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THE OÖLOGIST,
FOR THE STUDENT OF
BIRDS, THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

VOLUME XX,

ALBION, N. Y.
FRANK H. LATTIN, M. D., PUBLISHER,
1907.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERM.Y.

VOL. XX. NO. 1. ALBION, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1903. WHOLE NO. 196

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Terms, cash with order. Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-third list rates.

What's Your Number?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's OÖLOGIST. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

No. 196 your subscription expires with this issue
200 " " " " Mar., 1904
205 " " " " Aug. "
207 " " " " Oct. "
210 " " " " Jan., 1905
300 " " " " Jan., 1909

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

IMPORTANT. This Nov. OÖLOGIST was issued Dec. 1.

"Bound Volumes of the Horticulturalist and other books to exchange for Postage Stamps. E. & W. C. BAGG, 424 Genesee St Utica N. Y.

FANCY Pigeons and pet stock for sale or exchange for A 1 sets or Indi n relics in good condition. ALMON E. KIBBE, Mayville, N. Y. 197.

WANTED.—Sets of eggs containing abnormal specimens, such as runts, albinos, monstrosities, abnormally colored or shaped eggs. Will give cash or good exchange. J. WARREN JACOBS, Waynesburg, Pa. 101

WANTED.—Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, Vols. I, II and III. Will give cash or good exchange. The Bulletin, 131 Elmwood Ave., Detroit, Mich.

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TO EXCHANGE.—50 numbers "Museum," 50 "Oologist" 75 "Recreation," 50 "Wide World," 15 "Osprey," and many others, for Birds or mammals, in flesh or skins. GEO. (F. GUELF, Brockport, N. Y.

WANTED.—A few sets of Water thrush, Prothonotary, Parula, Prairie and Chestnut sided Warblers. Those having same send for my list. E. A. DOOLITTLE Painesville, Ohio. Box 34

WANTED.—Position as keeper of menagerie or curator of natural history museum, by the rough naturalist and animal man, Past season with Robinson's show. W. H. SPEAK, Peru, Ind.

EGGS, SHELLS, BUTTERFLIES, BOOKS AND PERIODICALS TO EXCHANGE.—Send your lists of what you have and desire in return, and receive my lists. JEROME TROMBLEY, Box 54 Petersburg Mich.

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Will exchange a copy of Davies' Nests and Eggs latest edition for six dollars worth of common eggs listing ten cents or under if sent pre-paid. CHAS. K. REED, Worcester, Mass.

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BIRDS EGGS, sets only, will take in payment for books, subscription, tools, supplies etc. Send lists, state wants, can supply any want for field or study. BENJAMIN HOAG, Stephentown, New York.

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FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Some rare sets single eggs from the Arctic Coast of North America including such species as Snowy Owl, Snowflake, Smith's Longspur, Brent Goose, Whistling Swan, Sabine's Gull, Point Barrow Gull, White Rumped Sandpiper, Pacific Kittiwake, Red and Northern Phalarope, Pacific Elder, Long Tailed Jager, Snow Goose and other varieties. W. RAINE, Kew Beach, Toronto, Canada.

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WANTED—41 Cal. Shot gun, second hand. T. I. PLACE Milton, Wis

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XX. NO. 1. ALBION, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1903. WHOLE No. 196

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMISTRY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Editor and Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

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

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I admit that it is a far cry from

Death Valley to the sunn blessed slopes of the Orange county hills, and possibly not less from the noble hawks and owls of which I have been lately writing, to the lowly towhees, but I am one of those, who believe that in the all-embracing plan of an omniscient Creator, there is no bird, no animal, no plant, too infinitesimal to have a place, aye, more, to be necessary to the welfare of the universe. To me, the least is as interesting as the greatest. just as the poorest of my fellow men is of as much interest as the weakest. For this reason I am bothering ye editor with what little I know of the home life of so common a fellow as *Pipilo*.

First all, the towhee is a worker; from morning till night, year in, year out, with a nestful of young, or with no one to feed but himself, he is on the scratch. Dull of coat and rather inconspicuous save during the breeding season. Anthony's Towhee does not appear so plentiful as it really is. In fact, I doubt if even the pestiferous linnets are any more abundant in the hills near my home than the towhees. In the winter—if we may call the interval from November to April winter—many of these birds migrate from the brush covered hills to the orchards and sheltered farms of the mesas and lowlands. Here they come fearlessly about the houses, not begging, as do many of the birds, but industriously helping themselves to whatever of edible lies nearest their beaks. This fall movement begins some time in the latter part of September and is quite general, though it does not by any means embrace all the brown towhees

which have reared young or been hatched on the hillsides during the previous spring and summer. It seems rather a sort of universal spreading out, probably caused by the falling off of their food supply with which the ripening seeds of the summer and autumn kept the gray earth of the higher slopes well covered.

But in early spring, they return again to their nesting grounds. A few remain along the sandy "washes" of the valley, there to rear their young in cozy homes well built among the many forked branches of some huge sage bush. By far the greater part drift back and upward, however, to an altitude of from four hundred to four thousand feet. The breeding season ranges from the 15th of March to a like date in August, and two broods are often reared. I know of one pair which built successively five nests, the female laying five sets of eggs in one season, each set having been taken from her as soon as laid. These five sets were 1-4, 1-4, 1-3, 1-4, 1-3. She was permitted to hatch the last set, which she did, rearing three husky brown fellows therefrom.

The nest of this bird is one of the most peculiarly beautiful of all the Finch tribe, and even the last nest of the female mentioned above was a model of bird architecture. The outer nest is almost always made of rather coarse sage twigs closely interwoven among the branches of the shrub in which the home is to be placed. This is usually a sage or other low bush—the nest seldom being more than two or three feet from the ground. Next comes a rather thick cup of grass blades and very fine flexible twigs which is the real protection of the eggs and young birds. Inside this is a lining usually of hair of some kind and is soft and even as a loving pair of parent birds can make it. This background seems to be made with the special object of

best displaying the pale blue-green eggs, which are—as another writer has said—much like those of the different Red-winged Blackbirds, though it is comparatively easy for the observant collector to distinguish many small differences between the two.

In both the fall and spring movements of the Towhees noted above very few of the birds are seen. And yet I do not think that they migrate at night, but rather attribute their invisibility to the skulking habits of the birds and the prevalence of brush heaps and weed patches throughout Orange county. The birds do not make extended flights but merely move from one orchard or overgrown field to another, distances of seldom more than two or three hundred yards, thus progressing by slow stages to the mountains or upper mesas. Going back, the operation is repeated until their winter home in the lowlands is reached.

The Brown Towhees have always been of more interest to me than the Spurred species, probably because I have had more and better opportunities for the study of the former. I have found as high as five eggs in one set of Anthony's Towhee, but the usual run is four, while most of the first sets and all of the last are of only three eggs.

HARRY H. DUNN

Los Angeles, Cal.

November 14, 1902.

Bird Acrobats.

July 15, 1902. When out for a ramble I noticed a Bluebird practicing some athletic tricks, so I stopped to watch him. The Bluebird would fly high into the air, poise for a moment on the wing, then quickly descend to a branch. It practiced this several times when all of a sudden a Red-headed Woodpecker flew from a stump and tried the same thing. Although the Woodpecker was a great deal clumsier than the little Bluebird, his attempts were far from failures.

M. B. DENNY, Waubeek, Iowa.

If Not, Why So ?

And it was demonstrated that on either side of the fence there stood the two extremes, of somewhat conflicting views perhaps but reciprocating the profound respect that accompanies the comprehension of kindred endeavor to do what you undertake thoroughly and well, while upon the fence there posed the intermediate a self evident illustration of a well known saying "a something about a Jack of all trades with a mention of master of none."

NO IF JUST SO

Doubtless the reader of this valuable little paper are aware of the appearance in the July and August numbers, of an article entitled "If Not, Why So ?"—anyhow, the author is. If the resulting criticism has afforded the readers an interest and pleasure equal to the author's they should club together and make him a present. The originality of individual opinion is always interesting and while one class has been heard from it is to be regretted that the opera glass adherent has remained silent as it was hoped from him would originate some criticism of true value. In the author's mind the existing criticism is somewhat peculiar not attacking the facts laid down but developing a subject of extremists and assuming a "position of greatest advantage, the middle one, from which both sides of the matter can be viewed" with a superiority the so called extremist can never hope to attain as he possesses only the profound knowledge.

In the December number the only direct bearing upon the articles is in reference to the extremist, but where this is applicable to the author he fails to see. He is informed of falling into the ever present error of the extremist "there is no other side" while almost his first words are "Adherants of the opera glass are the warmest friends our birds have, not only awarding them the interest that is their due, but accomplishing it in a wholly harmless manner." Indication intimates a mis-

understanding by some of the author's aim. If Not, Why So ? was merely an endeavor to show that from a standpoint of knowledge the opera glass adherent is in no position to criticise the ornithologist.

A critic's first duty is to carefully read the matter under consideration. Mr. Bowdish was apparently displeased with the author's arbitrary tone and hurried to the end impatient to commence his criticism rather with a view to say something than form any real desire for further enlightenment. However, the author will take him at his word and comply with his request.

An Ornithologist is a person versed in the science of birds. A man may calculate the mean velocity of a stream or run a two degree curve by the deflection angles at the transit, and if his knowledge extends no further, bears the same relative position to a Civil Engineer that the opera glass adherent does to the Ornithologist.

Nothing debars the opera glass adherent from entering the mystic zone of advanced knowledge, but with the first step he commences to realize the value of material and in a broad sense has ceased to be an opera glass adherent.

As the author muses in the past he recalls much that could not have been obtained by him from some less destructive source. He recollects "a greater or less number of bird's skins made and of the eggs collected." Of the latter only a small percentage were broken and of the former not a single one has been destroyed to his knowledge. Commencing in 1886 he has kept a careful record of every nest found containing eggs or young and of every bird taken. Glancing through the pages he finds a great many interesting facts and notes the taking of some birds considered very rare in his state, and not before or since secured in his locality, and he contemplates with considerable satisfaction the showing

that fully 90 per cent of the birds shot were preserved and used.

In view of the fact that the critic declares himself "far from defending" what he is pleased to term the "extremist shot gun student" his next illustration is a puzzel. Referring to a vireo shot by himself he mentions it as "one of a lot collected for the National Museum." No mention is made of the number comprising this lot but of course it is within the bounds from which the extermist is excluded. It makes the author scratch his ear and wonder.

As the author continues to muse in the past he recalls reading the writings of Mrs Miller with pleasure and profit, and does not hesitate to pronounce her work exceptionally well done between the narrow lines she persues. As he continues to muse he remembers her attending a little gathering of bird students here some two or three years back, and of absolutely refusing to step into an adjacent room and look over a collection of eggs because she did not believe in the taking of them and she claimed to know nothing of eggs beyond those inhabiting the nests she had inspected in the field. That she could have absorbed a little more knowledge without serious injury was the opinion of a few present.

The next step is to accuse the author of gathering into his protecting fold pot and plume hunters, sportsmen and women with birds on their hats, while his intention was merely to use them on the ground of varying opinion and he attributes the misunderstanding to careless perusal. Then, after plainly illustrating that the sportsman is practically the people and a power adjusting the law that he may shoot those birds he wishes and protect those he does not care to shoot, if they please him with beauty or song, regardless of the ornithologist or any other class, the author is informed of having overlooked the point

"that when the pleasure seeking of one comes in clash with that of several, the minority must give way to the majority."

As "to what extent the end will justify the means in matter of ornithological collecting" per the dictation of "an honest conscience" Mr. Bowdish is in a better position to judge than the author, as the latter has never collected for a public institution and never aspired beyond the few necessary for study.

And now if the critic will take the slight tendency to "rub it in" with as much good will and amusement as the author took his, there certainly will exist no feeling of resentment.

In conclusion the author would like to say a few words regarding the woman whose "head-gear proclaims her tender heart" and this can not be done to better advantage than by taking up the opera glass adherants point of view.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

A Nesting Day in Idaho.

A zephyr soft as bloom on maiden's cheek sweeps up from the south land and with gentle finger unlocks the icy grip of old King Winter from lake and wood and fell. The ice turns grey under the softening spell, then breaks up, and like some ocean derelict drifts away in immense flotillas down the river. All day and all night is heard the cry of north-bound water fowl and in the early morning the cheerful staccatto of our friend the robin on the fir tree near the door step drifts into our dreams and the querulous challenge of the jay serves to inform us that spring, with all its manifold possibilities for the oologist, is here.

There is no place more dear to the Nature lover within my ken than North Idaho and especially that part of it bordering upon beautiful Lake Pend'd Oreille. The glimmering waters stretch away sixty miles to the north like a

jeweled ear pendent that resemblance which gave it the name. Thousands of little bays, rush-bordered and still, afford sanctuary for the myriad water, and other fowl that nest here.

A gasoline launch, a row boat, hip boots and industry are absolute necessities to the nest hunting enthusiast in these waters.

But given these and a fair knowledge of the nesting habits of the various feathered citizens, you may collect until visions of despoiled birds rise up and haunt you in your dreams.

I will suppose you with me on a trip that fell to my good fortune last spring.

Just as the sun rose over the eastern mountain tops and made the lake one sheen of burnished silver, we got the "Lady of the Lake" under weigh and sped out across the lake to yon distant point which mark the entrance to a beautiful little cove that rejoices in the rather unpoetical name "Bottle Bay".

Across the mouth hangs a heavy fog as if to guard the feathered inmates beyond from the vandal hand of man.

Just as we near the promontory that is the nearer sentinel the fog is rolled up and swept away as though some Titanic scene shifter had pulled it up with invisible ropes, disclosing to our view a scene of great beauty and grandeur. The bay is about two miles in length, cut into the eternal hills that rise fir crowned and vast a thousand feet on either side

Perfectly calm it reflects the hills and rocks as a mighty mirror, forming a scene of indescribable grandeur and beauty, a picture for an artist to limn upon canvass, but none but a master hand should desecrate a scene so beautiful. But this is not birds.

As we round the point we make out just ahead two birds swimming, that remind one strangely of iron-clad monitors so low do they sit in the water. Your glass is brought to bear and the birds both disappear to emerge from

the water several hundred yards further in shore. This time you have plenty of time to inspect them and the pointed bill and feather markings say "Western Grebe". We run in as close as possible and moor the "Lady getting out the row boat for a push among the rushes that skirt the shore.

We startle thousands of Red-wing Blackbirds and Long-billed Marsh Wrens that circle above us with their startled cries.

Hold? Back water. There is something right under our bow that looks like a mass of dried grass and tules but to the trained eye looks suspiciously like a nest, though if so, it is cunningly covered up. Pushing alongside it and lifting off the top layer we find concealed three eggs, that were they not stained with the rotting vegetation would be blueish green but the staining renders them a dirty yellow. So we have made a good beginning.

In fact, we have begun at the start.

This is the nest of No., 1. of the A. O. U. check list, the Western Grebe that we saw back yonder at the entrance of Bay and no doubt the nest of that identical pair of birds. The nest is floating upon the surface of the water moored to the growing tules and composed of such masses of the rotting weeds as the birds could collect around the immediate spot. It looks very much as if it had merely drifted together but there is a certain form and compactness about it that shows to the trained eye that it is not altogether the work of the elements. Securing the eggs we push on toward the shore.

The water is now only a few feet deep and is overgrown with the pads of the pond lily. What bird is that who with outstretched wings and neck is running with the speed of a horse over the very water it seems? A charge of shot from the collecting gun brings him down and we are at leisure to examine him more closely. The upturned bill,

the half webbed feet, the white upon back and wings tell us the story.

This is the American Avocet, a rather rare bird with us, but quite common in Montana, Wyoming and Utah.

As we land his mate flies up and another charge of fine shot lays her beside her mate, mute witnesses to man's rapacity. The nest cannot be far from the place where she rose. It is not hard to locate, being a mere depression in the sand lined with a few wisps of dried grass and leaves, containing four olive-buff eggs plentifully spotted with chocolate brown uniform with all the waders, and like them, pointing inwards.

In size about 1.80 x 1.35. They too, go into the capacious maw of the collecting case. A whistle of wings overhead causes us to look up in time to see a pair of Mallards alight on the water and swim gracefully away. For of all our water birds the Mallard is the most graceful. In this country the Mallard nests among the rocks some distance from the shore of the lake or pond and we must look for this one in yonder cliff of rocks in the direction from whence they came. An hour of search fails to reveal the coveted nesting place of Mrs. Anas and we give up the quest and recline under the shade of a great pine to rest. We are hidden from a view of the lake by the body of the tree.

In a short time the duck alights not sixty feet from our resting place and with a preliminary look around waddles serenely upon her nest.

In vain have we walked around that very spot, but the nest is cunningly secreted among the rocks and the tall grass that grows between them.

Cautiously we approach. Even then so nearly does her soft brown back blend with the surroundings that we all most tread upon her before she gives a startled quack and takes wing.

There are 9 olive green eggs within a mere depression among the rocks lined with grass and down from the

mother's breast. All is fish that comes to our net, and while they are not very valuable let us look up the nests of the Red-wings that are continually circling above us making the air vocal with their "*king quer ree*" and flashing their scarlet epaulets as they whirl above us. In this country they build upon the rushes above the water and in the thorn and alder thickets that skirt the edge of the lake. So with wading boots pulled up high we wade out some feet from shore and are in a veritable city of blackbirds. Nests and nests everywhere; some completed, some nearly ready to hatch and a few containing only one or more eggs.

The nests are compactly made of dried grass and small sticks lined with moss and hair, fastened securely to the tule. We select a few complete sets of the eggs which are the most typically marked, light blue or slate colored with clouded markings of dark purple or black. Well, here is another nest round as a ball and of about the same size, fastened to a single tule stalk, where it sways with every passing breeze, an air-swung cradle for the babies within. What bird is this, sayest thou? In sooth no bird at all.

A pair of bright eyes and a funny little whiskered nose are pushed out of the diminutive hole in the side of the nest, they are peering and sniffing with evident alarm. Upon our near approach the little occupant tumbles into the water and swims away as rapidly as four tiny feet can carry her.

This is the home of the kangaroo mouse of the Northwest and we will investigate her domicile.

Gently enlarging the doorway we find the cavity neatly and warmly lined with hair and feathers and reposing on this downy couch five little creatures that seem all eyes and head, except a mine of pink body that is entirely guiltless of any covering. Innocent little creatures and as they cannot be

blown and added to our egg cabinet we replace the stalk and leave them to the tender care of the tiny mother.

While busy with the mouse and her progeny my eyes have been upon you tall cottonwood by the shore and just now I saw a bird alight upon one of the higher branches and disappear.

It is a good thing that we threw those climbing irons in the boat for here is something that requires their use.

Forty feet to the lowest limb then twenty more to a small hole in the body of the tree. When almost up there a head peers out of the hole and is turned down to reconnoitre. Satisfied with the investigation the occupant pitches out and is away. "Wood Duck," you say, and you are right. The only wonder is that so large a bird can enter so small a hole. But she did for you saw her come out, and to my mind you saw the handsomest of our water fowls.

The iridescence of the wood duck's plumage is more beautiful than that of any other bird that visits these latitudes.

A few blows of the hand ax and the opening is large enough for you to see the bottom. It is about four feet deep and lined with grass and down.

There are eight buff colored eggs.

It is with very few qualms of conscience that we appropriate her treasures for we are sure that she will come back and immediately proceed to replenish them. Let us hope that no other vandal collector will discover her and that we may have the pleasure some day of seeing her transfer her progeny to their natural element, one at a time in her bill.

Hunger waits for no man. Likewise time is not much of a procrastinator and both have been busy while we were, and now the sun that was lately just gilding the mountain tops is far beyond the zenith and hunger is gnawing at the citidel of man's existence, admonishing us that at that big hotel off yonder across the lake is the wherewith

to quit this craving. Loading in our treasures of the day we are soon landed in town and appeasing the appetite that effort and outdoor life gives.

CHAS. S. MOODY, M. D.

Wilson's Phalarope.

With a plumage and a character all its own, and a domain fairly exclusive, among the marsh denizens, the Wilson's Phalarope fills a delightful place, in the heart of the bird student, among our western prairie marshes. Strictly speaking, the dainty bird we are studying is neither fish, flesh, nor fowl. He is too small for a duck; too brightly-colored for a mere sand-peep; and too odd in his domestic habits to be classed with any other bird of our North American *ornis*.

He arrives about the second week in May, as a rule, in the northern states; thronging, at times, the marshes and the wet timothy fields. He is quite as much of a swimmer as of a wader; and no more exquisite sight could kindle the enthusiasm of the student, afield, than the sight of a wisp of these trim waders floating, with absolute buoyancy in and amid the foam and flotsam of the margin of some marshy lake; picking up, with consummate grace, the particles of food cast up by the waves.

For some three weeks after their arrival, these birds gladden landscape and water-scape, in care-free abandon. They are ever on the move, afoot or a-wing; and during these three weeks of junketing, the unique courtship is carried on. There is no more laughable sight, to one endowed with a modicum of the sense of humor, than that of a couple, or even three, of the brightly-colored females, ardently chasing a single somber-plumaged male, who turns and darts, here and there, in arrowy flights, apparently much bored by the whole performance. Meanwhile, the sometimes-dangling feet and the ever tremulous wings of

the amorous females bespeaks an ardor that would be ridiculous, under the circumstances; were it not so desperately in earnest.

By June first, the nests are ready to receive the eggs; the sets, in many cases, being complete by the fifth of the month, along the northern border of the States.* The sites vary little. Sometimes a nest will be found built up over a half-inch of water; but, as a rule, the base of the nest will be fairly dry. The site is usually amid the standing green grass, not quite knee-high. Some attempt is generally made at canoping; the green blades, in all their stubborn straightness, being drawn together at the top with marvellous skill and patience. In the main, the nest, itself, is quite as fragile as the ground nests of such birds are wont to be; just a handful of dead grass. But the arrangement, and the general effect of nest and site is quite in keeping with the bird's daintiness. And the eggs furnish the finishing touch. Their greys and drabs, in varying tints, and the rich, variant markings of umber or of purplish sepia form, with the nest and the site, a really marvellous example of harmony and of color protection.

After the eggs have been laid, the birds, both male and female, show much solicitude; should any intruder venture within half a-mile of the nest, with evident concern, they welcome the coming, and speed the going guest. As he meanders, hawk like, over the meadows, all legs and eyes, the Phalaropes flit and soar, above his head, with the airiest of undulating flight-movements, repeating, incessantly, a soft, tender, entreating, ventriloquial little "quack"; an exact miniature of the female mallard's soliloquy.† Wherever the collector goes, the Phalaropes

go with him, circling, fearlessly, but a few feet above his head. Artless little deceivers, these; for the collector who has never been initiated into this sort of espionage is ever expecting to find something of interest when Phalaropes dance attendance; but he is mainly disappointed. With growing experience, it begins to occur to him that if he is surrounded, half-hours at a time, by three or four pairs of Phalaropes, the prospect of flushing any one of the four, six or eight, from the cunningly hidden eggs is, to say the least, by no means great.

It is only, then, when the searcher turns from the Phalaropes, in disgust and sets his interest upon the quest of bobolinks and bitterns that the unexpected happens. For suddenly then, either from just before his very feet or from a scarcely findable point at from twenty to thirty feet away, the seedy little male Phalarope starts, wings fluttering, legs dangling and with the tiniest, most plaintive vocal protest breathing, sometimes, from the anxious, fussy little body. Then the searcher is fortunate, indeed, if he be keen-eyed and heedful footed. He carefully lays bare every hollow of the ground; and brushes aside every spear of grass. He traverses every square foot of ground, within a likely distance. Just as he reaches the despair point, as he has so often done before, the hidden treasure slowly emerges upon his gaze. He feasts his eyes a moment, turns away again to see what that hysterical male is doing; and then repeats the whole search performance for the benefit of the marsh dwellers. Yet it is worth while. But one conceivable thing is daintier, more delicate than the nest and eggs of a Wilson's Phalarope; and that is the soft, grey-bodied, elusive chicks, that are to emerge from the eggs in due time; whom the parents will attend and defend with all their wildly excited and wheedling arts; but whom not one mortal out of a hundred ardent and tireless searchers will ever see, in all their wierd, flitting beauty.

P. B. PEABODY.

* Iowa records are considerably earlier.

† The head tips upward with each repetition of the note.

POPULAR SCIENCE MONTHLY.

The contents of the December No. include the following articles.
Recent Theories in regard to the Determination of Sex. Prof. T. H. Morgan.
The Academy of Science of St. Louis. Prof. William Trelease.
The Tetrahedral Kites of Dr. Graham Bell. Gilbert H. Grosvenor.
Hertzian Wave Wireless Telegraphy. Dr. J. A. Fleming.
The Salmon and Salmon Streams of Alaska. President David Starr Jordan.
The Storm Center in the Balkans. Dr. Allan McLaughlin.
The Growth of Rural Population. Frank T. Carlton.
Rear Admiral Melville, U. S. N., and Applied Science in the Construction of the New Fleet. The late Professor R. H. Thurston.

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☞ The Popular Science Monthly will be sent for six months for one dollar to new subscribers mentioning The Oologist

INDEX FOR VOL. XIX

Will be printed in December OOLOGIST. January issue of the OOLOGIST will be No. 1, Vol. XXI. Whole No. 198; November and December issues complete and comprise Vol. XX. The "Whole No of the OOLOGIST as always printed on first page, and by which subscriptions are credited, always runs consecutively, hence any confusion in volume or Vol. No., can be quickly untangled by referring to the whole No.

The issue for December, 1902, was Vol XIX whole No 195; for November and December, 1903 is Vol XX, Nos. 1 and 2, whole Nos. 196, 197; and for January, 1903, will be as stated at the beginning of the paragraph.

Many complaints have been received from subscribers not receiving certain 1902 issues. Subscribers lacking copies of any issue for filing purposes can get new copies at 2 cents each. Gratis if never received.

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" 3 " " " "	\$1.05.
" 2 Audubon's Caracara, 80c.	
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" 3 White Ibis, 35c.	
" 4 " " " "	45c.
" 3 Forster's Tern, 12c.	
" 2 Western Gull, 25c.	
" 5 Bobolink, 45c.	
" 5 and Nest of the Blue-Gray Guat-catcher. Their nest is a marvel of bird architecture and the eggs are beauties. .60	

For sale by **ERNEST H. SHORT,**
Rochester, N. Y.

Mounted Birds.

Horned Grebe.....	\$ 1 00
Merganser.....	1 00
Ruffed Grouse.....	1 00
Hooded Merganser.....	1 00
Screech Owl.....	1 00
Pintail Duck.....	1 00
Golden-Eye (pair).....	2 00
Elder Duck.....	3 00
Herring Gull.....	1 00
Mallard Duck.....	1 00
Pine Grosbeak.....	75
Wilson Snipe, (pair).....	1 25
Killdeer.....	75
Mountain Partridge.....	1 00
Snow Bunting.....	50
White-winged Cross-bill.....	1 00
Bobolink.....	50
Indigo Bunting.....	50
Long-Eared Owl. 1	50
Blue Jay.....	75
Scarlet Tanager.....	75
Flicker.....	75
Belted Kingfisher.....	75
Bluebird.....	50
Halcy Woodpecker.....	50
Squirrel, (grey).....	1 25
Sparrow Hawk.....	75
Meadow Lark.....	75

BIRD SKINS.

Mourning Warbler..30c	Cerulean Warbler..30c
Cape May Warbler..50c	American Jowee.. 15c
Scarlet Tanager.....15c	Hooded Warbler.. 20c

BIRDS EGGS.

Mourning Warbler, (set of three).....	\$3 00
Hooded Warbler " ".....	37
Cheaper Eggs for exchange.	

JOHN RITENBURGH, Taxidermist,
P. O. Box 103, **GAINES, N. Y.**

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Outing, Recreation, Country Life in America and Success.....	4.75
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Chapman's Handwork and Davies' Nests and Eggs.....	3.75
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Davies' Taxidermy.....	2.50
Davies' Nests and Eggs.....	1.50
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Cosmopolitan Magazine and Twentieth Century Home.....	1.25
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All books are sent prepaid. I am booking orders for Cone's New Key, send it prepaid and a copy of Bailey's or Chapman's Handbook for \$12.00.

It will pay you to get my quotations before you buy a single book or subscribe for any Newspaper or Magazine.

IMPORTANT. Every notice and advertisement printed in this Oologist is fresh and up-to-date, and was received during the last week of November. All old advertising material was returned on November 20th, accompanied with the following letter:

In running over the correspondence of the Oologist for the past year, I find the attached notice for the Oologist has never been printed. The November issue will be printed not later than November 30th, and December issue December 15.

If you wish this notice, or one in its place printed, please return at earliest convenience.

THE OOLOGIST for 5 years for only \$1. Until January 1, 1904, we will accept \$1 as full payment for the OOLOGIST for 5 years, (until Jan. 1, 1909) and Grant all such subscribers use of the OOLOGIST exchange columns in any or all issues at one-half regular rates.

"THE STUDENT OF OOLOGY"



Should by all means learn to skin birds and put them in their proper shape."—Oliver Davie. Every Oologist realizes the need of this knowledge.

Our school makes it possible for every Naturalist, sportsman and nature lover to preserve his specimens.

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taught by mail. Thoroughly reliable and competent instruction.

You can positively learn the art under our instruction. Save your trophies, decorate your den, save money. Our free exchange

bureau is just what Oologists have always needed. Readers we want to send you our literature, it's free. A special offer for 30 days only. Write to us for particulars.

THE NORTHWESTERN SCHOOL OF TAXIDERMISTRY.

41 1-2 BEE BUILDING,

OMAHA, NEB.

The only school of its kind in the world.

SOUTH AMERICAN RHEA.

We have received a few fine specimens of the Eggs. The regular price is \$3.00. We will send, delivery made by us, for \$2.35. Each egg having a correct data. This is the first time since we have been in business that we could offer these eggs at such a price.

We have a very few Cassowary Eggs. They are a beautiful pea green color. Price, net \$5.00, delivered.

FRANK B. WEBSTER CO.

Hyde Park,

Mass.

Sea Shells.

25 shells, each a different variety, by mail for 25 cents with engravings of each. Send stamps or coin. Have a big stock of White Oives (Panamas) for making portiers. Low price by the thousand. Shells for all kind of fancy work. Scolop shells 30 cents dozen by mail. Birds Eggs. Have a list side blown of Guilmat and Tern eggs from Japan, a pair by mail 45 cents. My big catalogue of novelties with first order.

J. F. POWELL,

Wankegan,

Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERM.Y.

VOL XX NO. 2. ALBION, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1903. WHOLE NO. 197

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-third list rates.

What's Your Number?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's OÖLOGIST. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

No. 197 your subscription expires with this issue

200	"	"	"	Mar. 1904
205	"	"	"	Aug. "
207	"	"	"	Oct. "
209	"	"	"	Dec. 1904
257	"	"	"	Dec 1904

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

IMPORTANT. This Dec. OÖLOGIST was issued Dec. 21.

RADIUM—See Nov. Oologist' L. V. CASE, Tarrytown, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE—Old U. S. Cents, war-tokens and scrip for Indian Relics. W. G. McLAIN, Edison, O

SETS and singles with data to sell or exchange. Have sets of 650 eggs that I will sell for \$12 50. SAM DICKENS, Austin, Texas.

FOR SALE. I have a collection of eggs for sale cheap for cash, address J. HAZELWOOD, 2603 Walnut St., Port Huron Mich.

WANTED.—Sets with nests of A. O. U. 654, 690, 675, 685, 686. In exchange can offer 629a, 656, 665, 722 J. H BOWLES, Tacoma Wash.

NOTICE. We have a lot of fine Resurrection Plants to exchange at 20c. each. Anything for the collector wanted. SAYLES BROS, Museum, Abilene Tex.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A large quantity of Natural History Specimens. Want books on Scientific subjects, also send your list of Indian Relics, minerals, etc. W. J. ENGLAND, Caro, Michigan.

FOR SALE—one half section, 320 acres, choice unimproved land in Assinibola, Canada. Where wheat yields 40 bus. per acre and other grain crops in proportion. Is the safest and best investment of the present time. Intending buyers write for description, price and terms to EDW. W. SPRINGER, Owatonna, Minnesota.

WANTED—Indian relics. Will pay moderate prices. E. A. LOCKE, Whitman, Mass

WANTED—Indian relics in exchange or for cash. S ROZYCKI, 3051 Q St. N W. Washington, D. C.

Literature relative to the Susquehanna River, wanted, cash. NEWMAN F. MCGIRR 310 S. Smedley St., Phila.

TO EXCHANGE.—American and Foreign birds' eggs and 1 skins for eggs. J CLAIRE WOOD, 179, 17th St. Detroit, Michigan.

Will exchange one fine cloth copy of "Fredrick Young," the naturalist, a story, for \$3 worth of A1 bird skins. Send list. CHAS. L. PHILLIPS, Taunton, Mass.

EXCHANGE.—Mounted specimens and skins for skins suitable for mounting, aquarium and supplies gold fish etc JOHN CLAYTON, Taxidermist, Lincoln, Me

BIRD BOOKS WANTED.—I want old files of bird magazines and old bird books. Will be glad to receive a list of any thing you may have. W. LEE CHAMBERS, Santa Monica, Cal.

WANTED.—Fresh skins of water fowl especially ducks, only mature males wanted. Address with lowest cash price. W. A MEAD, Carmel, N. Y.

WANTED—Ridgway's Nomenclature of Colors for cash or exchange. Must be in first class condition. Have fine sets of 127 and many others. All answered. C. S SHARP Escondido, Cal.

FOR SALE.—Many fine single eggs such as, 342, 343, 339, 332, 267, 687, 395, 375, 494, 80, 70, 289, 394, 474b, 378, 751, 755, 684 and many other, mostly with data. Send for list. Very cheap. RAY DENSMORE, Painsville, Ohio

Hawks.—Have several fine sets Red-shouldered Hawks, and many others. Want an A. I. egg of Ostrich, emu and other A. I. sets, send lists. WILLIAM I. COMSTOCK, Norwalk, Conn.

EXCHANGE—Autographes, minerals, curios, Natural History papers and books to exchange for minerals, gems, autographes, curios and Indian relics. F. O NELSON, 913 Hays St., Boise, Idaho.

FOR SALE—Pure Bred Poultry. Barred Plymouth Rocks Stock \$1.00 up. Eggs \$1.00 per 15. \$5.00 per 100. Prolific Layers. ARTHUR HARVICK, Vienna, Ill. 197

WANTED FOR CASH—Keyes and Williams Annotated Catalogue of Iowa birds, also odd numbers of the Iowa Ornithologist. J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Iowa. 197

FOR EXCHANGE—Flint and stone Indian Relics. Want any thing that will instruct or entertain. Suitable for a museum. ARTHUR HARVICK, Vienna, Ill. 197

MANY rare Sets to exchange for perfect sets, can use many Common Species. Have fine list of Arctic eggs. Will sell a few. J. W. PRESTON, Baxter, Iowa. 197

CHOICE sets to exchange for first class stamps from U. S. and possessions, also pre-cancelled stamps now in my collection. Will sell 100 var. pre-cancelled for \$1.50. Box 57 Unionville Ct. 197

EXCHANGE—I have U. S. and Foreign "Coins" U. S. and Confederate fractional currency, Confederate bonds, Colonial notes etc. for sale or exchange. What have you? KENNETH B. TURNER, 140 Huestis Street, Ithaca, N. Y.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Skins, Mounted birds eggs, sets and singles. Wanted birds, skins, and eggs in sets, send lists. All letters answered. JESSIE T. CRAVEN, 572 Hubbard Ave. Detroit, Mich.

Guide to Taxidermy 35 cents postpaid. Tell you how to mount birds, animals, and fish. Will exchange this book for \$1 worth of eggs that are listed for ten cents or less if sent postpaid. CHAS. K. REED, Worcester, Mass.

DOG COLLOR PLATES.—Lettered with name, address, number, and dog's name if desired. State width of collar. Heavy Brass, with rivets, 25 cts. Nickel silver, 50 cts. Postpaid to any address, SWAIN'S STAMP WORKS, Rochester, N. H.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Some fine sets collected by myself at Lake Winnepigosis, in Northern Manitoba during last June such as American Red breasted Merjausers, Ring billed gulls, Double Cushed Cormorants, Loon Holbells, Horned Grebes, Fox Sparrow, Phlaidapha Vireo, Red breasted Nuthatch, Northern Hairy Woodpecker, and others, with Photograph of most of these nests. Send for full list to W. RAINE, Kew Beach, Toronto, Canada.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Some rare sets single eggs from the Arctic Coast of North America including such species as Snowy Owl, Snowflake, Smith's Longspur, Brent Goose, Whistling Swan, Sabine's Gull, Point Barrow Gull, White Rumped Sandpiper, Pacific Kittiwake, Red and Northern Phalarope, Pacific Eider, Long Tailed Jaeger, Snow Goose and other varieties. W. RAINE, Kew Beach, Toronto, Canada.

WANTED IN EXCHANGE OR CASH IF CHEAP many sets of the following. Cedar Waxwing, Lener Scaup, Boldpathe Bartmans Sandpiper, Osprey.—6, 7, 12, 29, 58, 60, 63, 64, 65, 72, 74 to 80 92, 106, 112, 113, 131, 137, 139 140, 144, 149, 150, 160, 172, 182 to 191 197 to 201, 204 to 208, 214, 226 to 242, 244 to 266, 273 to 289b, 292 to 300c, 309 to 310c, 325 to 384, 387, 388, 390 to 433 448 to 455, 474a to 494, 501 to 509, 517 to 593, 595 to 612, Cedar Waxwing 619 to 697, 701 to 703, 713, to 768. Send full exchange list or your best cash prices. Can also use bird skins in exchange for eggs. D. WILBY 27 Front St. West, Toronto, Ont. Canada.

WANTED.—A few good pairs of steers horns. F. M. RICHARDS, Farmington, Maine.

WANTED—Indian arrowpoints, spearheads and other Indian relics. STEPHEN ROZYSKI, 3051 Q St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

I WANT to buy for cash or a good trade two or three sets Sharp Shinned Hawks eggs. R. P. SHARPLES, West Chester, Pa. 197

YOU should have the Summer Birds of Central Texas, only \$5.00 A. E. SCHUTZE, 1611 Sabine Street, Austin, Texas.

FOR EXCHANGE—Indian Snow Shoes and Mocassins. Spaulding 42 Inch, hardly used Take revolver, medical books or dictionary. E. P. CARLTON M. D. Keyeser, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Pre-historic copper relics, also extra large ancient stone spears and knives. REV. E. C. MITCHELL, 534 Summit Ave. St. Paul, Minn.

JAPANESE IVORY and wood carvings wanted. State lowest prices. Must come on approval. Ref. F. H. LATTIN. R. G. PAINE, National Museum, Washington, D. C.

WANTED—Every reader of this to send ten cents for a copy of our Bird Magazine and large illustrated catalogue with prices of all Birds Eggs. CHAS. K. REED, Worcester Mass.

WANTED—For cash, some of Audubon's original foil plates, suitable for framing. State subject, condition and price. J. O. DUNN 3930 Prairie Ave., Chicago.

MAMMALS! BIRDS! Parties desiring fine mammals or birds from this locality let me know your wants and I will collect to order in the meat or scientific skins. Address at once: HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON, Milton, Wis.

WANTED—Woodpecker eggs in original sets. All kinds Will give any thing in line of tools, supplies, books or any thing I advertise in exchange. Send list of what you have and your wants. JAMES P. BABBITT, Taunton, Mass.

WANTED.—Every dealer and collector to send me his address that I may send out Sample Sheets of my Standard Field Note and Data Blank Books, Endorsed by Advanced Collectors and dealers Recommended by Ornithological Clubs "All Answered" address GEO. W. MORSE, Ashley Ind. Box 220.

The Summer Birds of Central Texas is a recent publication briefly describing the birds, of that locality, their nests and eggs. It contains a vast amount of interesting reading matter and many beautiful half-tone illustrations of nests in the situation. A. E. SCHUTZE, 1611 Sabine Street, Austin, Texas.

RARE EGGS—I have just unpacked a case of rare eggs from the far North and find many single eggs which I will sell at very low prices such as Emperor Goose, Flaty back Gull, Black Brant, Speculated Eider, Am. Golden Plover, Snowy and Hawk Owl, etc. Also have choice sets of many rare kinds, such as Yellow bill Loon, Pacific Loon, Red legged Kittiwake, Pacific Kittiwake, Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-bellied Plover and many others. Altogether this is the finest lot of eggs ever brought down from the far North. If you want to fill up a few gaps in your collection, send for list of eggs from Alaska and Anderson River Region. JAMES P. BABBITT, Taunton, Mass.

I DESIRE, to buy or exchange Indian relics, birds and mammals skins, curios, colonial antiques, old firearms etc. No postals answered. STEPHEN VAN RENSSELAER Jr. West Orange, N. J.

HAVE A LOOK—6 sets of woods for sale cheap or exchange for other woods. Foreign and native, 141 kinds in a set. 3 dollars will buy 175 kinds of foreign and native woods, or will exchange for woods not in my collection. LOUIS W. HAHN. Lake avenue, Silver Creek, Chautauqua County, N. Y.

WANTED—Sets of Osprey, Red Shouldered and Red Tailed Hawks, Screech Owl, Red-eyed Vireo, Cedar Bird, Yellow and Black tailed Cuckoos, Californian Quail, Killdeer, Field Plover, Wilson's Plover, Bob white and others. I can offer in exchange Sea Birds' Eggs, Ducks, Plovers, etc. from the Arctic region. W. RAINE, Key Beach, Toronto, Canada

FOR SALE—Nice collection of about 300 California Bird Skins, most of them collected by one of the best known Ornithologists of the west: Nice skins of 372, 393d, 394a, 399, 403, 404, 405, 407 408, 411, 413, 418b, 468, 475, 481, 491, 517a, 518, 519, 521, 524, 533, 554, 557, 569a, 567d, 588a, 588b, 590, 607, 629a, 632, 643, 645a, 647a, 655, 656, 665, 668, 669, 680, 681a, 685a, 715, 741a, 742, 748a, 749, 754, 759c, 768 and many others. Positively identified. Also a few choice sets of eggs, including n-5 Calaveras Warbler. Send for lists, WM. L. ATKINSON, Santa Clara, Cal

Dr. LATTIN says "Frederick Young is all right. * * * I found it both interesting and instructive, doubly so to the traveler and naturalist." "Gold top: tinted illustrations; 40 pages; rich, dark green cloth binding, with sheet white enamel lettering, and a beautiful black and light green cover design by Frohn. A scientific novel liked by all. Superlative as a gift. Publishers price \$1.50. Sent postpaid, cloth \$1.10; paper 40 cts. CHARLES L. PHILIPS, Taunton, Mass.

WANTED—Nos. 2, 4, 5 and 6 of Nidologist; and any and all volumes of Auk; volume V and No. 8 vol. IV of Osprey. Can give in return, books relating to Entomology, Oology and Natural History. I have a few copies of Nehrling's Birds of N. A. colored plates at \$75 a copy. (Nos. 1, 2 and 6)

Also bulletins of the natural history of New York printed in 1840, relating to the plants, fish, fossils etc. Very valuable, to exchange for any of the above wants, or first class bird skins. A. E. SCHUTZE, 2306 Gaudalope, Austin, Texas.

FOR SALE.—11 1-2 .75; 12 3-1 .35; 21 1-1 \$2.30; 35 1-2 \$1.00; 40 1-3 .45; 44 1-3 \$4.00; 105 1-1 \$1.25; 115 1-2 \$1.35; 123a 1-3 \$1.80; 127 1-3 .85; 130 1-11 \$3.25; 132 1-7 .50; 133 1-10 2.30; 135 n-7 2.00; 137 n-11 \$3.00; 143 n-10 2.00; 149 n-9 2.50; 151 1-13 4.00; 154 1-7 1.30; 155 n-7 4.00; 165 1-8 6.00; 176 1-3 12.00; 185 1-2 2.75; 190 1-4 1.00; 201b 1-4 1.40; 223 1-4 1.25; 243 1-4 .50; 261 1-4 .45; 263 1-4 .20; 269 1-4 .20; 271 1-4 .60; 288 1-5 8.90; 289 1-17 .85; 297a 1 82.90; 300b 1-7 1.75; 302 1-10 2.30; 328 1-2 3.25; 337b 5-41 00; 337b 3-3 .60; 342 1-3 .50; 348 1-3 very fine, 2.25; 356 1-4 2.25; 359 1-4 8.00; 360a 2-5 .50; 362 2-3 .95; 364 1-3 7.75; 365 1-7 .90; 366 1-5 .85; 367 1-4 1.40; 368 1-2 .80; 451 1-2 .30; 450 1-3 1.00; 375d 2-3 1.50; 375d 1-4 2.50; 373 1-6 1.00; 375 1-3 1.00; 375d 2-3 1.50; 397 1-5 1.65; 407 1-6 1.20; 417 1-1.00; 419 1-2 2.00; 420b 1-2 .80; 451 1-2 .30; 450 1-3 1.00; 474 2-4 2.5, 1-6, 1-7, 1-8, @ 18c. egg; 567d 1-4 2.00; 617 1-5 .40; 641 n-5 3.55; 676 n-5 1.45; 685a n-4 1.45; 710a 2-3 2-4, @ 11c.; 721a 1-8 .45; 742b n-3 1.00; 753 n-4 1.50; 767 1-5 .25. Will also trade the above sets for shotgun, mounted birds, or Hungarian opais. Have about 400 sets to dispose of, all first class, and want only first class material in exchange. Orders over \$2.00 postpaid. CHAS S. THOMPSON, Paso Robles, Cal.

WOOD-DUCK—in pairs or quantities also Mallard, Teal, Pintail and other wild duck for sale. E. W. WARWICK, Flouing, N. Y.

WILL PAY CASH for eggs in 1st class sets if cheap 337, 330, 349, 352 405, for the above sets A. O. U. H. S. SOWERS, 1745 W. 12th St. Chicago Ill.

WANTED.—A doe deer head, horns and antlers unmounted, for cash write me what you have to offer. M. P. DENNY, Taxidermist, Mount Vernon, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—sets with data 263, 273, 331, 387, 488, 501, 622a, 627, 633, 743a. For sets not in my collection or for sea shells. A. W. PLUMB, Grand Blanc, Mich. R. F. D. No. 3.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Have five cabinet curiosities for antiques of all kinds, 1st class mounted birds and works on natural history. JOHN B. WHEELER, East Templeton, Mass.

WILL EXCHANGE—a good telescope that is almost as good as new, for the following: A. 1 sets with datas 475, 477, 461, 473, 365, 160, 127, 130, 69, or \$3.50 in cash. JOHN BOWMAN, Devils Lake, North Dakato.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Any of following books for birds' eggs. Maynard's Naturalist Guide, Sparrows and Finches of New England, Manual of North American Butterflies. T. PARKER, Neutonville, Mass.

FOREXCHANGE.—Magazines, Harpers, Century, Munsey's and many other. Government publications and hundred of books to exchange for others. Let me hear from you and I will sell if you have not got anything I can use. CHARLES CLICKENER, Silverwood, Indiana R. F. D. No. 1.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—Have Biltbdale Romance, Tanglewood tales, Cloth bound, Guide For Young Disciples, Pub. 1823, Meig's Woman and Her Diseases. Want Gov. Rpts. on explorations or offers. E. B. SHEEDLER, HopKinton, Iowa.

THE Birds of Maine, revised edition, to be out soon. If you want a copy send quick for information. J. MERTON SWAIN, Fairfield Me.

EX HANGE.—I have U. S. and Foreign Coins, U. S and Confed. fractional currency, Confed. bonds, Colonial notes etc. for sale or exchange. What have you? KENNETH B. TURNER, 140 Huestis St. Ithaca, N. Y.

WANTED.—Marine, fresh water and land shells, books and bulletens on shells, also back numbers of Birds and Nature. I have many desirable eggs in sets and Florida marine shells. CHARLES L. CASS, 523 Packard St. Ann Arbor, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—Mounted black and gray squirrel great horned and barred owl, grouse, blue heron, barns 5 kinds and osprey for snowy owl, pelican, guns or coins. GEO. F. HILER, Sebring, Pa.

WANTED.—at once, choice sets of Ruffed Grouse, Passenger Pigeon, American Sparrow Hawk, Bald Eagle, Short eared and Saw-whet Owls, Purple Finch, Arkansas Goldfinch, Lawrence's Goldfinch, Snowflake, Savannah Sparrow, Gambel's Sparrow, Tree Sparrow, Slate-colored Junco, Bell's Sparrow, Pine-wood Sparrow, Fox-colored Sparrow, Texan Cardinal, Blue Grosbeak, Layuli Bunting, Lark Bunting, etc. I can offer sets from this and other localities in exchange. Give me an idea what is wanted in return. EDW. W. SPRINGER, Owatonna, Minn. R. F. D. No. 4.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.--Indian Wampum white and black beads. Necklaces etc. from mounds and graves, old American and foreign copper and silver coins, Prehistoric Mortars and Pestels, Bows, Arrows, Points, Shell Necklaces and Shell Work Parulines, Cormorant and Ostrich eggs J. B LEWIS, 910 Washington St., Petaluma Sonoma

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If Not, Why So?

(Concluded)

Deep in nature's elysium realm there sits a lover of birds and glances about with enthu-

siasm and love and feels from the depth of his sympathetic heart that nature is most sweet and kind, her teachings most sure and good.—
The Opera Glass.

Far back as the Opera glass adherent can remember, he possessed a deep sincere fondness for the freedom of woodland life and even in the school days this sentiment was a strong protector to the liberty of many birds. As he took them from the nest with intentions of bringing them home, something seemed to whisper "Remember you are taking the joy out of their hearts for here they were born and here only can they be happy" and invariably they were very carefully and tenderly replaced and he left them feeling secretly pleased with himself that he was so good a friend to these helpless innocent little woodland people. This forbearance seemed to establish a closer companionship and give rise to a feeling of better right to go among them than most of his fellow men because he knew how they should be used and treated them accordingly. There was a proud belief that if all the people in the city were brought into the woods for them to select an individual from to share their wild happy life, every pair of tiny arms would instantly reach out to him as the one they cared most to honor. Their helplessness and total inability to defend home and loved ones against man, and their pathetic consciousness and humble acknowledgment of his might and furthermore their tenuous solicitation for permission to live unmolested, were ever gentle pleadings to his sense of right and mercy and reflecting upon these things he often became indignant with those who

thoughtlessly questioned their sacred right to existence. Pleasant were the days he shared in their company listening to their varied songs and studying their characteristics. Carefully he watched their love making and nest building and took a sort of parental interest in the growing broods. He saw them depart southward with a feeling akin to sadness but this was more than balanced by the pleasure of welcoming their return, besides the winter was a time for compiling his observations and reading the works of other bird lovers. What most appealed to his sympathy was the dangers that constantly threatened the lives of these birds. Lamentable was the havoc wrought by severe storms, reptiles, mammals and a few fierce members of their order but this was the natural course of things and his regrets were untarnished by indignation while on the other hand it appeared to him that man had no possible right to take bird life or make them captives and such proceedings seemed an unpardonable sin and wanton cruelty. The shot gun student and the sportsman rarely entered his field of observation but the head-gear of the feminine gender, profuse in bird skin decorations, was constantly before his eyes. While not inclined to interfere in behalf of those capable of defending themselves in the case of these birds, so much in need of human friends to awaken interest, sympathy and comparison in their favor, he unhesitatingly championed their cause upon every favorable opportunity and, be it said to woman's credit, not wholly in vain. As he contemplated the thousands, aye millions, of birds sacrificed to the caprice of silly fashion—the vast breeding grounds of herons and egrets entirely depopulated, the colonies of terns and multitudes of brilliant dressed and useful smaller birds obliterated from the face of the earth—he was apt to ex-

claim "Oh cruel, heartless, unfeeling woman they are the only wings you will ever wear" but a little reflection convinced him such an exclamation would be an injustice.

Women are the tender, affectionate, susceptible flowers of the human race, indispensable as angels to heaven. Loving, gentle, sympathetic and refined by nature and strong in their affections and warmly charitable in prosperity and of commendable fortitude and generous sacrifice under adversity and more lavishing of kindness friendship and love than man they indeed constitute the charm of his existence and before all the world is he to them most indebted, but in woman's constitution are many little weaknesses that should be overlooked or respected. Her little world is home and society and she is an unconscious slave to the cut of fashion, which has caused the death of so many innocent birds. It is not from indifference to cruelty and death that she wears bird skins upon her hat but because in the gay unthinking pleasure she inhabits, birds are only spoken of in relation to style and only thought of by reason of their beauty. She has never pictured the distress and pain that must follow the deprivation of young of their parents or a female of its mate. Could our lady friends see a flock of terns hovering over a fallen comrade reluctant to abandon it to its fate, so strong are the ties of friendship so compassionate are these birds, and see the millinery agent taking advantage of their sympathy and heroism to ruthlessly cut down bird after bird while on the stretch of sandy beaches, young wait and watch in vain and die a lingering miserable death; could they but see this he knew birds would come off their hats forever. The truth is not more than one in a thousand ever wonder where these birds come from, how they are procured or whether it is right to take so much life

for such a frivolous purpose and even a majority of the few no more than get into the right road of reasoning than they hastily turn to other subjects because there is an appeal to the conscience that develops a vague uneasiness and they wish to back out before it is too late because they instinctively become aware that the ultimatum would be an abandonment of bird decoration, a sacrifice they do not wish to make when other women will not and this is one of those little weaknesses.

As already mentioned, in the gay fashionable society world there is neither time or inclination to create and cultivate a taste for natural history and probably never will be. Women think no more of a bird for head dress ornamentation than so much merchandise while her tender heart will cause her to severely censure a "horrid" mau acquaintance who has been out and shot some "sweet little innocent dear darling birds" and so while he sincerely regretted the wholesale butchery he did not reproach the fair sex at all because he realized their ignorance in the matter and furthermore was forced to acknowledge that they would not wear birds at all if man did not procure them.

Should the above chance into the hands of lovely woman as voiced by a shot gun student it is not improbable that she would apply something like the following to your humble servant. "The pitch on that roof said the architect friend,
Is not enough by a foot or more
But the sun came out and the pitch on the roof,
Drooped on to his neck and the architect swore."

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

A Day Among the Duck on Myvatn, Iceland.

My brother and I arrived here in June 1900, journeying from Reykjavik,

with a large cavalcade of ponies, carrying our tents and baggage. The scene was grand in the extreme, the great lake stretching away in front of us, with its innumerable bays and islands, the lava covered ground, and reedy swamps, backed up by extinct craters and lofty snow clad peaks on all sides.

We push on till we reach Skutustadir, a church, few houses and farm buildings, here we intend staying a day or two, to explore the lake. Our host, a well known Iceland cleric, proves a pleasant companion and a keen student of Ornithology. We dine with him, some of the dishes taking considerable strength of mind to dispose of, even aided by quantities of sugar.

Next morning, a lovely day, we take a boat and row out to Mickla Island, a great Duck breeding ground. The water is as clear as crystal and we can see the gravel bottom at a great depth. Near the island quantities of Phalarope (*Phalaropus hyperboreus*) lovely little birds, with white throat and chestnut collar, are swimming round and round, with a quick forward motion, and on landing we find several of their neat, cup shaped nests, closely woven with dry grasses and well hidden among the rough herbage, most containing their full complement of four pyriform eggs, of a greenish buff well spotted and blotched with black. Pushing on we are set upon by a few pairs of Artic Terns (*Sterna arctica*) the only species occurring in Iceland, so there can be no confusion about their eggs, they are very excited and stoop repeatedly at our heads, striking with considerable force even through our caps. The eggs are usually two just laid in slight hollows and are very variable, I find one pale blue without marking and much elongated.

Ducks of all kinds are flying and swimming about in large numbers, so we set to work to look for their nests. On hunting a large lava rock a Duck

flies out and enters the water a few yards off. It is Barrows' Golde-eye (*Clangula islandica*). So far only two or three specimens of the *Golden-eye Clangula Glaucia* have turned up in Iceland, and we were not lucky enough to come across it. The nest was about three feet in, composed of a little dry grass, and plentifully lined with dirty whitish down, and contained nine blue green eggs rather stained from the birds feet. Later we find several others, one in a hole in a turf shed used for foddering cattle, in this same shed was the nest of a White Wag-tail (*Motacilla alba*) between two turfs, made of grass lined with pony hairs, in it are five whitish eggs thickly spotted with gray. as for Scaup (*Fuligula marila*) nests, their name is legion, lined with brownish down and containing five to ten drab eggs and placed in holes in lava, under overhanging banks, but commonly about a foot from the waters edge, in tufts of grass, or rushes, quite concealed and if there is any wind, many are washed away.

Several nests of the Wigcon (*Mareca penelope*) turn up in grass covered cracks in the ground, lined with fine dry grass and white centered down, containing eight or nine roundish cream colored eggs. In the same situation we flush one or two Long tails (*Harelda glacialis*) and several of the lovely ducks are swimming here and there, uttering their mournful cry. The nests are lined with soft brownish down in which are 8 or 9 greenish drab eggs, one contains a small yolkless example. Crossing a small grassy flat, a Redshank *Totanus caledris* flies off at our feet from her nest, well concealed in a thick tuft of grass, hollowed and lined with finer grass, the three eggs are buff colored, blotched with bluish gray and red brown, one is almost hatching the others added. Two or three Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergas serrator*) are disturbed from holes in rocks and banks, they strike at your hand very

hard with their sharp notched bills, so it is as well to insert it covered with your cap. We capture one as she flies out, the nest is composed of fine grass, lined with dirty gray down and the eggs seven to nine of a greenish drab.

In most of the muddy pools is a nest of the Slavonic Grebe (*Pediceps auritus*) simply a loose pile of weeds and mud, level with the water and floating among the reeds. The eggs are four or five greenish white when fresh, but are soon stained mud color, and some I have taken in iron water are a rich yellowish red, the bird looks very handsome with its chestnut breast and crest floating on the calm water. Several Common Scoters (*Oedemia nigra*) their dark plumage being unmistakable are disturbed among the low willow bushes, the nests of a little moss lined with dusky down, are found under the bushes and contain six or seven creamy eggs. Here two Pintails (*Anus Acuta*) are also flushed among the bushes, the nests well lined with dried leaves and faint white tipped down with seven and eight greenish buff eggs.

Now we leave this island, the search of which has occupied over three hours, but has proved well worth the trouble, to visit some of the small islands further out. I notice a pair of Gad wall's (*Anus strepera*) swimming about, the marbled plumage of the drake attracting my attention, they are very scarce in Iceland, but we find no nest, in spite of continued search.

Nearing a little willow covered isle, a goose flaps off and alights on the water at a considerable distance. Almost certainly the Gray Leg (*Anser cinereus*) the commonest of the genus here, the nest of grass and a few twigs is among the willow, there are four large rough white eggs but only a scrap or two of down, coming back, several Loons (*Colymbus glacialis*) are seen on the water, their black and white plumage showing up in the sunlight, one flies over carrying a large fish in its powerful bill. On a small rocky islet we are lucky enough to take a pair of the deep brown, black spotted eggs, the nest a slight mossy hollow, and further in I find a single egg, beautifully streaked with black. We reach Skutustadir again tired out after our long day, but I may give an account of, after days ere long.

J. G. GORDON,
Corsemalize, Whauphill,
Wigtownshire, Scotland.



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