun-shot distance in the thick bushes, for the bird is constantly in motion, moving from bush to bush.

It sings far into the night as I have often heard it as late as eleven o'clock. The alarm note of the bird is, *chuck!* *chuck!*!

The nest is built in some low bush not over six feet high, generally, and is made of grass, roots, leaves and twigs; sometimes moss. One nest has come under my observation made entirely of yellowish green moss, which was not dry but perfectly fresh. It was a beautiful nest, and very compact.

It was placed directly over a large mountain stream and only about 1½ feet above the surface of the water. It was in a fir bush and contained four beautifully marked eggs. They are of a greenish blue ground color, spotted with shades of brown chiefly at the larger end, except one which was generally spotted over the entire surface.

It commences to build about May 1st, and fresh eggs can be obtained about the 15th to June 1st.

Their average size is about .96x.67.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

How Mr. M. Keeps his Oological Treasures.

I have seen a number of articles on cabinets for birds eggs, but I have never seen one I liked as my own, so I will give it to the readers of the OOLOGIST.

You all know that light must be kept away from the eggs, and mine is planned for that purpose.

My case is made of pine, but I would have cedar if I had another made as it is something of a moth preventative.

It is six feet in height and 42 inches in width, and with a depth of 18 inches it contains 16 drawers, in two rows; ranging in depth from 2½ to 4 inches deep. This leaves room below the

drawers for several shelves for books, tools, etc.

This is not a very expensive case and it will hold an immense number of eggs.

I would not have bird skins in the same case with eggs.

I line the bottom of the drawers with cotton wadding or cotton flannel—white.

I keep each set of eggs in a separate tray made from black card board. Do not use white card board, as I have heard that the arsenic in it was injurious to the shell.

The eggs certainly look better in a black box and when this is placed on the white bottom of the drawer, you have some thing you can take pride in looking at.

I cut a piece of wadding just the size of the tray to lay under the eggs.

I use Lattin's datas in book form numbering first book from 1 to 100, the second from 101 to 200 and so on.

In the tray with each set I put a slip of paper. Tags of various kinds or as I do insect labels, and on them I put the number of the species, set mark and a number to correspond to the data in my books. In this way I can tell in a moment all I want to know about a set and it is by far the easiest way I know to keep track of a collection.

I do not believe this method can be improved.

I make my own trays because I can do it better than any manufacturer and I can have any size.

I take a piece of board about ¾ inch thick and cut a hole in it the size I want a tray and then make blocks to fill it, and a lot of small wedges. I make one of these for each size of tray I want. I take my card board and cut it the right size. I have them ¾ inch deep and score it with a knife ¼ inch from and then cut in at the end with shears so the lap will come at the end, break them well at the score marks, put mu-

cilage on the flap, and place them in the forms, wedge them in and let them dry. When I take them out I trim the edges. If you do not break them well they will bow out of shape as the ones you buy.

A. C. MURKINSON,
Kewanee, Illinois.

Thanksgiving Notes from the Far West.

To-day being Thanksgiving Day, I have sometime to myself, so take a walk to the suburbs of the city to study bird life. Although the winter season is near at hand, the weather so far has been very mild, and therefore there are are but few winter visitors with us; on the other hand there are several summer species still here that even up for the absence of the winter birds.

To-day bird life seems abundant. The first species noted is a Western Winter Wren, skipping about in our hedge. Next comes a Ruby Crowned Kinglet with its scolding note; it stops a moment, then goes on, and is soon out of sight. The familiar note of the Western Blue-bird is now heard and upon looking upward we see three of them, and as many Oregon Juncos flying after them. They fly at one another for some time as if playing tag, the Juncos getting the best of it. A little farther on we come to a Mountain Ash tree full of red berries and among them are four California Purple Finches eating the berries. They prefer the ones that are decayed and only eat the small seeds inside the berry. In a neighboring tree are a number of Western Robins. They are more greedy and swallow the berry whole. Both species seem to be quite tame, allowing me to stand within four feet of them, but perhaps it is the berries they are interested in. As we continue our walk we hear on either side, the song of the Rusty Song Sparrow. Its song is pleasing and no doubt similar to its Eastern cousins. Our atten-

tion is now attracted by the harsh cry of the California Blue Jay; close behind is its mate. We are still in the city and it seems odd to see a Jay here. Another bird that comes under our notice is the Oregon Towhee. It too, looks out of place in the city for like others of the genus, *Pipilo*, it delights in being in thick brush where it may be heard scratching noisily among the fallen leaves for insects.

As we near the woods we meet with the Oregon Junco, California Purple Finch, Myrtle and Audubon's Warbler, (winter plumage) and the Rusty Song Sparrow in large numbers, and in a tree not far away is seen the Oregon Chickadee feeding.

It is now nearing dinner time so I must return home and help devour *Meleagris domesticus*. I wish the editor and readers of the OOLOGIST could join you.

You can imagine what a friendly hand-shaking two thousand Ornithologists and Oologists could have.

CLYDE L. KELLER,
Salem, Oregon.

Nov. 26, '91.

The Blue-gray Gnat-catcher in Arkansas.

One of our most interesting summer residents is this little specimen of bird life. It arrives here about the twenty-fifth of March. From the top of some tall tree we are first made aware of his presence, by the shrill, wiry notes which he is accustomed to utter during the live-long day, as he flits in and out among the branches in tireless pursuit of insects. Not a crack or crevice of the tree escapes his keen scrutiny. At such times he seems to be all hurry and bustle, as though the work of a life time must be crowded into a few short days.

As the warm days advance his whole nature seems to undergo a change. We no longer hear those shrill notes, but

are regaled with the sweetest, tenderest music. This is so low, that to appreciate its effect, the listener must be but a short distant from the tree in which our modest vocalist is busily engaged. He like many of his kin dislike notoriety. He does not seek the bare branches of some tall tree, and thrill the air of the surrounding wood with ear-splitting utterances, but as he pours forth his subdued song while hid away in the leafy shelter of some gnarled oak the severest critic could scarcely fail to assign him a high place among the feathered choir.

The selection of a home-spot soon claims their attention. In the river bottom, the sweet gum seems to be the kind of tree nearly always chosen, while here on the mountains they usually build in the white oaks. They prefer trees whose branches are rough and lichen clad, although I have known of one nest being taken from the top of a small pine sapling about twelve feet high. The height at which these nests are placed varies with the locality. In some places they are seldom found above ten feet, but in the majority of cases, this limit is exceeded and the height of 50 and even 60 feet are reached. There is little variation in the form noticeable, their shape being generally that of a truncated cone. The position too is quite uniform. Most of them are placed on strong branches, both upright and horizontal, to which they are ingeniously woven. They are so securely fastened that to dislodge one is a matter of no small difficulty. By a wise provision of instinct their contents are insured against accident. Not so much by the depth of the cavity, as by the purse like contraction of the rim. Few structures of bird architecture are more beautiful than the home of this little Gnatcatcher. Its walls are of felt, closely and compactly woven of the slender stems of grasses, thistle-down, spider webs and fine vegetable

fibers. With a love for the beautiful, our little architect must go further and invest the exterior in a coat of bluish gray lichens which serves the two-fold purpose of ornamentation and protection both from the weather and discovery. The nest looks so much like a natural excrescence that only the experienced eye can detect the difference. The nest seems rather bulky compared with the tiny builders, who measure but four and three-tenths inches in length.

Having completed their home, from four to six eggs are deposited in as many days. Incubation begins at once and lasts fourteen days. This is as much the work of one sex as the other. But a single brood is raised each year. The eggs are oval in form and slightly pointed. In ground color they are white, spotted and blotched with reddish brown, slate and lilac. Cabinet specimens some times show a faint bluish or greenish white tint. The average dimensions are .59 by .48 inches. My husband found a nest in a sweet gum, which was not quite completed. He watched them for some time, as they worked away at their little home. He went back in two weeks to get it, but found it gone. The question now arises—did they remove it to safer quarters? for not a vestige of it was left. If it had been destroyed by other birds, some of the fibers with which it was securely fastened to the limb would surely have been left, but not even a spiders web remained.

Mrs. LILLIE PLEAS,
Clinton, Ark.

Shall we Organize!

This is the one great problem which agitates the mind of the student of science to-day.

We all feel that organization is necessary, and, once it is accomplished the difficulties of scientific research will

gradually melt away as the dew before the morning sun.

I would suggest that the Oologists and Ornithologists of each state unite and form an association for the edification of professionals and amateurs.

Local organizations should also be encouraged.

Each association should own a museum and library.

By this means we would become better acquainted with the scientific resources of our several states and localities as well as with each other.

The benefit to be derived from such an organization cannot be appreciated. Yet I sincerely hope that before the sun of another summer; we may be united and working for the advancement of Oology Ornithology, the most pleasant of scientific studies.

R.—Michigan.

I was rather surprised at the contents of the article by Mr. Brotherton, in the last issue of the OOLOGIST, on a general association scientists. I was not aware before that they made themselves so liable to the law.

I deprecate cruelty and waste very much, but I think such persons as devotees and students of science, should be protected, and agree with him, in advocating a general association of scientists

I am a disciple of the doctrine of protection from cruelty, &c. The following examples will help to illustrate. The Great Auk is thought to be extinct, the Eider Duck has greatly diminished in numbers. The Buffalo has almost gone, the Whale has, and the Seal is suffering &c., and allowing to the right and left slaying of man; but as I said, I unite with Mr. Brotherton in a call for protection to, and aid in their pursuits, to followers of science by association.

"In union there is strength."

WM. BINGHURST, M. D.

Philadelphia, Pa.

In the valuable article by Mr. L. O. Dart in October OOLOGIST, the last three lines should "*but* what we might gain etc." read instead of "*not* &c."

Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills.

I had thought until this year that Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills had also left us, not to return again, for years had passed since I had seen them. But this year the Whip-poor-will has reappeared in eastern Oakland Co., Mich., few to be sure. During a recent trip through southern Lapeer Co. I found both Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills fairly abundant.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON.

Bird Nesting in November.

November 7, 1891.

While out hunting squirrel to-day, I had an occasion to pass through a low swampy tract of ground, overgrown with willow and thorn-apple trees.

Near the center stood an extra large thorn-apple tree, which was conspicuous and in passing by, I noticed a nest of the Cuckoo, my curiosity lead me to examine it, and I was somewhat surprised to find that it contained two eggs of the Cuckoo (Yellow-billed without a doubt.)

The nest was well preserved, and made of twigs, leaves and a little mud. The eggs had not been incubated neither were they rotten. The contents seemed to have evaporated about $\frac{1}{2}$, the remainder being of the consistency of the yolk of an egg.

Question.

What could probably have been the reason for the birds deserting this nest?

Crows and Jays are abundant, but did not molest it.

Has anyone a record of a similar occurrence?

DR. A. G. PRILL.

THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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We have decided that in the future that any person using the columns of the OOLOGIST either for exchange or advertising purposes or as a writer of articles appearing on its pages who, if we are satisfied, has in a single instance purposely defrauded or cheated any of our patrons to black-list said collector in our office—to cancel all exchange or advertising coupons in his possession and to forever debar his name from appearing in columns of the OOLOGIST among those of *honest* dealers and collectors. We shall also print a "black-list" in the OOLOGIST of what we have *positive proof* are the greatest rogues and to head this role of dishonor we must warn our patrons to have nothing to do with one Wm. Purdy, alias Norman King, alias Chas. Norman of Almyer West, Ontario, Canada.

We are also looking up the cases of several other parties—three in Iowa, one in Maine, one in North Carolina, and others and regret that we may be obliged to publish a few of them at least, in Jan. OOLOGIST,

A Further Contribution to the Chewink Controversy.

The Chewink is not very rare in this locality, and has been observed by me abundantly in the first and second weeks in May. They then frequent high dry woods where shrubbery is plenty. The Chewink is very shy and only a very close observer can trace them. I was out in the country yesterday, and to my astonishment received from a farmer's boy three eggs of the

Chewink, which he had taken for me on or about the 1st of August. He took me to the spot where he had found the nest. It was built about one foot from the ground in thickly leaved but very thin twigged beech shrubs. The nest was similar to that of the Wilson's Thrush consisting outside of leaves and inside of hair, which were perhaps taken from a pasture close by. This shows I think, beyond any doubt that they breed under favorable circumstances, twice a year.

O. REINECKE.

Sept. 14, '91.

Buffalo, N. Y.

One Day's Tramp.

Well everything is ready so will go to bed. Lets see, set my clock at twenty minutes of four. Wake up at 3:10 and get up to see what time it is. Can't go to sleep again, so dress. Raining of course. Don't care, I will go anyway. So get my breakfast and start. Have pretty good load: Gun, lunch, egg-box, rope and hatchet to get those Kingfishers eggs and climbers to get Great Blue Heron eggs. Get down there about 7 a. m., and go to work at Kingfishers hole. Work about half hour in mud and give it up as a bad job. Go on can't find those Herons nests to save me. Meet an old hunter who lives in a cabin on the bottoms, and we have quite a talk about our friends, the birds. Shows me bank of petrified moss, the first I'd ever seen, and a spring in high bank called Coffin Spring. An opening in bank about one and one-half foot long by two and one-half foot wide that extends back about eight feet and contains some of the finest water in the country. He says that the water never freezes in winter, and all the birds that stay come and drink there. He's shot fine specimens for the naturalists in town. Have to go there myself next winter. I ask him about the herony and he says he will walk over there with me. So we start through the woods

the water up to our knees in some places, and pretty soon came to some monster cottonwoods in which we see some large nests about size of bushel basket. I shoot up and up flies about a dozen Herons and sail majestically around and soon alight again. But we see that the nests have other tenants than the old birds for out of every blessed nest comes two or three thin necks. Then all at once we are aware of some disturbance, a pair of turkey buzzards swoop down and try to carry off the fledglings, but the old Herons make a good fight, and soon put the buzzards to flight. Find several nests of Chewinks and Warblers, but got no Herons eggs. So after an hours pleasant tramp with my newly made friend, I leave him, and turn my steps toward home.

It has stopped raining now and I see a great many Warblers, Vireo, Grosbeaks and one Bittern, a pair of Cardinals whose nest I try to find, but fail, Mudhens, snipe, crows and as I near the city large numbers of English Sparrows around the factories. In all I think I have covered about twenty miles and am pretty tired when I get home at 3:30 p. m., and although I have not had a very profitable day, it has proved a very pleasant one.

A. G. POTTER.

Omaha, Neb.

The Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

While out collecting on June 1891 I entered a small piece of land thickly covered with small bushes. Out of these I started a small bird which I recognized as the Chestnut-sided Warbler. I quickly looked in the bush, and found a little nest composed of grass, fibres, and bark, and lined with feathers, and hair. The eggs were four in number, averaging .69 x .50, and of a creamy white color, spotted with lilac, brown, and number chiefly at the larger end. The nest was situated about two feet

from the ground. This bird is not a very common breeder here, according to my five years' experience. It generally arrives here in the first week in May, and departs early in September. It has a very pleasing lively song some thing like a whistle. The Chestnut-sided Warbler can generally be found in open dry woods with open spots in which bushes and small trees can be found. The Cow-bird frequently uses the birds nests as a situation for its eggs. It is socially inclined, and is often seen in company with other Warblers.

B. H. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

The Gulls.

Among the typical and familiar birds, we must not fail to remember the Gulls. Whether we consider their general distribution, their numbers, their variety, their great beauty or their usefulness, as scavengers, from every point of view, they are important and interesting to the ornithologist. Seen on the water, so light and buoyant from their excess of downy feathers, that they float almost like a bunch of cotton, and with a foot most admirably adapted to swimming, we pronounce these ideals among swimming birds. Seen in the air, moving their wings with the steady ease and gracefulness of a Hawk or a raven, and sailing majestically as a Buzzard or an Eagle, we are ready to accord them the highest perfection in flight. The large strong bill, much compressed, with well rounded culmen bracing it above and gonys strengthening it beneath, would seem to be of general rather than special adaptation. In accordance with this fact, we find that its bill of fare is somewhat varied, almost anything to be found in and about the sea and bodies of water in general.

The Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*, is a species not so well known in

all respects as some others, and we will therefore give a brief account of it. The Common or Herring Gull, is so well known, that it will serve as a good starting point, to say that *delawarensis*, is almost like it, except that it is noticeably smaller, that is to a critical observer, for one untrained in observation might scarcely note the difference, whereas, the Common Gulls, *Larus argentatus*, is two feet or more in length and some four feet and a half in stretch of wings. The Ring-bill is some eighteen or twenty inches in length and about four feet in extent. The latter has also very nearly the same distribution in Eastern North America as the former. When we have the bird in hand, we notice a strongly marked difference between the two species in respect to the feet. The bill of the *argentatus* is plain yellow with a red mark on the gonys that of the *delawarensis* is greenish yellow at the base, followed by a broad band of black encircling it at the gonys, while the tip is bright chrome. The feet of the former are a pale pink of flesh color those of the latter a dusky green. In habits in general, I think the two species are quite similar, except that *delawarensis* is more gregarious at its breeding places.

In Georgian Bay, some forty-four miles northeast of Collingwood, a little north of the route from thence to Parry Sound, are two groups of small islands called the Western Islands. Only one of them contains anything worthy to be called forest. Some of them are scarcely more than rocky shoals. None of them contain more than a few acres of land. Here breed the Common Gulls in considerable numbers, Wilson's Tern, some of the Ducks, and one of the islands the Ring-billed Gull in such abundance that in June 1881, when I visited the locality they could have been gathered by the barrel. The nests were placed on the ground or ledges of rock and on grassy plots, and were constructed of mosses

and loose debris in general, well heaped up and well depressed in the center. They were sometimes so close together that it must have been difficult for the birds to incubate without touching each other. The eggs commonly three, 2.07-2.50x1.63-1.70, are drab, generally, somewhat olivaceous, variously speckled, spotted and blotched with shades of dark brown and grayish brown. Often the markings are very large and few in number. There is much greater variety in the color, marking and size of the eggs than in those of the common Gull. The number of this species inhabiting this island was immense. At certain points along the shore, the water and the beach were white with them; and when they rose, they spread out like clouds overhead.

J. H. LANGILLE,
Kensington, Md.

P. S.—This article is the substance of a discussion before the Ornithologists' Association at Washington, D. C.

Oct. 6, 1891.

The Carolina Parrot.

(*Couurus carolinensis*.)

Having been for several years engaged in the special study of the great family of Parrots I have naturally given a great deal of attention to the one species which formerly inhabited the greater portion of Eastern North America or more properly speaking that portion of the United States lying east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes.

This Parakeet was, during the time of Audubon, found in immense numbers in all of the Southern States and as far north as Northern New York. In a recent number of the "Auk" (See Auk for October 1891) Mr. Hasbrouck has this to say regarding the former range of this bird to the north; "According to Barton, writing in 1790, a flock

of Paroquets appeared in January about twenty-five miles northwest of Albany, New York, causing great alarm among the simple Dutch folks who looked upon the advent of the birds as indicative of coming evil. Audubon also states (Birds of Am., Vol. IV, p. 309) that about 1807 they could be procured "as far northeast as Lake Ontario." This is presumably the most northern record for the species."

On November 1, 1889 Mr. F. M. Chapman read before a meeting of the Linnæan Society of New York, a paper entitled "Notes on the Carolina Paroquet in Florida." In this paper, compiled from personal observation, Mr. Chapman writes as follows: "Fifteen years ago, Paroquets were more or less generally distributed throughout Florida and in many cases were extremely abundant, and even at more recent date were not uncommon in numerous localities, but to-day they have entirely disappeared from the more settled portions of the state, and we may look for them only beyond the bounds of civilization, indeed in regions which are practically uninhabitable. In what numbers they still exist is impossible for us to say."

That they were once widely distributed and that they are now confined to a limited area is an undisputed fact. On account of their great fondness for fruit and consequent destructiveness may be attributed their early disappearance from our midst as records show that immense numbers were killed by the farmers and fruit growers of the southern states. Their destruction was comparatively easy on account of their habit of slaying in the immediate vicinity of a wounded comrade till all were destroyed. Then again immense numbers have been killed by plume hunters in southern Florida, so that one desiring to see this beautiful bird in its haunts must now visit Florida "Everglades." A few are found in southern

Louisiana and Alabama and in the Indian Territory.

Among a collection of skins of Paroquets, Lories, Macaws etc., in my cabinet of which I am justly proud I find only one skin of this bird. It came from the vicinity of Lake Okechobee and was collected in 1888. A description of this skin may be interesting to some of my readers so I will here give it. The colors are very striking: body green; head yellow; face red; bill horn-color (white in life); feet same as bill; wings variegated with blue and yellow. The measurements taken at the time the bird was killed and which accompany the skin are as follows: length 13.00; extent 21.00; wing 7.25; tail 7.00.

Of late much has been written concerning the breeding habits of this *Conure*, but about all that seems to be known is that it nests in Florida among the almost inaccessible swamps of that region, in colonies of several pairs, and that it is not particular in regard to its nesting site but selects impartially hollow trees and a knot on some large cypress or live oak on which to place its apology for a nest.

Cones in his "Key to N. A. Birds," says, "eggs whitish, 1.40x 1.05, elliptical shape, rough in texture."

Let us hope it will be many years before this, the most hardy of all paroquets and the only species found inhabiting the United States, will be exterminated. Before closing this short essay I would like to call your attention to W. T. Green's recent work on parrots entitled "Parrots in Captivity." In this work, (Vol., II, p. 84.) you will find quite an interesting article on the Carolina Paroquet, *Conurus carolinensis*.

THAD. SURBER,

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.
Nov. 10, 1891.

Bartram's Sandpiper.

(*Bartramia longicauda*.)

On June 19, 1890 a companion and myself were out after specimens on the prairie surrounding Boone, Iowa. My companion wanted a duck and after he had shot one we struck out in a northerly direction. We had poor success until we had started to return home finding nothing but Black-birds and Meadow Lark's nests.

We had just came out from a pond after searching for Rails' nests when suddenly a bird sprang up from under my feet and fluttered along the ground a short distance in front of us. My companion not being much of an Oologist shot her immediately for as he told me afterwards "he hated to see her suffer."

I was not paying attention to him at the time being busy looking for the nest and I soon found it.

It was placed in a slight unlined hollow and contained four eggs badly incubated. They were of a dirty buff color, thickly spotted near the large end with amber and yellowish brown. They average 1.83x1.26.

This bird is a favorite game bird in Iowa, large numbers of them being killed annually for the table.

Generally when they are feeding a solitary individual may be seen perched upon a neighboring fence post, after the manner of a Meadow Lark, probably acting as a sentinel.

A. FARMER.

The Horned Grebe.

(*Podiceps cornutus*.)

The Horned Grebe is an abundant resident in the marshes of the Detroit river, and St. Clair Flats. It breeds in considerable numbers below Fighting Island in the Detroit river. My

first experience with this bird was during the past spring. In company with J. C. Wood I took several sets of this bird. The usual number of eggs found was four, but one set of eight was taken. These were very badly incubated. The nests are simply masses of decayed flags and weeds placed upon some flats, and often floating. The eggs are always covered with a mass of decayed weeds except in one instance. The eggs measure about 1.65x1.15, but vary a good deal in size. They are bluish white in color, but so coated and stained by the decaying vegetation that they look like dirty white. This however will wash off. The Grebes are said to incubate their eggs at night, and let the sun take their place during daytime. One thing is certain, that it is very seldom one can catch a Grebe on her nest. They have a peculiar habit of sinking suddenly under water without leaving hardly a ripple to indicate where they have gone.

B. H. SWALES,
Detroit, Mich.

World's Fair Notes.

The native flora of each State and Territory will be shown at the Exposition, under the direction of Chief Thorpe, who has enlisted the Lady Managers to undertake the collection of specimens.

All Indian exhibits at the World's Fair will be under the direction of the Government or of Chief Putnam, of the Department of Ethnology. The ways and means Committee has decided that it will consider no applications by private individuals for an Indian exhibit.

Some rare old curios in the way of saddles and ancient harness will probably be seen at the World's Fair. The National Association of Saddlers has decided to raise \$35,000 for an exhibit of their trade at the Fair. This will be expended, largely for ancient saddlery and harness which will be procured through special collectors.

Aquatic fowls of all climes will probably swim through the lagoons of Jackson Park during the period of the Fair. Landscape Architects F. L. Olmsted & Co., recommend the purchase of a great variety of water fowls. The list includes widgeons, sea gulls, swans, brown pelicans, storks, sand-hill cranes, American wild geese, blue geese, toulouses, flamingoes, snowy egrets, and scarlet ibis. The purchase of at least ten of each species of the birds as enumerated was recommended.

Prof. Dyche, of the Kansas University, one of the finest taxidermists in America, is preparing a notable exhibit consisting of about 150 of the largest mammals in the United States, including buffalo, elk, moose, antelope, deer, mountain sheep and goats, wild cats, wolves, bear, etc., etc. The different species of each are represented and almost all of the animals have already been secured.

The party which, under the direction of Chief Putnam of the department of Ethnology, of the Exposition, has been making excavations of the mounds in Ohio for three months or more, met with rare success on November 14th near Chillicothe, in making one of the richest finds of the century in the way of prehistoric remains. While at work on a mound 500 feet long, 200 feet wide and 28 feet high, the excavators found near the center of the mound, at a depth of 14 feet, the massive skeleton of a man incased in copper armor. The head was covered by an oval-shaped copper cap; the jaws had copper moldings; the arms were dressed in copper, while copper plates covered the chest and stomach, and on each side of the head, on protruding sticks, were wooden antlers ornamented with copper. The mouth was stuffed with genuine pearls of immense size, but much decayed. Around the neck was a necklace of bears' teeth, set with pearls. At the side of this skeleton was a female skeleton, the two being supposed to be those of man and wife. It is estimated that the bodies were buried fully 600 years ago. The excavators believe they have at last found the king of the mound builders.

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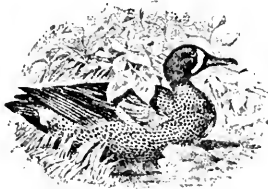
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Mr. Chamberlain was for several years Associate Editor of "The Auk," and is now the editor of "The Ornithological Club," the leading amateur club of America. He is also a member of the "Comité International Ornithologique" of Vienna. He has already contributed to ornithological literature "A Catalogue of the Birds of New Brunswick," "A Catalogue of Canadian Birds," "A Systematic Table of Canadian Birds," a translation with notes of Hagerup's monograph on Greenland birds, and numerous articles published in "Forest and Stream," "Ornithologist and Oölogist," "Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist," "Science," etc.

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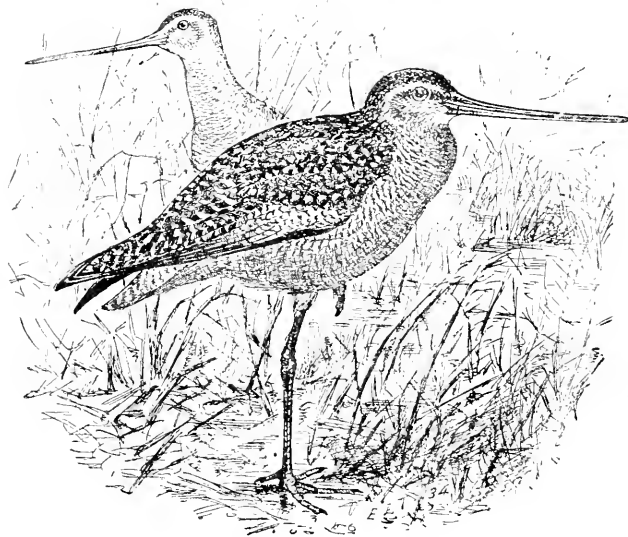
DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS.

CHAR. Male in summer: black; back of head and hind-neck buff; scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts ashy white. Male in winter, female, and young: above, yellowish brown, beneath paler, more buffy; light stripe on crown. Length $6\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Nest. In a meadow; made of dried grass.

Eggs. 4-6; white with green or buff tint, irregularly marked with lilac and brown; 0.85×0.60 .

The whole continent of America, from Labrador to Mexico, and the Great Antilles, are the occasional residence of this truly migratory species. About the middle of March or beginning of April the cheerful Bobolink makes his appearance in the southern extremity of the United States, becoming gradually arrayed in his nuptial livery, and accompanied by troops of his companions, who often precede the arrival of their more tardy



MARbled GODWIT.

MARLIN.

LIMOSA FEDOA.

CHAR. Prevailing color dull rufous varied with black; rump and tail barred; bill pinkish; legs and feet black. Length 17 to 20 inches.

Nest. Near a stream or lake, — a slight depression sparingly lined with grass.

Eggs. 3-4; pale buff or olive, marked with brown and lavender; 2.25×1.60 .

The Marbled Godwit is only a transient visitor along the sea-coasts of the United States in the spring and fall on its way to and from its breeding-place in the North. According to Richardson, it abounds in the summer season in the interior of the fur countries, being particularly plentiful on the Saskatchewan plains, where it frequents marshes and bogs, walking on the surface of the swamp-moss (*Sphagna*), and thrusting down its bill to the nostrils in quest of worms and leeches, which it discovers by the sensitive point of its bill, thus finding means to

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