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**THE OOLOGIST**  
**FOR THE**  
**STUDENT OF BIRDS**  
**THEIR NESTS AND EGGS**

**VOLUME XXX**

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

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1913

With this issue we begin Volume XXX, No. 1 of *The Oologist*. We wish all of our subscribers, friends and exchanges a Happy New Year. We shall in 1913, endeavor to keep *The Oologist* up to the standard of 1912.

It is with extreme regret that we begin the New Year by issuing our initial number late, but this grows out of a combination of circumstances over which Ye Editor had no control.

1. A hurried business trip to Spokane.

2. A death in the family of one of our assistants.

3. Sickness in our own family.

These are the excuses and we trust

that our readers will overlook the delay.

We wish to thank those who have already renewed their subscription as well as those who have forwarded an extra subscription, and some more than one, for friends or acquaintances.

That is the kind of support that will make a good *Oologist*.

To those who have not yet renewed we desire to call your attention to the fact that the Government post office regulations prohibit us sending *The Oologist* to any person who is more than one year in arrears. Kindly give the matter of renewal your immediate attention while it is on your mind.

—R. M. B.

### How Birds Protect Orchards.

W. H. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

A very interesting experiment by Mr. E. H. Forbush, State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, shows how the birds will work for us if we will only let them. An old neglected orchard was selected and special efforts were made to attract the birds during the winter months, by preparing food which they particularly liked and placing it where they could readily find it; for instance, suet, which was tied to the branches of the trees. As a result of this effort, the birds instead of leaving when the snow fell, remained; and chickadees, nuthatches, woodpeckers and creepers spent the winter in this old orchard, eating large numbers of eggs of the fall cankerworm moth and the larvae of other injurious insects. In the spring, when the female cankerworm moths appeared, the chickadees fed on these. Other trees in the neighborhood were badly infested with worms, while this orchard where the winter birds had been at work was practically free from them. The few which did appear were easily disposed of by summer birds which came to the locality. The other orchards were almost stripped of their foliage, but this one retained its leaves, and with one exception was the only orchard in the neighborhood to produce any fruit. It is interesting to note that the exception was the orchard nearest the one in which the experiment was tried.—San Jose Mercury.

### In Defense of the Sparrow.

W. H. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

The English sparrow has been so universally condemned of late that one might believe that it had not a redeeming quality. It is true that it is pugnacious, driving away other birds, even those much larger than itself. It is largely a city bird, and its nests are

not pleasant objects, where they are numerous or to be seen, but we believe these are the principal charges against it. We have often watched these birds in the evening catching moths and other injurious insects for their young, and have been impressed with their value as insectivorous birds. They will catch insects on the wing by hundreds. They are largely a city bird, and fond of the haunts of man. It is not often that they will be found far out in the country or away from houses. But the Sparrow has been given a bad name, whether altogether deserved or not we are not prepared to say, but Professor H. B. Fullerton, of the Long Island Experiment Station, comes to its defense and says:

"We have proof positive that no soil tiller can afford to kill even the particularly friendless English sparrow. This year we watched these little fellows with great interest. They were mighty busy after their plunge in our bird bath, some in the newly seeded ground, others along the rows of plants just up. In company with the English sparrows were the little ground sparrow, of which we have many. All were bound on exactly the same errand, and morning after morning we saw the menu, and each morning it was the same; it consisted of great numbers of cut-worms, from the cabbage destroying size to the tiny little fellow that later reaches tomato plant cutting stage, and the general destruction of the shoots of bulbs, both flowering and edible."

Yes, they do eat bugs sometimes, but a native song bird will eat them all the time, except for stealing a little fruit. Maybe the sparrows are better than no birds at all, but most people would be glad to swap all the sparrows in sight and hearing for a handful of bluebirds or a pair of thrushes,



Drawer of Osprey's Eggs in Collection of E. J. Darlington

—Photo by Mr. Darlington.

## Two Weeks Collecting in the High Sierras.

H. W. Carriger.

On several Sundays in the early part of 1910 I had the pleasure of being afield with Mr. Milton Ray and he seemed never to tire of telling of the wondrous beauty of the high Sierras and the many good ological treasures to be found there so that by the time that May rolled around I made up by mind to spend my two weeks about Lake Tahoe.

On the evening of June 2d I left the office at 5 p. m. and taking dinner at a nearby cafe I caught the 6:40 boat from San Francisco and connected with the 7:15 train at Oakland pier and was on my way to the mountains. The train followed along the water front for some distance and the only bird noticed before darkness shut from my view the surrounding country was a single Black-crowned Night Heron.

For a description of the trip to the Lake see Ray in the Condor for July-August, 1910.

Though we spent an hour about Truckee I did not do any collecting and bird life about the town was very scarce, the trip from Truckee to the Lake was along the Truckee River and much grand scenery was to be seen here. By 9:30 a. m. on the 3d I was at the Tavern, a famous resort on the Lake, and from here I got my first view of that magnificent body of water, Lake Tahoe.

Lake Tahoe once seen will never be forgotten, 6250 feet altitude, 30 miles long and 13 wide, surrounded on three sides by mountains, some 11,000 feet high and covered by snow the entire year while virgin forest is to be found about its edges; the water near shore or in the shallow places is of a greenish or emerald color while out from shore where it becomes deep it is a dark bluish black, near shore owing

to clearness of the water one can see bottom for 100 of feet and numerous fish are seen swimming about while the pebbles on the bottom seem but a few feet away.

A trim little steamer makes daily trips about the Lake stopping to deliver the mail at each of the various resorts along the shores, my destination was Bijou and as I boarded the steamer at 10:15 my stopping place was pointed out to me and I was told that we would be there by 2 p. m., which seemed to me to be about three hours longer than was necessary but you soon get used to the deception as regards distances in this country where the clear air is very deceiving.

I was met at Bijou by Ray who had proceeded me by two weeks and we were soon at the tent where Ray had prepared a meal to which I did ample justice, by the time I had finished Ray had my shelter tent in place and I was soon in my collecting clothes and we were afield.

Many years ago the entire valley was covered with a fine growth of large trees but they have all been cut down and now there are numerous small Tamaracks, and the country has the appearance of a desert with its sage brush and sandy soil.

Leaving the tents which were placed among the Tamaracks Ray asked me if I desired to see a nest of the Ruby-crowned Kinglet which he had found several days ago and as this was one of the things that I was particularly anxious to get I hastily assured him that he could take me to the nest, along the way I found a nest in the top of a small tamarack and on climbing same I found it to be a nest of the Audubons Warbler from which the young had flown. A little farther on we saw several nests of the Chipping Sparrow containing highly incubated eggs. Arriving at the Kinglets nest I

found that it was placed about ten feet from the ground in among the branches of a drooping limb of a tamarack and needless to say all drooping limbs of the trees were ever after closely scanned for a nest. On our way back we passed through a grove of Aspen trees and here Ray showed me a nest of the Cabaniss's Woodpecker which at this date contained young about a week old, also a nest of Parkmans Wren from which he had taken a set of seven a few days before. Hearing the note of the Kinglet in the trees near by I spent some time trying to find a nest but was not successful. This note is very unlike the winter note that one hears in the valleys but I never try to tell what a bird's note is like for it seems that hardly any two hear it alike. By this time it had commenced to get dark and the clear note of the Sierra Hermit Thrush was heard from the trees and a nest was pointed out to me by Ray, placed five feet up near the top of a small taramack. Not wishing to go back without a set I gathered in a fine set of our Western Robin, four Western Chipping Sparrow and three San Diego Red-wing. Thus ended my first half day in the high Sierras.

It was warm during the afternoon and I was surprised to find that as evening came on it grew very cold and all the covers that I had were none too many to afford one a comfortable rest. In the morning I found all the water about the tent covered with ice but this did not stop us from getting up at 5 a. m. and it was not long till I had a good fire going and Ray, who was the cook, soon had breakfast ready and by six we were ready to get afield.

We had previously arranged to spend the day collecting in the marsh. This marsh is several miles long and one or more wide, and in places cov-

ered with cattails and in others with a water lily.

A row of two miles on the lake brought us to the marsh and here I saw my first Black Tern, quite a number of them being seen flying over the marsh where they were breeding. As we run the boat up to the shore Ray got out and on looking about on a gravel pit he soon found a nest of the Killdeer with one egg. Rowing out into the marsh we found that the weeds were too thick to make much progress and I got out and commenced to wade about looking for the Terns. Water was about three feet deep and we found a number of the nests placed on floating pieces of driftwood and made of some dry tules. About the third nest that I found was of four eggs and they are all quite distinct, showing that they are from the same bird. A number of nests of the Red-wing were found, but all were badly incubated. In a place where the water was only a few inches deep I found a nest of Wilsons Phalarope with four eggs. This water was anything but warm, but in our interest in the nests we forgot about that part but I soon realized it as we got into the boat and I was only too anxious to do a little rowing. Rowing up the marsh we got out at a small island and here on a dry spot in the grasses, Ray showed me a nest of the White-checked Goose that he had located a few days before. This nest was placed out in the open and was made of the grasses and lined with feathers from the breast of the bird. On another island he showed me an other Goose nest, this one being built alongside of a tree and made as the other. Rowing to another Island I got off and made a thorough search of same, but only succeeded in finding a number of nests of the Brewers and Red-wing Blackbirds with eggs in ad-

vanced stages of incubation; several Mountain Song Sparrows were seen, but no nests. In a cavity of a tamarack a nest of the Tree Swallow with small young was noticed. Ray, who had gone off in another direction to look after a nest of the Sora, returned and we rowed up to a patch of tules where the Yellow-headed Blackbirds were nesting. It was impossible to get through the tules, so out we got and found the water from two to four feet deep and in the tules we discovered a number of nests of the Yellow head but all the eggs were badly incubated and many contained young; we also found a number of nests of the Black Tern, the nests here being built in a large bunch of tule and not on logs. On the way back we saw several Terns' nests and blackbirds, but mostly with incubated eggs.

Hundreds of White Pelicans were about the lake and to see one of these large birds swimming about several times fooled me into thinking that a small sail boat was coming. California Gulls were also common but neither breed on the marsh but go over to Pyramid lake, where they both nest. While rowing back in some piles out on the lake we found a nest of the Tree Swallow with six eggs in a hole in one of the piles that were formerly used as a wharf, and there were also several nests of the Brewer's Blackbird in the piles.

As it was still light when we returned to camp we secured a ladder and went after the nest of the Kinglet that Ray had found sometime ago. The nest contained seven fresh eggs and the bird sat close, not leaving the nest till a hand was near, and then she remained in the limb near the nest but made no noise. The male did not show up while we were in the tree.

On the morning of the 5th we got

an early start and started for a valley between two mountains at an altitude of about 7000 feet; here we expected to find the birds a little later than in the valley. On the way up Ray picked up a set of four White-crowned Sparrows from a nest about three feet up in a small tamarack; I can see no difference from this bird's note than the Nuttalls, so common about San Francisco.

Following up a mountain stream we saw several Blue-fronted Jays and in the brush along the hillsides we heard the song of the Thick Billed Sparrow and the insect like note of the Brewer's Sparrow.

We sat down to rest at the edge of the valley near a stream and I noticed a bird climbing from limb to limb of a tree till it disappeared near the top. After we had a little lunch I crossed the stream toward the tree where the bird disappeared and from a bunch of green grass near the creek I flushed a Junco from her nest of five fresh eggs. Climbing the tree I found that I had a nest of the Cassin's Purple Finch and three incubated eggs. This nest was 20 feet up in a small tree and about four feet from the body of the tree, and was a frail structure, composed of rootlets and lined with same. Near this tree I found a set of four Audubon's Warbler, six feet up in a small Tamarack and in about a half hour's work I had another set of five Audubons and another of five of the Junco, the latter being of a type I never saw before, a light whitish ground color marked much like a warbler's egg. After we had worked the valley we started across the high hills towards camp and here we had some very hard climbs. On top of the ridge I saw my first Clark's Nutcracker and they became not uncommon about the hills. It was late when we got back to camp

and as we had put in a hard day we were soon in bed and asleep.

Notwithstanding our hard trip of yesterday we felt rested and ready for a good day's work and started out early. Not far from camp I found a nest of the Kinglet with seven fresh eggs in a Tamarack, about eight feet from the ground. The bird flew from the nest as I rapped on the tree and made no demonstration as the set was collected. Several Juncoes with small young were found and a number of Robins and Chipping Sparrows, and in a small Tamarack a nest of the White-crowned Sparrow with badly incubated eggs was located. While walking down a small stream I flushed a Mountain Song Sparrow from a nest on the ground under a willow, and found a set of five fresh eggs. In the willows along the creek we saw a number of Traills Flycatchers, but at this date they were not nesting.

A nest and five eggs of the Yellow Warbler was seen in a willow along the creek and Ray dug out a Kingfisher's nest in the bank but no eggs as yet. Working back into the marsh we found a number of nests of the Redwing and some of the terns. Wilson's Phalaropes were common but we failed to locate any of their nests. After leaving the marsh we found several nests of the Mt. Bluebirds with young and in a dead stub a nest of the Pigmy Nuthatch with small young.

This morning we looked at the Killdeer's nest found some days ago and found it deserted, but nearby was another nest with one egg, and nearby was another with four fresh eggs. This latter was made of rootlets placed in a slight hollow in the gravel bank. Leaving the lake we worked up an old creek and here, where there were many old dead trees, we saw much evidence of the woodpeckers and a

nest of the Red-breasted Sapsucker with small young was located in a tree ten feet up. In the same tree was a nest of the Mountain Chickadee with small young, more nests of the Mt. Bluebirds with young were noticed, and some incomplete nests of the Parkman's Wren. Working in among some willows along the stream Ray called out to me to come and see a nest that he had found. As I neared him a bird got up and I had a fine set of four fresh eggs of the White-crowned Sparrow. His nest had four young and they were not ten feet apart; both were placed even with the ground, his under a small tree, while mine was in the grass in the open. On the bank of the creek four feet from the ground in a large tree we found a nest of the Williamsson Sapsucker with small young, and watched it some time as the birds brought food for the young, both birds working. On our way back to camp we found a nest of the Audubons with three eggs and two with large young.

Today we thought we had better blow some eggs so as it was too cold in the morning we rowed about the lake and examined the piles, finding a number of nests of the Tree Swallow with fresh eggs and some with young birds, and in a pile fully 100 feet from the shore we located a nest of the Mt. Bluebird with young, and in another was a nest of the Flicker with young, one half grown; one of the young came out of the nest as we reached in same, and refused to stay in as we put it back but jumped into the water and made desperate efforts to swim toward the shore. By the time we had the boat turned it was exhausted, but seemed to revive as I carried it ashore. Just how these land birds reach the shore is somewhat of a puzzle. In trees along the shore nests of the Mt. Bluebird,

Flicker and Pigny Nuthatch were found with young. In the afternoon we blew eggs. In the evening I visited the warbler's nest found yesterday, and found that the eggs were destroyed, the work of Chipmunks, I think.

Having made arrangements to spend a few days around Pyramid Peak we got away at 6 this morning and were driven ten miles out to the foot of the hills; it was very cold and we did not object to the chance to walk. A walk of one hour brought us to the summit, 7200 feet altitude, and though we had gone up over 1000 feet the grade is so gradual that one does not notice the climb. As we sat down to rest a Sooty Grouse flew across the road and I thus made the acquaintance of a bird heretofore unknown to me. Working along the road slowly and looking into all likely places we discovered several nests of the Robin and Chippy, and Ray found a nest of the Sierra Hermit Thrush with three fresh eggs. By 12:15 we were at Echo, where we had lunch and were shown a trail over the hills which would save us some fifteen miles walking to reach our destination.

This trail led up to the steep hills and as the day was very warm I here had one of the hardest trips that I had to make. The sun beat unmercifully down on us and as there were no trees of any size about, we kept climbing till we reached the top, where a nice stream of fine clear water was found. After a long rest we resumed our journey and by 5 p. m. we were at Forni's. I might here state that Forni's is a summer ranch of one of the dairies from the valley; they drive the cattle up here about the last of June and make butter, taking the cows back as the snows begin to fall.

The houses are left with plenty of bedding, etc., and here one finds prac-

tically all the comforts of home. There is a meadow of about one hundred acres surrounding the dairy and here the cattle find green pasture. The spring mattress that I had here to sleep on certainly seemed good to me and I lost no time in falling asleep.

Around the houses we found White-crowned Sparrows rather common, and in the trees about we found Sapsuckers, Woodpeckers, Finches, etc.

Though the altitude was much higher here than at the Lake the weather did not seem nearly as cold and at 7 a. m., the thermometer registered but 45 degrees.

The top of Pyramid peak was our objective point this morning, and leaving the cabin early we were on our way. We spent some time after a nest of the Audubons Warbler which was 20 feet up in the outer limbs of a large tree and had two fresh eggs. Further up the hillside I saw a Mt. Bluebird fly from a hole in a dead stub and as it was impossible to get it without some sort of a ladder, we spent some time trying to find a dead stub that would answer, but none were to be had; however, a small pine stood near, and though it was ten inches in diameter, I wanted that nest and chopped it down with a hatchet, trimming it up we had some trouble to take it up the hill, for one soon tires in this altitude, about 8000 feet.

We got the nest and a set of five eggs incubated one half. A little further up the snow began to appear in large patches and as we got higher Clark's Nutcrackers were common. Here in some patches of vines I saw a pair of Green-tailed Towhees, but birds were not common. The climb to the peak from this side is not hard and we were on top about 10 a. m.

After looking over the records of the Sierra club we ate our lunch and began looking about for the Gray-

crowned *Leucosticte* and soon saw several flying about in the patches of snow. Some time was spent with this bird, and for further notes see the *Condor* for September, 1910.

Leaving the peak about 5 p. m., it did not take long to get back to the meadow. On the way down I flushed a White-crowned from a nest and five fresh eggs. The nest was placed at the base of a small rock on the ground.

On the 11th we started for a lake nearby but got off the track and spent the greater part of the day in the woods about the meadow. A nest of the Blue-fronted Jay was found with small young and two nests of the White-headed Woodpecker, also with small young, and a nest of the Wood Pewee apparently completed though we did not climb for same. Several nests of the Robin and Chippy with young and a nest of small young of the Mountain Chickadee were discovered. We left camp this afternoon and crossed the hills and made our way down to Lake of the Woods; most of the time we were going over snow-banks and in many places the cliffs were so steep that I could not see Ray, though he was only a rod or so away. We got to the lake late in the afternoon and after lunch we prepared to sleep, building a fire out of the dry wood found here. We laid down to rest and with the clear sky overhead we were soon in the land of dreams.

Spent the morning about the lake, and here we saw several Pine Grosbeaks, a nest of the Mountain Chickadee with small young, and one addled egg was found in a dead part of a Red Cedar. A few Robins and a number of Cassins Purple Finches were about the lake.

We were away from the lake early and by 1:30 we were back on the State Road at Phillips Station. On our trip

over the mountain we flushed a pair of Sooty Grouse and several mountain Quail and saw several Pine Grosbeaks.

After a hearty meal at Phillips we walked up the road a couple of miles and stopped at a deserted cabin. A short walk here in the late afternoon we found a nest of Audubon's Warbler and Sierra Junco.

The next morning we got out early and worked along the road back to Phillips Station and found nests of the Sierra Hermit Thrush, Junco, Audubon's Warbler and two nests of the Mountain Chickadee with small young, one of the latter only about 8 inches from the ground in a stump. After a hearty breakfast, which included some of the famous mountain trout, we worked about the station and found several nests of the Junco and one of the Hermit Thrush; some of Juncos had fresh eggs and others had young. On climbing to a nest of Audubon's Warblers a pair of Wood Pewees made a fuss and I soon located the nest which had three slightly incubated eggs; the Warblers had small young and as we were waiting for lunch we saw another Warbler gathering straws for a nest, and Ray found one with fresh eggs, so the dates are rather uncertain.

Saw several Western Evening Grosbeaks here and also a pair of Pine Grosbeaks. Kinglets were not uncommon but diligent work on our part only brought to light one nest which was building. Robins and Chippies were not uncommon about here, but all had large young. In a meadow we saw several Spotted Sandpipers.

On the 14th we left for the lake, which we reached in the afternoon tired but not downhearted. On our way down Ray saw a Water Ouzel fly out from under a bridge and soon had the nest located; to reach it, it was necessary to swim out in the ice cold

water, and though it was sprinkling, Ray wanted that Ouzle's nest and off came his clothes and in he went. The nest was on a beam of the bridge and I had to find a tree that would permit him to reach it. In the meantime he was in the water. Well, the nest had small young, and after Ray got on his clothes I had to almost run for the next few miles trying to keep up with him as he tried to thaw out.

June 15th—As the boat that was to take me back home did not arrive till 2 p. m. we decided to put in the morning trying to get a set of Killdeers and I was fortunate enough to find four sets before noon. A nest with badly incubated eggs of the Parkmans Wren was located and a deserted nest and four eggs of the Wilsons Phalarope was found; this nest was under water and the eggs were soft to the touch. Some Terns were noted and a number of Blackbirds. Nests with drowned young were seen. Near the camp we found a nest and three young of the Cassins Purple Finch and by this time we had to get back to camp. Night Hawks were flying about commonly now but they do not nest till much later, early July. Well, all trips must end and the steamer was on time and I was on my way back to San Francisco.

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#### Bird Notes From Lewiston, Ill.

As a taxidermist, my interest has centered of late years more along the lines of ornithology than of oology. There has been an unusual flight of hawks and owls down the Illinois river valley this fall of 1912, and especially have they been in evidence in the vicinity of Thompson Lake, Fulton County. Probably the discarded fish from the seines and nets being the attraction.

Mr. Charles Dickson, owner of a large bottom farm near this lake, has been a great loser of poultry on this account. A dozen or more English Call Ducks were destroyed, mainly by the Great-horned Owls. Also many of his fine chickens were taken by the Hawks and Owls.

Becoming tired of his losses he set to trapping for them and up to a few days ago had caught about two dozen of them, and the good with the bad; Screech owls, Sparrow hawks, Marsh Hawks along with the rest. A good many of these have fallen to me, and skins have been made of them.

By reference to my record book I find November 10th a male Great-horned; November 11th, female Red-tailed Hawk; November 18th, one Screech Owl and one Sparrow Hawk; November 22d, Cooper's Hawk and Sparrow Hawk; November 24th, a fine male Red-shouldered Hawk; November 28th, male Great Horned and November 30th, female Great Horned Owl; December 1st, a female Arctic Owl, one of the most beautiful specimens that I have ever seen, and same date one Barred Owl.

At this date the Brown Creepers are unusually plentiful in the big maple trees about this city. A few days ago I skinned a fine male and female Red-head Duck. Bob-whites are numerous and I have half a dozen good skins as the result of one hunt.

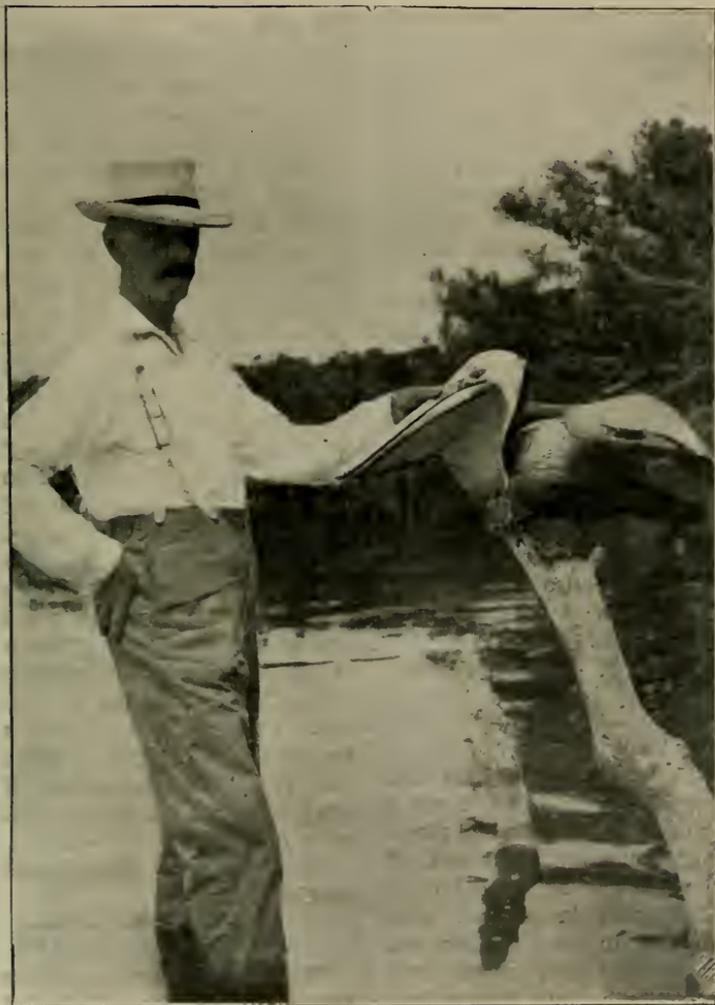
Dr. W. S. Strode.

Lewiston, Ill.

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#### Note.

A short note from our old friend Verdi Burtch of Branchport, N. Y., in renewing his subscription says: "I was one of the original paid-in-advance subscribers to No. 1, Volume 1 of *The Oologist*, and it would not do to let it lapse now."



R. D. Hoyt, of Florida

### Red Breasted Nuthatch.

I take this opportunity to report on the plentifulness of Red Breasted Nuthatches in this section, this season. In a block of Pine trees near here, containing perhaps two hundred acres, these little birds are making their winter quarters evidently. On October 25th I was through there and made a note of them then, and in January 1st was back there again and this time it seemed to me they outnumbered the first visit. They kept up a steady service of "Yank yanks" until the notes of no other birds could be heard. In fact, they drowned out almost every other sound.

A friend and I counted in sight at one time over two hundred fifty, and this was no thicker bunch than could be found almost anywhere in the wood. At the time we were there on January 1st there was practically no snow on the ground and most of them were feeding either on the ground or low on the tree trunks. Now that there is a heavy covering of snow on the ground, am not sure how so many will fare, but hope to get back soon and see.

R. Spellum.

Viroqua, Wis.

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### Utah Notes.

During the latter part of May and beginning of June, 1911, while on a visit of ten days on business and pleasure—that of collecting combined, at Boulter, situated on Salt Lake line to California, I came in contact with many birds new to me. Boulter has an altitude of 6000 feet, is surrounded by gently sloping hills to the East and West, covered over their North and West slopes with pinon pine and stunted cedars.

These cedars make admirable nesting sites for many birds as they are very old, gnarled and covered with a

rough and shaggy bark, denoting age, also many are merely empty shells, the inner part having gone by decay. Such trees are usually well worked over by Woodpeckers and Sapsuckers, making desirable nesting sites for Mountain Sparrow Hawk, Chickadees, Western House Wren, Ash-throated and Western Flycatchers. Of this family we have also Say's Phoebe and the Arkansas Kingbird.

The eastern and southern slopes are usually covered by a heavy growth of sage brush at the foot of the slopes and gradually diminishing to almost bare ground on top. Along the sage covered flats between the slopes we find the most common bird to be Brewer's Sparrow, whose soft but melodious song is heard from early morning to evening shadows. Comingling with these are heard the voluminous song of the Sage Thrasher and call of the Green-tailed and Spurred Towhee; also the plaintiff cooing of the Mourning Dove. From the west slope is wafted to one's ear to soften, the shrill call of the Red-tail overhead.

To the East two and a half miles and to the West four miles we come to the foot of a higher range of mountains, 7500 feet on the West and 6000 feet on the East, where we in many instances are brought in contact with new species overlapped by those of the lower zone, of which I shall write more fully later.

May Westbrook.

Bingham, Utah.

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### Books Received.

"Twentieth Century Method of Squaring the Circle," by Harmon Evans, of Dayton, Ohio.

This little pamphlet of ten pages, illustrated with diagrammatic drawings, gives the author's views and methods of "squaring the circle," and would without doubt be of interest to mathe-

maticians who delight in abstruce propositions.

**Fourth Annual Report of State Ornithologist of Massachusetts, 1911.** This interesting publication gives a general resume of the work of this official in Massachusetts, and is embellished by a number of interesting illustrations, half tones and diagrams; contains likewise much information in regard to the food of the birds of Massachusetts, especially relating to the Pigeons and Brown-tailed Moth. It shows investigation and industry upon the part of the official who issues it.

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#### The Wanderings of an Editor.

December 21, 1912, at noon, Ye Editor left St. Paul over the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway for Spokane, Washington.

December 22d between 7 a. m. and 9 p. m. the run was made between Miles City, and Butte, Montana, over a partially rolling, partially level and in some places rough country. Many American Magpies were seen from the train, and one compact flock of about one hundred small birds which were not identified, practically all of which settled in the top of a small pine as the train passed.

December 23d in the forenoon, a two-hour run over an electric interurban took us from Tekoa to Spokane over a rolling country given over to wheat farming and orchards. One pair of what we took to be Long-billed Curlew were seen.

December 24th to 26th inclusive was spent in Spokane which is in the midst of a rough, hilly or mountainous territory, covered with coniferous growth, pines, spruce and the like. No birds were seen here. One of our friends told us of picking up a Pine Grosbeak in his yard in that city, dead, last winter.

The return trip to St. Paul was made

over the Northern Pacific and December 27th from early morning till evening we passed from Missoula to Billings over a largely mountainous and semi-mountainous territory. Many American Magpies were seen, another compact flock of about one hundred small birds were seen, and one Pigeon Hawk or Merlin, we are not certain which, as well as one Red-shafted Flicker.

December 28th, early morning found us at Mandon, North Dakota, on the wide rolling prairies of the Western part of the state.

From then until dark the snow gradually increased from a mere skift until at Fargo it was about six inches. Western North Dakota was a series of rolling sand hills and here several flocks of Sharp-tailed Grouse were seen sitting in the trees. Three or four large Hawks soared by and as we passed east of Bismarck, Shore Larks, English Sparrows and Crows became common.

Such is the ornithology history of what we saw upon this long trip.

R. M. B.

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#### Condor of United States. Youth's Companion.

It is not generally known that we have a condor in the United States, yet there is one on the Pacific coast that in weight and spread of wing surpasses all other birds. From tip to tip of wing it measures more than ten feet—considerably more than the condor of the Andes and about a yard more than the largest eagle or swan.

This condor is black tinged with brown, except under the wings, where there is a long narrow strip of almost pure white running the whole length of the wing and widening near the body. It has no ruff around the neck, but a fringe of long narrow black feathers on the back of the neck gives

it a savage appearance. It nests among the rocks in lofty cliffs, laying several white eggs much larger than those of the turkey or goose. From 1875 to 1885 condors were so abundant in Southern California that I used to see them almost every day, but now they are found only in the wilder mountains. Their eggs bring \$100 each in the larger museums of the country.

If an animal is sick or disabled the condor rarely hesitates to attack it, and its fate is soon sealed if it is not strong enough to defend itself or escape its enemy.

Like the condor of the Andes, that of California will so gorge itself with food at times that it can be lassoed in the quick dash of a good horse. A friend of mine at San Jacinto had one that had been caught in that way. But although he had thousands of sheep and cattle, he had to give the bird away, because he could not afford to feed it. It would eat a whole sheep at a meal and then look hungry and sad, as if it were badly treated.

Standing on the ground at a distance this great bird looks much like a big black Newfoundland dog standing up for a cracker, but in the air it surpasses in grace and variety of action every other wanderer of the skies. The whooping crane, that floats like a speck of down in the remotest blue; the frigate bird, whose wing seems never made to fold; even the albatross, are all clumsy and monotonous compared with the condor. It travels in a series of winding lines, in which symmetry and grace always govern the boldest sweeps of the highest bursts of speed.

The foregoing is taken from the St. Paul Dispatch of September 25, 1912, and is by that publication credited to the Youth's Companion,

It is an astonishment to the Editor to learn that such rot as this can be found in a publication of the rank and standing of the Youth's Companion. Either that publication is deteriorating or something is the matter. No such misinformation should be permitted to enter the columns of any reputable publication.—R. M. B.

#### Death Claims William H. Werner.

Fortunes may be made and lost. Fame may come upon the worthy and depart. There is but one thing that lives on through years, and that is character, the recollection of the kind sympathies, the loyalty, sincerity and integrity of the man who has gone.

The thoughts of these good traits become enshrined in the minds of his fellow-men. The memory of these may sleep with one's conscience, or may fade and be forgotten, but the mention of his name summons them back to life.

This sentiment is inspired by the sad demise of Mr. William H. Werner, of Atlantic City, N. J., which came as a distinctive shock to his relatives and friends, who were proud to call him a friend. Mr. Werner, through a long life of usefulness, had endeared himself to a wide circle of friends, who deeply deplore his loss.

He was born in Nazareth, Pa., seventy years ago, and began the work and research of taxidermist at an early age. Being a born naturalist, he combined the two talents and built up the fine collection of birds, etc., which was for many years exhibited on the Boardwalk, Atlantic City, known as the "Wonderland." This collection represented his life's work, in which he had his whole heart interest, and experts of this country and abroad have pronounced the collection one of the finest of private collections in the world. Every animal and bird in

the collection was hunted down, killed and stuffed by Mr. Werner himself. The collection is valued at \$50,000, and at one time Atlantic City Public Schools made a movement to buy the collection at this price for use in educational purposes.

Mr. Werner is survived by a widow and one son, William B. Werner, who succeeds his late father in the management of the "Wonderland" exhibit. No better evidence of the high regard in which Mr. Werner was held could be shown than upon the occasion of his funeral when the large, concourse of mourners coupled with the many beautiful floral offerings, was a striking testimonial to the memory of this estimable man.

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### Bird Nesting Time.

By R. P. Sharples.

Early in June is when all the small birds do their nesting. And while it is the most important function of their lives it really takes up very little time with many of them. Most interesting of the smaller birds are the warblers, those bright colored little fellows that live in the woods and wild thickets. Most of them come here on the journey from the south between the first and fifteenth of May. By the first of June they have selected their mates, made the nests and begun to lay eggs. In ten days the eggs are hatched, and in another ten days the young birds are out of the nests and learning to fly. By the first of July the youngsters can shift for themselves and are left by the parents to go it alone. No second nest is made except where the first one meets with accident. This is the time of year when bird study is the most difficult. The young have feathers entirely different in color from the parents, and it is almost impossible to identify many of them,

Of course all the birds do not nest in June, neither do all of them raise but one brood per year.

At the head of the list of early nesting birds are the bald eagles, and there are two eyries used every year not far from West Chester. These are very apt to have eggs in them by the middle of February. About the same time the great horned owls lay their eggs, though these birds are almost extinct in lower Chester county. I have not found a nest of this species for about five years. The first of April sees the red-tailed hawk, the sparrow hawk and the barn owl, three very useful birds, making their nests, and they are closely followed by the herons, the crow blackbirds, the sparrows and crows. About the first of June the great mass of our migratory birds are nest building, though there are a few laggards to bring up the rear. Last on the list are the vireos, the cuckoos and the little yellow goldfinches which might be said to bring up the rear of the procession in July.

The present season has been an unusually favorable one for the birds until within a week or two. Wet weather kills the young, and recent rains have undoubtedly taken their toll of millions of nestlings.

We have about 770 species of birds in the United States, and probably 500 additional sub-species. Of course, not one-half of them ever come to Chester county.

Our birds are increasing rapidly in numbers, and I do not think there is danger of any species being blotted out. When they become scarce there is always some public-spirited citizen appears to protect them. He buys a tract of land that the birds frequent and protects them for a few years, and under such treatment they very rapidly increase. For some years past we have had doleful accounts in

the papers of the extermination of egrets and heron and ibises that were being slaughtered for their feathers. Within two years one of our West Chester bird men bought an island in an inland Florida lake for the purpose of protecting a colony of these water birds. The island is only a few acres in extent, and a warden was employed to protect it. This year the colony of these birds have increased to over eight thousand, and they are so numerous that they will be compelled to spread out to the neighboring islands for homes in 1912.

There are two species of birds in Chester county that are numerous here, and are very rare elsewhere in the United States. One of them is the worm-eating warbler. It nests on the Valley Hills, and can easily be found if you know where to hunt. The bird is an inconspicuous little fellow with black and brown stripes across its crown. It has no beautiful song and is only to be found where laurel abounds, in the woods. The nest is on the ground and almost invariably under a laurel bush. It is lined with bright-red moss stems, and the eggs are always laid about June 1. The other bird that finds Chester county a favorite home is the broad-winged hawk. While spread sparingly all over the northern part of the country, here a pair of them has a home in nearly every woods of considerable size. Fifty years ago we had none of them. The grand old red-tailed hawk was king of our woodlands. Then came the unwise state bounty law and the hawks of every description fell before it until the country was swept clean of man's best feathered friends. The red-tails have never come back to stay, the smaller broad-wings taking their places.

Other counties near around us have birds that we never or rarely see.

Of such Delaware county has her long-billed marsh wrens, New Castle county has her great heron colonies, Lancaster county has bald eagles, Sullivan county her ravens, and Warren county a dozen species of warblers that never nest here. The reasons for these favorite nesting places being chosen are hard to find. The study of our birds is a lifelong occupation.—West Chester Village Herald, June 29, 1911.

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#### Notes.

C. W. Pelton writes: "A small flock of about fifteen Evening Grosbeaks made us a visit a few weeks ago and remained in town (Port Edwards, Wis.) several days."

Paul G. Howes, the well known ornithologist of Stamford, Connecticut, writes that he sails on January 8th, for Columbia, South America, in company with Frank M. Chapman, L. A. Fuertes and Mr. Cherrie, where they will be until the end of May, in the interest of science. We hope to give our readers some interesting notes from Mr. Howes on his return.

Ray Densmore of Painesville, Ohio, writes: "In April, 1912, while taking a little stroll I found a Mourning Dove's nest with three eggs. This is the first occurrence of this kind that I have ever run across."

W. W. Westgate of Seattle, Washington, one of the real old time naturalists, formerly of Houston, Texas, is again in the field, and is just leaving for a three months' trip in which he proposes to visit all places of interest to a naturalist between Portland and Ashland, Ore. Last July he spent two months on Orcas Island in the San Juan straits. His specialty is conchology.

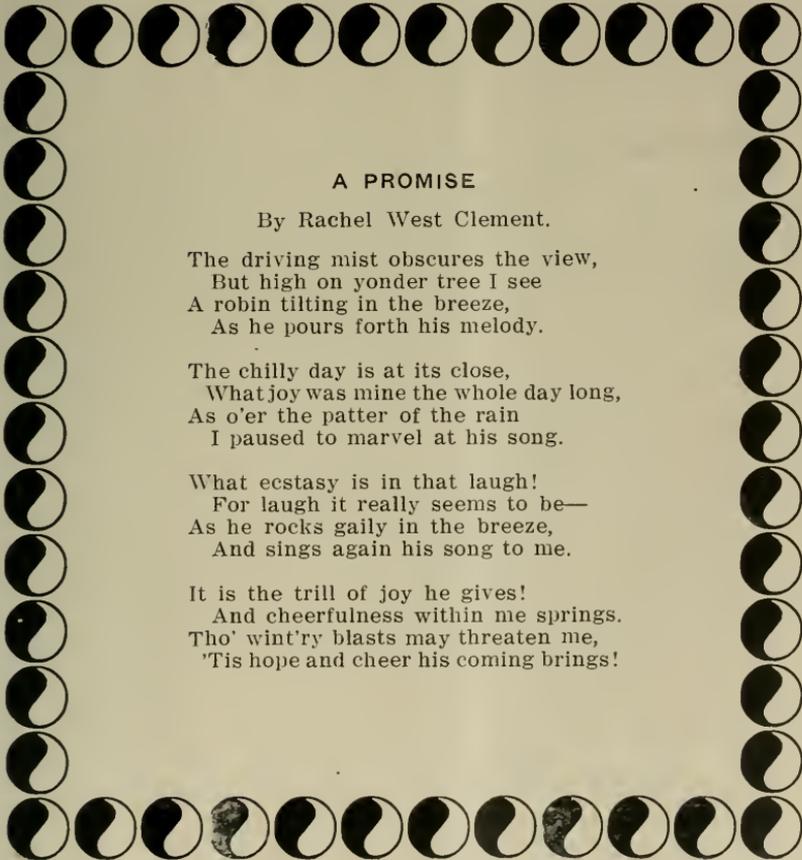
# THE OÖLOGIST.

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## A PROMISE

By Rachel West Clement.

The driving mist obscures the view,  
But high on yonder tree I see  
A robin tilting in the breeze,  
As he pours forth his melody.

The chilly day is at its close,  
What joy was mine the whole day long,  
As o'er the patter of the rain  
I paused to marvel at his song.

What ecstasy is in that laugh!  
For laugh it really seems to be—  
As he rocks gaily in the breeze,  
And sings again his song to me.

It is the trill of joy he gives!  
And cheerfulness within me springs.  
Tho' wint'ry blasts may threaten me,  
'Tis hope and cheer his coming brings!



SOME WILD DUCKS, GEESE AND BRANT AT BARTLETT'S PARK  
BELLE PLAINE, KANSAS

Wild Fowl at Bartlett Park, Kan.

### Domesticating Wild Fowl.

Many of our readers know that The Editor of THE OOLOGIST has for years been endeavoring to demonstrate that the ordinary breeds of North American Wild fowl may, with proper surroundings and reasonable attention to detail, be domesticated. This in our judgment is the only solution for the wild fowl question. The great increase in gunners, the wonderful output and improvement in the various machines of death, the extraordinary manufacture of cartridges and all manner of improved paraphernalia for the purpose of luring the birds to their death, will ultimately exterminate all of the wild fowl on this continent unless something is done.

From one "blind" within twenty miles of the writer's home, 1200 ducks were slaughtered in the fall of 1912, all being shot over wooden decoys among which were placed live call ducks. The birds cannot stand this character of persecution long.

The keeping of nature wild fowl in confinement is one of the most alluring of amusements. The study of the birds themselves is productive of many hours of pleasure. Each species has its own individuality, and each bird apparently its own peculiarity. Nearly all kinds of North American wild fowl may be successfully kept with proper surroundings, and many of them will breed prolifically.

The day this is written both varieties of North American Swan and eleven varieties of geese included in the North American A. O. U. list, as well as a number of ducks, are running at large on our premises without artificial heat or shelter.

On yesterday, a radical change in atmospheric conditions took place; the wind being very high and to the Northwest, the mercury falling rapidly, and near the middle of the fore-

noon, a very heavy snow squall blew up from the Northwest. The geese on seeing this coming, became very uneasy and noisy; several of them mounted high in the air and after circling a little, returned to the ground and to their mates, refusing to leave the place where they were well fed and protected from attempts on their lives.

The illustration on the foregoing page shows what an attractive addition to the landscape a small pond with a few of these birds will make.

It is with pleasure that we note a number of our bird friends are endeavoring to get into this line of ornithology. It requires but little water and not very much attention to succeed.

This coming spring, thousands of birds will be crippled by the gunners as the birds fly Northward. By procuring many of these that are wing-tipped and taking them home and caring for them, a start may be made in this most alluring line of bird study.

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### Sorrow.

Sadness and grief has entered into the home of our western subscriber, E. J. Dietrich of Canby, Oregon, when January 3, 1913, his beloved mother was taken from him, at the age of 70 years and two months.

Mr. Dietrich writes that owing to her long, severe illness, he has been most reluctantly compelled to postpone and neglect his ornithological and social correspondence and transactions. He begs for the kind indulgence of those friends who hold claims against him and trusts he will be able to straighten all claims in the very near future.

No greater sorrow can visit any man. We extend our heartfelt sympathy.—Editor.

### Hawk and Owl Collecting in Cham-paign County, Illinois.

In the year 1904 I was employed at Philo, Ills., and made the acquaintance of Isaac E. Hess, the Bird Man. Seeing his fine collection so often, imbued me with a deep interest in a branch of natural history that had always appealed to me.

I began studying up birds but did not attempt to collect until I had become acquainted with birds and their habits long enough to obtain a collecting permit. I have had some fine luck since, especially among the "Raptors" and as these are the difficult sets to obtain in most any vicinity, I will offer my experiences to the readers of THE OOLOGIST.

The Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*) commences to build in the month of February and have the nests ready for eggs by the last of March. Nests are large and bulky and composed of dead grass and cornhusks. They are very shallow when compared with the bulk of the nest? I have, however, seen nests nearly a foot deep. The Red-tail will use the same nest for years if undisturbed and sometimes will any way if not disturbed too often. Each spring the old nest is remodelled by adding a few sticks and fresh lining. One pair of my Hawks has two nests,—one in a large Sycamore and the other in an Oak. When I take my toll from one nest she resorts to the other for her second set which I never disturb but allow her to hatch them. As the Red-tail hatches but one brood in a season, I figure that I do not reduce the supply of Red-tails at all—merely making the appearance of the new family a month later in the season. In addition to not lowering the supply of Hawks, I have some beautiful sets of Hawk eggs in my cabinet. Mr. Hess says some of the markings, especially from the older pairs,

are almost as heavily marked as Vulture eggs. The Red-tail will begin laying her second set usually twenty-one days after the first set is taken. I always find them setting steadily by twenty-eight days after losing the first set.

The nests are placed in the forks of the largest trees to be found in the creek bottoms.

In 29 sets of eggs I have collected, the nests have ranged from 57 to 102 feet from the ground. As I always let the eggs down in a small tin bucket attached to a stout cord the distance is easily determined by tying a knot every 10 feet in the string. The Hawk usually flushes from the nest as I approach, uttering a shrill scream or whistle and flies high in wide circles over the tree I am climbing. I have found a few that would stick to the nest until I rapped with a hatchet. The common set is two or three eggs. Have never taken a set of four, but ten sets were of three, thirteen sets of two eggs each and six sets held a solitary egg. A few sets are almost plain white but others range from light markings to those covered heavily with spots and blotches. Eggs from the same pairs offer the same type of markings each season and both Mr. Hess and I can usually tell which pair of Hawks layed the eggs, except when we run across a new pair.

Following are the dates of twenty-nine sets which may help some Hawk seeker to some extent: Set 1-2, Apr. 20, 1904; set 1-1, Mar. 29, 1905; set 1-3, Mar. 31, 1905; set 1-2, Apr. 20, 1905; set 1-2, Apr. 12, 1906; set 1-1, Apr. 15, 1906; set 1-2, Apr. 15, 1906; set 1-2, May 7, 1906; set 1-2, Apr. 1, 1907; set 1-3, Apr. 3, 1908; set 1-3, Apr. 4, 1908; set 1-2, Apr. 13, 1908; set 1-2, Apr. 17, 1908; set 1-2, Apr. 25, 1908; set 1-2, Apr. 2, 1909; set 1-3, Apr. 3, 1909; set 1-3, Apr. 5, 1909; set

1-1, Apr. 3, 1909; set 1-1, May 14, 1909; set 1-2, Mar. 27, 1910; set 1-2, Mar. 27, 1910; set 1-3, Mar. 31, 1910; set 1-1, Mar. 31, 1910; set 1-3, Apr. 7, 1910; set 1-3, Mar. 31, 1911; set 1-1, Apr. 7, 1911; set 1-3, Apr. 7, 1911; set 1-3, Apr. 29, 1911; set 1-2, May 11, 1911.

This season I have taken 3 sets of two eggs each and have not been to all of my friends.

#### The American Sparrow Hawk.

This pretty little Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) is probably the most common of our Hawks. It nests in natural cavities and old Flicker holes in the trees bordering the creek banks. The nesting sites vary from 12 to 75 feet from the ground.

No lining is used but eggs layed simply on the bottom of the cavity. I have been quite successful in finding their nests by rowing down creek in a boat and approaching the sycamores growing on the bank. When near enough I strike the tree with a stout pole and if occupied, one or both Hawks are usually in the air at once. Have taken twenty sets of eggs and the sets are numbered as follows:

11 sets of five eggs each.

9 sets of four eggs each.

Most of these sets are heavily marked, especially from the older birds and make a beautiful series. Last year I located one nest in a dead elm not over twenty feet from the ground. I sounded the tree with my hatchet but could not scare the bird out. I climbed the tree and lifted the female from her five fresh eggs. She did not seem the least frightened when I turned her loose but flew slowly and silently away.

This little Hawk is apt to use the same tree and nesting place for years. I have collected sets from the same tree three and four years regularly. The best time to locate their homes is in the last half of May and

first part of June when I find them very noisy in feeding the young. Then next season visit them when eggs are ripe. I have watched the Sparrow make ten and even twelve trips in an hour to the nest when feeding young which goes to show what splendid mousers they must be.

#### The Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*)

The Barn Owl or Monkey-face is a rare bird in this locality and I have seen but four in seven years. When out collecting, May 20, 1909, I found a nest in a large Sycamore cavity which had six young. The next year on April 2, 1911 I found four fresh eggs in the nest. I took the eggs and, returning a week later got the rest of the set, making nine eggs in all. The tree was a sycamore leaning out over the Salt Fork creek and the nesting hole was twenty feet above the water. On this visit I scared both birds from the cavity. They sat in the tree only ten feet away while I took the eggs. They hatched a set the same summer but not at the same place.

The Owls might never have been discovered by me had I not heard them a winter night when I was sleeping in a tent while on a trapping trip.

The Owls are at the same place this year (1912) but up to April 12th, had not layed yet.

Guy Worthington Day.

Sidney, Ill.

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#### The Duck Hawk.

When at Lehigh University in 1893 a fellow-student and myself visited the "Narrows" of the Delaware River, some twelve miles below Easton, Pennsylvania, on several occasions. Here a precipitous cliff rises from almost the water's edge four hundred feet, near the top of which are many narrow and inaccessible ledges. The whole region, which was then but thinly settled, is well known to Natur-

alists. Here the Lepidopterist comes for several species of butterflies, said to be found nowhere else. Here the botanist replenishes his herbarium with specimens of the rare *Sedum rhodiola*, indigenous to Greenland, and only of very local occurrence in the United States. Here, also, that splendid fern, known as the Ostrich fern, (*Struthiopteris germanica*) develops its full proportions.

To an Ornithologist the locality is not likely to be forgotten as the home of a famous Raptor, the daring and merciless Duck Hawk (*Falco Peregrinus anatum*.)

Our first trip on May 7th was rewarded by seeing one of these birds start out on an expedition from the cliff, evidently in search of food. Its deep salmon breast and enormous talons, together with its swift and powerful flight, made it a conspicuous denizen of the air. We learned that the week before a party from the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, had visited the cliff, and descending from above with ropes had secured a nest containing two eggs. It was hardly to be expected, then, that we would be thus rewarded.

But on May 14th we returned to the Narrows and collected the *Sedum* in full bloom. We also located a nest of Oven Birds and secured a set of Cooper's Hawk in the ravine below, and then ascended the cliff from its Southern slope. From the summit the view was inspiring. Far below flowed the mighty Delaware dividing two states by the proud curves of its course, and beyond the river, stretching far to the East, were spread out the rich and fertile plains of New Jersey. The air was fragrant with the pervasive perfume of the crab apple, the mountains round about were robed in the freshest of Springtime greens, the birds, ecstatic with song, were

voicing the best optimism of Nature and prophesying the song of the reaper in harvest. It was worth a tramp of twenty miles just to be thus inspirited.

Climbing cautiously down the treacherous ledges of that dizzy height my companion suddenly perceived below him, on a very narrow shelf of rock, the nest of a Peregrine Falcon. There was the bird also! With much excitement he looked for some way to reach that point of peculiar interest. Thinking he had found an easy descent between two boulders he let himself down on his elbows prepared to drop, when to his horror he saw that the ledge at that point was chopped off, and furnished no safe fall. But hanging thus he could not get back, his strength would not hold out until help could reach him, he must drop, but should he miss that edge of rock it was a straight fall—300 feet and more! There was an agonizing moment of indecision, then shutting his eyes and stiffening his legs, he let go, and landing true, fell trembling against the face of the cliff.

Now the Hawk, startled by this unrequested intrusion, and relishing nothing in the way of human companionship, prepared to resent the situation and defend her nest. It contained four beautifully-marked and freshly-laid eggs—treasures well worth defending. The male answered at once the shrill summons of his mate, and both birds made swift and repeated dashes at the unapologetic ornithologist, though not quite daring to strike him, and continued to express with their incessant screaming their untempered indignation. Securing his trophies in his handkerchief which he carried in his teeth, my friend prepared to regain the brow of the cliff above. Growing in a crevice of the rock there was a small sapling which held his weight, and by adroit climb-

ing he made his way up from ledge to ledge, until at last he was on top. Gratefully he threw himself down to rest after this thrilling experience.

The nest was a shallow affair, merely a scouping out of a "place" among the broken rocks. Two of the eggs are in the collection of Prof. H. H. Beck of Franklin, Pa., and two occupy a place of honor in the collection of the writer. The rich coloring matter so lavishly spread over the surface of the first three eggs deposited, seems to have nearly given out, for the fourth shows the creamy white ground color with much fainter painting of reddish brown.

This locality is the same as that given by Dr. Detwiler in Bendire's "Life Histories of North American Birds."\* Evidently the birds are much less common now than then. There are undoubted records of its having nested on the cliffs of the Susquehanna River in Pennsylvania, but whether any sets have been taken in recent years I have not learned. Bendire's supposition that the Duck Hawk breeds in Georgia, Alabama, or Tennessee lacks, as far as I have been able to inquire, any confirmation whatever. Years ago it was reported by Mr. B. T. Gault on the Sandstone Bluffs of Little Red River in Cleburne County, Arkansas. Who knows whether it breeds anywhere in the Mississippi Valley today?

\* See p. 293 Seg.

#### The Red-shouldered Hawk, a Summer Resident in Greene County, Pa.

Although nesting in certain of our eastern and northern counties and parts of eastern Ohio, the Red-shouldered Hawk must be considered a rare summer resident in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Previous to a single instance of its nesting, which I shall here mention, no nests to my knowledge have been discovered.

Late in April a couple of years since, I happened to be out for a tramp only two miles distant from Waynesburg, and upon entering a small woods, which was situated on the side of one of the hills forming a deep, narrow hollow, I remembered having seen an old Hawk's nest a few weeks previous. At once I made my way toward the tree containing the nest, which was a rather tall, leaning white oak (*Quercus alba*) standing at the top of one bank of a ravine and at the lower edge of the woods. Upon procuring a satisfactory view of the nest a peculiar projection could be seen above its rim. This projection proved to be the head of a hawk, the bird sailing away from the nest as I approached.

I, of course, suspected the nest to belong to a Red-tailed Hawk, and putting my climbers on, slowly ascended the tree. As I neared the nest both the male and female Hawks sailed above me and soon settled on the higher branches of an oak situated at the upper edge of the woods. Here they screamed in a peculiar way, and I wondered at such cries from a Red-tailed Hawk. Hurriedly I climbed toward the nest, and with much excitement, looked over the rim upon three bluish white eggs which were somewhat spotted with dark brown. These lay upon a lining consisting of bits of corn stalk, strips of grape-vine bark. The nest, upon measurement, was found to be 60 feet above the ground.

The eggs, I thought, were rather small for Red-tail's so I compared them with 50 eggs of the latter species in my collection and found them much smaller. Not being satisfied with this proof, I sent them to several of our foremost Oologists, among them Mr. Barnes, editor of THE OOLOGIST, and each pronounced them eggs of *Buteo l. lineatus*.

S. S. Dickey.

Washington, Pa.



Nest and Eggs of Pacific Horned Owl

—Photo by J. B. Dixon



Nesting Site of Western Horned Owl

—Photo by J. B. Dixon

### The Owls of Southern Wisconsin.

Our Owls, interesting and highly useful birds of prey, are to me almost the most interesting division of North American birds. Although mainly useful, they do not escape being continually persecuted. Seven species have come under my observation. Of the seven I have found nests and eggs of three. What the hawk is in the day time as a mouser, etc., the owl is at night.

Long-eared Owl (*Asio wilsonianus*). The Long-eared, found usually in the woods, is quite often seen and shot by the thoughtless gunner. They nest in deep woods, generally in an old abandoned crow's nest. Some at least, winter with us, probably those from farther north. Their food consists chiefly of mice and small rodents, and a few wild birds. Common, though not often seen by the inexperienced. Eggs, four and five.

Short-eared Owl (*Asio flammeus*). I once procured one of these of a boy, but aside from this I have observed few of them. Have never succeeded in finding a nest. It prefers open places to woods, feeding mainly on mice. Nest on the ground. Not plentiful.

Barred Owl (*Strix varia*). My acquaintance with the Barred Owl is limited to a few individuals at different times that I heard hooting. In the bluffs along the Mississippi River, in the winter of 1896-7, I heard a number of these owls, and several times, I have noted them calling in the timber around Columbus, but there is slim chance of a nest, as about all of the old big trees have been cut out, and consequently few hollow trees are to be found. The Bullogical Survey has proven that this owl is beneficial, few stomachs containing poultry. Their food consists principally of mice and other small mammals, insects, birds, crayfish, frogs and fish.

Saw-whet Owl (*Cryptoglaux acadica*). This tiny representative of the owls, I am quite sure I once observed a bird, but could not get close enough to make sure the identity.

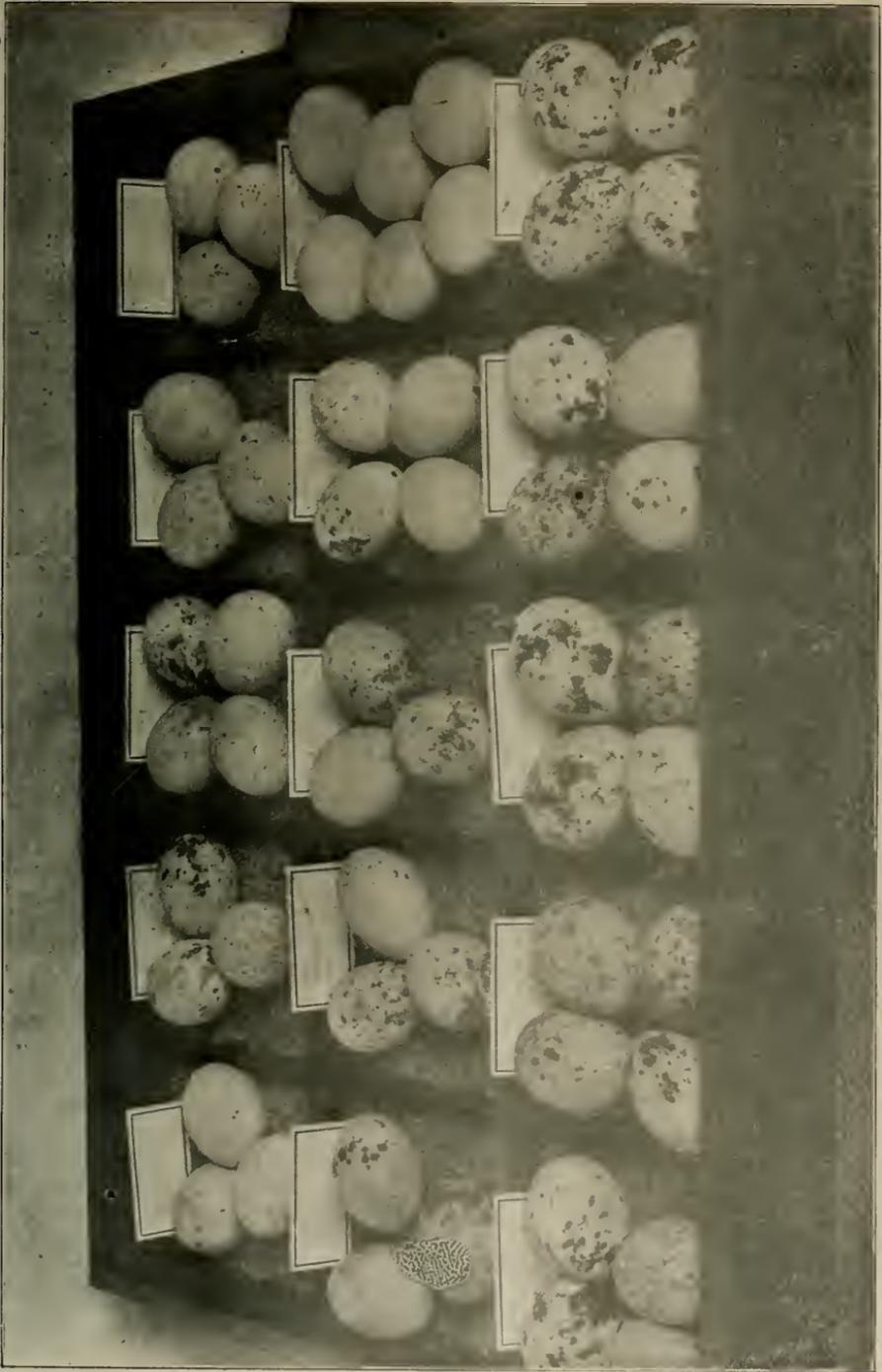
Screech Owl (*Scoops asio*). The little mottled owl I have found here in numbers, in both the red and the gray plumage, the gray predominating. They nest in hollow trees early in March and April. The food of this owl is principally mice and insects, and some small birds, lizards, frogs and crayfish, and I am glad to add, English Sparrows and for this alone, should receive every protection and encouragement to nest about cities and towns,, also farms. Eggs four and five.

Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virgin-OOLOGIST—FIVE.*  
*ianus*). This noble bird stays with us all the year around and while we are toasting our feet around a good hot fire through a cold February snap, accompanied by a northwest blizzard, mamma owl is sitting high in some great nest in some tall tree not far away perhaps, maybe deep in the forest, patiently brooding a fine set of eggs, that almost any oologist would be glad to add to his collection. They feed on poultry, game birds to a great extent, also on mice, rats, rabbits, and other small mammals, and some birds and insects. These birds are fairly common, though not numerous. I have collected sets of two, and sets of three, of their eggs.

Snowy Owl (*Nyctea nyctea*). The Snowy is altogether a straggler from the far north. I have noted them once or twice. The last time I saw one sitting on the ground in a plowed field; could have easily shot him.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.

Zion City, Ill.



Series of Red Tail Hawks, Ferrogenous Rough Leg Hawk, etc., of T. H. Jackson's Collection

—Photo by Jackson

### The Lure of the Wild, and the Bachelor Nest of the Bald Eagle.

On January 23, 1912, my partner and myself left Salem, N. J., for a trip in the Southland on business and pleasure, my pleasure was to be on the lookout amongst the feathered tribe, and also to meet our brother oologists in the places we touched. Procuring our passage on the Steamer Lexington of the Merchant and Miner's Transportation Co. we left Philadelphia, Pa., bound for Savannah, Ga.

On the morning of the 24th, when we awoke we had cleared the copest and out to sea. The ocean was as placid as the waters of the lake. During the journey noted Herring gulls flying and feeding in the wake of the ship and probably a Leach's petrel.

On the 25th, toward evening three Myrtle Warblers struggled to the ship apparently exhausted, we being from fifteen to twenty-five miles from land opposite Charleston, S. C. I followed one about the boat from time to time. Every once in awhile they would all leave the ship, apparently bent on going for good, but before out of sight they would come flitting back glad to get a resting place, and I thought then that was the fate of many of our land birds that get lost at sea and exhausted, especially if a storm arises and the waters and sky look all the same. Our enemies that keep knocking us for taking a few paltry sets, do not say a word in protest to the time when providence destroys whole colonies in a few hours.

On the 26th we entered Savannah river, said to be thirty-five miles in length to Savannah, but only eighteen as the crow flies. Two Great Blue Herons were feeding in the shallow water along the bank and several Cormorants were seen swimming and flying about. While standing on the starboard of our vessel she blew a salute

looking to port. On the Veranda of a cottage stood a woman waving a salute. Whereby hangs a story. Several years ago her sweetheart went to sea and never returned, she mourned his loss so much that she lives alone in the little cottage by the river bank and waves the red lantern by night and the banner by day to all passing crafts.

On the 27th, in Savannah about the docks, Ringbills and immature Laughing gulls were cavorting, and our friend, Mr. Troup D. Perry, whom I met, tells me a Bonaparte was secured there this winter.

On the 28th, with Mr. Perry to the woods of Georgia; it was a treat to me. The long needle Pine and Cypress were the most plentiful trees, festooned with the Spanish Moss which hangs on the trees in more or less profusion as far north as Norfolk, Va. Many of the birds we noted were ones I was acquainted with and just enjoying a milder climate than their summer home in the north. English names of A. O. U. no medieval names—Loggerhead Shrike, Bluebird, Phoebe, Red Tailed Hawk, Horned Owl, Bob White, Pine Warbler, Turkey and Black Vultures, Fish Crows, Robins, Mockingbirds, Brown Thrashers, Cardinals, Mourning Doves, Flickers, three Bachman's Sparrows, several each of White Eyed Towhees, Myrtle Warblers, Fox Sparrows, Hermit Thrashers, and a large flock of Meadowlarks. Heard the Florida Jay, English Sparrow, and Carolina Wren.

January 3d. Went with Professor Walter Howie, near the coast in quest of Bald Eagle nests and procured a Louisiana Heron and a species of Titlark and noted Savannah Sparrow, Maryland Yellowthroat and some others I previously mentioned. Eagle eyre No. 1 was deserted ;and walking five miles Professor pointed to two

islands a mile or so away, reached only by boat, that contained three nests, but too late to get there now.

We returned home and the following morning I investigated the nests myself, hoping for one of the three that were liable to go with me. The sky was overcast, damp, chilly, with a stiff North wind hitting it up hard just as near freezing as could be not to freeze. The boatman, of whom I previously had engaged a ten foot bateau, asked me if I was going this morning. I told him I would try it, so I pulled out. If my energies were greater than the forces I had to contend with I would succeed, but if less, I stood a good chance of being taken to sea as the wind and tide both were traveling in that direction. By lining objects on shore I could see I was holding my own. Soon I was on the lee, on up to the bend all right; here the battle had to be renewed, pulling off my overcoat and gloves I bent to the oar, I won, soon to the lee again.

Soon to Eyrie No. 1, in a pine tree on an island surrounded by marsh and water. Deserted, the oft repeated word.

Across to Island No. 2, birds at home, not sitting but flying about; I just had to go up anyhow to investigate. I knew what had happened before I looked into the nest,—the little fellows had been in the world about six days and were peeping like little chickens. This nest was in a crotch of a dead pine tree seventy feet up, nest about 4 feet by 4 feet, tree about two and one-half feet in diameter. One of the little fellows I made a specimen of, the other I named Professor and sent him north to take a series of photographs of him; he died on the journey.

Eyre No. 3 deserted; flushed one Wood Duck, three Black Ducks and then pulled for landing and home in town, with cold damp feet.

February 25th, left for Norfolk by rail after bidding another one of our friends, Mr. Gelbert Rosignall, Jr., goodby, and by nightfall the land of scrub Palmetto and most of the Cypress was left behind. At New Beme and Washington, North Carolina, there were no signs of eagles; near Jacksonville, North Carolina, noticed Black Vultures.

On the 28th, met another one of our friends, Mr. H. H. Bailey of Newport News. On the 29th we visited an Eagle's nest up a live pine, 75 feet up, contained 1-2, 1-3 incubated, nests 7 ft x 4 ft. x 3 ft. Bird was sitting tight but left nest at our near approach. This nest as all previous, and subsequently contained the feathers, flesh and bones of Wild Ducks, no fish being seen but would probably be seen if visited later in the season.

March 1st and 2d visited 4 deserted nests.

March 3d, another nest, a dandy, it looked in the distance, a dandy when underneath, 100 feet from the ground in an original growth pine three feet in diameter at base, seventy feet to first limb. No birds were about but the nest had been repaired, I went up. It looked fine, just good enough to contain eggs, but it had none, the remains of Wild ducks were here in profusion. This is one of the bachelor nests, the definition of this term is where one or both eagles repair their home each year but do not raise a brood. No doubt being too old to lay. This is not the first nest I have had experience with. My theory is that many of the Eagles, like Turkey Vultures are too old to lay eggs, and bring off their nestlings. White Crowned and Song Sparrows, Juncos and Cardinals were noted.

On the 4th, four inches of snow.

The 5th, Mr. Bailey and myself drove twelve miles from home to a prospect near a lake. We were tired

out from our long journey, as the roads were deep with mud and slippery from the remaining snow. We were on our way home when we got our clue to the other site. After going down a lane about a mile we found a nest which was occupied, up a dead pine tree that was situated on the edge of a slope adjoining a marsh at the end of a fringe of woods. One of the birds was sitting tight. This was really a nasty looking climb with peeling bark, rotten limbs, and enlargements of the trunk. However, I succeeded in getting up without undue exertion and found the nest to be eighty feet up, very small for Eagles, being less in dimensions than many Ospreys, being not more than three feet in diameter by 18 inches deep on outside. It contained two eggs and small ones at that, and if any Florida specimen can beat it on smallness I would like to see it.

The next morning there was more snow and I prepared for my journey northward arriving in Washington, D. C., on the 7th. I visited the National Museum with Mr. E. J. Court and enjoyed it very much.

I was not done with the Eagles yet so on the 9th I collected another set of two eggs heavily incubated, in a live cottonwood tree only fifty feet up, the second easiest tree ever climbed for Eagles. These eagles had nested here thirty years according to the report of the older residents there, thus showing that eagles inhabiting the trees do not always kill the tree as many people think. The nests are always made of sticks and lined with straw, husks or marsh grass; and in the south, with an occasional bunch of sea grass or Spanish moss.

On the 10th, I visited another nest for a friend of mine; it contained one fresh egg. The bird was sitting but not tightly.

On the 11th, I visited another that contained two eggs, also very fresh. I told my friend I was as bad off as he, as my set might have contained three or four eggs, he thought his bird might have laid another egg if collected later, as both birds were not sitting very tight. Both birds were 12 to 14 days late, while the set collected on the 9th, was right on time regardless of the severe winter. My experience with the above fact holds that during adverse climate conditions a large percentage of birds will be late while a few individuals will be right on time.

Arriving home on a lucky day—the 13th., thus ended a two thousand mile journey for a small number of Eagles' eggs. The above summary of eagles nests is:

Five nests contained eggs.

One nest contained young.

One nest contained birds that had not laid.

One nest a Bachelor nest.

Twelve nests deserted.

The latter part might alarm some people, while no doubt some of the birds have been killed. I have known eagles to leave their good substantial eyre and make a new nest a mile away without apparent cause unless from looking in the nest. At other times if a lumber company has been slashing near, they will leave; and again at other times I have known them to stay while timber was being cut occasionally all around them. If the Bald eagle does not offer the greatest diversity of study of any bird of the Eastern States, I will give it up.

Wm. B. Crispin.

Salem, New Jersey.

#### The Hawks of Southern Wisconsin and Northern Illinois.

The Hawks are I think, a very interesting and useful class of birds, with

but few exceptions. With us they are fairly well represented, ten species having come under my observation in this locality.

Marsh Hawk (*Circus hudsonius*). This well known hawk is easily recognized by its manner of flight, as it flies low over marshy places, searching for mice, and by its long tail. This hawk also has a peculiar habit of turning somersets in the air. They spend the summer with us, and occasionally I have seen them during open winters. I found nests of these birds both in Wisconsin and Illinois. The usual nesting time is in May. They feed chiefly on small mammals, such as meadow mice, field mice, gophers, etc., reptiles such as snakes, lizards, frogs, etc., insects of various kinds, and small birds. Is often ruthlessly shot by the thoughtless hunter ;nevertheless is quite plentiful.

Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*). I am quite sure I have seen these hawks in the timber, but have never found them nesting. The U. S. Biological Survey found it necessary to brand them as an evil as they feed to a great extent on small birds and small chickens.

Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). This hawk is common with us in summer, nests in May mostly, though I have found them in April and June. They are bold, dashing birds, always go as if they knew where they were going. Their food consists principally of small birds and poultry, which they are not at all backward about taking. They also feed to some extent on small rodents, reptiles, batrachians and insects. Noted in both states.

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*). The Red-tail, often seen high in the air, soaring in great circles, reminds me more of an eagle than a hawk. Some of them pass the winter with us, but whether they were the ones that

breed here, or the migrants from the North, I cannot say. They nest in the tallest and largest trees in heavy timber. I have collected their eggs in Wisconsin, in March, April and May. A great amount of the poultry taken is layed to this "Chicken Hawk," but careful study by the Biological Survey shows them exempt, or nearly so, as they usually feed on mice and other small rodents, only a small per cent. consisting of poultry. Nevertheless they are ruthlessly hunted and killed by the farmer who receives most of the benefit from them. They are quite plentiful however. Noted also in Illinois.

Red-shouldered Hawk (*Buteo Lineatus*). During some thirty years of field work I found this hawk nesting but once, and then I had the misfortune to tumble the beautiful eggs from the nest and of course smash them all. It is a most useful hawk to the agriculturalist, feeding principally on mice, snakes, frogs and insects, very rarely on birds or chickens. They are also relentlessly hunted by the farmer.

Broad-winged Hawk (*Buteo platyterus*). I saw one of these hawks in the timber on the bluffs of the Wisconsin River in Iowa County, in 1911. It is a beneficial hawk, feeding principally on small mammals, reptiles, batrachians, and insects.

Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*). This magnificent bird has frequently been captured or killed in this part of Wisconsin. One was for a year or more kept in a cage in Columbus, that was caught during the winter of 1897-8 by a farmer south of the city a few miles. The food of the Golden Eagle consists of small mammals and game birds, and sometimes a lamb or pig (dead animals?)

Bald Eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*). These fine and dignified birds are quite common some years, and sev-

eral have been killed near Columbus that came under my notice. Also two or three were kept for some time in confinement at this place (Columbus). They are considered beneficial, feeding mostly on fish which forms more than half its food. It also kills birds, chiefly waterfowl, and many mammals of the smaller kind, and the young of the larger ones. It sometimes kills small lambs and pigs. I do not know but it may nest in the bluffs in the southwestern part of Wisconsin, along the Mississippi River.

Pigeon Hawk (*Falco columbarius*). I have observed these hawks in both Wisconsin and Illinois, and am quite sure one had its nest in the main park at Zion City, Illinois in, 1909, but could never exactly satisfy myself about it. Its food consists chiefly of smaller wild birds and mammals and insects. Is sometimes quite destructive to small chickens.

Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*). This beautiful hawk is a summer resident with us. I have found it nesting several times in Wisconsin, but have never been able to get a set of its eggs. During the summer it feeds almost wholly upon insects, especially grasshoppers. Nests in April and May, in hollow dead trees. It is quite common.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.  
Zion City, Ill.

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#### Some Raptores Notes.

This past spring the Birds of Prey did not seem quite as common as usual.

The Red-shouldered, our most common hawk, was not as plentiful as usual and only three nests came under my observation. At one of these nests up in the big birch tree I got a quite nice photo of three pretty egg.

On May 5th I was lucky enough to find two nests of the Sharp-shinned Hawk from each of which I later on took nice sets of fresh eggs. Both

were as usual in second growth hemlock and the old birds were noisy.

The Coopers and Red-tails have been scarce this season. My Goshawks were about early in February, but a pair of Horned Owls used their nest in the pine tree and the Goshawks left the vicinity. These woods are of considerable extent and they may have nested in some other part. Anyway I didn't find the nest this season. Early in June I saw an adult Goshawk about fifteen miles from here near some very large tracts of virgin timber.

I found nests of both the Barred and Horned Owls this spring but a couple of little stubs nearby in which Screech Owls annually nested I found had blown over during the storms this past winter.

Last season I captured a young Acadian Owl so I had intended making search of that vicinity this spring in hopes of finding a nest, but I found that the bark peelers had got busy and considerable timber had been cut. I could find no sign of the little Owls.

Warren, Pa.

R. B. Simpson.

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#### Copy.

Dear Mr. Reader: We are just about out of copy. We have not enough on hand to print the next issue of THE OOLOGIST from.

Perhaps it might be interesting to you to know that an Oologist of this size contains approximately, exclusive of illustrations, 7500 words. This means 216 inches of typewritten matter when double spaced, and written on the ordinary 8½ x 13 typewriting paper. All of which means that it takes lots of copy to keep us going, and to supply this is up to you. We do the work and foot the bills. We trust that you can furnish us at as early a day as possible, such readable notes as have come under your observation.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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## THE APPEARANCE OF THE BLUEBIRD

By Jacob Green, Professor of Chemistry in Jefferson College.

What sounds now fill the wintry air,  
What music floats upon the breeze;  
Whilst all the fields are bleak and bare,  
And verdure breaks not from the trees?

Oh! 'Tis the bird with plumage blue,  
The herald of approaching spring,  
Still to his native forests true,  
The echoing woods his welcome ring.

No opening violets perfume,  
Now scents for thee the chilly air,  
No lone anemones in bloom,  
A downy couch for thee prepare.

But yet I hale thee, beautiful bird,  
For soon will come the time of flowers,  
When thousand warblers will be heard,  
Filling with song the budding bowers.

Say, what impelled thy venturous wings,  
To bear thee here from southern skies,  
Where never-ceasing verdure springs,  
And ever blooming flowerets rise.

Oh, it was the same tireless arm,  
Which holds the sun-guides every where  
That power whose influences warm,  
To life and light the opening year!

Yes—it was that same kindly hand,  
Which marked thy path through trackless air,  
And bid thee to this distant land,  
Thy native home,—in haste repair!

Thrice welcome to those wonted haunts!  
Endeared to thee by love and song,  
Where erst I've listened to thy chants  
Speeding the gladsome hours along.

Published in "The Cabinet of Natural History and  
American Rural Sports," Vol. III (1833) pg. 57.

The Nesting History of a Pair of  
Golden Eagles.

(*Aquila chrysaëos*).

By C. H. Dixon.

In this section of the country there are nesting places of the Golden Eagle that have been occupied for a length of time beyond the memory of the oldest inhabitant. Our birds do not migrate and each pair of birds seems to have its own chosen territory where it leads its life, unafraid and not often molested. It would seem as if birds recognized each others rights and did not encroach upon preempted territory. As a rule the nesting ranges are far apart and I have never known a pair to take another's nest or build near to another's range so it gives us a very good opportunity to follow quite closely the activities of the different birds.

For many years I have kept track of a pair of Eagles that have their home in a canyon a few miles from my house. The country occupied by them is a somewhat rectangular strip of rough foot-hill land, lying from about five to ten miles or more in from the coast, and with a width of perhaps six or eight miles between more open country to the north and south. At the upper eastern end are large open valleys, farming lands, vineyards and orchards at an elevation of about 650 feet above sea level. At the western end the hills, gradually decreasing in size, resolve themselves into flat mesa (table land) and, where the river comes out, into a large salt marsh, dry for part of the year, which reaches away to the sea.

Down through the middle of this country, through the river canyon, runs the country road. On either side the hills rise to a pretty uniform elevation of 1300 feet. The highest point being 1750 feet (U. S. Geological Survey). To north and south is per-

haps three miles or more of rough, hilly country unoccupied except by wild things. On the sheltered northern slopes the brush grows to a height of eight or ten feet, in places nearly impenetrable.

Along the river there are some fine groves of live oaks, and a few sycamores and cottonwoods on the river bank. The other slopes of the hills are bare in places and most of what undergrowth there is, is, at the most, barely five feet in height. The river bed is a mass of water-worn boulders. The hills rise steeply from the river canyon and there are many large rock heaps and isolated monoliths, they might well be called, that raise their heads high above the surrounding brush, fine lookout stations for the Eagles and Buzzards.

It is an ideal home for Eagles and their long residence here would prove it to be satisfactory as a home and hunting ground, for no eagle would long stay in a territory where the hunting was not good. Rabbits, ground squirrels, wood rats, quail, and other things are here in abundance, all of which are important items in their food supply.

That Eagles inhabit this section was known to me for several years before, in 1898, I was able to make a search for their nesting places. In that year two nests were located, one in a corner formed by natural cleavage in a huge monolith-like rock half way to the top of the hill above the river and the other on a shelf of an immense ledge which formed the whole rocky front of a hill a quarter of a mile away. The first nest was very old and in bad shape. It has since fallen out entirely. Number two was comparatively new, but was not in very good condition. Nothing evidently had been done to it that year.

In 1899 three trips were made to the



Escondido Golden Eagle—Nests 2 and 3

canyon with no results, the nests apparently being untouched.

In 1900 the first nest was about gone, and a Barn Owl had his home in a cleft of the rock behind it. The other seemed to have had a few sticks added to it and I was greatly surprised to find that a new nest had been started on a projecting point of a big ledge a few feet above. The birds undoubtedly changed their minds about locating there, for though two more trips were made to the canyon that year I was sorry to find that nothing more had been added to the nest.

On the first trip in 1901 I found the upper nest on the ledge, number 3, completed, apparently, except for the lining. Work had been done on the lower nest, number 2, also, to a slight degree, but two more trips failed to show any further developments.

In 1902 the old number 1 nest had gone out entirely, probably during a heavy rain. With the others conditions were apparently the same as last year, the nests being untouched.

In 1903 the upper number 3 nest was lined, but no eggs were in it on my first visit. The lining was encouraging, but I made two more trips to the canyon that year to find no change. I find myself wondering in my notes about this time if it is not getting rather tiresome to make so many trips for nothing and lamenting that my ranch duties are so exacting that I cannot take time for an extended hunt for other nests that these birds must be occupying.

In 1904 I could see from below that both nests had been largely rebuilt, the lower especially; that now being quite equal to the other in size. This was very encouraging but by no means a proof of success, for we often find our nests well rebuilt and then deserted.

In climbing up the ledge both nests were hidden by a projecting point.

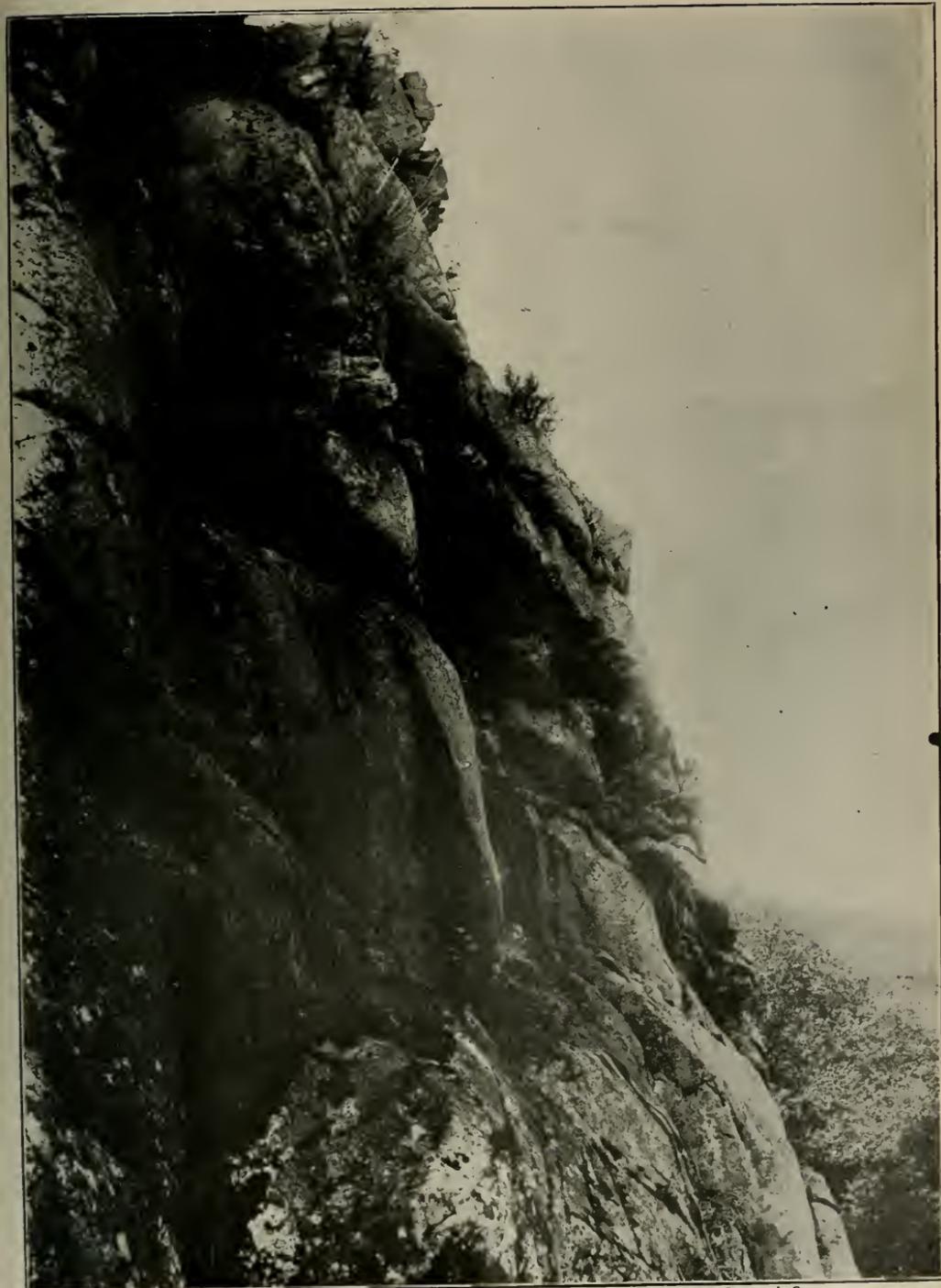
This was safely overcome and I looked round the corner in time to see the biggest and blackest Eagle I ever saw go off the nest not five feet from me, leaving behind what was ample reward for all my labor.

The nest was finely built up and lined with grass, strips of the dry inner bark fibre of the cottonwood pieces of dry corn stalk and Spanish bayonet leaves and contained two eggs which have proved to be the largest eggs of the species of which I have been able to obtain a record either in this country or abroad.

These were described at the time of taking in *The Condor*, Vol. VI, page 166. In that paper there are one or two slight inaccuracies as proved by subsequent knowledge, and a slight variation from the correct measurements, the result of using calipers that were too small. The correct measurements are given below.

The following year, 1905, there was every reason to expect another set from these birds, but though the nest was all fixed up and "ready for eggs" three trips at proper intervals were unproductive of results. It began to be more evident that the birds had other nests somewhere around, a fact I had been quite sure of since 1900, when the new number 3 nest was commenced and abandoned. I was unfortunately not able to put in the time necessary for a more extended search. A hunt for Eagles nests in our hills is about like the proverbial search for the needle in the haystack unless one has some data to go by and my time was too limited to devote to it.

In 1906 my first trip to the nests proved barren of results. No birds were seen and the nests apparently had not been touched. That was not very encouraging, but as it always appeared to be my duty to make at least one more trip to the canyon if my first



C. S. Sharp Climbing to Golden Eagle nests Nos. 2 and 3

proved unsuccessful I tried again a month later and was very well pleased to find a fine set of two eggs in the new nest of the lower pair number 3. The nest was finely lined with the usual ingredients. The number 2 nest below it had not been touched at all.

In 1907 the birds rebuilt the upper nest of the two, making a beautiful nest out of it for so large an affair, well built up and lined to an unusual degree and there were two well marked and very large eggs for me.

On July fourth of that year I took a friend down the canyon to show him the nest, and on going up was surprised to find in it some pieces of broken egg shell, unquestionably Eagles, very clean and bright and the markings showing clearly. This might have been a third egg of the set taken earlier, possibly a second set of one. If so, it was the first time I ever knew any of my Eagles to occupy the same nest a second time in a season.

In 1908 the birds had fixed up the 1907 nest quite a little and that was all. Perhaps my early visit had scared them away for nothing was done further to either that nest or the one below. They had evidently gone elsewhere but I had no time then to hunt them up. On June 16th Mr. C. F. Schnack and I went down the canyon to see if we could locate another nest about a mile away in a place where he had heard some young Eagles had been taken about 1896. We found two nests in a big rock pile jutting out near the top of the ridges; one on an open and quite exposed shelf, being only slightly overhung by the boulders behind and the other on the top of an overhanging boulder at the entrance to a sort of cave formed by the upheaval of these rock masses in the far distant past. This was quite near the bottom but very difficult to get at without artificial aid on account

of bulging out of the boulder upon which the nest was placed. It was very well overhung and protected by the rocks above. To our very great surprise this nest contained two eggs evidently deserted and the smallest in size of any yet taken from these birds.

In 1909 the lower nest of the first pair (No. 2) was almost wholly rebuilt after its long disuse, but there were no eggs in it, and no nests of the birds then known to us were occupied that season.

In 1910 although the upper nest of the lower pair (No. 3) was all fixed up and ready for eggs on my first visit, neither it nor any of the nests proved to be satisfactory to the birds who rebuilt an old nest, hitherto unknown to us, located about 20 feet from the ground, in a small oak near the top of the ridge, about midway between my two pairs of nests. This evidently had been a very old nest and probably had not been very much occupied, for the foundation sticks were well rotted out and, except for the rebuilt super-structure, was rather frail and shaky. This was found by Mr. J. B. Dixon who got a fine set of 3 from it, all very large. This is nest No. 6.

In 1911 the nest No. 3 was again prepared, but the birds went back to No. 6 where Mr. Dixon got another set of two. The nature of the country is very well shown in the photograph of this nest which appear in *The Oologist* of August 15th, 1911, in which a paper by Mr. Dixon on these Eagles appears.

The hill is very steep and rises about 800 feet from the bottom of the canyon, and is covered with very high brush, in places almost too dense and thick for anything but a coyote or jackrabbit to penetrate. The outlook from this nest is very fine.

Last season, 1912, although my No.



Escondido Golden Eagle Nest No. 7 in Live Oak Tree

3 nest showed evidence of having been fussed over a little it was abandoned, as were all the nests in the upper canon and the birds moved away. In March we were honored, and it is needless to say pleased by a visit from the editor of *The Oologist*, who stopped over for a couple of days on the way overland from Los Angeles to San Diego. He promised to stop again on his return, so Mr. Dixon and Mr. Schnack, who, though not an ornithologist, is considerable of an enthusiast, and remarkably well posted in matters ornithological, got busy. Acting on some information obtained from a Mexican rancher, a systematic two days search was made of a section of country not hitherto explored by us with the result of the discovery of two more very old and long abandoned nests in oak trees and other newly rebuilt nest, also in an oak, where a few days later Mr. Barnes had the pleasure of gazing on his first set of Golden Eagles eggs in situ. This nest was about 30 feet from the ground; the tree standing on a steep hillside. It is an immense affair of sticks, large and small, lined with strips of cottonwood inner fibre, willow, small twigs of oak with leaves attached, dry leaves of corn and leaves of the Spanish bayonet plant. It measures about 4 feet in diameter by 5 in height. The nest proper being only a slight depression which would be deepened and enlarged by the bird in incubating the eggs. The photograph of this nest by Mr. Dixon, well shows its immense size and location. It is one of the best built and largest nests we have ever found here. In addition to the nests here given, there are several very old and dilapidated nests in the rock piles in the hills, long abandoned, evidently nests in the past, though scarcely more than remnants now, and there are doubtless

many more unknown to us, for there are many large rock heaps that we have never visited and much of the country we have never hunted over at all.

During the two years, 1905 and 1909, when no eggs were taken, it is probable that the birds occupied the 1908 nest and the No. 6 nest in the tree, this opinion being based on the general condition of these nests when found.

Altogether I have personal knowledge of some 20 or more nests of the Golden Eagle, belonging to five pairs of birds, that are occupied with more or less regularity. These are mostly in rock piles or on ledges, a few in trees. It has been my experience that the nests in trees are always larger, more bulky, more built up, and I believe would contain more cubic feet of material than the nests built on ledges, and they are also much better built. The nests on ledges generally occupy the entire ledge, which is not a very large one as a general thing, and do not appear to require the amount of rebuilding that the tree nests do, the new material appearing to be placed mainly on the front and more exposed portions of the nest. I have generally found them better lined however. Mr. Dixon does not wholly agree with me on this point and of course no positive rule can be laid down, as the birds doubtless build as their tastes and needs demand.

It is probable that no more remarkable series of eggs ever gathered together than these eggs, all that are known, of these Eagles. The size of an average egg is about 2.95 by 2.30 inches. In 1904, when preparing my Condor paper, I obtained all the information possible as to large eggs, both in this country and abroad, from all oologists whom I knew to have large series of eggs of the species.



Nest No. 7 and Eggs of Esccondido Golden Eagle

At that time, in over 300 sets heard from some 650 eggs in all, there were only 22 eggs that measured over 3.10 inches in length; of these only 15 measured over 3.15 and only 4 exceeded 3.20. The largest eggs were in the large series of Mr. A. W. Johnson, a former resident of California, but now of England, measuring 3.26 by 2.34 and 3.23 by 2.34. These were taken in Spain. Another large egg, taken in Scotland, measured 3.26 by 2.55. Mr. A. E. Price also had one that measured 3.23 by 2.44. Since then Mr. Dixon has taken sets of two and three from another pair of birds with measurements as follows, 3.10 by 2.39; 3.11 by 2.41 and 3.20 by 2.34, 3.10 by 2.32, 3.00 by 2.32. This makes in all 26 eggs measuring 3.10 or over in length. Of these 16 are between 3.15 and 3.20 and only 5 exceed 3.20. A comparison of these figures with the measurements of the eggs of our birds will give a better idea of the remarkable size of the eggs of the series.

The measurements of all the known eggs of our pair of birds are as follows:

Set No. 1, Coll. C. S. S.—1904, 3.50 by 2.62, 3.40 by 2.64.

Set No. 2, Coll. C. S. S.—1906, 3.30 by 2.62, 3.25 by 2.64.

Set No. 3, Coll. C. S. S.—1907, 3.40 by 2.62, 3.35 by 2.56.

Set No. 4, Coll. C. S. S.—1908, 3.29 by 2.50, 3.15 by 2.55.

Set. No. 5, Coll. J. B. D.—1910, 3.20 by 2.43, 3.36 by 2.55, 3.26 by 2.58.

Set No. 6, Coll. J. B. D.—1911, 3.26 by 2.68, 3.23 by 2.49.

Set No. 7, Coll. R. M. B.—1912, 3.32 by 2.48, 3.23 by 2.49.

The accompanying photograph, reproduced through the courtesy of the Condor, is of the largest egg, measuring 3.50 by 2.62, an average-sized egg of the Golden Eagle, measuring 2.95 by 2.30 and a large egg of a Western

Red-tailed Hawk, measuring 2.52 by 2.00. This comparison shows very well the great size of the eggs. The eggs of the series are, as a rule, rather well colored, some rather profusely. The coloration is mostly in soft shades of reddish and with lavender and grayish shell markings. A few are bright in coloring but the general tendency is subdued. In one of Mr. Barnes' pair, which, unfortunately, do not appear in photograph of the series, a heavy rusty-reddish blotch nearly covers the large end. In one of mine a blotch of the same character covers the small end. Three eggs of the series are practically unmarked, what marking there is being in the nature of rather fine dotting, not at all profuse. The rest of the eggs are variously marked in blotches, spots and smears, some quite brilliant, in shades from reddish to a light tan. None, however, has the sharply defined blotches that show on the central egg of the photograph.

In addition to the unusual size of these eggs, a most remarkable thing in connection with them is the fact that every egg has been infertile. It is unusual to find infertile eggs in the nests of the raptors. I have found them most often among the Owls and sometimes in the nest of a Duck Hawk, but in the latter case always after a heavy rain which had saturated the ground and doubtless chilled the eggs after incubation had commenced. They never build a nest, laying on the bare ground. These Eagles' nests were all quite well sheltered, being on the North, or protected sides of the two hills; the nests in the rocks being all somewhat overhung and sheltered. It would be most unusual to find even one infertile egg in an occupied nest of a Golden Eagle; but that it should be the invariable rule, and occur year after year, as it has with these birds, is a most remarkable thing.



Nest No. 7 and Eggs of Escondido Golden Eagle

I am very well convinced that the female of this pair is a very young bird (for an Eagle, that is). When I made her close acquaintance in 1904 she was very large and unusually dark and in perfect plumage. Young Eagles are always very much darker than the old birds, which grow grayer and more golden with age. In a band of eagles one can distinguish the young birds almost as far as he can see them. In 1903, the year before the first large set was taken, it was reported that an Eagle had been shot in the canyon. This may have been the female of the old pair, the survivor seeking a new mate in the present incumbent. We found that all our birds here, large and small, will lay a second set when the first is removed and it has always been our custom to allow such second sets to hatch as we are all interested in the conservation of the bird supply, but we have no reason to believe that a second set is ever laid by these birds, the only indication of it ever found being the piece of shell found in the nest in 1907 and that was probably a third egg of the set of two taken earlier in the season. A single abnormal or infertile egg might be merely an accident, a repetition of it a coincidence, but when, year after year, eggs both abnormal in size and infertile as well are laid it would seem to show a most remarkable physical condition. I have been told recently, that another Eagle had been shot in the canyon a few weeks ago. It is to be hoped that it was a visitor only, as it would be most interesting to watch these birds to see how soon, if ever, they return to normal conditions.

In the latter part of August Mr. Dixon and I again visited the canyon. We found the lower nest (No. 2) nearly gone, nothing remaining but some sticks on the outer edge and a mass of thoroughly decayed rubbish in the

bottom. In Mr. Dixon's Oologist paper he speaks of the birds taking material from the old nests to rebuild their new ones. This fact appears to be verified from the condition of this nest, an examination of the rocks and hillside below the nest failing to show any debris of any description that could have come from it. It was originally a very large nest, containing enough material to fill a small wagon and the fact is significant. The nest No. 3, on the ledge above, was in remarkably good condition, even to the lining. It has not been occupied since 1905, although patched up more or less most every year since. It is placed on a jutting semi-elliptical ledge or shelf about 7 feet long by 4 feet deep, somewhat over-hung by the face of the cliff above. This was completely filled by the nest, which was built up to a height of a little over 2 feet, the lined nest proper being about 16 inches in diameter and hollowed out to a depth of about 4 inches.

The photographs illustrated in this article are by J. B. Dixon of Escondido, Cal., except the one showing the comparative size of three eggs—the largest laid by this bird, the average egg of the Golden Eagle, and a Western Red-tail Hawk's egg. The plate for which is kindly loaned us by The Condor, and to Mr. Dixon and Mr. Sharpe, ourselves as well as the readers of this article are certainly under much obligation.

For further information relating to the eagles of the Escondido country, see *The Oologist*, Vol. XXIII, pg. 126-9.

It is the purpose of *Ye Editor* sometime in the future to publish a half tone photo of the set of eggs taken in March, 1912, above referred to, together with a half tone photograph of the nest and eggs in situ and of *Ye Editor* looking into the nest, together



Comparative size of Eggs of the Largest of this Eagle and an Average Golden Eagle's egg and the egg of a Western Red Tailed Hawk

with the impressions made upon the mind of an enthusiastic Oologist of a triumph of this kind.—Editor.

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#### An Apology.

Owing to an illness confining Ye Editor to his bed for the first time in more than twenty years, much of our ornithological and oological correspondence has been neglected, and we tender this as an excuse. Being now on the mend we hope to catch up with the same in the course of the next few weeks.

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#### Do Birds Return To Old Nests?

Whether birds, especially migratory ones, return to the same nests year after year is a question of much interest to the naturalist. We know that the Owls and Hawks will use the same nest year after year if not disturbed. But the smallest birds that spend the winter in the south—How are we to know if the same pair returns to the nesting place, or even to the same locality, unless we have some special mark to recognize them by?

In looking over my notes I found a record of a female Purple Grackle that had only one leg. This bird was carrying nest material and was caught in a tree by a piece of string, and was found hanging head down by one leg. The leg was broken when the bird was found, and the broken leg was cut off. This one legged bird returned each year for five years, and nested almost in the same place.

A pair of Pewees have nested in the porch at my summer cottage near the Mississippi river for about fifteen years. They failed to return in the spring of 1912. I have always believed that they were the same pair. Probably both the old birds died during the winter in the South.

The little House Wren comes back in the spring and makes his nest in

the same box, or old tin can that he used the year before. If the nest box is not in the same place, how the little fellow will scold and make a fuss about it. There is an island in the Mississippi near here. This island is grown over with willows so thick that it is almost impossible to walk through. A pair of Green Herons have made this willow patch their home for several years, during the nesting time. If they are not the same pair of birds, then why is it that there is a pair of nests almost in the same place each year?

Whit Harrison.

La Crescent, Minn.

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#### Bluebird Notes From Trenton, N. J.

In the August number of *The Oologist*, the writer mentioned under "Field Notes," the great scarcity of Bluebirds in the Delaware Valley. Since then and in fact ever since the first of last year, on all of my tramps through woods and fields, along canals and streams, both on the Pennsylvania and Jersey sides of the Delaware, my one thought has been, "Where are the Bluebirds?"

Sunday morning, December 8th beamed on us bright and clear with a temperature of about 40 degrees, and at 11 o'clock as I had completed my usual morning tramp along the River road and just as I was passing under the new Philadelphia and Reading Railroad bridge located just a little east of the foot bridge that crosses the Delaware at Yardley, Pa., my thoughts at the time lamenting the fact of not having seen a single bird all morning, my attention was suddenly attracted to a small flock of Bluebirds, roving about in the tops of two or three trees along the side of the road and bobbing in and out of the holes in the top part of the trunks.

As my eyes feasted on this sight, a



Series of Six Sets of Eggs of Escondido Golden Eagle

sight which I had long been wishing for, it seemed to bespeak the truth of that old biblical saying "Seek and ye shall find," and with a long stroke of my pencil I jotted down in my note book these seven roving minstrels with a feeling of great satisfaction.

Sunday, December 22d, weather clear and temperature about 28 degrees, found me back at the same spot for it occurred to me that they might be wintering in this locality. My supposition was correct, for on this memorial morning, five of these little strangers of the year were carefully marked down in note book.

William M. Palmer.

Trenton, N. J.

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#### Nesting of the Prairie Horned Lark In Southern Pennsylvania.

(*Otocoris alpestris praticola*)

I wished very much to secure the nest and eggs of the Prairie Horned Lark, so late in March, 1908, I set out on a tramp to a high ridge north of town. Here I had frequently seen the larks feeding, and had often flushed them from the ground. When I reached the place there were no signs of the birds, but soon one came sailing from a neighboring field uttering its familiar notes. This bird flew to a bare space of ground, and soon it was joined by its mate. The birds walked about upon the ground, then flitted from place to place. After watching them carefully for some time, hoping to follow one to its home, I gave up, and began to search for a nest. First I walked up and down a level space of ground, with no signs of a nest. Next I searched over a low saucer shaped piece of ground, and was about to give up, when just in front of me I noticed a small cup-shaped depression in the earth. This was slightly lined with dry grass. I made note of this find and departed.

April 7th, I walked to the ridge with much hope of procuring a set of eggs. Upon nearing the nest I crept up quietly. The bird soon heard me and flew from the nest. My heart beat rapidly as I hurried forward.

My, it certainly was glorious to gaze down at that nest! It contained five beautifully marked eggs, which proved to be perfectly fresh. The nest was simply a frail structure of dry grasses, slightly lined with finer grasses and a few hairs from cattle or horses. I prepared the set carefully, and with the nest, prize it highly; for Prairie Horned Lark's eggs are not easily secured in our section of the state. The birds are found on many of the high ridges, but their nests are difficult to locate.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

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#### White Catbird's Eggs.

Sometime since we published a short note announcing the taking of a set of White Catbird's eggs by R. I. Giles of Marlboro, Mass. He writes that from that time on he has received many offers to buy or exchange the same away, and that last week brought the 14th of such offers. He says he has no intention of parting with this, and desires us to announce that fact. He gives us the history of this most remarkable set of eggs in the following language:

"As to location, finding it, etc.,—the nest was in a wild grapevine, three feet up, in a small patch of alders, with a little brook running through it. When I found it I was looking for a Maryland Yellow-throat, and as it was a small spot looked it over pretty thoroughly. In a grapevine I flushed a Catbird from her nest.

Now I would look into a bird's nest if I knew it to really be ten years old; it isn't curiosity; it's the egg bug. Of course I expected to see something



Largest set of Golden Eagle Eggs Known, Laid by Escondido Golden Eagle

in this one as the bird had just left it, but to say I was surprised when I saw one white egg is putting it mild.

There was a Catbird's nest, the same as I had seen dozens before, and a Catbird only a few feet away,—but a white egg. I took up the egg and saw that it was fresh, but what to do I didn't know; leave it and have something destroy it, or wait and see if the bird would lay any more. I finally decided to leave it and four days later went to the nest and hardly dared to look at it, but off came Mrs. Catbird, and four pure white eggs in the nest. Happy,—well I guess.

It's some years since I found it, but somehow I've got to look that spot over everytime I go that way. Most always a Catbird's nest is there, but with those terrible blue eggs.

Don't know if it's my bird of course, but if she has gone back to laying blue eggs I'm through with her.

Did find a set of Wilson Thrush with two eggs, one-half size in there, but nothing else of value."

#### Along The High Water.

All through this past month (January 1913), we have had much rain and high water. So open has it been that it has brought no northern visitors and things have been very dead in the bird line. The high water brings to mind other floods that occurred in late March and April at which times a hunt along the overflows is very apt to result in finding more or less of interest.

One of these days was March 28, 1904. For a week it had been thawing and raining, taking off the snow and the result was very high water. The weather had turned colder the day before and on this day it was snowing and the wind was strong in the Northwest. The water had also receded a

little. I was on my way before daylight and was several miles below town when it was light enough to see.

At the mouth of a stream a good piece of meadow was overflowed and feeding along the edge was a duck I couldn't just place. Circling around I crawled up to a bunch of weeds and when it fed along in range I gathered it in and found I had a fine male Ring-neck. They are very scarce in this vicinity and even at Erie seem to be rare. As the water was falling there was quite a wide strip all along the edge that was free of snow and here a number of Robins and Red-winged Blackbirds were feeding. I had about a mile of steep mountain to cross to get to the flats and wild land below and on the way over I saw in the snow trails of grouse, rabbits and squirrels and several fox tracks. At one place where the road led through plenty of brush and grape vines I found a very large flock of Juncos. They were everywhere, and with them were a few Song and Tree Sparrows and a few Fox Sparrows.

At the lower side of the mountain I found a very large flock of Juncos.

At the flats I found the river had completely submerged the first or lower flat and the overflow extended back through the woods to the second flat. I went down through the woods carefully along the overflow and soon flushed a Black Duck but out of range. Then I came upon three Red-breasted Mergansers. There was plenty of brush and they were well hidden and saw me as soon as I saw them. But I dropped a nice drake with each barrel.

I next noticed a pair of Black Ducks feeding well out amongst the trees, but no way to get out there. A Great Blue Heron had been walking about in the snow but I didn't see him. A pair of Hooded Mergansers were along

shore amongst some brush and logs and jumped up quite close. I dropped the male and he was a beauty. Let the female go. In a large field at the lower end was a big overflow. All along the edge was a bare strip about twenty-five feet wide where the water had receded. This little strip of shore was free of snow and covered with feeding birds. There was a great racket going on when I got in hearing. A flock of a dozen Mallard and Black Duck were feeding, but were very wild and left at once. There was a large number of Crows but they soon followed the ducks.

I went along very carefully and found large numbers of Robins. One flock of twenty-five or thirty Killdeer. A good lot of Purple Grackles and with them a few Rusties in full dress. There were a few Song and Tree Sparrows and Juncos at places where the overflow was near brush. I noticed three small birds along the waters edge and on gathering them in found they were titlarks.

On my way back up along the overflow in the woods I saw a couple of Muskrat but didn't shoot. Was also entertained by a Pileated Woodpecker that alighted close by but finally detecting me, he left in a great hurry. Just after this I noticed a ripple on the water along shore and keeping still, I soon saw amongst the brush three Wood Ducks, a drake and two ducks. When the drake got just where I wanted him I took him in and let the hens go. He was in beautiful plumage and made a handsome specimen.

The Wood Duck is scarce of late years and seems to be getting more so. On the big hill I took in two nice Fox Sparrows.

Arrived home hungry but satisfied with my trip. Noted 33 species on this trip. Five of them new arrivals.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

### Winter Notes, Salem, Oregon.

We are having a snow here in Western Oregon; we now have as much as fourteen inches. This will kill the pheasants by the hundreds. They are a helpless bird in the snow with their long tails and naked legs and feet; while our Sooty Grouse sits in the tall firs and has plenty of food the pheasant is almost helpless. Our native birds here perish by the hundred when we have snow. I feed the small birds when I can.

This morning I noticed the following birds near the door: Northwestern Flicker, Western Bluebird, Oregon Junco, Oregon Towhee, Vigor's Wren, Oregon Chickadee. The Northwestern Flicker is not a hardy bird here; they die easily and then the Cooper and Sharp-shinned Hawk have a feast. The Western Meadowlark winters here. I think this snow will thin them out. The Golden-crowned Kinglet is common in winter. The Ruby-crowned nearly all migrate.

George D. Peck.

Salem, Ore.

### Large Set of Mourning Dove.

D. C. Westbrook, of Griffin, Georgia, writes: "In notes of the January issue of *The Oologist*, Mr. Ray Densmore of Painesville, Ohio, stated that he found a nest of Mourning Doves containing three eggs. I found a similar occurrence in June, 1910."

### Bird Magazines.

We have just had bound up and added to our library complete files of the following magazines, all in their original covers, viz.:

- The Atlantic Slope Naturalist.
- The Avifauna.
- The Bay State Oologist.
- The Bittern (Cedar Rapids, Ia.)
- The Bittern (Damariscotta, Me.)
- The Hawkeye O. and O.
- The Naturalist and Collector.

The O. and O. Semi-Annual.  
 The Spy Glass.  
 The Sunny South Oologist.  
 The Taxidermist (Medina, O.)  
 The Wisconsin Naturalist (Madison, Wis.)  
 Zoe.

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#### Early Solitary Sandpipers.

In my paper on "Early Sandpipers in Philadelphia County, Pa." in the November, 1912, *Oologist*, (p. 370) there occurs this palpable error,— "the latest I have ever seen the species here has been August 10 (two records)." It should have been October 10th.

This year (1912) I have also seen several early transient Solitary Sandpipers. On July 16, I observed one at the identical place (Frankford) where I saw a bird on July 18 and 25, 1911, and it is my next earliest record. While camping in late July on the North Branch of the Pensauken Creek, in Burlington County, New Jersey, on July 27 I saw a lone Solitary Sandpiper and on the following day three birds were seen together at the same place.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

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#### Books Received.

**The Breeding Birds of Southern Center County, Pennsylvania**, by Richard C. Harlow.

This is a very excellent treatise in this paper, published in Volume XXIX, pp. 479 of *The Auk*, and is a carefully prepared, exhaustive local list.

**Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1911.**

This report, as previous ones, contains many interesting papers on various subjects; those in this volume being:

"A History of certain Great Horned Owls," by Charles R. Qeyes.

"The Passenger Pigeon," by Peter Kalm (1759) and John James Audubon (1831).

"Note on the Iridescent Colors of Birds and Insects," by A. Mallock.

"On the Positions Assumed by Birds in Flight," by Bethany Beetham.

..A Revision of the Forms of the Great Blue Heron, by Harry C. Oberhauser, December 12, 1912; a separate from Volume 43, page 531-59, proceedings of the U. S. National Museum.

This revision evidences the same painstaking attention that is shown by all of Oberhauser's papers. It designates nine varieties of this bird of which *Ardea herodias adoxa*, and *A. h. hyperonca*, and *A. h. oligista* are new; but of course it is not confined to the territory covered by the A. O. U. check list.

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#### Albino Meadowlark.

Last September a farmer friend brought me a fine specimen of Albino Meadowlark which he captured in his meadow. It had been set upon by other birds until exhausted. The bird was in pure white plumage with exception of the breast which was of the pure cadmium yellow. The pink eyes were especially prominent. As the bird was alive and in good condition I put it in a cage and placed in the front window of my store. A card asked "What is it?" and only Dr. Jessee, our other Bird Man was able to name it. It was my first experience with Albinos.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Ills.

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#### Winter Ornithology.

In the published diary of the unfortunate Captain Scott, who recently perished in the Antarctic, is found some information relative to the breeding habits of the Emperor Penguin. He states that on June 27th—mid-

winter in that country—four of his assistants started on a sled journey to observe the incubation of the Emperor Penguin. That a fortnight was taken in the journey necessary to reach their rookery; that the temperature ranged between sixty and seventy degrees below zero, the lowest seventy-seven below. That comparatively few birds were found at the rookery but they had already begun to lay eggs, and a number of eggs in different stages of incubation were secured.

It makes the average searcher for rare warblers' eggs in June, shiver to think of a trip of this character.—Ed.

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#### Large Set of Cuckoo.

June 3, 1912 while Mr. R. C. Harlow and myself were looking for nests near here we found a Black-billed Cuckoo at home on seven eggs. Before she flushed we noticed that she seemed to sit rather high and on looking in we were certainly surprised to find the nest actually full of eggs. They all looked like the laying of one bird.

There is usually a full set here. Sometimes four. Have never before personally found one with over four and think this must be a record.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

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#### Just Notes.

I have not seen much out of the ordinary the past season, but as usually is the case, every year brings forth some interesting occurrence.

On April 18th while out looking up nests of the Red-shouldered Hawk, we flushed a crow off her nest. My companion climbed the nest, and at first said there was nothing in it. However, feeling around some more he brought out a small egg which proved to be that of a crow, and just the size

of our Robin's egg. We took this egg.

Again on May 4th while rounding up a hawk's nest, in the same woods, we were surprised to flush a crow off the same nest. My companion again climbed to the nest and was surprised to find three more crow's eggs. One was just a trifle larger than the first mentioned. Another was about twice as large as the first, and the last was a normal egg. The smallest egg only had the white in it, and the others were advanced in incubation. This set, which I prize very highly, is now in my collection.

Also I will mention another peculiar incident which happened this fall on a hunting trip of mine. I was spending my Thanksgiving vacation at Fair Haven on Lake Ontario on a duck hunt. On Thanksgiving afternoon when stooing in Fair Haven Bay a bird came into my decoys that appeared nearly white. I shot it, and when I got it in my hands I did not what I had shot. I knew it was a Grebe of some kind, but did not know the species on account of the color. Brought the bird home, and my father at once identified it as a Holboell's Grebe, not only a good record in itself in this locality, but a half albino. The breast normal; head and neck a little lighter than usual. Back nearly all white. Not the glossy white of the breast, but the white common to albinistic forms. The wings were uniformly marked with white and were mostly of the latter color. A very pretty bird, and is now in my father's collection.

In the spring of 1912 I took 48 eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk. I am making a specialty of this bird and eggs.

Carl F. Wright.

Auburn, N. Y.

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#### About Barn Owls.

Since reading the Hawk and Owl

article by Guy W. Day, of Sidney, Ills., in February issue of *The Oologist*, I have wondered if the Illinois readers recognized the record as probably the first authentic set of Barn Owl eggs taken in Illinois. I have carefully perused the lists and have been unable to unearth an Illinois record. I have met the same difficulty in trying to find a bona fide record from our sister states of Indiana and Wisconsin. A number of works give the Barn Owl as resident in these particular states but no one seems to have the set of eggs and data to show for it. It is undoubtedly a more common resident in all three states than the average student realizes. As data of its nidification is so scarce, the nests must be particularly difficult to locate and Mr. Day is to be congratulated. I am watching that same stump for the next set.

I have an incomplete set of 5 eggs taken from an ice-house near my store in Philo in 1910. The Owls nested within 100 feet of my collection but I was in ignorance of their presence until the old ice-house was demolished.

Last year a pair made their home in our village and the hideous throat-rattling cries were heard every night but a fine tooth comb search all over town failed to reveal the nesting place.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Ills.

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#### Two Rare Birds in Colorado.

When Prof. W. W. Cooke, then of the Colorado Agricultural College, published his bulletin "The Birds of Colorado," in 1897, the Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) had not been taken in Colorado. On May 14, 1908, there were three of these birds about a small lake at Windsor, in Weld County, and on September 16, 1912, there were a dozen or more of them about the lake, and on September 19 I no-

ticed several of them again; they remained for some days. They seemed to be feeding on small fish; they would fly at some little distance above the lake and dart down into the water and catch their prey in their beaks, after the manner of the Kingfisher.

On August 17, 1911, I noticed a strange Flycatcher feeding about my garden; a common Kingbird was attacking it. It proved to be a Crested Flycatcher (*Myiarchus crinitus*). It was a young bird and must have wandered some distance, for I saw no others like it, and the books tell us that this bird is not found farther west than Nebraska. So far as I know my record is the only one for Colorado.

Geo. E. Osterhout.

Windsor, Colo.

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#### House Wren Destroys Eggs.

Several years ago I lived in the country. One summer day while sitting on a beam in a barn, enjoying the breeze that blew through the open doors and gables, I witnessed the following:

A Robin had built its nest on the two wooden pegs that join the top brace to the top plate of the barn. The nest contained three fresh eggs, and was about twenty feet from where I was sitting.

A House Wren had a nest at the other end of the barn, the entrance being a knothole. The wren had been flying in and out for about ten minutes chattering and scolding as wrens do, when it flew up to the pegs on which the nest rested, and from there to the rim of the nest. Then it gave three or four pecks, and as I got up it flew away. I climbed up to the nest and found that each egg had been punctured once and one of them twice by the little rascal. Do wrens ever suck other birds eggs? Perhaps some of

your readers may know of cases. My getting up frightened it away before it had a chance to do so. This is the only time I have ever heard of wrens acting so.

J. R. McLead.

London, Ont.

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#### Unusual Nesting Sites.

During the Spring of 1912, I was in the field a good deal and consequently came across a number of unusual places where the birds were nesting. The first that came under my notice was that of a Purple Grackle containing five eggs. I had noticed a pair of these birds continually around a large telegraph pole and finally, on the 26th of April, I climbed the pole and discovered the nest. It was firmly built between a cross beam and the pole, and considering its bulk was surprisingly well concealed. The pole was located beside a large grove of trees and I was surprised that the birds had built where they did.

Several weeks later on the 8th of May, I found another nest of the Purple Grackle containing four eggs located in a hole in a dead tree. I had seen some straws sticking through a crack in the wood and thinking that it was an English Sparrow's nest, I climbed up and was amazed to find that it was that of a Purple Grackle. The nest was built but fifteen feet from the ground.

On the 5th of May, I came across a Cardinal's nest containing two newly hatched young and an egg, located to my great surprise in a large brush pile. This is one of the few nests that I have ever found of these birds, not built in a grape vine. The bird had concealed its nest better than it probably suspected for had I not seen the female flying out, I would never have thought of looking there.

The most peculiar position chosen

by a Yellow Warbler that I have ever seen I found on the 22d of May when I located a nest of this bird containing two eggs built on the top of an old Gold Finch's nest. The nest was placed in a small locust tree about twenty feet up and was entirely concealed from the ground, being found by seeing one of the birds fly from it. Why it chose such a position I do not understand, but if they did so for protection, they certainly chose a good position.

On the 28th of July, as I was passing a small maple tree. I noticed a large nest in one of its crotches and on investigating I was amazed to find that it was that of a Brown Thrasher containing one egg. It was built about fifteen feet from the ground and is the highest nest of this species that I have ever seen.

Thos. D. Burleigh.

Pittsburg, Pa.

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#### Late Nesting of the Common Crow.

On May 30, 1910, at Avalon, Cape May County, New Jersey, on Seven Mile Beach, I collected a set of four fresh Crow's eggs from a nest about 35 feet up in the top of a holly in the forest on a sand dune, which is the latest I have ever taken eggs of *Corvus brachyrhynchos*. In the same woods I examined another Crow's nest of this species containing four or five small naked young. This nest was in a cedar, 30 feet from the ground and ten feet out on a horizontal limb. The birds were flushed from both nests and identified by their sweet voices. We also found young Crows on the wing in this forest, a family of three or four birds; and I examined a new Fish Crow's nest in it, situated about 35 feet up in a cedar top, show-

ing the lateness which some of the *Ossifragæ* begin nesting in South Jersey.

My next late record of the nesting of the Crow is also a New Jersey one; on May 23, 1909, I collected four Crow's eggs from a nest 36 feet up in a black gum in a narrow belt of trees on the low bank of Pensanken Creek, near Maple Shade, Burlington County; three eggs were infertile and the fourth contained a living embryo over one-third developed.

Both of these sets were undoubtedly second ones of birds that had lost their first clutches by accident or robbery.

The latest I have ever taken a set of Crow's eggs in Southeastern Pennsylvania, is May 18, 1898, when I collected a set of five fresh eggs at Frankford, Philadelphia County. The nest was 30 feet up in a thin scarlet oak in a corner of a thick woods. This was a second set, for I collected the first clutch, consisting of four fresh eggs, with the nest on April 30th ult., from another part of the woods. It was about 30 feet up in the top of a slender cedar, the only evergreen in the woods. The two sets were similar in coloration, etc., so there can be no doubt that both were laid by the same bird. However since then, I have several times taken the first and second sets of crows and yet there are ornithologists who contend that the bird will not lay again if robbed.

My next latest record of the nesting of the Crow near Philadelphia is June 6, 1907, when R. C. Harlow and I found a nest containing two young under a week old and an infertile egg. It was about 25 feet up in a yellow birch in edge of some trees along the Wissahickon Creek at Fort Washington, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and was examined by the writer.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

#### Miscellaneous Bird Notes.

September 12th a Sea Gull attracted by the sight of fish swimming slowly within an aquarium at Venice, California, crashed through a pane of glass in its effort to seize the fish and was seriously injured, and captured by those in charge of the aquarium.

November 22d, President Taft proclaimed the reservation of 1613 acres of additional land on the abandoned Fort Niobraria reservation in Nebraska as a bird sanctuary, to be continually maintained for the breeding of Prairie Chickens, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Quail and other native birds.

November 22d, the annual "Turkey Trot" attended by Governor Colquitt and his staff, passed through the streets of Cuero, Texas. The procession consisted of 18,000 live turkeys on their way to the Thanksgiving slaughter pens. The parade was viewed by from 12,000 to 15,000 people.

Sergeant George Willetts has recently returned to San Francisco from Alaska, where he went for the Smithsonian Institution for the purpose of collecting birds and other specimens. He brought back with him more than three hundred specimens, including 85 different species; among them, Dixon's Rock Ptarmigan, one of the rarest birds of the North; also Marbled Murrelet, and many Petrel.

As the result of his trip, Kruzoff Island has been set aside by the Government as a preserve for birds and animals. He estimated there were 22,000 pairs of petrel breeding on St. Lazaria Island, and one of the curious things discovered was the fact that the large brown Cedar bear swam from the mainland out to this island and dug these birds and their nests out of the ground and devoured them by the thousands.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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## THE WOOD THRUSH.

By

Jacob Green, M. D.

Professor of Chemistry in Jefferson College.

When bright Aurora gilds the morn,  
And music breaks from brake and bush,  
And lofty oak, and lowly thorn;  
Oh, then is heard the thrilling Thrush.

He from some branching aged tree,  
The early breeze with rapture fills,  
The joyous notes sweep o'er the lea,  
And echo from the grassy hills.

The plowboy blithe at peep of dawn,  
Whistling along his wonted way,  
Now pauses on the dewy lawn,  
To catch the warblings of his lay.

But when the sun in glowing car,  
Rolls glittering o'er the panting plain,  
Then deep in shadowy glens afar,  
He whispers there a lovely strain.

But at pale evening's pensive hush,  
When the gay glow-worm trims his lamp  
Again is heard the thrilling Thrush,  
In dewy dells and valleys damp.

Published in The Cabinet of Natural History and American Field Sports, vol. III, page 79 (1833).

### A Correction.

Through an oversight of the printer, the article beginning on page 34 of our March issue entitled "The Nesting History of a Pair of Golden Eagles," is credited to C. H. Dixon, whereas it should be credited to C. S. SHARPE. We regret this very much.

### Kill The Cats.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 513 of the United States Department of Agriculture, among other things, contains these words:

"One of the worst foes of our native birds is the house cat, and probably none of our native wild animals destroy as many birds on the farm, particularly fledgings, as cats. The household pet is by no means blameless in this respect, for the bird-hunting instinct is strong even in the well-fed tabby; but much of the loss of our feathered life is attributable to the half-starved stray, which in summer is as much at home in the groves and fields as the birds themselves. Forced to forage for their own livelihood, these animals, which are almost as wild as the ancestral wildcat, inflict an appalling loss on our feathered allies and even on the smaller game birds like the woodcock and bobwhite. If cats are to find place in the farmer's household, every effort should be made by careful feeding and watching them to insure the safety of the birds. The cat without a home should be mercifully put out of the way."

Fully seventy-five per cent. of the birds hatched within the limits of the incorporated towns and villages of the United States are destroyed by cats. Every real bird lover will seize upon every opportunity to place one of these enemies of our bird friends "hors de combat." It is a duty that we owe the birds to exterminate as nearly as possible the cats, and the Editor hopes

every reader of *The Oologist* will make a record along this line in 1913.—Editor.

### Buzzard Egging.

About the first Sunday in May each year, an irresistible voice I hear, that draws me out to the deep dark woods, where there in the soothing solitudes, I look for friends midst fairies and gnomes, and visit them there in their wild wood homes;

Out in the midst of the thickest part, in a huge old elm with a hollow heart, I hurry to look with a most intense, expectancy for its residents; For the same old hollow for years has blessed a pair of Buzzards and sheltered their nest;

Now a beautiful Turkey Vulture's egg, just seems to look in my face and beg for a place in my Oological case, and seldom is it that I am so base, and diffident as to scorn the request, when I stumble onto a Buzzard's nest;

Now this is the way I figure to please, my Oological wants and ease the conscience that needs no pardon beg of the goose that layed the golden egg: We observe that it is the Vulture's way (like the Raptorees and the birds of prey) to be satisfied with the work and cheer, of rearing ONE family every year; Now this longing of Buzzards is so intense that when we appear and collect our rents, the Vulture persistently up and lays, a duplicate set in thirty days;

Two young soon break from the thin shell walls, looking quite like two cotton balls; The Buzzardine crop is increased two more, and as fine as if hatched a month before; Just a simple retarding of Nature's way—merely our making the Vulture pay, a sort of a tribute that I might get, two more fine eggs for my cabinet;

This was the magnet that led the way and drew me Lynn Groveward



The Buzzard's Home

—Photo by Isaac E. Hess

the first of May; The trees were dressed in the restful green; flowers and birds made bright the scene; up in the air (a pleasing sight) a Buzzard was sailing in graceful flight; Only one Vulture was sweeping the air, which meant that the female was then somewhere, probably covering with wings and legs, two beautiful cream-colored brown-blotched eggs.

Tip-toeing up to the hollow tree, I placed my tripod where it would be, just right to catch the hostess on a camera plate 'ere she was gone; Focusing into the cavity, with diaphragm stopped down carefully, I attached a string to the shutter's release and prepared to scoop in a masterpiece;

And here is the place to offer a tip—"There's mony a slip twixt th' cup and th' lip"—My visions of photos went up in thin air, for when I arrived, Mrs. V. wasn't there;

I was disappointed all over in spots as big as a blanket however my thoughts, led me away to another site, where both the Buzzards occasionally light; But in neither place was my friends at home, and but for an accident quite, this "pome" would never have found space on this page, nor the beautiful set my heart assuage. I had given up my search in disgust; was in a lethargic state I mistrust, when I was accosted by a Kentuck, who lived in the Grove; now wasn't it luck, that the subject reverted to Buzzard eggs? I told him I had nearly walked off my legs; "I reckon I know whar she's settin'," sa id he; "You all want me to show you whar she be?"—Said I "I'd sure like to see the nook in this old grove where I didn't look"

He grinningly volunteer "wal I guess, I sure got one on you, Mr. Hess"—"I was comin' this mornin' through the bog and see'd her a settin' in a log."

And through the brush he took the

lead—bare-foot, bare-head, true type indeed, of Nature's child who understood each little mystery of the wood; "She hatched in that thar log last year," he added and then to me 'twas clear, why I collected no Buzzard set to add to my last year's cabinet;

Yes, here was the log and when I sized, it up and down I realized, I had sat upon that dog-goned leg, when if I had only been a dog, I'd shortened much my hunting process, by using first my old proboscis. I knew that at first I must accustom myself to the dark or I might bust 'em, so patient', no impatiently, I strained my eyes till I could see, two great big globules lying there—an innocent conspicuous pair, of eggs that stared in mute surprise, for those big blotches seemed like eyes, and seemed to say "Oh rescuer brave, release us from this dismal cave"; Quoth I "you're rescued pretty eggies now I'll sure win one of Carnegie's medals that he with great tact, distributes round for each brave act.

The female left without a word; she is you know, a silent bird; We heard no wild blood-curdling squawks, like when we rob the Red-tailed Hawks; She sailed around with furtive gaze as though just counting up the days when she would have another set, and present tragedies forget; The log was lying north and south and looking in the tunnel's mouth, I saw the eggs ten feet from each, near or far side and out of reach; The facts and figures to be faced, were, hole too small, and all incased in wood so hard, I could but scratch it, nor hope to dig through with my hatchet; Whistling an inspiration song, I cut me down a sapling prong and rolled into my eager hands the finest set in fourteen lands;

'Tis beautiful to see and my, but—'twas a pleasure to describe it, on my data; Do you know it—every single

time I show it, egg cranks seem to want to nab it? Ask our friend G. Alan Abbott.

Isaac E. Hess.-

Philo, Ill., Dec. 8, 1912.

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### Blue Geese.

Easter Sunday, March 23d, four Blue Geese, evidently young birds of last season's raising, dropped almost exhausted into the flock of wild fowl on our grounds at home, showing every indication of exhaustion and being exceedingly thin. The white about the heads and faces of these birds is marked with the usual rusty colored stains produced upon white birds by contact with salt water.

At this writing, April 4th, they are still with us, and apparently propose to stay, the same as the white-fronted Goose did in the same manner two years ago this spring, and that is now one of our tamest birds, never having been either clipped or pinioned.

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### An Odd Bird Box.

On May 12, I put up a small windmill, the wheel of which is nearly six feet in diameter, and has eight arms. The whole windmill turns on a pivot in the top of a twelve foot post set in the ground about thirty feet from our dining room windows.

Just as an experiment I placed a bird box on the top of the windmill right above the pivot, with the door facing away from the wheel. Of course the direction in which the box faces depends upon the direction in which the wind is blowing.

On June 1, I examined the box and was surprised to find that it contained the nest of a Crested Flycatcher (*Myarchus crinitus*) with a set of six eggs which appeared to be badly incubated. As usual the nest was composed of dry grass, feathers and pieces of cast snake skin. The box has a tin roof, painted on the outside.

The birds did not seem at all afraid of the wheel, even flying through between the arms when it was in motion.

On June 9th, I observed the birds carrying food to the nest at short intervals, which indicated that the eggs had hatched.

The Crested Flycatcher is rather uncommon in this locality (Hamblen County, Tennessee). This being the second nest I have found. Is it not very unusual for these birds to nest in such a place, especially when the wheel is rotating almost constantly, at times making perhaps seventy-five revolutions per minute and also a good deal of noise?

J. F. Taylor.

Morristown, Tenn.

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### The Chewink.

*Pipilo Erythrophthalmus.*

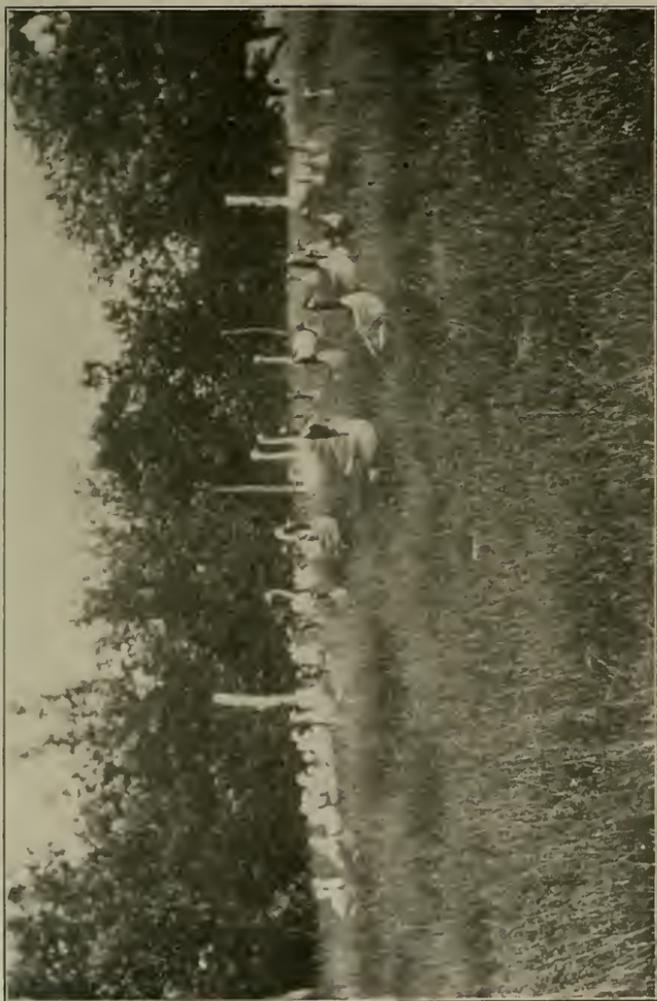
The Chewink is often called Ground Robin, Towhee, Towhee Bunting and Towhee Ground Finch. It is about 8 or 8½ inches; a little smaller than the Robin. The color of the male is as follows: upper parts are black, breast is white, rump and sides are chestnut, the three outer tail feathers are white and can easily be seen when the bird is flying; the bill is black and heavy, the eyes are red and the feet are brown. The female is brown where the male is black. The color of its breast is a mixture of chestnut and white.

The Chewink is often taken for a Robin, and why? Because the underparts are of a reddish color, but by looking carefully one will see that the Chewink is smaller than the Robin, and that it is also colored darker.

Its forms and habits are that of a Finch and not that of a Robin. The sunken nest is on the ground and looks much like the surroundings. One can hardly see it and it often happens that it is stepped on without knowing



Nest and Eggs of Great Blue Heron on the Ground in Bear River Marsh, Utah  
Courtesy of Mr. Treganza.



Some of the Editor's Wild Fowl

—Photo by F. C. Willard

it. The female, who is much smaller than the male, deposits the eggs, which are of a dirty white color and speckled with brown, in the little nest. Mostly one brood is reared during one season, but sometimes even two. The Chewink derives its name from the resemblance of its note to these syllables, while those calling it Towhee hear the sound, "to-wick," "to-whew." Its song is rich, full, pleasing and is uttered only when the bird has risen to the branches above its nest. The Chewink's favorite place is the border of swamps and bushy fields. It is generally looking for earthworms and larvae of insects, on the ground among the dead leaves. Once in a while it refreshes itself on the dropping berries and fruits. When startled the bird rises about 10 to 12 feet from the ground and calls its famous note. On account of its habit of flying low and grabbing among the leaves it is often called the Ground Robin. The Chewink is one of our most useful birds.

Wm. C. Martin.

Illinois.

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#### The Swallow-tailed Kite.

I think it was about May 10th, 1889—my note book recording the incident was destroyed by fire—that I sallied forth on a warm sunny morning in quest of nests of the Swallow-tailed Kite. A brisk walk of four or five miles took me to the large cypresses of Billums Creek bottoms, where I had found a few nests in the past, but generally in inaccessible situations to me, equipped as I was then. But now I had an extra good pair of climbers and a belt of extra length, so I felt like tackling most any kind of a tree. A cypress is a very easy tree to climb if it is not too large, as the wood is very soft and yielding, allowing the spurs to be socked in as far as they will go, with little effort.

Sure enough, when I got down among the lofty cypresses, just above their featherly tops, a beautiful Swallow-tail floated lazily, describing the matchless graceful curves that only this bird can. The Turkey Vulture appears to float in the air with very little effort, but it takes the Swallow-tailed Kite to do the trick with absolutely no visible effort whatever. Oh man! you may fly, but not in a thousand centuries can you hope to fly as does this beautiful creature.

The bird in the air proved, as I suspected, to be the male, for I soon located the nest with the tips of the tail of the female showing. But shades of Pinchot, what a tree! At least ten feet in diameter at the base, tapering to about eight feet a few feet up and holding this for at least forty feet, when it widened or flattened out to about ten feet wide and four feet thick and then divided into two prongs, each of which was about four feet in diameter, towering aloft at an angle of about ninety degrees, for more than 100 feet.

Near the top of the west prong, a limb four inches in diameter had been blown off, causing three young sprouts to grow out and shoot straight up for about six feet. Right in the tops of these young branches the nest was placed on a network or platform formed by small horizontal branches putting out from the three main shoots. The latter were about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the bases and much too frail to bear my weight.

The main trunk was covered with large wart-like protuberances, apparently stuck on to make what would otherwise have been an almost impossible task, a cinch. The trunk was hollow, and by striking on it a heavy club it gave a sound that caused Mrs. Kite to leave her nest in haste. She was at once joined by her mate and both birds remained in the vicinity as

long as I was there, showing much concern at my intrusion.

The situation looked hopeless, but I was satisfied that the nest contained eggs, and I wanted those eggs, oh, so badly. My belt was much too short to encircle the tree, and even if it had been long enough it would have been impossible for me to have worked it up over the aforesaid tumors, some of which stuck out for a foot or more. Equipped as I was, I do not think the most expert steeple-jack in the world would have attempted the climb. But I was bound to have those eggs, or at least break my neck in the attempt to get them; so I went home, secured a good Indian bow and arrows which I happened to have, a couple of hundred feet of silk bass line, a like quantity of good strong cord and about 100 feet of  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch Manilla rope. Thus equipped, I again made my appearance on the field of action, at about 1 p. m. Mrs. Kite was on again, leaving the nest at my close approach. She gave a few faint whistles, and her mate joined her instantler.

Removing the point from one of the arrows I attached one end of the bass line to it and coiled the line so it would run free. Before proceeding further I had to climb two trees and chop off some limbs in order to get a clear space for the flight of the arrow and line. This accomplished, I let drive, but the arrow went much too low. After about twenty trials and much entangling and unentangling of line, the feat was finally accomplished. But when I attached the cord to the line and attempted to draw it through the crotch of the tree, the bass line stuck, and I dared not pull on it very hard. Coiling the line, I climbed a nearby tree till well above the crotch in the cypress, when I had no trouble in getting the line over. After tying knots in one-half of the

rope, I found it was too short, but this was soon remedied by attaching a generous length of grape vine at the bottom end, when I hauled it through the crotch and made one end fast to a tree. Strapping on my climbers I was soon up to the crotch, but here I met with difficulty in getting into the crotch. The rope hung over a slight hump and swung clear of the tree far enough to allow me to get my hands around it, but when I arrived at the hump, which was just below the crotch, it looked like Waterloo. But after resting a bit I brought my climbers into play and finally worked up above the hump and fell into the crotch. I gazed down at the bristling cypress knees below and realized what would be my fate if I should fall. All this time the birds had been making vicious dives at me, sometimes coming so close that I could feel the wind from their wings on the back of my head. After a good rest, I adjusted my belt and went up without difficulty till I arrived at the large limb, growing on the broken stub of which were the young sprouts which held the nest. Here I had to do a bit of ticklish crawling, while the wind swayed the limb in a way that I did not like. The wood of the tree was old and brittle and I realized that the limb was liable to split off at any moment. However, no such thing happened, and I soon found myself just beneath the nest. I dared not try to get up farther, so I tip-toed on the swaying limb and could just put my hand in the nest. Two eggs! Taking off my collecting box, which I had carried up swung over my shoulder, I pulled off a piece of Spanish moss with which the nest was festooned, packed the eggs and lowered them to safety. The ground color of the eggs was a pale bluish white; the larger egg was boldly splashed near the larger end with

brown, varying from almost black to a rich Vandyke; the smaller egg had lighter shades of brown rather evenly distributed over the entire surface, in smaller spots. The eggs are not in my possession, and I have forgotten the measurements, but the larger of the two was rather large for this species and was an unusually handsome egg. Incubation had just begun and I blew them through 1-16-inch holes, first cutting the lining neatly with a small curved knife which I made from an embryo hook.

The nest was a beautiful affair of rather small sticks and Spanish moss, lined and gaily festooned with the latter. It was about 24-inches in diameter and fully one foot thick, depth inside about three inches, a very symmetrical and compact structure—a better grade of workmanship than I have ever seen in any kind of hawk nest, or any other kind of nest of so large a size, except, perhaps, one of an American Raven which I found in the mountains of New Mexico.

First and last, I have collected quite a few sets of this species, but this was the worst climb I ever had. The majority of the nests in this locality, Tyler County, are placed in tall pines, seldom below 100 feet from the ground. The one referred to above was just 155 feet up, as I determined by tying a knot in the string with which the eggs were lowered and later measured—the string.

Fifteen or twenty years ago, Swallow-tails were very abundant here, so much so in fact, as to be regarded as a nuisance on account of their fondness for young Mockingbirds. I have seen them rob these nests dozens of times, but never saw them pilfer any other kind of bird's nest. They are very fond of young wasps. They will swoop down and pluck a wasp nest with their claws and eat the young wasps

at leisure as they float around in the air. Small green snakes and chameleons, Anolis, also figure prominently in their bill of fare. The birds are getting rare here now. Have never known them to occupy the same nesting site twice.

E. F. Pope.

Colmesneil, Texas.

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#### From Utah.

According to promise in The Oologist of January 15th, I again show up as I am some 3000 feet higher as to altitude, not in stature—being only five feet four.

Leaving our camp of yesterday (June 1, 1911) as recorded in my previous letter, we make an early get away, up at 5 a. m. After a hasty breakfast we soon had our harness on, and material necessary for collector's outfit in Utah, which consisted at the time of a U. S. knapsack well filled with provender (an essential), a Tommy hatchet, pruning shears, another essential to the Oologist, saw and climbers. We started for the upper zone of the Tintic range which is some two miles East of camp.

The sloping hills spoken of before comes to an abrupt end, when we reach the foot of this precipitous part of the earth, "The Tintic Range," and where one is fortunate to find water to drink.

On the way to the foot of the range, on the S. W. slope of an abrupt bluff, a Western Flycatcher, with a set of four fresh eggs, in a cavity of an old, half dead, scraggy Cedar, six feet up.

Farther along on the steep side of a deep arroyo stood a lonely Pine on which was seen a male Sparrow Hawk, perched on its topmost branch on guard. On examination we find a large portion of the tree had been burned out many years ago. One little Hawk had a finely marked set of

eggs in a burned cavity, black as night, twenty feet up. One can hardly forget the picture with such a setting, five bright eyes peering out of the coal black hole. While one of my companions was climbing to the Hawk's nest I noticed a small bird fly up and into a small hole, which appeared many times smaller than the bird, yet it had free access. With saw and hatchet we soon had an opening which disclosed a handsome set of seven eggs of the Western Winter Wren—such beauties! Elated over our success so early in the day, we go on with renewed vigor, looking forward to a good day's work, we start up the steep and rocky mountain side. Saw Chickadees, one pair Pine Grosbeaks also a small Flycatcher, not known to me. After reaching the top, we keep on the ridge, we locate another Sparrow Hawk's nest in an old Fir stump, only five feet up, with the female on the eggs. I was not altogether acquainted with these little fellows, and being assured that no harm would come of it, I put my gloveless hand into the hole, to be quickly grasped as in a vise. My hand came back to me with a jerk and our little Madam with it. She was so attached to me she did not want to let go; my companion took hold of her, and with much stroking of the head and back coaxed her away, when she sat calmly without fear for several minutes, while the eggs were taken from the nest—was I scared? Some.

We continued on to the East, to the highest point, some 2000 feet then the camp and fully eight miles away. We now turn back, taking a narrow deep canon until we reach Santchi's Camp; where we find a Western House Wren had taken possession of a corner of the bedroom; only three eggs, left for future call. Saw several Rock and two Dotted Cannon Wrens in this

canon. It is now near three o'clock and seven miles from camp, we hurry on. In a Mountain Maple copse near the mouth of the canon we locate a Sharp-shinned Hawk in a Maple 15 feet up with five eggs; these birds were some fighters, one's hat was not safe for a minute. It took two persons to keep them away from the one in the tree. Must be seen to appreciate fully.

About three rods away, in an old Magpie's nest a Long-eared Owl had five piped eggs.

We hasten on to the sloping hills, wherein we flushed a Brewer Sparrow from her fresh eggs. It was now growing toward dark and three long miles from camp, which we reached late and weary, having lifted ourselves 2500 feet and traveled at least 22 miles in 14 hours. We spent ten days on this trip.

May Westbrook,

Utah.

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#### Vermont Notes.

This has been a rather nice winter for birds so far. Robins are reported as being around all winter and about a month ago a flock of wild geese was seen. I have heard Crows cawing a number of times.

I was out for a walk a few weeks ago and I heard a Chickadee whistling. I got under an evergreen tree and answered him; in a few minutes he came right into the tree and seemed very much surprised to find me instead of another Chickadee.

There is at least one man in town who has a "bird table" and feeds the birds. He has Chickadees and Nuthatches. Last winter the Redpolls were very plentiful, but haven't seen any this year.

There were a few people that had a treat in seeing a large flock of Evening Grossbeaks. I haven't looked it

up, but they say they have never been reported here, although one bird book says they were in the East in 1889-90. They are in color, males, brownish-yellow, with wings, tail and crown black. The upper parts of the wings are white. The females are dingy brownish-grey, with a yellowish tinge; the belly and throat are whitish; the tail feathers on inner web are tipped with white. The call notes are rather loud, and the song is short, but melodious, like that of the Robin. I have seen a few flocks of Snowbirds or Snowflakes.

The Tree Sparrows were quite thick, they resemble our Chipping Sparrows, but you can tell the difference, by the black dot in the center of the Tree Sparrow's breast.

George H. Murphy.

Vermont.

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#### Books Received.

Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard, Farmers' Bulletin No. 513, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This little pamphlet of 31 pages gives a description as well as colored plates of fifty of the commoner birds found in the vicinity of the improvements on farms, and is a credit to the department. More publications of this kind would be beneficial. It is especially to be commended because of the colored plates illustrating the different species from which the ordinary layman can immediately recognize the bird seen, provided of course, it is therein illustrated.

**The Canadian Alpine Journal**, Special number, 1912.

This splendid little publication of 97 pages contains lists of the mammals and birds collected or observed on the expedition taken by the Alpine Club of Canada to explore Jasper Park, Yellowstone Pass, and the

Mount Robinson region in the Northern Rockies, a territory seldom visited by scientists. These lists are by M. Hollister.

It also contains a list of the plants observed by Paul G. Stanley. All of these lists are published by permission of the Smithsonian Institution.

The list of birds contains only the surprisingly limited number of 78, showing that birds in that territory must be few and far between.

The publication is certainly a credit to the Alpine Club which has its headquarters at Banff, Alberta. These lists will without doubt sometime rank as authority upon the subject of which they treat in the territory covered.

**Cassinia** for 1912, contains the following articles:

George Archibald McCall by Whitmer Stone.

Bird Migration in Pennsylvania a Hundred Years Ago, by Wells W. Cook.

Roosting Habits of the Purple Grackle in the Delaware Valley, by Julian K. Potter.

Pigeons by the Million, from N. Y. Times, 1886.

In Days before The Club, by Spencer Trotter.

List of Unusual Records.

Spring Migration Report for 1912.

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#### BALD EAGLE.

As I have said before, all was never told about this well known bird's nesting habits. In heavy timbered sections where nesting trees are plentiful, this bird will desert the nest and build a new one the following year a mile or so away in another tree, or likely so far away that you will be unable to find it. In the year 1912 two nests that were occupied and contained eggs were absolutely deserted this spring of 1913.

Another nest that contained a set

of two eggs last season, was occupied this year. This site was the most favorable for many miles around, being situated up a Sycamore tree on an island in the river though some one took the eggs ahead of me.

Another nest that was occupied in 1909, contained one egg, complete set. This nest was deserted for two years and occupied by another pair of birds in 1912. The reason I know it was another pair of birds was this,—this female was more daring, and the seta collected this year contained two eggs, which were about one-quarter larger.

My old original pair of Eagles have given me one of the greatest of studies yet. On May 10, 1899, I discovered a nest up a large Chestnut tree, up 80 feet, dead in the top, containing two half grown young. The following year, 1900, on April 8, I visited the nest again but was too late, the nest contained one young and one addled egg; this broke the ice at last, so in 1901, on March 8, I went again each year going a month earlier. The nest was deserted, I might have known better than to undertake going up, and I had probably gone 30 feet up, when my spurs slipped and down I came, skinning my chin on the bark and landing at the base of the roots with such a jar that one tooth penetrated clear through my lower lip. When landing my spurs embedded in the large approaches of the main stem and the weight of my body was too much for my lower limbs to hold in elastic rigidity, and the result was I went clear down to heels but with quite force enough to overbalance me. The resertion of this nest was caused by my taking the little bird the year previous.

I was about doomed to disappointment when a man in town asked me if I had not been after Eagles, and he told me of a new nest about two miles

from the old one. It was in a tall Pine Oak tree, about 120 feet up, on a hillside swamp. The tree stood in the lower part of the swamp and loomed high above its neighbors, that stood around it. As I was done with spurs for that day, I managed to get up and down without them. The nest contained two incubated eggs which I broke while blowing, the only ones I have ever broken, thus I had failure all around but it was my own fault, poor equipment, etc.

Winter of 1902-03. Tree cut down.

March 3, '05 new nest lower down in swamp; looked in nest from adjoining tree and birds left.

March 5, 1905. New nest but seemed unoccupied.

I actually gave them up for five years, but in March, 1910, I took a set of two from a new Chestnut in original wood, a tree very similar to the one from which I fell.

March 4, 1911, this nest contained another nice set of two eggs, same nest as 1910.

March 11, 1912, they built a new nest about 300 yards distance in a Black Oak tree, which contained their usual number, two eggs.

March 3, 1913, they had returned to the Chestnut I had taken two sets from previously. The four good sets saved from this pair of birds all bear a uniformity in size, also the set that was broken. The addled egg is somewhat longer.

I give these notes to warn the readers of *The Oologist* not to put too much dependence on a Bald Eagle's nest if eggs were taken the year previous.

Eggs taken by me in the Middle Atlantic States show a great diversion in size the smallest measures 2.13 x 2.62; the largest 2.32 x 3.03.

Their color is a yellowish-white, or a blue-white. I think age makes the

blue tinge leave, although the difference would not be noticed in a single set by itself.

Wm. B. Crispin.

New Jersey.

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#### White Thrashers Eggs.

We have recently placed in our collection a very valuable edition in the shape of a set of four white eggs of the Brown Thrasher—*Texostoma rufum*—presented to us by our friend, E. A. Ford, of Chicago. This set is, to the naked eye, almost pure white, but when held up to a strong artificial light or put under a strong magnifying glass slight traces of a few brown pigment markings can be seen. The ground color is white. The set was taken by Mr. Ford at Glenco, Cook Co., May 25th, 1907. The nest was on the ground under a heap of dead bushes, in a bed of dry leaves under the bush. It was  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter and  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep, composed of leaves, twigs and rootlets, and lined with fine dark colored rootlets. The bird was flushed from the nest.

We are under obligations to Mr. Ford for one of the real rarities in our large collection.

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#### Random Notes in Review.

May 31. In a clump of tangled bushes in a hedge corner the voice of Bell's Vireo guided me to its secluded quarters, and I was afforded an opportunity of extending my acquaintance with this interesting greenlet. The song of this diminutive bushman is not loud, but its hurried enunciation, its somewhat scolding inflection, its frequent repetition in the vicinity of its nest, its true vireo-like equality, and the elusiveness of the author, make the song and songster easy to identify after an acquaintance has begun. The singing of the Bell Vireo

can not be heard far away when other members of the bushland choir are performing, and hence this bird does not seem to be generally noticed. If the bird-gazer, however, will follow the quiet hint that comes to his ears from the clustering shrubbery, and trace the persistent musician to the center of his round of song, he will find the home of this neglected Vireo and learn something of the ways of the little greenlet moving restlessly in the copse.

Like some others of our songsters in midsummer, the Bell Vireo affects two keys for the execution of its songs. The singing in the higher key is clearer and more distinctly articulated, while the other phase of execution is much lower, harsher, and seems to be forced through the closed or nearly closed mandibles. The latter performance is not heard nearly so frequently as the regular ditty, but it appears to be the expression of a fervent affection to its listening mate. All our Vireos sing while moving restlessly among the foliage or hopping nervously from twig to twig, peering upward or sidewise to detect any suitable food morsels, and this habit necessitates the frequent moving of the observer to follow the actions of these woodland songsters. The Bell Vireo prefers the edges of the clumps it haunts, seldom getting out into the full sunlight except when it flits out sportively in its nuptial movements. Its attachment to the clump containing its pendent nest is extremely noticeable, and when driven away by the presence of wandering disturbers, it can be heard singing there as soon as the disturbance has removed. When the nest has its complement of eggs, however, the birds generally do not leave the place, but indicate their objections to the presence of observers by weak, vireo-like chirping, sound-

ing much like the scolding calls of the Warbling and Red-eyed Vireos.

June 4. Further observations on the habits of the Yellow-breasted Chat disclose the fact that it possesses a larger repertoire of notes and calls than I ever imagined. In a locality where Bob-whites were frequently calling, I heard the Chats utter calls closely imitative of the full whistling of the well-known game bird. In the same locality the chats uttered calls much like the cries of the Blue Jay. Lately I heard a Chat imitating the notes of a Towhee, both birds being in the range of vision in positions where I could not mistake the calls and authors, and repeatedly the so-called yellow-breasted mocker gave evidence of his power by whistling in imitation of the Towhee.

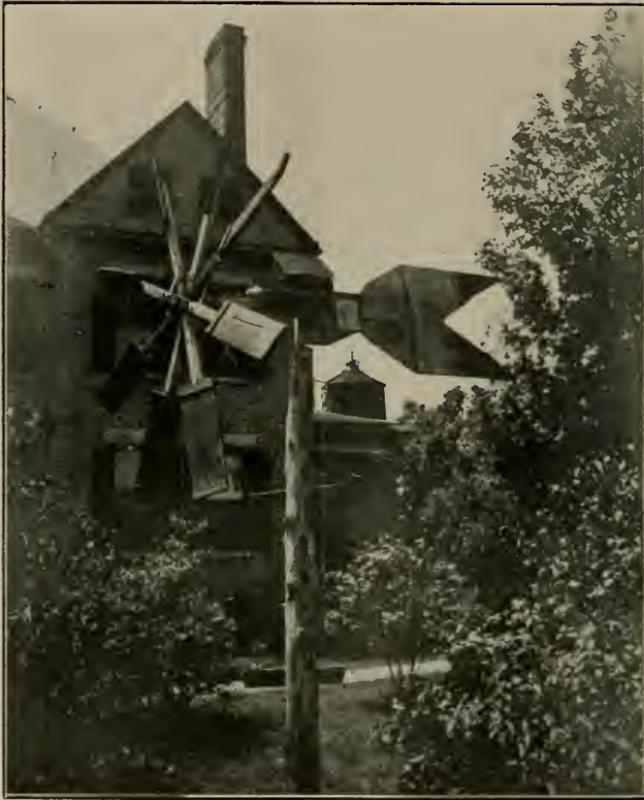
Hidden in the covert, I recently watched a Chat as he sat and gave utterance to his peculiar calls. He was in a low tree out in the full sunshine. Throwing his head upward, his rich yellow throat swelled as he emitted the single whistle with which he begins his regular performance. Then he turned his head quizzically to one side and uttered a series of sharp cackles. Turning to the other side, he gurgled a few harsh gutturals in a tone thus far unused; and then he continued in a round of calls and cacklings peculiar to the Chat vocabulary. I have no hesitation in pronouncing this Chat a mocker of ability, not surpassed in this region by the Catbird, though the latter is classed with our best mimics.

Ordinarily it is difficult to observe the movements and antics of this Chat, for bushes and coverts are its favorite resorts. As the would-be observer penetrates the copse in hopes of surprising the hidden whistlers, they recede in the most approved will-of-the-wisp fashion. They are very lo-

quacious near the spots where their mates are sitting on their eggs. Near a nest which I visited lately was a pile of sawed and split wood, towering several feet above the bushes, and this eminence was a favored site for the male to alight and utter his medleys. When he perceived that he was the subject of observation, however, he would drop into the covert with loosely hanging wings and tail, and there continue his sputterings and ejaculations.

July 14. The Chipping Sparrow frequently employs the hour between sunset and dusk in feeding. This evening I watched a family of four glean along a railroad track overgrown with weeds, principally pepper-grass. The Sparrows worked leisurely along the track, loitering under the pepper-grass herbs to pick up fallen seeds. At times one of the gleaners would hop into the shrub, apparently to give it a gentle shake, after which action he would hop down and pick up the results. At other times one of the sparrows would flutter upward, grasp a branch or seed-pod, and then drop back to the ground. Sometimes after pulling down a branch they would hold it down with the feet and peck away the coveted seeds.

July 21. Today in the stillness and heat of the noontide my attention was attracted by a low, sweet crooning in the foliage of a nearby tree. The music had all the qualities of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak's, but the subdued execution and continuous production left me in doubt as to the author. It was like the crooning of the Catbird in mid-winter, or the gentle effusions of the Warbling Vireo in a late summer afternoon, or the feeble pulsings of the ebbing tide of Oriole music in early July, or a Robin's poetic whisperings; but so rare at this season, so tender in quality, so appropriately in



Windmill Nest Box

—Photo by J. F. Taylor

accord with surrounding circumstances that I was immediately led outdoors to identify the nocturnal vocalist. It was a young male Red-breasted Grosbeak, closely attended by his mother. Hopping from one station to another, he frequently paused to give expression to that murmured melody, not the consecutive songs which characterize the singing of the mature songster, but a continuous flow of touching minor measures. I took it to be the first attempts of the youngster to attune his vocal mechanism to the lyrics we love to hear in the vernal season. While the promising young songster practiced his measures, the mother bird kept within a suitable

distance, uttering approvingly the well-known "chick," and quivering her wings and tail with all the fervor of material admiration.

Yes, Mr. Editor, there are many strange and interesting things we can see and hear in birdland if we only listen and look for them.

P. M. Silloway.

Virden, Illinois.

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#### Index for 1912.

During the year 1912 THE OOLOGIST published contributions from 89 different contributors, and 50 illustrations, and published observations relating to 420 different species of birds. Some "Oologist," Eh?

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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WHOLE NO. 310

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*



O. E. Baynard, of Florida

### California Condor.

Friday, February 14, 1913, while my wife and I were strolling across a field in the valley of Eagle Rock, California, some seven or eight miles northeast of Los Angeles, I casually glanced skyward and the next instant nearly frightened my wife to death with a startled cry of "Condor! Condor!" It was a few moments before she caught the drift of my cry, but when she did there were two of us standing in that field with some queer emotions in our breasts.

The great bird was directly overhead, at the time, and very low down, about two hundred feet, as near as I could judge; and flying very slowly, so it seemed at first, but nevertheless traveling out of sight in a surprisingly short time. Its method of flight was seven or eight wing beats and then a prolonged soaring, and the light colored areas under the wings were very plain, as was its entirely naked neck. Its general color seemed to be a rusty black; but could not tell this positively. It was flying north, and when it came to the foothills of the Sierra Madre Range, which at this point are about 600 to 1000 feet, it barely cleared the top of the hills.

There can be no question of the identity of this bird, as its great size would distinguish it from all other birds at once, without the distinguishing whitish patches under the wings. As near as I could estimate in flight, its breadth should be about ten or eleven feet.

This will always be a red letter day for me, for at this day and date, the California Condor seems to be a rare avis indeed. In over eight years of steady tramping through the Southern Sierras, only once before have I seen or thought I saw one of these giant vultures. But it was so late in the evening and at such a distance that I have never been absolutely sure. And

now to have had the pleasure of such a near view of one in my own home is luck indeed.

While never hoping, I have cherished a much hidden dream that some day in some lonely canon I may stumble across the nest of this species; but it's only a dream; yet a pleasant one, whether it ever comes true or not. And many a lonely campfire has been made brighter by just such dreams as these.

H. Arden Edwards.  
Los Angeles, Cal.

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### Nesting of the Whip Poor Will.

(*Antrostomus vociferus*)

Early one still, beautiful evening, during the first part of May of the year 1908, while I was slowly walking upon a road which wound along the top of a high irregular ridge of hill, the lonely cries of a Whip-poor-will came to me. It seemed that the bird was calling from a small quadrilateral wood that stood on a miniature plateau on the very top of a high ridge of hill, a half mile to the west of me. I settled myself to listen to the cries of this lovely bird, and time after time I heard its weird whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will, whip-poor-will.

As the nesting time for the Whip-poor-will approached, I decided to investigate the wood from which the bird had sent its peculiar notes. This small tract of timber consisted principally of oak trees of medium size—both the white and the red varieties. On May 20, I went to the wood and quietly entered the southern border. Walking slowly along I searched carefully over the forest floor of fallen leaves. I crept about clumps of underbrush; scrambled over fallen tree trunks; and finally reached the northern border of the timber, without the slightest sign of a Whip-poor-will. Spying a rather open space of ground, close to a pile of decaying logs, I quiet-

ly approached it. As I came quite near, up flopped a Whip-poor-will, revealing one beautiful egg; this rested in a slight depression in the floor of leaves. Since there was just one egg I quietly retreated and returned home.

When two days had passed—sufficient time in which to expect a full set of eggs—I returned to the wood with a tripod and a camera. Coming around a clump of underbrush I was able to get a plain view of the open space. There sat the Whip-poor-will! My, how my heart did pound! I crept up to within six feet of the sitting bird before she flopped away as though she were injured. Two fine eggs lay before me. Placing the camera in a suitable position I took several exposures of the nesting site and its surroundings.

Returning home I carefully prepared the two beautiful eggs and placed them in my cabinet. These were not especially valuable eggs, but I prized them highly. Gold nuggets could scarcely have pleased me so much as that set of eggs.

Whip-poor-wills are not uncommon birds in Southwestern Pennsylvania. However, finding a nest is not a general occurrence. The birds seem to select the most sheltered and out of the way parts of the woods as nesting places; for that reason nests are not frequently discovered.

S. S. Dickey, Waynesburg, Pa.

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#### Books Received.

A New Species of Crossbill From Newfoundland, by A. C. Bent. Under date of December 12, 1912, Volume 60 No. 15, Smithsonian Miscellaneous collections gives a description of a new Crossbill by A. C. Bent. Of course it is a mere geographical race, and we trust rests upon a sufficient foundation; and that it does, the name of the author stands as sufficient sponsor.

#### Notes.

Isaac E. Hess of Philo, Illinois, well known to our readers, has just entered into a contract with the Decatur, Illinois Herald to furnish them with a column of reading matter on the birds for each Sunday's issue for a year. The Herald is to be congratulated for there are few more entertaining writers on a favorite subject than our friend, Isaac E. Hess.

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#### Nesting of the American Sparrow Hawk.

(*Falco sparverius*)

Until the Spring of 1907 I had considered the American Sparrow Hawk a very rare breeder in Greene County, Pennsylvania. Early in March of that year I had seen a pair of hawks flitting about a large dead white oak snag that stood in an open field, high up on a steep hillside. Supposing late April to be a suitable time to search for fresh eggs, I walked to the dead tree early on the morning of April 30th. As I approached there were no signs of the birds. Picking up a large club I hit the snag, and a hawk darted, screaming, from a small opening near the top of the snag, and about forty-five feet above the ground. I put on my climbers and ascended to the opening. As I reached it the bird darted quite near to me, uttering the familiar notes, "killy, killy, killy." With a small hatchet I cut an opening to the cavity large enough to admit my hand. I reached into the cavity and felt eggs; my heart beat wildly; for I was now sure of procuring a set of eggs. I lifted the eggs out, one by one, until there were five. That was the complete set; and what beauties they were. I was highly pleased with this set, so I prepared them carefully, and placed them with my raptore sets.

Early the following spring I decided to look carefully for Sparrow Hawks'

nests. Passing one day by a cluster of huge sycamore trees that stood beside a small creek, I saw a Sparrow Hawk fly from the higher branches of one of these trees. It circled about for a short time, returning to the largest tree, and soon entered a knot hole high up in the main trunk. I made note of this occurrence and departed. When late April approached I secured a hatchet and a wood chisel and went to the tree. As I neared the cavity, in my ascent, the hawk flew screaming from the knot hole, and darted away. I found the cavity to be entirely surrounded by green wood, which made it extremely difficult to cut through to the nest. However, after some diligent work I managed to produce an opening large enough to admit my hand, and procured the eggs. The bird had made a slight depression in decayed chips and wood dust, in which she had deposited her five beautiful eggs.

A few days after finding the second set, feeling especially eager to secure more eggs, I set out for a high ridge, eight miles from home. It was not long until a Sparrow Hawk came sailing high in the air, and lit on a dead chestnut snag that stood alone on the bare ridge. After watching the bird for a short time it was seen to disappear. I hurried to the dead tree and discovered a large natural cavity, about fifteen feet above the ground. I climbed toward it and soon looked in upon the sitting female bird. Upon punching her with a short stick, she flitted away, screaming very fiercely. The dead wood about this cavity was very tough, so I had some difficulty in procuring the four eggs which rested on decayed chips.

On May 7th, I saw a Sparrow Hawk fly from the dead top of a small straight sycamore tree which stood on the bank of a creek. When I came

near to this tree I saw several large flickers' excavations in the decayed top. Upon investigating I found a beautiful set of five eggs which rested on some decayed chips. At this nest the birds were very pugnacious, flying at me frequently, and screaming wildly.

During the spring of 1909 several fine sets were collected, and much was learned of the nesting habits of this little hawk. These birds are interesting creatures, as they select such a variety of places in which to nest. This affords one frequent surprises during his excursions in search of rare specimens.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

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#### Henry Ford of Detroit Imports Nearly 500 Songsters.

Nearly 500 song birds, imported from England by Henry Ford, a local manufacturer, have arrived in Detroit and will be given their liberty on Mr. Ford's farm near the city.

The shipment was met in New York by Game Warden Charles Daniel of Detroit and brought west in a special express car. Nearly 100 birds died on shipboard. Included among the birds were larks, linnets, brilliant yellow-hammers, thrushes, green finches, bullfinches, jays, chaffinches, and redpolls. It is expected these birds will increase rapidly in numbers and eventually spread over the state.

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#### Another Set Illinois Barn Owls.

In February OOLOGIST was recorded Mr. Guy Day's set of Barn Owls taken in 1909 near Sidney, Ill., Campaign County.

This as far as I can determine, is the first recorded set of Barn Owl eggs taken in Illinois or Indiana or Wisconsin for that matter.

Those who read the note will prob-



Nest and Eggs of Yellow Warbler

—Photo by P. G. Howes.

ably remember that I spoke of Mr. Day's promising me that I should collect the next set. During March both Owls were at home in the old Sycamore and my prospects seemed good.

On Sunday, April 20th a visit to the Owl tree brought no indication of the presence of these rarer birds but a vigorous shaking of an old grape vine brought out one which was quickly followed by the other Barn Owl. A hasty climb to the cavity of the mammoth old Sycamore which leaned far out over the Salt Fork creek, revealed six eggs with incubation well begun.

This Illinois set number two is now in my cabinet. There was no sign of a nest, the eggs being deposited on the bare bottom of the cavity.

The Barn Owl makes 104 species I have found nesting in my ten mile radius from my home town. 94 are represented by full sets.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Illinois.

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#### A Collecting Trip to Anacapa Island.

On May 11, 1912, my brother and four others started for Anacapa Island, from Ventura. We left Ventura at 9 o'clock p. m. and arrived at the island at about midnight, none the worse for our journey of twenty-five miles, except that three of the party were seasick. We then went to bed and slept for the rest of the night.

The next morning after breakfast we took to the boat again and soon landed on the "East End" as it is called. We were soon on the top of the island, which is very abrupt all around. It is covered with a coarse scrubby brush and grass and some cactus. There were quite a few Western Gulls nesting at this time but the majority had not laid as yet. We collected a few sets of these and then moved on to the Pelican Colony.

There must have been at least a

thousand pairs of them on this island. There were nests everywhere but only three of them had eggs in them, and then only one apiece. This was a disappointment as we wished to collect some of them.

We then went across to the other side of the island and looked at, and took some pictures of the young Bald Eagle that was in the nest. We then went back and looked at the new lighthouse that the Government had just finished. As it was getting nearly time to leave the island we went back to the camp and from there we took a walk along the base of the cliffs on the western side of the island and soon came to "Cat Rock." Up this we clamored and soon were on top looking in all the holes for Xantus Murrelets, as this was the place Mr. H. C. Burt of Santa Paula, found them nesting in May, 1911. I soon discovered a broken egg of this species at the mouth of a natural cavity in the rock and a fresh egg at the end of the cavity, about six feet away. I soon found another egg. These two eggs together with the four eggs taken by Mr. Burt, which I now have in my collection, are prized very highly as they are the only ones to my knowledge that have been taken in the United States in recent years. A pair of Black Oyster Catchers were flying about but they had not nested. We were obliged to return to Ventura that day so we soon started and arrived in Ventura just in time to catch the train home, feeling well paid for our trip.

Sidney B. Peyton.

Sespe, Cal.

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#### The Verdin.

As one rides along the river bottoms or across the mesas of Cochise county during nearly all the months of the year, he is from time to time greeted by a thin, high pitched "cheap,

cheap, cheap." A very small bird may be seen flitting about among the bushes and the initiated will recognize at once the Verdin (*auriparus* F. *flaviceps*) and know it to be the author of the song just heard. When one who is well acquainted with this bird hears this song or call during the months from April till July he will look around a little and be quite sure to find its nest in some nearby bush.

The nest is a globular affair of thorny twigs. It is about the size of a large cocoanut. A mesquite or catclaw is usually chosen for the nesting site, though small, lone chollas are frequently selected. I also found one in an allthorn. The nest is placed at the tip of the branch or top of the cholla and is quite conspicuous.

Both birds work at nest building. I watched a pair which had just begun the frame work of their nest in a small cholla. Arriving with a short, thorny twig of acacia, the bird would crawl inside, dragging the twig after it. The twigs were about six inches long and it required considerable exertion for the bird to succeed in this maneuver. Once there, it proceeded to push it into place in the walls, shaking the whole cactus in its efforts. After the outside of sticks is completed, a heavy lining of small dry leaves and grass is used to stop up the interstices, and a lining of feathers completes the nest. The opening is low down on one side and has a fringe of dry grass projecting all around more particularly from above. This entrance is about as large around as a person's finger.

Four, sometimes five, eggs are a full complement. They have a delicate bluish green ground color, with fine reddish brown specks pretty well distributed over the whole surface but usually clustered thickest at the large end. They are very thin shelled.

When the nest is approached, the male bird frequently sounds the alarm to his mate who is setting and she slips off and away. About as frequently, however, I have poked my finger into the nest and found the bird on her eggs.

The birds roost in old nests or mock nests and I have, on several occasions, found dead birds in nests which I was investigating.

They are courageous little fellows about attacking larger birds. Last spring I was interested in watching a shrike pursuing a Lucy's Warbler, which was calling wildly and doing its best to get out of harms way. It flew right up into the air, followed by the shrike which was in turn pursued by a pair of Verdins, cheeping with all their might. The procession was brought up by a Phainopepla who followed, apparently, just out of curiosity. I am glad to say the warbler escaped though do not feel that the verdins were instrumental. The circumstance is cited only to show their fearlessness in the presence of larger birds.

Two broods are raised, one in April and one in June. In the mesquite forest near Tucson I found them breeding plentifully with many nests placed as high as 25 feet from the ground.

F. C. Willard.

Tombstone, Ariz.

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### The Ovenbird.

(*Seiurus aurocapillus*)

In this section of northern New Jersey (Essex County) during the early part of May, wanderers on our sylvan waysides and by-paths who are fortunate enough to be sharp of eye as well as of ear, are the select few who may see and hear this little bird as he walks about on the ground and utters a most captivating strain of modulated notes, very low and scarcely audible at

first but as it nears completion is shrill and unmistakable. I can well remember when I first heard this song way back in the late nineties and how I searched for days for this bird, starting out each morning with the determination to find him at any cost and how each night when returning home, still unrewarded, but with a more determined spirit for the next day's search, and how after about ten days of earnest endeavor I accidentally came upon a thrush-like bird walking about under the May-apples and Wild Geraniums and as I was watching him from an inconspicuous location that he uttered this beautiful song, and, before I was aware of myself, was uttering the words—Eureka, I have found him.

But to those who have made his acquaintance this bird becomes a regular companion on each walk through our elevated tracts of woodland wherever the vegetation is luxuriant and prolific and becomes a welcome addition to his list of birdlife.

As the month draws to a close, if you are a good and close observer you may find a bunch of dried grass, twigs and earth placed directly on the ground in the form of an oven or bower, lined inside with fine grasses and containing four or five creamy-white, speckled eggs.

Within a radius of five miles of my home there are located five or six coves of the original cover and in this restricted sections nests of this species have been located each year since 1900, never more than one or two to each of these coves. During the spring of 1904 at Montclair Heights, N. J., I had the good fortune to find a nest of this bird on the 27th of May containing two eggs. On the 1st of June the set was completed and consisted of five eggs which measured .81 x .60; .79 x .59; .80 x .58; .81 x .61 and

.82 x .58, creamy-white and speckled with chestnut brown, especially at the larger end where the markings formed a mantle which encircled the egg.

On the 16th the nest was again visited and found to contain five fledglings about a day old. The parents were both in the immediate neighborhood industriously searching for food which they brought to the nestlings at intervals of a moment or two. This food consisted of ground beetles, ants, may-flies, scaleinsects, an occasional grasshopper and spiders. Of this diet which was purely insectivorous throughout the entire time the birds were in the nest, ants and spiders were the principal insects which were brought to the nestlings. Another noticeable feature of the adult birds was the fact that they carried the excreta of the young to a point about one hundred feet from the nest and dropped it there. About the ground near the nest there was not the least indication of either the remains of the unconcerned food matter or the excreta indicating the extreme cleanliness of the birds about their home. Operations were conducted daily about the nest for a period of fifteen days when the young left the nest and began to travel about under the guidance of the female. At this time the beautiful nuptial song of the male ceased and he hid himself off to parts unknown as he was not seen in the neighborhood after the young left the nest.

Bands were placed on each of these youngsters just prior to their leaving the nest and were designated as follows: "L.S.K. Bloomfield, N. J., Nos. 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104." Of this lot two bands came back to me: One (No. 100) from Punta Rassa, Fla. on December 28th, 1908, from a Cleveland cook, who I now understand is located somewhere in northern New Jer-

sey, and one (No. 103) from a Clarence McKinnon at Pempton Lakes, N. J., on June 2, 1909, with the information that the bird had been killed by flying against a building near Furnace Pond. Should the other three be found, I should be pleased to have the bands returned to me at Bloomfield, N. J. These personal bands were used prior to the time that I knew of the American Bird Banding Association. There are also Bands 90, 91, 92 and 94 on a family of *Planesticus migrateria*, placed on June 5th, 1904 at South Mountain Reservation, Essex County, N. J., and Nos. 97, 98 and 99 on a family of *Sialia sialis* placed on a breed on April 18th at Haskell, N. J., during the spring of 1904 to be heard from. Of this latter lot Band No. 98 was returned to me from a Harry Rador of East Radford, Va., on January 18, 1910, with the information that the dead bird was found near this town in an open field. Should observers locate any of these bands I would be pleased to have them communicate with me and return the bands for inspection.

As a further note on bands, I have in my possession a band found on the dead body of a male *Corvus brachyrhynchus* at Pequannock, N. J., with the following inscription thereon, on February 22, 1913: "O. L. T. St. Catherines, Ont., No. 49872. 6-08." I have written to this address, but my letters have been returned as unclaimed.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

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### The Hooded Warbler.

(*Wilsonia citrina*)

While rambling during the months of June and July over the heavily wooded hills of northern New Jersey near the southern extremity of Greenwood Lake, within whose precincts the noise and bustle of modern industry have not as yet invaded and the hand

of mankind has made but little, if any, impression, I have encountered, annually, this beautifully adorned and sweet-voiced sylvan warbler many times during those months since the late nineties.

Wherever the woodlands are moist and the cover low this bird is a regular inhabitant. They appear in this vicinity about May 15th, which is rather later than have been recorded in sections where they are purely transient. Immediately after their arrival their song, which is very sweet, varied and easily recognized, becomes a common melody to the ears of the observer in this section. To me this song ranks with the best and sweetest of the wood warblers and may be syllablized as "che-we, che-we, che-we, chick-se-de."

Since my first discovery of the nesting of this bird in this section, seven other nests have been located within a radius of four miles and in each case have been located in the low shrubbery, preferably the swamp-huckleberry, about three feet from the ground, very compactly constructed and composed of bark and plant fibres and lined with fine grasses, horsehair and plant down. The eggs, in each case, numbered four and were creamy-white well blotched with deep chestnut-brown and pearly-gray, especially at the larger end, with occasional traces of pale lavender appearing about the whole surface of the shell. Of the eight sets examined, the extremes measured .78 x .56 and .65 x .50, the average being about .7' x .53. All of these nests were found between May 28th and June 10th.

After the incubation and feeding of the nestlings, the parents rove about with their more or less increased families until the end of July, when the whole tribe strangely drop from sight. Never in all my experience has a bird



Nest and Eggs of Chestnut-sided Warbler  
—Photo by Thos. H. Jackson.

of this species been seen in this section after July 28th. At points further south in the state they have been seen as late as September 10th, but at these points, as was mentioned before, they are purely transient and never remain more than a few days at any one time.

Louis S. Kohler,

Bloomfield, N. J.

### The Red-Winged Blackbird.

(*Agelaius Phoeniceus*.)

On going out into the meadows in early April we will see a bird about 9-9½ inches long. It is black in color and has a peculiar red on its wings. This is the Red-winged Blackbird. It is also called Swamp Blackbird, Red-winged Oriole, and Red-winged Starling. It belongs to the family of Blackbirds and Orioles and is to be found always near swamps and ponds. The female is brownish-black above and streaked below.

This bird like all of its family has a heavy bill, showing that it eats grain and hard foods. And so it does. In spring when the grains have been planted and a few have fallen to the ground, it picks them up and eats them. It indeed tastes good and the wise bird knows that there are some more kernels covered with ground. It immediately scratches away the soil with its feet and finds the planted grains. In early fall, however, it lives almost entirely on insects, and especially the most dangerous ones. Because of its eating some grain it is looked upon by the farmer as his enemy, and will be shot by him whenever it is possible, but, when it cannot get grain, it will eat beetles, worms, and insects, and is thus very useful to the farmer. An investigation was made and of 1,083 stomachs examined, they contained the following:

Vegetable matter .....	74%
Harmful beetles .....	10%
Snout beetles .....	4%
Grasshoppers .....	5%
Animal matter (mainly insects) ..	26%
The remainder were empty.	

"So far as the insect food as a whole is concerned the Red-winged Blackbird may be considered entirely beneficial."

The nest of the Red-winged Blackbird is mostly in swamps about two feet from the ground. If there are no cattails in the neighborhood it will select a small bush near a pond and will build its nest in the interior of the bush. Very seldom is the nest placed on the ground. It is made of woven grasses and is built compact.

This bird is a very sociable one, and therefore, it breeds in colonies. In many cattail swamps one can find from ten to twenty-five nests. The four to five bluish eggs have white scrambled chiefly around the large end with brownish-black. While the female is incubating the eggs the male is on some nearby fence, post or on a tree top on the watch. The female will leave the nest at the first warning.

The song of the Red-winged Blackbird is rather harsh. It is "Wa-her-ee," or "con-quer-ee." The notes are uttered only when the bird is up high, as on a fence post or in a tree top, and when we hear it we can be sure that the nest is not far off. It also cries its calls while flying.

It breeds east of the Rocky Mountains from Texas to Manitoba and New Brunswick. Now, that we know, that this bird is a very beautiful one and that it is more useful than harmful, it is self understood that we ought to protect it whenever we can. We must bear in mind, that there is many a harmful and wretched man among us, and we do not shoot him or try to take his life, then, why should we take the life of our neighbor the Red-winged

Blackbird? It is a very hardy bird, and is at most times useful, and as for eating a few kernels of grain, it makes good by eating many harmful beetles and insects and thus greatly aids the farmer. But the farmer does not think so, and why? Because he only sees it eating a few kernels of his grain at certain times, but does not perceive that the bird also eats very many harmful insects. Because of destroying so many of these pests the bird is justified in taking a few kernels as a reward and should be protected whenever possible.

Wm. C. Marten.

Illinois.

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#### Miscellaneous Bird Notes From Philadelphia and Vicinity.

Winter records of the Red-headed Woodpecker for the vicinity of Philadelphia, Pa., are of rare occurrence. I have personally never observed it after October in the fall, or before April in the Spring, but my brother George saw one on February 8, 1903, at Sandiford, Philadelphia County, and my cousin Ellerslie W. Miller shot one on March 14, 1905, at this locality. These are my only winter records.

The Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is another rare winter sojourner of the Woodpecker tribe in this region, and my only real winter record is of a bird observed on December 3, 1903, at Sandiford, by my brother George. I have seen it several times, however, in March, at different localities.

On April 23, 1900, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., I collected a set of five Crow's eggs from a nest 45 feet up in a triple crotch of a big willow on bank of a stream adjoining a woods. Nothing unusual about the nest or eggs except the incubation. Four eggs were practically infertile and the fourth contained a living embryo over two-thirds grown. Rather a

remarkable condition for a set of eggs in my experience. The reverse conditions in a clutch is quite common with this species. What could have caused the infertility of the four eggs? The Crow was flushed from the nest.

During my annual raids of Crow's nests I have never found a set containing seven eggs or young, but I have seen clutches of this number that were collected in Southern Pennsylvania, so I still entertain hope of finding this number in a nest.

I have found many abnormally colored sets of Crow's eggs but only one runt has ever come my way. This set I collected on April 9, 1903, at Hillside, Montgomery County, Pa., from a nest about 40 feet up in the crotch of a thin chestnut in a wood, a day when Dick Harlow and I, by strenuous work, collected a fine series of 75 eggs of *Corvus brachyrhynchos* on the historic hills of that county. The set consists of six eggs; five are typical in form, color and size (being, if anything, a trifle over the normal size) and the sixth is a decided runt. It is almost globular in shape and no larger than a Blue Jay's egg, which it somewhat resembles in marking.

Chapman (*Bird-Life*, p. 152) says: "There are three birds who sing not only through the heat of midsummer, but are undaunted by the warmth of a mid day sun. They are the Wood Pewee, the Red-eyed Vireo, and the Indigo Bird or Bunting."

To this group of sultly days' singers should be added the Swamp Sparrow, whose monotonous song can be heard on any hot day, at all hours on the river meadows and marshes near Philadelphia. It sings occasionally during the hot summer nights and only ceases its singing with the waning of summer. It sings later in the season than any of the above three species. The Swamp Sparrow song is the only

one heard after July on the marshes, with the exception of the ditty of the Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Chapman (Bird Studies with a Camera, pp. 72-75) gives an interesting account of the Least Bittern devouring its eggs, but, although I have examined about a hundred nests of this species containing eggs, I have never been so fortunate as to have such an interesting occurrence to come under my observation. I have found a few nests containing broken eggs and collected sets with eggs having small punctures, scratches and striations in the shell. The punctures appeared to have been made by the Long-billed Marsh Wrens jabbing their bills in them, and I have read this bird was guilty of such an offense, but what caused the peculiar striations and scratches has always puzzled me as well as the cause of a nestful of broken eggs.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

#### Notes From Virginia.

This has been a very open winter, and the Bald Eagles started laying on February 9th instead of the 22d. W. B. Crispen, the well known New Jersey Oologist came down, and we took in twenty-two nests, only getting five sets in all,—of these he will tell THE OOLOGIST readers in detail. March 16th found Bluebirds with five eggs, incubation begun, the earliest I have ever known.

March 30th found one pair of Pine Warblers with eggs, 80 feet up in a pine tree, 22 feet out from the trunk. Needless to say I didn't secure this set. As usual, the Flying squirrels this spring have driven out and broken up many Carolina Chickadees and Brown-headed Nuthatches.

Sunday the 13th of April, found most of the Pine Warblers and Carolina Chickadees with full sets, while the

18th found these warblers and Screech Owls with sets far advanced. This date proved a record for Tufted Titmice in this section, a beautiful set of eight being taken, the largest set I ever found, and think of it—in a hole I could reach from the ground, without cutting to reach the eggs.

H. H. Bailey.

Virginia.

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#### Statement of the Ownership, Management, Etc.

Of The Oologist, published monthly at Albion, N. Y., required by the Act of August 24, 1912.

Editor, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.;  
Managing Editor, R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.;  
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Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders, holding 1 per cent. or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: There are no bonds, no securities and no debts. The Oologist owes no one.

R. M. BARNES,

Editor.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 26th day of April, 1913.

Erma Thieski,

(Seal)

Notary Public.

Commission expires Mar. 9, 1915.

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#### Anent The House Sparrow.

(Passer domesticus)

In March, 1906 OOLOGIST, were published some notes of the writer anent the English Sparrow, which, if I recollect correctly, I had sent to the editor (Frank H. Lattin) about four years previously—in 1902—and which I was surprised to see in print, as I thought the article had been rejected and consigned to the waste basket.

Well, in that contribution I asserted that the ubiquitous *Passer domesticus* reared "three, occasionally four and frequently five broods of young" a year. A fact I thought well known by all ornithologists, but in the succeeding June OOLOGIST, the late Dr. Morris Gibbs ridiculed my assertion and expressed his opinion that, if undisturbed, the House Sparrow only rears two broods. Ernest H. Short, then the editor of THE OOLOGIST, backed up Gibbs in his contention, but neither gentleman brought forth any data to prove conclusively that the miscalled "English" Sparrow, disturbed or undisturbed, does not rear more than two broods in a year.

Unmolested, the House Sparrow annually rears four or five broods of young, a fact recognized by the leading ornithologists of the world, although the majority of the birds probably never hatch over three or four.

If Short believed this species reared only two broods per year, then why did he reprint in THE OOLOGIST, Eastabrook's article, "The Present Status of the English Sparrow Problem in America," from *The Auk*, without any comment on the assertions made therein that "if any are left (speaking of the extermination of the pest), their great ratio of reproduction, four to five broods of five eggs each, each year, would render the work useless," etc?

Neither Gibbs nor Short, with all their knowledge(?) of the nidification of the House Sparrow, have contributed anything relevant on this interesting subject. Gibbs now being deceased, cannot do so, so it behooves Short, or anybody else for that matter, to prove conclusively that this pest only rears two broods of young a year, referring, of course, to undisturbed birds. When this can be done I will have something more to say on

the subject. I am convinced, however, from personal observation, that the House Sparrow never raises less than three broods per annum, speaking, of course, of undisturbed birds.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia.

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#### Fair Play.

I am glad somebody has the temerity to stand up for the English Sparrow, and recognize his good traits, few as they may be. He is a disagreeable fellow, filthy in his habits, and in many ways makes a nuisance of himself in neighborhoods he frequents. But the important thing is, does he destroy any considerable number of insects. If so, no matter what his disagreeable traits are, we should treat him fairly in justice to ourselves. Without quoting hearsay evidence, I am bound to recognize him as an important destroyer of insects of many species during seasons of the year when they can be obtained.

A few instances that have come under my notice may be mentioned. Our town supports an industry in which considerable amounts of hard woods are utilized. It has often been customary to have large quantities of Hickory logs,—cut during the winter, lying in the yards. Along about the last of April or early in May, the Locust borers come around the log pile in great numbers, and deposited their eggs in nests of twenty to thirty each in crevices of the bark, close to the sap wood. In a short time these eggs would hatch, the worms eating their way along the surface of the wood in every direction, and after traveling several inches in this manner, would bore in toward the center of the log, constantly increasing in size, and badly damaging the lumber.

A great many years ago the sparrows became interested in these bugs,

and came around the log piles in constantly increasing numbers. They would seize them on the wing as a Kingbird takes its prey, fly to the ground, break the hard wing shells off, and swallow the insect. This became a regular habit with the sparrows and the number of locust beetles that now infest the log piles is very small as compared with former numbers, and very few escape the watchful sparrows.

Last spring some time in May, two large colonies of the Big-winged ants were hatched, one in a partly rotted cross tie, the other in a locust post. They came out by the thousand, but the sparrows were promptly on the job, and probably not one-fourth of the ants lived to get away from the locality. I counted as many as fifty being caught by a single sparrow before she flew away to her nest and young with them. Probably thirty or forty birds were around feeding on them while the ants were coming out.

I had a good opportunity to watch a nest containing a brood of six young sparrows. I did not make any accurate count, but fully two-thirds of the food brought to these young birds consisted of insects in various forms, worms, beetles, moths and grasshoppers.

I am fully convinced that the English Sparrow has a growing predilection for insect food and fully agree with Mr. W. H. Strong of San Jose, California in the words of truth he gives in the January OOLOGIST concerning their insectivorous habits as personally observed by him.

A great deal has been said about their driving other birds away. I cannot recall a single instance of this that has come to my notice. Wrens and Martins nest freely in various parts of our town in close proximity to the sparrows and they are rarely inter-

fered with. The sparrows will fight desperately, but nearly always among themselves. They doubtless take some fruit and occasionally injure tender garden plants, but the Robin, Catbird, Grackle and a good many others among our common birds can give the sparrow pointers on fruit destruction and general mischief.

Too much that has been written about the English Sparrow has been founded on mere heresay, and not from careful observation. This alone will determine his value in the economic field, when the problem of how to combat the ever increasing incroachments of insect pests is taxing human ingenuity in an increasing ratio with the growing scarcity of many species of birds.

Thomas H. Jackson.

West Chester, Pa.

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We believe that the House Sparrow, commonly called the English Sparrow, is the greatest vagabond known to us among the birds. It should be destroyed at every opportunity. Only this day we have been compelled to shoot several of these scamps to protect our Blue Martins from eviction.

Editor.

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#### Birds of Prey, Northern Ohio.

For several years I have been studying the birds of prey in this part of the State. Within the last twenty years the Bald Eagle has become scarce here. I have not seen but one of these birds in two years. Formerly they were quite common. I have seen them feeding in early Spring on the dead body of a horse in common with crows. For many years there was a nest of this bird in the top of an old pine tree that stood on the bank of Grand River. The tree was taken down by a wind storm some years ago. After that the birds nested in a large oak over near

the lake until some gunners from the city interrupted them. Since then I have lost trace of them, although there may be other nesting sites in this section. I do not know of them.

The Osprey is occasionally seen here but I do not know of any nesting sites in this corner of the state. It is quite interesting to see them catch fish from the river and lake.

During the early Spring Black Vultures are quite common but I have never seen them here later than the middle of May.

The Turkey Vulture is also common during the Spring and Summer, but I have never known of any nests being found in this section.

Of the Hawks that are common nesters here, we have the Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Coopers, Broad-wing, Sharp-shinned, Sparrow, and Marsh Hawks, and put them in an open coop out in a pasture field. The old ones were very attentive and fed them regularly. Nearly every day they brought them young chickens.

One day last April while out collecting I took one set of two badly incubated eggs of the Red-tail from a nest 56 feet up in a big beech. Also one set of three fresh Cooper's at 70 feet up. Also one set of three fresh Red-shouldered. This nest was in a three prong crotch of a beech 76 feet up. Without limbs and as I never use climbers this was no cinch for an old man, but it was worth doing. Such beautifully marked eggs and a handsome nest lined with small hemlock twigs. These three nests were all found within a distance of one-half mile.

Of the Owls we have the Great Horned Owl which is quite common. Barred Owl very common; screech Owl, very common. Aside from these we have occasionally the Long and Short-eared owls. The latter I have only

met with from early fall until early Spring. For two seasons the Saw-whet owl has been here and I am sure that a pair nested last season in the big woods near here. It is very seldom we see the Snowy Owl here.

During thirty years of observing birds in this section, I have seen but two specimens of Barn Owl. During the winter of 1901 two Great Gray Owls lived in the big woods. I saw them almost daily while at work; they seemed quite tame. Since then I have not seen any of them.

On February 21, 1913, I located a nest of the Great Horned Owl 60 feet up in the crotch of a big Swamp maple; the nest seemed built by the birds themselves. Later on I will write from the big woods.

S. V. Warram.

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#### Virginia Bird Notes.

This is the mildest winter we have had in many seasons. Last year, 1912, the Starlings appeared for the first time on January 4th; were again seen on the 8th, and last seen on March 6th. None remained during the summer, and this winter was not severe enough to drive them down here again.

Eagles were two weeks earlier in coming this season. February 9th found them settled and two sets taken the 18th were incubated nearly three weeks. But I shall not go into detail about the Eagles, for W. B. Crispin of Salem, N. J., came down again to visit me and he will tell you of this year's experience. Ducks and Geese are migrating Northward in great quantities already, while the warm weather has been disastrous to the markets, wild water fowl shipped in being in terrible condition, and I was informed about 50 per cent. of those killed were spoiled.

H. H. Bailey.

Newport News, Va.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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The Late William B. Crispin,  
Salem, New Jersey.

## WILLIAM B. CRISPIN

Seeks Eggs; Dashed to Death—Falls 200 Feet on Pocono  
Mountains, Pennsylvania.

Salem, N. J., May 21.—William Crispin, a collector of birds' eggs, lowered himself 100 feet by a rope in the Pocono mountains, near Easton, Pa., last Friday in quest of eagles' eggs and fell 200 feet to his death. News of the accident became generally known when his body was brought to his parents home near here.

Mr. Crispin, who was 33 years old, had collected birds' eggs all over the country. Last week he had an order from New York for a certain kind of eagles' eggs and set out for the Poconos to find them. He was last seen alive Friday afternoon near the place where he was killed. Saturday several women, who were picking wild flowers, came across his body. High up the perpendicular mountain side they saw the end of the rope.

Papers of identification were found on the body, and the police learned by long distance telephone from Crispin's father the object of his mission into the mountains. Crispin left a widow, and three children. His father is a former member of the New Jersey legislature.—Chicago Daily News,

The foregoing clipping from the telegraphic column of the Chicago Daily News, May 12, 1913, tells its own sad story. Mr. Crispin was a naturalist of ability, a man of integrity, a good husband and father, and a credit to himself and to those who were his.

It shows the dangers which a field naturalist necessarily incurs at times. The manner of his death recalls that of John C. Cahoon, who fell in like manner from the cliffs of Newfoundland on the shore of the sea.

The readers of THE OOLOGIST will well remember his splendid powers of description and the accuracy of his observations, as he has been for sometime an occasional contributor to these columns.

To the bereaved ones he leaves behind, we extend our sympathy.

The following is a list of his contributions to THE OOLOGIST since we became proprietors of the magazine:

Wild Pigeon Eggs, Vol. 28, No. 5, pg. 91.

The Downy Woodpecker, Vol. 29, No. 9, pg. 344.

A Bartramian Sandpiper's Nest, Vol. 29, No. 9, pg. 346.

The Lure of the Wild, and the Bachelor Nest of the Bald Eagle, Vol. 30, No. 2, pg. 28.

It is a pleasure to publish also the contributions of those who knew him better than we did, which here follow:

Mr. Crispin's death is a distinct loss to all lovers of "Oology and Ornithology." He was a great enthusiast and tireless in the pursuit of rare specimens. His untimely end came while in search of the eggs of the Duck Hawk. He was a man of excellent habits and enjoyed a reputation for

strict integrity, always dealing fairly in all his business relations. He will ever be remembered as a faithful friend, a good comrade and an honest man.

Ernest A. Butler.

Wm. B. Crispin Killed by a Fall.  
On May 9, 1913, William B. Crispin,

of Salem, N. J., was instantly killed by a fall from the Nockaminon Cliffs, a few miles above Philadelphia, while endeavoring to get down to a Duck Hawk's nest. He went up the Delaware River about noon of that day in the steam cars, and stopped at a nearby canal lock to get the attendant to go with him, to the site of the nest, but was compelled to go alone. He took with him a well-used one-inch rope, and also a new one of the same size—the latter four hundred feet long. With these on his shoulder he climbed to the top of the cliff 385 feet high, and when there used his older rope to lower himself down a steeply sloping bank about 100 feet to the brink of a sheer drop clear to the bottom. At this point his rope was found, neatly coiled ready for use, and his hat lying on top of it. The site of the nest was about fifty feet below him, on a ledge only one foot wide and about six feet long. He evidently lost his footing, while looking down head foremost into the rocks 285 feet below. The body rolled into a little clump of bushes and was not found until the next afternoon, when a party of girls gathering wild flowers came across it lying within a short distance of the public road.

Mr. Crispin is well known to our readers through the interesting articles which he has from time to time written for the columns of THE OOLOGIST. This spring he took a trip after Bald Eagles' eggs in Virginia, and around Washington, and was very successful. He was a most remarkably easy and agile climber, and absolutely fearless. His local collection of eggs was a fine one, and included among its treasures a series of some ten sets of the Eagle eggs, all of his own taking; a series of thirty sets of Osprey eggs; a set of locally taken Wood Duck eggs, and a hand-

some set of five Upland Plover, which has already been noticed in THE OOLOGIST. He was a member of the A. O. U. and also of the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and altogether one of the most likable young fellows that anybody ever met. A wife and three young children mourn his terrible death.

The Nockaminon Cliff on the banks of the Delaware river, is quite noted locally as a nesting place of a pair of Duck Hawks. Mr. Gillem, of Ambler, Pa., has a dozen sets of eggs taken in different years from probably the same pair of birds, and only about ten days before the accident, had let himself down the cliff in search of another set. He stated that he believes the birds did not nest there this year, and it is certain that they were not there when Mr. Crispin had his fall, for another local Oologist scaled the rock only the day before.

R. P. Sharples.

West Chester, Pa.

#### In Memory of William B. Crispin.

I first became acquainted with "Billy" Crispin in the summer of 1908, through Mr. Carpenter, of Salem, N. J.

On September 12, 1898, he came over to see me for the first time, and I returned the visit May 13, 1899.

At that time he was a boy in his teens, just commencing to make a collection of eggs. I had started over again, after many years of inactivity, and was eager to have a young man like Crispin with me in the same hobby. Being reared in the country, Crispin had a good opportunity to procure the eggs of all the birds that nested in his locality.

In the summer of 1901 he yearned for new scenery, and started July 10, on his wheel to Buffalo. After taking in the exposition, he rode on to Maine, and returned to my house on

his machine. On the outskirts of the town he broke the bar-bow of his bicycle while descending a steep hill. He fell on his hands and knees, bruising them, and tearing his clothing in a frightful manner. This trip did not satisfy him it only gave him an appetite for more, so he started for Florida, on November 7th, of the same year. His idea for going at this time of the year, was to be there when the Bald Eagle nested. Being unfamiliar with the locality and having no knowledge about the nesting sites, he failed to take any eggs. He went on down to Miami, with the intention of looking for Everglade Kites, in the spring, but met with no success.

On May 3, 1903, I bought all the eggs he had, so he has really made his collection in the past ten years. I believe he has about 85 different species personally collected, of the birds of New Jersey, besides many others taken in trade.

Crispin was a great tree climber, as most egg men know. He never turned a tree down, no matter how large, how tall, or how rotten. I have seen him climb dead trees that had no limbs, only forks, shooting out like a crooked finger and a Fish Hawk's nest near the end. He would get the eggs every time, sure.

He was a close friend of mine, and we kept up a regular correspondence during the fifteen years. If he got anything new, he told me about it, and if I got anything I told him, so we had no egg secrets.

He has gone, never to return. It was a great shock to all of us. He had gone out many times before, and stayed over the allotted time, but would always come back. This time he lay at the bottom of a cliff, bruised, crushed, dead! How it happened no one can tell. Crispin was a careful climber, fearless, daring and brave.

He must have slipped, lost his balance and fell, all so quickly that it was all over in a second.

His body rests under the shade of a large tree in Salem. The long branches stretching out from the trunk, makes a fitting canopy for the dead, the birds that he loved so well, singing in the top, will be his constant companions forever.

E. J. Darlington.

Delaware.

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**CHARLES J. PENNOCK MISSING.  
Kennett Square Business Man Suddenly Drops Out of Sight.**

Charles J. Pennock, 55 years, justice of the peace, tax collector and the all-around confidential man in business matters of Kennett Square, is missing. He disappeared Thursday night of last week, and his friends fear that he has either been foully dealt with, has become dazed and wandered away or has been suddenly overcome with serious illness. So far as is known, all his accounts are correct, and no reason is given by his family for his mysterious disappearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Pennock left Kennett Square Thursday morning and went to Philadelphia, where he was to attend a meeting of the Delaware Valley Naturalist Union at the Academy of Natural Sciences. She was to do some shopping.

At 10:30 that evening Pennock went to Broad Street Station and complained of not feeling well, but insisted on taking the next train for his home. That was the last intelligence any one had of him, though the police of city hall have been trying to get some clue to his whereabouts, at the hospitals and other points.

Mr. Pennock was Burgess of Kennett Square a few years ago, besides being justice of the peace and tax

collector, he represents three insurance companies, is a director of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, is ornithologist of the State Board of Agriculture in Delaware, president of the Lake Makomer Resort Company, near Williamsport, is prominent in Masonic circles, a naturalist of well-known ability, brother of the member of the State legislature, Theodore Pennock, and an uncle of Herbert Pennock, pitcher of the Athletic base ball team, of Philadelphia.

He is 5 feet 10½ inches tall and weighs 165 pounds. He had on when he went away a dark suit with grey stripes, straw hat with card bearing his name inside, wore a stand up collar, dark necktie; he has closely cropped whiskers, which, like his hair, are mixed with gray. He has been twice married and has three children.

A country-wide search has been going on ever since his disappearance, but up to this writing his whereabouts remains a deep mystery.

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#### Enoch J. Dietrich.

A communication from H. F. Dietrich brings the sad news of the death of Enoch J. Dietrich of Canby, O., region, his brother, at the family home, Sunday, May 4th of pneumonia.

Mr. Dietrich was well known to the readers of THE OOLOGIST as an occasional contributor to these columns. During the last number of years he has been a more or less regular correspondent of Ye Editor, and we have quite a number of specimens furnished by him in our collection.

It is a pleasure to testify that in all his dealings, uprightness and straightforwardness have been his absolute rule. His powers of observation and his ability to disclose what he saw were of the first order.

The family and the oologists of the country have sustained a loss in his

death, and to the bereaved ones we extend our sincere sympathy.

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#### Sorrow.

James C. Cannon, formerly of Lakewood, Ohio, now of Cleveland, is bereaved by the loss of his wife, which estimable lady died a short time ago at his home in Lakewood. Mr. Cannon is an oologist of note, and to him we extend our sincere sympathy.

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HAROLD H. BAILEY wishes to announce that the J. P. Bell Publishing Co. of Lynchburg, Va., have started work on the publication of his book "The Breeding Birds of Virginia," which they hope to have before the public on or about June 1st, 1913. There will be fourteen original full page colored plates of the birds, which with the one hundred and eight half tones, represent the greater part of the species of birds figuring in the text of over three hundred pages. Virginia being the overlapping boundary of many of the northern and southern forms, the field covered should be of special interest to the ornithologist. As this will be a limited edition, those desiring to secure copies should notify the author at Newport News, Va., as early as possible. The publishers are noted for their high class work and both they and Mr. Bailey guarantee the whole work will be above the ordinary. The price will be (\$3.00) three dollars.—(Adv.)

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#### A Strange Egg.

On May 3, 1913, I was out after eggs with Mr. E. J. Darlington, near Hope Farm, Del. Seeing a Purple Grackle flush from a nest not more than six feet above the ground, I thought I would investigate. The nest was composed of dried grass and contained five little birds and one egg, which I took on account of its strange



Nest, Young and Parent, Cedar Waxwing—Taken July 21, 1912

—Photo by J. F. Stierle.



Nest, Young and Parent, Cedar Waxwing—Taken July 23, 1912

—Photo by J. F. Stierle.

appearance. The egg measured one and one-sixteenth by seven-eighths inches, and was white, thickly covered with reddish markings, and was very badly incubated. Mr. Darlington nor I could identify it.

E. M. Kenworthy.

Delaware.

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#### An Albine Starling.

Among the several breeds of Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) which were reared in my bird-cottage during the spring of 1912, there was one brood of four which was a true albine. As this bird lived to be but four weeks old, when a neighbor's cat devoured him, it is rather difficult to say if this first plumage would have been replaced by the normal plumage of the adult stages. However, the first plumage of this bird was a glistening white without the least traces of markings of any kind. Its bill was quite normal, its eyes, straw-color, tinged with pink and its feet and legs, straw-color with slight traces of red appearing at numerous places on their surface.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

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#### Nesting of the Wood Thrush in Mississippi.

In looking over one of my books the other day I was surprised to find the breeding range of the Wood Thrush given to be from North Carolina and Kansas north to Northern United States, as I had always regarded it as being one of our common birds down here in South Mississippi. In 1909 I took my first set of four eggs of the Wood Thrush, on May 20th. The nest was about eight feet up in a small cedar and the bird was on the nest. This set was badly incubated but I took no more sets of these this year as it was late in the season. The next year I took a set of two on May 15 and

found another set the same day which held two eggs. On the 16th I found a nest with two eggs and on the 21st I found two nests with four eggs each, one of which I took. On May 24th I found my last set of four. In 1911 I found five nests. On May 2d I found the first nest which held one egg. One nest was found on the 7th, two on the 12th, and the last on the 21st. In 1912 I did not take any sets as I was at work on the Coast all the spring, but I used to scare the birds up from the palmetto thickets on Deer Island quite often when I would go over there. So this year I was on the watch early and on the 28th of April I found a nest with four eggs and nearby another new one which four days later held four also. Then I found my old pair nesting on the campus of the College and on May the 2d this nest held four greenish-blue beauties. I have noticed that it is always the same piece of woods that they nest in and so I am going out soon and see how many I can find.

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#### Early Spring Notes.

Under date of April 1st just twenty species of our birds have arrived. As I write I am listening to the sweet incomparable warble of Bewick's Wren. He has been here for several days and for three seasons past the welcome little southerner has been coming regularly. Last May a pair built a nest in a lumber pile here in the village only a stone's throw from the store and I secured a photo of another family of young Bewick's in a paint bucket hanging in a brick milk house.

Have taken, in the village, under date March 29th, a fresh set of six Screech Owl, the earliest set I have ever taken outside of timber. I have always found the timber Screechers from two to three weeks earlier than

those residing in the orchards and towns. My pair here gives me a nice set each spring then promptly deposits another set in the same place. The second set is just 30 days later and family number two is just as happy as if born a month earlier. As only one family is reared each season, I figure that my annual set does not reduce the number of Screech Owls.

Have just received word from Guy W. Day of Sidney, Champaign county, who recorded the first authentic set of Barn Owls taken in Illinois, that he had a pair located already for 1913 and when ripe, he would give me the honor of taking the second set for Illinois. I'll be there.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Ill.

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#### Series of Eggs of the Cedar Waxwing.

Five eggs, incubation slight, ground color a light slate or bluish gray, sparsely marked with dark almost black brown spots and specks, scattered over the whole egg; with similar undermarkings of pale lilac and purple; form long oval; measure .89 x .61, .89 x .59, .89 x .61, .87 x .62, .88 x .61 inches; nest compactly built of small twigs, fine rootlets, weeds and leaf stems, mosslike and seedy fibres, dried stem, with stone of wild cherry attached, grass, wool, etc., lined with fine weed stems, and horsetail hair. The moss and wool are around the rim; nest on limb in White Oak; locality, Dodge county, 1½ miles southeast of Columbus, Wis.; date, July 6, 1892.

Four eggs, fresh, light bluish drab ground, not very heavily marked with seal brown and vandike brown in coarse bold dots and spots, and a few scrawls, finer and fainter undermarkings of lilac with a faint cloudiness of a pale pinkish or reddish brown, principally in the larger end; form oval; measure, .77 x .63, .75 x .63, .80 x .66,

.79 x .62 inches. Nest in leaning cluster of swamp willow, composed of small twigs and reed stems, stripping from weeds, lined with this stripping and a little dry grass; quite bulky. Locality, Columbus County, Columbus, Wis.; date, August 8, 1895.

Three eggs, slightly incubated, ground slate gray, with a greenish metallic tint, quite thickly marked with blackish brown, and undermarkings of lilac, in specks, spots and dots; some of the spots the two colors seem to be mixed; two of the eggs show several scrawls of a dark metallic green; the darker markings are principally on the larger end of the egg; shape, oval; measure, .85 x .63, .83 x .62 inches. Nest was in swamp willow, of dead grass and weed stems, and hemplike strippings from weeds, and lined with the same. Locality, Columbia County, Columbus, Wis.; date, August 20, 1895.

Four eggs, slightly incubated, dark ashy ground color, thinly and unevenly specked and spotted, over the whole egg with dark lilac and purple black, one being nearly destitute of the latter markings; form oval; measure, .83 x .62, .81 x .65, .83 x .62 inches; nest of woodstems and small twigs, grass willow leaves and cotton, lined with a heavy lining of dead grass, vegetable down, wool in small quantities, and a considerable quantity of a kind of moss stuff, placed in a willow; locality, Columbia County, Columbus, Wis.; date, August 18, 1898.

These eggs are very difficult to save if advanced in incubation and for this reason I lost a large number of sets.

George W. H. vos Burgh.

Zion City, Ill.

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#### More Big Eagle Eggs.

J. B. Dixon, of Escondido, California, this spring secured another set of three eggs from the same nest from



Nest and Young of Parent, Cedar Waxwing—Taken July 24, 1912

—Photo by J. F. Stierle.



Nest and Young of Cedar Waxwing—Taken 1 day before leaving nest  
—Photo by J. F. Stierle.

which Ye Editor took the set of two Bald Eagle eggs last spring. These three eggs were of the same general unusually large kind, and addled as has always been the case with this bird. This is the second set of three of which there is any history from this bird, and is to be congratulated this bird, and Mr. Dixon is to be congratulated on securing them.

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#### A Record.

On April 26th, 1913, a friend of mine observed a pair of Bartramian Sandpipers in a soggy field about six miles from town, and believing that they might nest in this locality, he went out again in the first week in May. He found a nest containing four beautifully marked eggs. This is a very rare find for this locality, and he prizes the set very highly.

Norman Haultain.

Ontario, Can.

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#### The Catbird.

The Catbird is not a very popular bird with most of us on account of his fruit eating habits. He is a saucy fellow, but aside from his fruit eating habit has no other faults, if fruit-eating can be called a bad habit. He arrives here in the spring, along in the latter part of April. They are first seen after their arrival in the spring, in pairs in our orchard, or in small colonies on the brier patches or underbrush, which places are their favorite residences. They are a common bird with us here in Central Illinois, and are fairly abundant. They sing a great deal all spring, and even far into the summer. They leave us, to journey southward, about the first of September. The catbird also frequents hedgrows as well as briar patches, and one finds them and the Brown Thrushes the most numerous birds to be found in such places. Several pairs

are generally found in orchards and groves about our homes, but tangled underbrush and woodland bevy patches appeal most strongly to his nature.

The Catbird is of a gray slate color, being somewhat darker colored in the wings and tail, with chestnut undertail coverlets.

It is a medium sized bird, being somewhat smaller than the Robin, and can be better compared with the Red-headed Woodpecker. To me it seems as though some of these birds are larger than others.

They generally rear two broods a season, but their second nest is often uncompleted when the time arrives for them to migrate. They commence building their first nest shortly after their arrival in the spring, or about the first week in May. The nest is composed of sticks, cornhusks, twines and strips of bark, and is lined with rootlets and hairs. The nests are built at all sorts of elevations, ranging from three to thirty feet above the ground. They generally build in small trees or a tangle of vines, but when no such places can be found, they build at quite high elevations in our orchard trees. There is generally one pair in our orchard on the farm.

One year they built their nest in a hedgerow about three feet above the ground, and the next year they again built in the hedgerow about one hundred feet from their previous nest. This nest was built up higher from the ground, at about an eight or nine elevation. (I remember, I could just barely reach it.) About one-half of the nest was composed of cornhusks. The following year this same pair built in an apple tree about thirty feet north of the hedge, at a height of about twenty feet. The tree died that fall, and was cut down, so the next year they moved to the north part of

the orchard and built in the tip-top of a willow-twigg apple tree. This nest was about thirty feet from terra firma. The succeeding year they moved to another apple tree, the same kind of a tree in which they had first built, (that is the tree that had died and was cut down.) From this one would infer that they preferred some trees to others. This nest was about fifteen feet from the ground.

The Catbird lays four or five pretty eggs, pale blue in color.

The Catbird is a great fruit eater, hence he incurred the special hatred of the fruit grower, who is always putting up scarecrows to frighten him away. This bird also eats a goodly portion of insects during the summer months, being especially fond of grasshoppers. I remember while putting up hay, adjoining a woods in which there were dense tangles of vines, briars, and small wild crab and plum trees, a regular mecca for Catbirds: the woods fairly rung with their song, while they were flying back and forth from hay-field to woods. One could see great numbers of them hopping about on the ground between the windrows of hay, with that most peculiar little hop of their's. They were busy catching grasshoppers, which were quite plentiful, and very easily caught. It was a sight worth seeing.

The Catbird has been correctly called the mocking-bird of the north. His chief song is a jerky roundelay interspersed by other birds' songs which he has copied and puts in whatever he chooses. It somewhat resembles the song of that brilliant songster, the Brown Thrasher, but more jerky, and is not quite so long. I remember once, when I was walking through the orchard, how I thought I heard what sounded like a Bluebird singing, in the middle of the orchard. I thought it rather strange to hear a Bluebird's

notes from the middle of the orchard, as they were generally seen around the western or more open side. I went to investigate and found the composer of the song to be a Catbird. Beside imitating to perfection, the warble of the Bluebird, I heard him mock the Baltimore oriole, the Chewink, Dickcissel, and other birds, while I was watching him. He is a great songster. One of his other notes is the catlike call "meow," another note, which seems to be the alarm call is a harsh "adt." All of these are accompanied by more or less jerkings and flirtings of the tail.

John B. Behrends.

Illinois.

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#### Watching the Chickadee.

It was Saturday afternoon and freedom from school. I was at liberty to do as I pleased. I walked away up to the north end of town, or up to Averyville. I followed the Rock Island railroad from here on northward into the country, to see what birds I could find. Juncoes and English Sparrows were seen in large numbers. I also saw a Downy Woodpecker, and heard several Tree Sparrows.

I had followed the railroad northward for about a half mile, when I heard a Chickadee, tis-a-deeing in the woods to the right of the track. I decided to watch this interesting little member of our bird family. There was something peculiar about his notes that I wish to speak of. In fact he uttered some notes which I had never heard from a Chickadee before. He seemed to be very restless and generally kept flying about rather high in the tops of the tall oak trees. Chickadees seldom maneuver about at a great height from the ground when searching for food.

Besides their usual notes of "chicadee-dee-dee-dee-dee," their plaintive

"Pee-wee, and similar ones, I heard this bird utter a peculiar note for their kind. In fact I heard him utter two notes new to me. One was a two syllabled "se-clear, se-clear," very closely connected and twice repeated. It resembled a Butcher Bird's notes, only being lower and more modified. The other peculiar tune he pulled off, was a "rittery-rittery," like that of the Maryland Yellow-throat, only probably more rapidly. I had a hard time keeping up with him, because he moved on so rapidly, that he was generally just within sight. John B. Behrends. Illinois.

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#### The Greater Yellow Legs.

On May 31, 1913, while crossing the mud-flats of Corbett's pond, two large waders flew out quite close to me and lit on the edge of the creek several hundred yards away. I hurriedly stalked them, and they turned out to be the Greater Yellow Legs. They were quite tame, and allowed me to get about fifty yards from them. This is the first time I have ever seen the Greater Yellow Legs in this section.

On May 14, 1913, while at Port Britain, (this is a marsh on the shore of Lake Ontario) I put up two Lesser Yellow Legs from a small pool about fifty yards from the main marsh. They flew down the creek and lit at the mouth of the creek. These birds were more wary than their greater brothers.

While shooting at this place in the fall of 1911, I secured one Lesser Yellow Legs. These are the only record I have of these birds in this vicinity, evidently they are stragglers.

On April 26, 1913, a pair of Bartramian Sandpipers were seen in a marshy field several miles north of here, they are also very rare in this neighborhood. Norman Haultain. Ontario, Can,

#### Books Received.

**Our Vanishing Wild Life**, by W. T. Hornaday; Charles Scribner & Sons, New York, publisher.

This publication is absolutely the best on the subject of any that we have ever received into our library. It is dual in nature. A description of the causes leading to the extinction of wild birds and animals and suggestions as to the prevention of the extinction of others.

Some very startling information is to be found within its pages. The following North American birds are stated to have become extinct within comparatively modern times:

The Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Phallas Cormorant, Passenger Pigeon, Eskimo Curlew (this is an erroneous statement); Carolina Parakeet (this is doubtful).

The following North American birds are seriously threatened with extinction:

Whooping Crane, Trumpeter Swan, American Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbill, Scarlet Ibis, Long-billed Curlew, Hudsonian Godwit, Upland Plover, Red-breasted Sandpiper, Golden Plover, Dowitcher, Willet, Pectoral Sandpiper, Black-capped Petrel, American Egret, Snowy Egret, Wood Duck, Band-tailed Pigeon, Heath Hen, Sange Grouse, Prairie Sharp-tail, Pinnated Grouse, White-tailed Kite, and some very interesting information is furnished in relation to many of these species.

The last Whooping Crane seen alive was seen by the writer and John F. Ferry at Quill Lake, Saskatchewan, in 1909. The Trumpeter Swan is stated to be represented by but one pair of birds in the New York Zoological Gardens. (This is an error as we have three live birds on our grounds.)

It is stated that a well equipped and armed army of 2,642,274 gunners



Nest and Young of Cedar Waxwing—Taken 1 day before leaving nest  
—Photo by J. F. Stierle.

take the field each year in the United States against the wild animals and birds. How long will they last at this rate? A great many more million bird skins and animal pelts are sold annually on the London market than even those best advised have any idea of, and the prices they bring are somewhat interesting in some instances. One illustration shows 1600 hummingbird skins sold at 2 cents each. We have never examined a stronger, more forcible or more sensible resume of the subject of bird protection than this work. It should be in every public library and in every school library in the United States.

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**Second Report of the Meridian Bird Club, 1912.**

One of the best bird reports that we have seen for a long time, filled from cover to cover with interesting bird information, and illustrated with a lot of good half tones, some of which are particularly interesting; all of which are instructive.

Containing as it does, two maps, a resume of the financial operations of the club, and a membership list, it is a publication of which this club may well be proud.

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**Food of Some Well Known Birds of Forest, Farm and Garden, by F. E. L. Beal and W. L. McAtee.**

This is Farmers Bulletin No. 506 of the U. S. Department of Agriculture issued September 25, 1912. (We are unadvised why it has not reached our desk prior to this time; there must be something wrong with the mailing department at place of issue.)

This pamphlet of 34 pages, gives the result of food investigation resulting from the examination of nearly five thousand stomachs taken from four species of woodpeckers, two species

of hummingbirds, three species of flycatchers, one species of horned lark, one species of junco, two species of sparrow, one of shrike, two of warblers and the ruby-crowned kinglet, and teems with valuable information on the subject treated.

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**National Reservations for the Protection of Wild Life, by T. S. Palmer, Assistant Chief, Biological Survey, Department of Agriculture, Bureau of Biological Survey, Circular No. 87.**

This is a historical review of the various bird and game reservations and national parks under the jurisdiction of the United States and contains also a bibliography of the publications relating to the fauna of national reservations. It is an interesting resume of the subject treated.

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**Food of Our Important Flycatchers, Department of Agriculture, Biological Survey, Bulletin 44, by F. E. L. Beal, Assistant, Biological Survey.**

This is a splendidly prepared paper of sixty-seven pages giving deductions arrived at from the examination of nearly 3400 stomachs and bristles with desirable information from beginning to end. It is a splendid paper on the subject. Criticism if any, should be directed to the colored illustrations; the one of the Kingbird being more apparently the result of the artist's imaginative and artistic taste than any sketch from nature, and the one of the Arkansas Kingbird being too highly colored on the under parts. And the one of the Crested Flycatcher being the worst of the lot, the inner webs of the tail feathers not being colored true to nature and neither are the throat, neck or under parts. Improvement could be made in this respect in future papers of this character.

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WHOLE NO. 312

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Milo Bennett Denny

Milo Bennett Denny, Artist and Naturalist.

As we came out of the thick underbrush we were surprised to find a beautiful little rustic log cabin picturesquely located in virgin forests, overlooking the beautiful Mapsie River, seven miles from a railroad and apparently serving no purpose except for the beauty and charm with which it inspired the lonely spot. But in this rustic retreat away from the haunts of man an eccentric young artist and naturalist, namely, Milo Bennett Denny, fights out his problems of nature and art all alone, painting nature as he sees it through the eyes of a naturalist in a slightly impressionistic technique, yet with meaning to every stroke of the brush and with such color and atmosphere as only can be grasped by constant study in the open under all conditions.

In this humble country studio Mr. Denny has produced some landscapes which have brought him a reputation few artists of his age can boast. He is not only an artist with brush and pencil but has displayed his superior artistic ability at the taxidermist's art as well. Most of his mounted specimens are donated to public museums from time to time, thereby applying his "art for art's sake" to his scientific productions as well as his paintings. Oh that more taxidermists might do as much.

Do not conceive that our subject is a hermit who never leaves his cabin—"far be it from such" for he has traveled and painted extensively through the west and Canada, has studied at Cornell, Chicago Art Institute and Fog at Harvard. When the trees lose their autumn leaves and the birds go South he too hies to the city to await the coming of another season. Mrs. Alys M. Scott.

Personal.

Mr. Karl W. Kahmann, of the Academy of Science, Lincoln Park, Chicago, spent Sunday, June 29th, at the home of the editor. He comes in the interest of his institution to collect local birds and mammals, for life groups.

About the 9th of July Ye Editor, accompanied by his mother and wife and a driver, left for an overland auto trip to the East. It is intended to visit Lake Champlain, the White Mountains, besides the principal cities, and return home by way of Long Island, Philadelphia and Washington. We hope to meet a number of our ornithological friends on the trip.

Bird Notes.

Last year I reported English Sparrow with white head, this old bird with us this year and one of her young with her has partially white head, white spot on one wing and one side of tail white.

On May 29, found nest A. O. U. 329½ spotted eggs. One has several large splotches and good many necks: the other has numerous small markings in order of usual markings though barely so plain.

On May 14, found nest of white-rumped shrike with seven eggs. Markings, shape, etc., evidently bear out that one bird laid entire clutch.

On May 17, found long-billed Curlews on the plains: more plentiful than in a long time; several nests of 4 each and no trouble to find.

R. L. More.

I noticed with interest the article in the June OOLOGIST, "Nesting of the Wood Thrush in Mississippi." I have read several articles on the Wood Thrush and in each of them they placed the breeding range of this member of the Thrush family in the northern part of the United States, ranging

from North Carolina and Kansas or Virginia and Missouri northward. Now the Wood Thrush is a common southern bird; certainly in this section, and I have collected a number of sets of their eggs in this, Gwinnett, county. I consider the Wood Thrush a common breeder in Georgia, and I believe an investigation will prove the same thing to be true of all the other southern states.

John C. Houston.

Lawrenceville, Ga.

### Winter Birds of Egypt.

By F. T. Pember, Granville, N. Y.

It was my good fortune, in the winter and spring of 1912, to spend six weeks on, and to travel by boat 700 miles up the river Nile, or as far as Nubia in tropical Africa. This, with almost daily donkey rides through cultivated fields and over deserts, to visit the vast ruins of tombs, temples and pyramids, gave me the opportunity to observe the birds of that country, though as they were mostly new to me, I failed to identify many of them.

I am glad that the sentiment to spare the birds, and to study them without shooting is growing, though in many years of collecting for museum purposes, all over the country, I found that I could positively identify more birds with a 12 gage Greener than with an opera glass. I like them in hand for study, but the birds enjoy the "absent treatment" best.

The great triangular section called the Delta, is roughly 150 miles on each side. It comprises the most of Lower Egypt,—is made wonderfully productive by yearly inundations—and with the great, shallow Lake Menzaleh, is a perfect paradise for many species of birds.

The irrigated section of the Nile valley above Cairo, is from one to

twelve miles wide, and then the vast verdureless Libyan Desert on the west, and the utterly desolate Arabian and Nubian Deserts to the east. The first is rich in bird life, and a route of migration, while the desert, though destitute of plants and water, still has birds—Sand Grouse, Ravens, Rustards, etc., though how they manage to sustain life is a mystery.

On the great river, a very conspicuous bird, which easily claims most attention, is the Egyptian or Parasitic Kite (*Milvus ægyptinus*). It is as large as our Red-shouldered Hawk, and at first I supposed it to be one of the buzzard hawks. The tail is rather long, slightly forked and banded, and the whole plumage is a very dark brown, almost black. These birds have much the habit of vultures and act as scavengers in city and village streets. They are almost as tame as chickens, and often snatch meat or other food from the trays being carried on the heads of the natives. They are so abundant that many are always in sight, and at Luxor and other places along the river, I have often counted over 50 flying like gulls about our boat, and they are circling in dozens over every town and city of Egypt. I also found them very plentiful in Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Greece, and several times I counted 80 to 100 and over, from our hotel window in Damascus, as they sailed about over the city or rested on towers or prominent places, and I could not overlook one-third of the city at that. I found that they could easily pick up any scraps or refuse they might fancy from the water, while on the wing, and that without making even a ripple, using the beak only and not the claws for the purpose. I found these birds nesting in February and March on the lofty ruins of the great Temple of Ammon, at Karnak, and on other

structures, as well as in the sont and lebbakh trees wherever they could find them, even in village streets, and always felt surprised at their tameness, since our own Hawks and Kites are so wild and shy in the breeding season. I give but one instance to illustrate their utter fearlessness:

While stopping at Shepard's Hotel in Cairo, I found that a pair of these Kites had a nest in a carob shade tree, in front of the hotel. Now Cairo is as large as Boston and this was its busiest street, with thousands of vehicles and people on foot passing under it every hour. I judged that the nest was 40 feet above the walk, and not over 50 feet from my window, and my room being on the third floor, I could look directly into it, and I watched the family for ten days with great interest. The young were hatched on our second day at the hotel, and the mother would rise up every few minutes to take a look at them, showing great concern and affection. I often saw them fed, and one of the old birds was with them all the time, though they often changed places on the nest. I left Cairo reluctantly wishing I could stay till the young left the nest. The brood doubtless came to maturity, as no one molests them, the people according them protection for the good they think they do.

The next bird to claim our attention is the Hooded Crow (*Corvus cornix*), very abundant in the Delta and all the way up the river, as well as in all the countries we visited in Europe and Asia. It is fully as large as the American Crow, and is conspicuous by its light slate-colored body, with jet black head, tail and wings. It is as tame as the Kite, allowing one to walk within a few feet of it, and I often saw it looking for food within ten feet of people work-

ing in the fields. It breeds in February and March, nesting in great numbers in the zoological garden and parks of Cairo, in the groves of date palms, or anywhere they can find a carob or sont tree in which to place the bulky nest, which may not be over ten feet above ground. Though it is so numerous, I never saw them in flocks. It feeds on dead animals, grain, insects, lizards, frogs, etc., but it is not a persistent hunter of birds' eggs like our crow.

The Rook, (*Corvus frugilegus*), was fairly common, but most seen about parks and gardens and near towns and cities. Not common in Upper Egypt.

Egypt has two Ravens. The Brown-necked Raven (*Corvus umbrinus*) and the Abyssinian Raven, (*C. affinis*). The first I saw several times on the desert. The last, while probably seen, could not be positively identified.

There are eight Eagles in the lists of Egyptian birds, most of them rare. I positively identified only the Spotted Eagle (*Aquila nœvia*).

Of five Vultures of Egypt all were seen. The giant of all, the Griffon Vulture (*Gyps fulvus*), I saw many times, singly, or in twos or threes, on sand bars or low islands of Upper Egypt. The black and white Egyptian Vulture (*Neophron percnopterus*) was noticed but once, the Black Vulture (*Vultur monachus*) and the Sociable Vulture (*V. Auricularis*), several times each, while I saw three of the great Southern Bearded Vulture (*Gypætus nudipes*) sailing about the base of the Mokattam hills to the east of Cairo.

Over the river, the Fish Hawk, (*Pandion Naliætus*)—(Identical with ours)—was seen a few times. The Merlin (*Falco æsalon*) was noticed daily, while the Kestrel (*F. tinnunculus*) was abundant, and the lesser Kes-

(*E. cenchris*) rather common, and both were breeding, and feeding young, in the cliffs and great temple ruins all through the Nile valley. Other hawks were seen but not determined with certainty.

At night the hooting of the Eagle Owl (*Bubo ignavus*) was heard from cliffs and ruins, and must be rather common. The Barn Owl (*Aluco noctua*) was abundant everywhere. It is largely diurnal, inhabits all the old ruins and rocky cliffs, and was often seen sunning itself at midday, even in exposed situations. This is the bird pictured on old Grecian coins, and by the Greeks was made sacred to Pallas Athene. Hence its generic name.

Some years ago noted naturalists thought best to introduce the Little Owl into England, and great numbers were imported yearly, with strict orders to game keepers to protect them. Like our English Sparrows they increased beyond all expectation, and spread out over all adjoining counties, and they have become the worst pest that ever tortured the soul of game preservers. In that country thousands of partridge and pheasants are annually hatched under hens, and these broods are put out in the coops with the foster mother in a coop, but which does not confine the young. So with nothing to protect the downy game birds, these diurnal owls take daily or hourly toll to feed their own young, until all are destroyed.

And now in place of being a pleasant addition to the bird life of the British Isles, the Little Owl is declared a nuisance and a scourge, and a relentless war of extermination has been declared against it. It is probable however, that it will pretty nearly hold its own against all efforts to reduce its numbers.

I saw the Wryneck (*Yunx torquilla*)

common during migration, while the beautiful Hoopoe (*Upupa epops*) with its banded wings and magnificent crest, was conspicuous everywhere, and they were feeding their young in nests built in cracks and holes of the ruined walls and towers of ancient temples. This bird takes its name from its rather musical notes. The brilliant little European Kingfisher (*Alcedo ispida*) may be seen all along the river, and they are really abundant in some places. Equally plentiful was the much larger Black and White Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*), a most beautiful daring bird, nearly the size of ours. It was particularly numerous about the First Cataract, and later, I found it very common about the river Jordan. There is a smaller bird than the first, and of nearly the same color, the Little Indian Kingfisher (*Alcedo bengalensis*) found in Egypt, but I failed to identify it.

There are three Bee-eaters, two of which are only seen during migration, but the Little Green Bee-eater (*Meropops viridis*) is resident, and very abundant throughout Upper Egypt. This is a beautiful bird, bright green in color, with the two central tail feathers much lengthened. It has the habits of our flycatchers, and they show great affection for their mates, and they are seen sitting on telegraph wires as close together as it is possible to get.

The common Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*) which abounds in Europe and England, is not rare in most of Egypt, but the Egyptian Swallow (*Hirundo savignii*) is unusually numerous, and I saw thousands every day. Both of these birds have a long deeply forked tail and are similarly colored above, but the creamy under parts of the first are a dark rich reddish-brown in the last, and which is also an inch shorter,

The Sand Martin (*Cotile riparia*) exists in countless thousands in all of Upper Egypt, and the banks of the Nile for miles are honeycombed with holes for their nesting sites. This is like our own Sand Martin. There is a smaller one in Egypt, as well as several other swallows and swifts, but I failed to identify them certainly.

An exceedingly common and most charming bird, seen everywhere in the Nile valley, is the White Wagtail (*Monticilla alba*) and said to be one of the smallest birds that both walks and runs. They deserve their name, for they always give the tail a jerk upward after alighting as also at other times. Their motions are quick and lively, and they seem to be all the time in pursuit of flies. It was one of this species that I saw on our steamer, while crossing from Africa to Southern France. At that time we were 200 miles from land. It was with us at least 100 miles further, and expect it spent the night on the vessel, reaching shore at Monte Carlo in the morning. The list of the birds of Egypt has three other Wagtails. They were the Gray Wagtail, (*Monticilla boarula*) and the Blue Headed or Yellow Wagtail (*Montacilla flava*). The first deserves the name of White Wagtail. I saw more of them in Palestine and Syria. One of the Yellow Wagtails, with five other birds, was with us on the steamer Berlin the morning after leaving Gibraltar for New York. It was about the ship till nightfall, 400 miles from land, but did not see it after, but a short-toed Lark, was with us the next day when 700 miles from land.

Of 20 Larks and Pipits credited to Egypt, but few of which I identified, will mention but one, the Crested Lark (*Galerita cristata*). This bird in point of numbers probably exceeds that of any other in all Egypt, for

they are most exceedingly abundant everywhere. While the general plumage is grayish brown like a dweller of the desert, its lofty crest, sprightly ways and sweet warbling song, made it my especial favorite. While we would consider it too small for a game bird, it is netted and trapped in great numbers by the natives to be used as food.

Throughout all Egypt the Weather (*Saxicola oenanthe*), Stone Chat (*Pratincola rubicola*), Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*), Nightingale (*Philomela luscinia*) and the Starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*) were often seen. Of 100 other small birds, Warblers, Sparrows, Thrushes, etc., part were determined, but I can say little of interest about them. So I only mentioned one, an old acquaintance, the English Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*). I found it over Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Greece, as also at Naples, Monte Carlo, Algiers and Gibraltar, in fact every place visited except the island of Madeira. Being non-migrant, the remotest islands of the sea are the only places that are safe from their intrusion, though I must say that I nowhere saw them so plentiful or in such large flocks as at home, and conclude that something operates to hold them in partial check.

Egypt has eight doves, and while the Rock Dove (*Columba livia*), Schimper's Pigeon (*C. schimperi*), Turtle Dove (*Turtur auritus*), Sharpe's Turtle Dove (*T. sharpii*), and the Egyptian Turtle Dove (*T. senegalensis*), are all common, the last in beauty and abundance seems to lead them all. It is also called Palm Dove because it nests in and is always found about the numerous groves of date palms. Its pretty color of pinkish-brown, amber brown, with a touch of pearl gray and black, looking in sunlight like burnished metal, with its charming ways

and the saintly character given to all doves, makes it a favorite even with the native people, who give it their protection.

The Seven grouse and partridges of Egypt are mostly desert birds, and I saw little of them. But I must not omit the Quail (*Coturnix communis*), one of the most abundant of birds. So plentiful are they that they were cooked by hundreds on the Nile steamers, and in the hotels. These are mostly caught in nets, and during migration the shores of the Mediterranean for 150 miles along the Delta, are a complete line of nets for their capture, and they may still be as plenty as in the time of Moses. It is said that in Coronation year, 5,000,000 were ordered, and shipped from Egypt to the English market. They are only half the size of Bob White, but are plump, fat and of fine flavor, and are in great demand for the table in a land where meat is scarce, and high. In April these Quail seemed to be piping their pleasing call notes to their mates, from every grain field, in Palestine, and a short walk in the direction of the sound would start the birds on the wing, for a low, short flight. No wonder it is numerous for it breeds over such a vast extent of country. For a species so excessively abundant, no other keeps so well hidden, and is so little seen by travelers. I well remember the time, some thirty or more years ago, when these Quails were brought to this country, and liberated in various sections by thousands, with the expectation of adding this, most prolific of all, to our list of game birds. Many hundreds were turned out near my home, and were later found with nests and seemed to be doing nicely, but their migratory habits took them away in autumn—no one knows where—and not one ever returned, and it is still an un-

solved mystery what became of them.

The family of waders is pretty well represented all through the Nile country, but being largely new species to me, and not having a good work on Egyptian birds with me at the time, were difficult to determine. I could, however, identify the Lapwing (*Vanelus cristatus*), and Ruff (*Machetes pugnax*) which were common, and also the Spur-winged Plover (*Hoplopterus spinosus*), Kentish Plover (*Aegialitis contianus*), Little Ringed Plover (*A. minor*), Jack Snipe (*Gallinago galliruna*), Little Stint (*Tringa minuta*), Greenshaw (*Totanus canescens*), Green Sandpiper (*T. ochropus*), Common Sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*) and others. The large fine Common Crane (*Grus communis*), Spoonbill (*Platalea leucorodia*) and Night Heron (*Nycticorax griseus*), were often seen all up and down the great river. The Common Heron (*Arde cinerea* (much like our Great Blue Heron), was numerous, while the Common Coot (*Fulica atra*) was very abundant in all shallow, still water, even in the parks and the Sacred Lake of Karnak.

The prettiest of all the waders was the Buff-backed Heron (*ardeia russata*). They are snowy white, with a slight shading of reddish-buff on the back, though except in the breeding season it is practically white all over, and always looks so at a distance. This bird is often erroneously called Egret, by natives and others, and as tourists all want to see the Sacred Ibis of the Nile, (*Ibis æthiopica*) and enquire for it, the Arab dragomen have learned to please, and cheat them at the same time, by assuring them that this is the bird they so much desire to see. By the way the Sacred Ibis is three times as large, black and white in color, and is no longer a bird of Egypt, and is only found, rarely, a

thousand miles further up the Nile. The Buffed-backed Heron is seldom seen alone, but keeps in flocks of considerable size, and I saw many on the river sand bars, but many more on the cultivated lands, in places fairly whitening the fields, and large flocks were seen about herds of domestic animals, with whom they were very familiar; even to perching on the backs of cattle and tame buffalos, or walking around them when lying down, and picking flies, ticks and other insects from their eyes, ears and noses, to the evident satisfaction of the animals. Their services are appreciated by the inhabitants, who think them their most beneficial bird. Anything that catches flies is deserving of gratitude, for this plague of Egypt has never been suppressed, and there are more today to the square inch than in any country I ever saw, and they are the most annoying, bloodthirsty, and pestiferous.

I saw the Black Stork (*Ciconia nigra*) in four places, but the White Stork (*C. alba*) of world-wide renown, was seen at various places, without being very plentiful. It was abundant in Palestine, and I must have seen several thousand of them. I noticed 100 or more circling over or alighting about a slaughter house, a mile or so out from Jerusalem. As they are perfectly fearless of man, they will look for food anywhere. But it was reserved for Turkey to show these birds in greatest numbers, and the fields in places were closely spotted with them for miles. In Constantinople, a place with a million people, they were breeding in the parks, shade trees or whenever it was possible to locate a nest. One open space of less than one-half acre, and entirely surrounded by tall buildings, and located on the west side of the Golden Horn, held seven or eight trees.

One of these was a monster spreading sycamore, with numerous forked branches, and at the risk of being disbelieved must say, that I counted twenty storks' nests in it, with as many more in the smaller trees, so that forty pair, or eighty birds were breeding in this limited space. This bird is held in great respect and is considered as the harbinger of good luck, and so is likely to keep its numbers good. There are many ducks on the Nile, but they are more abundant on the lakes of Caïor Zoological Garden. Among them I noticed the Mallard (*Anas boschas*) Pintail (*Dufila acuta*), Shoveller (*Spatula clypeata*), Widgeon (*Mareca penelope*), Scaup (*Fuligula marila*), Tufted Duck (*F. cristata*) and many others. Wild Geese were seen several times but two distant for identification.

I also recognized the White Pelican (*Pelacanus onocrotalus*), and the Lesser Pelican (*P. minor*) while the Little Grebe (*Podicipides monor*) are common in still water in cultivated sections.

There are two dozen Gulls and Terns in Sgypt bird list, but they scarcely go inland even on the great river above Cairo, and while I thought that I determined many of them, my knowledge is too uncertain to write about them, and so close my list of some of the most noticeable birds of Egypt, from observations made in the month of February and March. At other seasons different species might be more conspicuous and these much less so.

On the whole, Egypt, though having a very scant flora, is rich in bird life, and more particularly so during the season of migration.

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#### Two Old Timers.

While at La Crescent, Minnesota, the first week in May (1913) we met



Nest and Eggs of Orchard Oriole

—Photo by P. G. Howes



Nest and Eggs of Yellow-throated Vireo

—Photo By P. G. Howes



Nest and Eggs of Yellow-throated Vireo  
—Photo By P. G. Howes

a couple of old time ornithologists and oologists, Frank I. Harris, who was one of the best known of western bird students from 1885 to 1893, and Whit Harrison. Both are now advanced in years, Mr. Harrison being the older.

While there we learned from Mr. Harris that he was dismantling his home in the country with a view of moving to the village of La Crescent, and that he had disposed of his large collection of bird skins sometime ago; whereupon we promptly made a deal with him for about one-half of his collection of eggs—getting a little over 2000 specimens. It is his purpose to rearrange the residue of his collection and donate it to some public institution.

One of the really remarkable things we observed in his den was a mounted wild cat which for size, exceeds anything we have ever seen, and the history of which is unique in that years ago Mr. Harris trapped the animal and desiring to preserve it for mounting purposes, and fearing he might injure it for that purpose in killing it, seized it and choked it to death with his hands, an undertaking which stands alone in its class so far as our information goes, and one which we would not care to undertake.

Mr. Harrison lives in the village and has a beautiful collection of mounted birds, a number of rare skins and quite a lot of eggs, though in taxidermy he seems to have centered his interest, having a collection of birds prepared by himself which it is well worth a visit to see, including many rare and unusual specimens for that locality. He is especially proud of a Turnstone secured by himself many years, and mounted, which is the only one of which there is any record in that locality. Mr. Harrison still keeps up his interest in ornithology,

and has been on the books as a subscriber to THE OOLOGIST for 10, these many years.

Mr. Harris dropped out of ornithology and oology about 1893, since which time he has done nothing to add to his large accumulations. The pleasure of meeting these gentlemen was one that will be long remembered.

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#### Good News.

The song birds in this part of the country, (Dallas Co., Tex.) are certainly increasing, especially the Mockingbirds, Cardinals and Orchard Orioles. There is an abundance of Blue Jays, Crows, Lark Sparrow- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Crested Flycatcher and a few Blue Herons. But sad to relate, there were no Robins in Dallas Co., or adjoining counties this past winter.

Cole Godsey.

Dallas, Texas.

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#### Runt Prairie Horned Lark Eggs.

One day recently I found a set of eggs of the Prairie Horned Lark, containing three eggs, one of which was only half size. A family of Screech Owls, male red, have raised a family close to the house this spring. The male is usually to be seen on the house, and brings the family around for a concert every evening.

Blue Jays were very scarce; Robins and Bluebirds not common.

George vos Burgh.

Clinton, Wis.

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#### Some 1911 Nests and Sets.

May 15th. Noted a Warbling vireo, *Vireosylva gilva*, carrying a long strip of bark to her nearly completed home in a maple tree. The nest was placed 35 feet from the ground in a small crotch at the end of a limb, about 20 feet from the main trunk. It was very compactly constructed of bark strips, grasses and pine needles, well ornamented with spiders eggs and a

few hchens. One week later, a Cow-bird, (Peace be to her ashes) ruined a beautiful set of four.

On the same day I came across a nest of the Blue-winged warbler, *Helminthophila pinus*, just ready for the eggs. It was placed on the ground between four dead weed stalks in a thicket near a small swamp. A wonderfully woven creation of grasses and a few leaves, slightly arched over with the entrance facing west. The birds were both in evidence, but not nearly as active as when being robbed of their eggs.

In another thicket, close to a roadway, two nests of the Yellow warbler, *Dendroica aestiva*, were found, both ready for the materials, but one of them was perhaps somewhat shallower than the average, and was placed in a quince tree, three feet from the ground. The other nest was situated four feet from the ground in a dead spice bush which had been overgrown by honey-suckle vines.

May 23d. Visited the Blue-winged Warbler's nest, but it contained broken eggs of the owner and two of the Infernal Cowbird.

Found a nest of the Ruby-throated humming bird, *Trochilus colubris*, saddled on a hemlock branch, six feet above the Mianus river, four miles north of Stamford. The nest was composed of soft yellow down, resembling fern down, and the exterior completely covered with small scraps of lichen. Two elongated, fresh eggs were the contents.

May 25th. Found a beautiful nest of the Orchard Oriole, *Icterus spuris*, containing four fresh eggs, greenish white, exquisitely marked with chocolate, amber and lavender, the spots being chiefly around the largest end. They measure well under the average, being only .65 x .43. The nest was, as usual, of fine green

grasses, lined with a small amount of fern down and placed 20 feet from the ground in a maple tree.

May 29th. Took another set of four fresh eggs of the Orchard Oriole from a nest 20 feet up in the fork of an apple branch. This nest was exactly like the one found on the 25th, but the eggs are quite different, being very lightly spotted and blotched with grey, lavender, brown and light yellowish brown. One of the eggs bears a cross at the largest end. This set also measures .65 x .43 inches. The birds were very brave while I was robbing the nest, coming so close to my face that I could feel the wind from their wings.

The tree from which this set was taken, was in an orchard containing perhaps 25 others, and like all of the apple trees in this section of Connecticut which are not well cared for, they had been nourishing countless numbers of Cancer worms. These hords of caterpillars must have all dropped from the trees to the ground to make their cocoons during the night of May 28th, for when I entered that orchard at sunrise on the 29th, the sight which met my eyes was one never to be forgotten.

From every conceivable spot on every tree in sight there were actually millions of silken threads drooping to the ground, the threads by which the insects had let themselves down to earth during the night. Each of these tiny lines of silk had become spangled with dew and as the sun shown through, the whole orchard resembled a gigantic display of pyrotechnics, such as one sees at the resorts in summer.

Two sets of the Yellow-throated vireo, *Lanivireo flavifrons*, were the next finds of the day. The first nest was placed in a fork of a small branch, close to the trunk of a maple

tree, just 15 feet from the ground. Composed of strips of bark and grasses, held together with spiders webs and lined with fine green grasses. The exterior was ornamented with birch bark, spiders eggs and lichens. Four fresh eggs, white; spotted at the largest end with deep chocolate and lavender. The birds were very quiet while I was taking the nest.

The second nest is a larger and more loosely constructed affair of bark strips, lined with extremely fine grass. The entire exterior of this nest is ornamented with large strips of birch bark, paper, spiders webs and eggs. It is the most exquisite vireo's nest that I have ever seen. It was situated in the fork of a small basswood branch, close to the main trunk 25 feet from the ground. Unlike the other pair, these birds were very noisy while I was at the nest.

May 31st. Found a nest of the Downy woodpecker, *Dryobates pubescens*, which the birds had drilled on the under side of a broken off maple branch, 20 feet from the ground. The cavity in the limb, which is now before me, is gourd shaped, seven inches in depth. It is three and one-half inches wide in one way and two and three-quarters inches the other way, a cross section having more or less the shape of a Lima bean. The entrance faced directly towards the ground and is only one inch in diameter. The two fresh eggs were deserted by the birds. They measure .71 x .51 and .67 x .50.

June 6th. Took a nest and three eggs of the Red-eyed vireo, *Vireosylva olivacea*, placed in the fork of a maple branch ten feet above the edge of a much used roadway. The nest is firmly built of moss-covered strips of *Arborvitae* bark, lined with shreds of bark and pine needles. A few pieces of birch bark, paper and spiders web

adorn the exterior. Measurements of the nest are, inside diameter,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Outside diameter, 3 inches. Inside depth,  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inches. Outside depth,  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The eggs were fresh and are white, lightly marked with minute specks of brown and lavender. All of the Vireo sets described above possessed a wonderful pinkish hue when in the nest, but of course all of this was lost upon blowing.

Paul G. Hawes.

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#### The Red-eyed Vireo as a Mocker.

On June 23, 1913 I was walking along a small creek in Swarthmore, Pa. Suddenly I was attracted by notes similar to those of the Catbird, only more rapid. I was interested so I made up my mind to investigate the matter more closely, and the investigation proved it to be a Red-eyed Vireo trying to mock a Catbird, and indeed it was a good imitation.

E. M. Kenworthy.

Wilmington, Delaware.

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#### A Sunday Morning Walk.

May 11, 1913.

I was up at 7 o'clock and, after a good breakfast I took my rifle and dog "Sport" and started for a walk along the river, and in the woods.

I crossed to the south side of the river (the Sangamon) and started into the woods along its banks.

As I went along I saw many birds. Kingfishers were flying about, a large flock of Crows were making the woods noisy, and the Redheaded Woodpeckers could be heard drumming away on an old rotten limb. Crow-Blackbirds, Wrens, Redbirds, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Bank Swallows, Sandpipers and a good many other birds seemed to be happy as they went darting back and forth in the woods and along the river.

I went on down the river to a place

where the woods were pretty thick. On the outer edge of these woods stands an old Elm which is entangled with Wild Grape vines. In the top of this old tree there are several hollow limbs. Wondering if any bird or animal stayed in one of these hollows, I climbed up to one that was in the very top of the tree, and saw one of the prettiest sights that one could wish to see. The hollow was in the end of a limb, and was about two feet deep and six inches in diameter. The sun was just high enough to flood it with light and there in the bottom was five young owls and the mother bird. The mother was asleep or pretending to be when I first looked into the nest. She played a fine game of Opossum for I took her out of the nest twice and examined her and the second time I set her on the edge of the hollow she flew into a near-by tree. The young Owls were of a Maltese color speckled with brown, and I judged them to be about ten days old.

They were all asleep except one little fellow who seemed to be very much awake, and eyed me with great awe. I took that one home with me and he is making a dandy pet.

In the same tree was another hollow not three feet from the Owls' nest and as I was examining the Owls I heard a scrambling noise and looked just in time to see a large Red-eyed Squirrel leap to the ground and scamper off into the woods. There was nothing else in the hollow.

By that time I thought that it must be getting pretty late and I started for home getting there at 11 o'clock.

If any one ever wished for a camera of any make or description that morning I surely did, for I could have gotten a picture that would have been well worth the trouble.

Wm. Young, Jr.

Decatur, Ill.

### Where Are Our Purple Finches?

I have asked a number of ornithologists this question during the past six years, and no one gives me a satisfactory answer. My active collecting days have long been a matter of past history, but 25 years ago I should not have hesitated to agree to locate 30 pairs of these birds breeding in a circle two miles in diameter, around my father's home.

This spring I had occasion to visit two of their most popular haunts of the old days, and took what leisure time I had to look up my old friends the Finches. Not a bird could I locate, and this is in line with my experience for some time back.

They used to coconix in any place where Spruce or Austrian Pine had been planted, and I have seen fifteen pairs nesting in one dooryard, in 1892. So common, in fact, that I did not care to take any sets. Just went through the cocony and threw out the Cowbirds' eggs; usually one or two of these in every nest.

Have these birds moved permanently to other parts, or are they becoming extinct? If the latter it cannot be laid to the shotgun, as few went that way. The horse car was always their worst enemy.

Ernest E. Short.

New York.

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### Nesting of the Bewick's Wren.

(*Thryomanes bewicki*)

During early May, 1911, I became especially interested in the Bewick's Wren. Several times during previous springs I had seen a pair of these little wrens, flitting about, and singing their pretty songs, in the vicinity of a small farm house that stood near the top of a high ridge. This house was four miles from my home, so towards noon on May 5th I set out for a walk to it. My intentions were to

find a nest, and, if possible, secure a set of eggs.

When I came near the farm house I heard the beautiful music of a wren's song as he perched on a fence post below the farm yard. I at once began the search for a nest. All small buildings were carefully inspected, with no results. Finally I came to a small wood shed very close to the dwelling house. Going to the lower side of this shed I saw a number of small twigs protruding from a shelf formed by a board which was nailed to a studding, just beneath the floor. I placed my hand back into the little room formed by the board and felt some tiny eggs. These I carefully removed, one by one, until I had counted eight—that was all—just eight; but that was certainly a large set. It was a very beautiful clutch. The eggs were heavily marked on the larger ends by thick wreaths of dark red, and the entire shell surface was well speckled with tiny reddish dots. The nest consisted of a foundation of small twigs and coarse mud stalks, and was warmly lined with chicken feathers and horse hairs. The nesting site was just three feet above the ground, and only a short distance from the back porch of the house. This species of wren seems very much to prefer the out buildings about farm yards as a summer home; especially those situated on ridges. The wrens return year after year to the same farm, and, if undisturbed, they will use the same nest several times, only relining it each season. These birds rear two broods in a season; the second set being deposited during late June, or early July.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

#### Two Unusual Sets.

At Pequannock, N. J., on May 1st, a nest of the Song Sparrow, (*Melospiza melodia*) was located in which were

seven eggs. This nest was located under a clump of sod on the west bank of the canal and was discovered through a noisy battle between two females, apparently struggling for the possession of the nest. It is my opinion that two females had deposited eggs in this nest owing to the uniformity of four which were well incubated and the other three which indicated but slight traces of incubation. Because of this latter fact, I visited this nest on the 5th and found four young about a day old and the three other eggs in the nest. On the 9th the nest was again visited and found to contain five young, two about a day old and the others being the remaining members of the first brood. At this time three adult birds were bringing food to the young, a male and two females.

At Midvale on April 30th, 1913, a nest of the American Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) was located with four eggs. Of this set, three were quite normal in appearance, but the fourth was of the usual ground color, greenish white, but wholly devoid of markings, except for a few spots about the size of a pin head at the larger end. The eggs in this set measured 1.58 x 1.10; 1.61 x 1.12; 1.60 x 1.14 and 1.58 x 1.15, the latter being the abnormal egg. This nest was visited on the 12th of May and found to contain three young, the abnormal egg being infertile and did not hatch. This the adult birds had pushed to one side among the coarse twigs which formed the base of nest.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

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I do not want to lose any numbers. You are doing some good work on it. Your picture of the Red-shouldered Hawk I thought fine.

E. B. Trescot.

July 8, 1912.

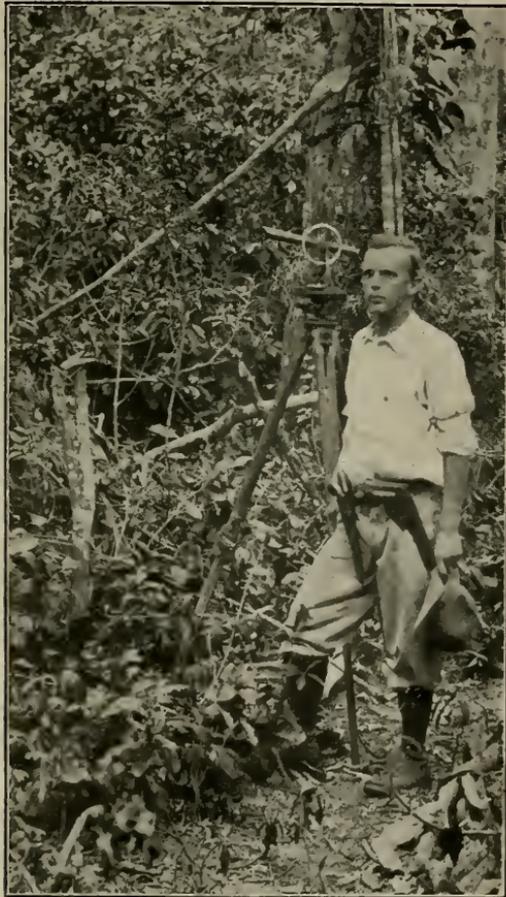
# THE OÖLOGIST.

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WHOLE NO. 313

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*



A. C. Read, of McKinley, Isle of Pines

**Impressions of the Birds of McKinley,  
Isle of Pines, Cuba, Made on an  
Early Spring Morning  
(March 18, 1911).**

As I awoke about 5 a. m. the first sound which reached my ears was the note of the Cuban Pigmy Owl; a shrill, sharp, short whistle beginning very high pitched, running down the scale and repeated over and over again. This owl is very small as its name signifies and measures 7.2 inches in length. *Glaucidium siju* as it is scientifically known, is only partially nocturnal, feeding in the day time as well as at night. It is an inhabitant of the jungles along the rivers and arroyos although sometimes found in the open pine woods. Its food consists chiefly of chameleons, field mice and grasshoppers, though on one occasion I saw it tackle a Meadowlark and kill it. The little fellow was then attacked by a half dozen Meadowlarks and driven off.

The voice I heard next was that of the Cuban Kingbird (*Tolmarchus caudifasciatus*) or rather several were in chorus. This is very similar to our northern Kingbird, being about the same size and color but lacking the white tip of the tail and shows a light patch at the base of the tail when in flight.

After breakfast I started to walk to the office, a distance of perhaps a mile and a half, part of the way being along the beautiful Nuevas River, which is bordered by thick jungles. The rest of the road is through open pine country and clearings until we come to the big 500 acre grove. The office is situated a little northwest of the center.

Just as I turned out of the tract onto the main road a Red-legged Thrush, perched high on the topmost branch of a beautiful elm-like "Jucaro," burst into full song, if it can be called such.

This is locally called Cuban Robin and in general habits is similar to our American Robin, but is perhaps a little more fond of the woods. *Mimocichla rubripes* is about the same size as its northern cousin but it is slatey-gray in color, about that of a Catbird. It has a black throat bordered on each side with a white line; the lower breast and belly is tinged with rusty red about the color of an immature robin's breast. Most of the time it is very silent only emitting occasional robin-like chirps when startled but at this season, especially in the early morning, as the sun rises from the heavy bank of clouds in the east, and in the late evening just as the sun is sinking in a blaze of glory which is beyond description in this country, it gives a poor imitation of the robin's rain song.

As I passed slowly down the road the prettiest bird of this section, the Isle of Pines Trogon, came into view perched in a thicket where a single ray of sunlight fell on its bright plumage. This bird *Priotelus temnurus vesus*, measures about 10 inches, and has the crown of the head black shading into purple on the neck and a green on the back. Its entire upper parts are iridescent, changing from purple to green as the light falls differently on it. The throat and breast are pure white while the belly is a bright vermilion. The outer tail feathers are shorter than the rest and have a peculiar curl outward. The Trogon inhabits thick jungles and nests in cavities of broken stubs of the Bottle Palm.

Coming to the river I looked down stream and saw a short distance off on a sand bar a lonely Limpkin, *Aramus giganteus*, hunting snails, its principal diet. Often one finds a Limpkin with its bill twisted out of shape by extracting the snails from their

shells. This bird is the connecting link between the rails and herons. It is solitary in its habits and is more often heard than seen, especially at night. It has a peculiar, high wailing note from which it gets its name "Crying Bird," but when alarmed it utters at regular intervals a croak not unlike that of a frog.

In the thickets along the road were Catbirds, Palm Warblers, a Gundlach's Vireo, Redstarts, Florida Yellowthroats, Anis, commonly known as Black Parrots though they belong to the Cuckoo family, Cuban Orioles and Grackles, Melodious Grassquits members of the finch family, and a Cuban Tody. This last is a small bright green bird with a large, flycatcher-like bill, a vermilion patch on the throat, breast and belly white, sides tinged with vermilion and some blue in the wings. It certainly lives up to its scientific name, *Todus multicolor*. Its note is like hitting two small stones together.

Back in the woods Cuban Parrots were screeching, the West Indian Mourning Doves cooing, and yet a good many people claim that there are no birds here.

Arriving at the grove the Cuban Meadowlarks were just beginning to whistle while a few Turkey Buzzards were circling about adding all that had been lacking to a typical morning in this southland. A. C. Read.

#### A Trip to Pine River, Isle of Pines.

Wednesday morning, July 12, 1911, a survey party of six set out for Pine river to take soundings and stake out the channel preparatory to opening the harbor. We met at Commodore Cleland's and from there the run down the Nuevas River to the mouth, a distance of four miles was very interesting, as well as beautiful. The upper river has good banks lined with Royal

Palms, palmettos and hard wood jungles while back a short distance were open pine woods among which were seen (Cuban) Quail, Meadowlark, Sparrow Haws, Kingbirds, Pewees, Ground Doves, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, and Parrots. In the jungles were Cuban Grackle, Isle of Pines Trogons, Isle of Pines Lizard Cuckoos, Cuban Pigmy Owls and Anis. The West Indian Mourning Dove and Pigeons (*Columba inornata*) were also plentiful. The lower river is wide and lined with mangroves. The bird life here is almost entirely aquatic, although some land birds were seen flying across. But one West Indian Tree Duck was seen. White Ibis were abundant, Little Blue Herons, Green Herons and Limpkins were also in evidence.

The twenty-mile sea trip was most enjoyable, but practically no birds were seen except several hundred Florida Cormorants. We arrived at Pine River about 2:30 p. m. About half a mile up the river it widens out into a large bay or sort of inland lake a mile long by a half wide. This is surrounded by a mangrove swamp ranging in width from 150 feet to over 1600 feet. This basin ranges in depth from five feet to over fourteen feet, and is full of large fish. Several crocodiles were also seen. Besides the birds recorded on the first part of the trip were added, Black-crowned Night Herons, Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Cuban White Herons, Cuban Green Heron, Cuban Crane, Ward's Heron, West Indian Killdeer, Antillian Night-hawks, White-crowned Pigeons, Yellowfaced Grassquits, and Red-legged Thrush. There was a fine moon on the night of the 12th and over the still waters it was almost as light as day. The water fowl were seen and heard a great deal during the night, but of course nothing was identified. We finished our work and got back



Early Morning on Pine River, Isle of Pines

—Photo by A. C. Read.

just at dusk, July 13th. Nothing new was seen and in fact very few birds were seen on the return trip, due to a heavy wind and sea. A total of thirty-three species of birds was recorded on this trip, which considering the season, and that the Isle is not rich in bird life, generally speaking, was exceptionally good for one day, the second day being simply a repetition of the first.

A. C. Read.

Isle of Pines, Cuba.

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#### Summer Birds of Santa Barbara, Isle of Pines, Cuba.

Of course we have various members of the Warbler family here all winter, so that it is very difficult to say which are spring migrants and which are winter residents. Therefore, strictly speaking the first warning we have that summer and the rainy season are coming is when we hear the sweet warble of the Black-whiskered Vireo, one of our most abundant summer residents. It is found here in almost every thicket or small grove during the summer. About the first arrival is the 15th of March and the last that it is still common is October, although a few stragglers may be found almost any time during the year.

Inland the shore birds are another harbinger of spring, though on the coast they may be found all winter. Among these are the Spotted Sandpiper, Solitary Sandpiper, West Indian Killdeer, and Wilson Snipe. All but the Killdeer are on their northward journey.

The next to arrive (about the last of March) is the Cuban Martin. It is the fore runner of the Swallow family, which straggle in from the middle of April. The Cuban species of Martin and Cliff Swallow are the only kinds which I have found staying all summer.

The Antillean Nighthawk arrives

about the first week in April and its "Spiggoty" is one of the commonest bird notes during the summer evenings. It is shortly followed by its very rare cousin the Cuban Whip-poor-will.

Among other of our summer birds to arrive in April are the Gray Kingbird, White-crowned Pigeon, and "El Bobo" Pigeon, *Columba squamosa*. The latter is fast nearing extinction. Though formerly abundant all over the Isle, it is now only locally found on the West Coast or perhaps more correctly speaking the extreme western side of the island including the South Coast.

Some of our summer birds which are here the year around are as follows: the Cuban species of Ground Dove, Meadowlark, Sparrow Hawk, Kingbird, Oriole, Grackle, Parrot, Crested Flycatcher, Tody, Pygmy and Barn Owls, Green and red-bellied Woodpeckers, Pewee, Quail, Crane, Green and White Herons; Southern Turkey Buzzard, Isle of Pines, Tanager and Lizard Cuckoo, Ani, Yellow-faced and Melodious Grassquits, Red-legged Thrush, W. I. Mourning Dove, Belted Kingfisher, Ricords Hummer, Gundlachs Vireo, Louisiana Heron, Black\* and Yellow-crowned Night Herons, Great and Little Blue and Snowy Herons, White Ibis, W. I. Tree Duck, Fla. Cormorant, Caracara, Rudy Quail Dove and Cuban Crab Hawk.

A. C. Read.

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#### Books Received.

**Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America**, Revised Edition, May, 1912.

This work needs no commendation nor introduction from us nor from any other oologist. It stands in a class by itself and speaks for itself, is typically Chapman, and that means that it is a valuable production, containing as it does something over 500 pages, a



Royal Palms on West Coast, Isle of Pines

—Photo by A. C. Read.

very large number of colored plates and the description, technical as well as popular of all birds found within the territory which it covers. It is indeed one of the most valuable bird books that can be acquired by either amateur or scientist, and within its pages will be found not only the description of the birds, but a complete and thorough treatise of the manner of collecting, photographing or preserving the birds, their nests or eggs.

Would that there were more Chapmans in the ornithology of the country, and more Chapmanlike books accessible to us all. We can recommend this as standard in every way.

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**Birds of the West Coast Section of  
Santa Barbara, During the  
Month of September.**

As this is the wind-up of the rainy season and because of new roads being soft, we will go on horse. We leave Santa Barbara after an early breakfast riding along the fine main roads lined with open pine woods, pretty bungalows, pineapple patches and citrus fruit groves. In these the Cuban Quail, Robin (red-legged Thrush) and Yellow-faced Grassquit are in evidence.

After about two miles we leave the main road and start west. Almost immediately we notice a change in the bird life. We pass a small marsh in which we notice a pair of Florida Gallinules which the quite rare here; a Cuban Green Heron, also a rare bird; Southern Green Herons and Cuban Grackles.

As we ride along, the road passes through a thick jungle (wet), the ditches at this time of year full of water. Here we see Little Blue Herons, Snowy Herons, Solitary Sandpipers, Least and Semi-palmated Sandpipers and Yellowlegs. Feeding in the road are West Indian Mourning Doves,

Pigeons (*Columba inornata*) and the ever present Cuban Ground Doves. In the brush are Cuban Pewees and Crested Flycatchers while feeding on the "nuts" of the "Bottle Palms" are a score of Cuban Green Parrots.

Passing through this we come to a higher rolling country, four hundred acres of which is being developed by Winnipeg people. This is the virgin open pine woods cut here and there by small streams lined with real tropical jungles.

First let us proceed to the main pineapple patch of over 20,000 plants. Here we see the Cuban Meadowlarks and West Indian Killdeer with an occasional Black-bellied Plover running between the plants looking for grubs and flitting from plant to plant are Yellow Palm Warblers and Yellow-faced Grassquits.

From here let us go North a short distance for it is nearly lunch time, and find a cool shady spot on the banks of "Arroyo Largo." While here eating if we are quiet we may see a Limpkin, Belted Kingfisher, Giant Kingbird, Cuban Tody, Florida Yellowthroat, Black and White, Blackpoll and Sycamore Warblers and also the Water thrush.

While returning, at the edge of the jungle we see the Cuban Green Woodpecker busily pegging away at an old stub while on a distant Palm is a Cuban Red-bellied Woodpecker. Here again we are in the pine woods and see some White-crowned Pigeons (rare at this time of year), also some "El Bobo" or fool pigeons (*Columba squamosa*) the largest of our pigeons; in fact, it is as large as the domestic bird and greatly prized for food. It is only a question of a few years before it will be entirely exterminated. Formerly it was abundant all over the Island and now it is only in a few places where it is found at all. At



Nest & Parent Cuban Martin, in Stub of Pine Tree, 30 ft. up,  
Santa Barbara, Isle of Pines, May, 1912.

—Photo by A. C. Read.



Nest & Parent Cuban Parrot in Bottle Palm, 30 ft up,  
Santa Barbara, Isle of Pines

—Photo by A. C. Read.

certain times it is still common on the West Coast. In a small tree is an Isle of Pines Lizard Cuckoo, while in the grass catching locusts are a flock of Cuban Grackles. In a "Hobo Plum" tree are several Cuban Orioles while in the "Ceco Plum" bushes are three or four Cuban-wings, also a rare bird.

This is typical of the West Coast and is a daily experience for me as I have charge of the development in this section. Besides the birds I see lots of the so-called wild pigs and an occasional crocodile or more correctly I believe, "Cayman."

A. C. Read.

Isle of Pines.

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#### Isle of Pines Note.

A. C. Read writes under date of December 19, 1912, as follows: "Some specimens of note have just been taken here by Professor Linke of the Carnegie Institute, to-wit: Cuban Crow, Cuban Bullfinch, and Roseate Spoonbill."

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#### Birds Observed on the Isle of Pines, Cuba, 1912.

Jan.—Cuban Ground Dove, Abundant.  
 Cuban Meadowlark. Abundant.  
 Cuban Sparrowhawk. Abundant.  
 Cuban Kingbird. Abundant.  
 Cuban Oriole. Abundant.  
 Cuban Grackle. Abundant.  
 Cuban Parrot. Abundant.  
 Cuban Crested Flycatcher. Abundant.  
 Southern Turkey Buzzard. Abundant.  
 Southern Green Heron. Abundant.  
 Little Blue Heron. Common.  
 White Ibis. Common.  
 Pigeon (*Columba inornata*). Common.  
 Isle of Pines Lizard Cuckoo. Common.  
 Ani. Abundant.

Yellow-faced Grassquit. Abundant.

Red-legged Thrush. Common.

W. I. Mourning Dove. Abundant.

Gundlack's Vireo. Rare.

Yellow Palm Warbler. Abundant  
 Winter resident.

Belted Kingfisher. Not common.

Catbird. Common winter resident.

Florida Yellow-throat. Common  
 winter resident.

Florida Yellow-throat. Common  
 winter resident.

Cuban Tody. Common.

Water-thrush. Winter resident.

Cuban Crane. Common.

Marsh Hawk. Rare winter resident.

Louisiana Heron. Rare.

Parula Warbler. Migrant.

Ricord's Hummer. Common.

Cuban Pigmy Owl. Common.

Cuban Green Woodpecker. Common.

Cuban Red-bellied Woodpecker.  
 Common.

Isle of Pines Trogon. Common.

American Redstart. Winter resident.

"Chilina" Warbler (*Teretistris permandinæ*). Common.

Ward's Heron. Rare.

Caracara. Common.

Louisiana Water-thrush. Winter resident.

Snowy Heron. Common.

Cuban Barn Owl. Common.

Limpkin. Common.

Cuban Quail. Abundant.

Mch. 9.—Frigate Bird. Common.

Royal Tern. Common.

Florida Cormorant. Common.

Mangrove Warbler. Rare.

Anhinga. Not common.

Mch. 12—Cuban Martin. Common summer resident.

Mch 20—Oven-bird. Common winter resident.

Black-throated Blue Warbler. Common winter resident.

- Black & White Warbler. Common winter resident.
- Mch. 14—Cuban Nighthawk. Abundant summer resident.
- Cuban Gray Kingbird. Common summer resident.
- Mch. 17—Black-whiskered Vireo. Common.
- Mch. 18—Barn Swallow. Rare migrant.
- Cuban Cliff Swallow. Abundant summer resident.
- Apr. 30—Cuban Redwing (*Agelaius assimilis*). Rare.
- May 11—White-crowned Pigeon. Common.
- "El Bobo" Pigeon (*Columba squamosa*). Common.
- West Indian Tree Duck. Not common.
- Cuban Green Heron (*Butorides brunnescens*). Rare.
- Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Rare.
- Virginia Rail. Rail.
- July—West Indian Killdeer. Common in summer.
- Wilson's Snipe. Migrant.
- Aug. 13—Ruddy Quail Dove. Rare.
- Aug. 17—Florida Gallinule. Rare.
- Cuban Crab Hawk (*Urubitinga Gundlachis*). Rare.
- Sept. 18—Golden Plover. Rare migrant.
- Sept. 24—Least Sandpiper. Common migrant.
- Sept. 27—Giant Kingbird. Summer resident.
- Oct. 20—Sycamore Warbler. Migrant.
- Oct.—Solitary Sandpiper. Migrant.
- Cuban Pewee. Common.
- Isle of Pines Tanager. Common.
- Spotted Sandpiper. Migrant.
- Brown Pelican. Common on South coast.
- Semipalmated Sandpiper. Migrant.
- Limpkin.
- Black-poll. Warbler.
- Birds Observed on the Isle of Pines From Dec. 1908, to Jan. 1912, Which Were Not Seen During 1912 by A. C. Read.
- The Dates are First Records.
- 1908
- Dec. 8—Blackburnian Warbler.
- Dec. 24—Prairie Warbler.
- 1909
- Jan. 25—Parula Warbler.
- Prothonotary Warbler.
- Feb. 6—Bachman's Warbler.
- Feb. 11—Cerulean Warbler.
- Mch. 13—Cuban White Heron.
- Apr. 20—Indigo Bunting.
- Apr. 21—Red-eyed Vireo.
- Apr. 28—Quail Dove.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher.
- May 8—Yellow-throated Vireo.
- Aug. 26—Blue-headed Quail Dove.
- May 11—Black-billed Cuckoo.
- June 28—American Egret.
- July 19—Cuban Whip-poor-will.
- Palm Swift.
- Jan. 31—Swift (*Streptoprocne zonaris pallifrons*).
- Aug. 28—"Toti" Blackbird (*Ptiloxena atroviolacea*).
- Sept. 18—Greater Yellow-legs.
- Oct. 21—Black-throated Green Warbler.
- Nov. 4—Tennessee Warbler.
- Oct. 26—Myrtle Warbler.
- Dec. 11—Grasshopper Sparrow.
- Dec. 25—Least Grebe.
- 1910
- Jan. 9—Worm-eating Warbler.
- Jan. 22—Melodius Grassquit.
- Apr. 29—West Indian Yellow-billed Cuckoo.
- May 9—Bobolink.
- Apr. 3—Broad-winged Hawk.
- June 24—Swift (*Cypseloides niger*).
- 1911
- July 12—Black-crowned Night Heron.
- Mch. 25—Cape May Warbler.
- 83 species observed during 1912.
- 34 species observed previously and not during 1912.
- 117 Species observed from December 1908 to October 1912.

### Notice.

All half tones illustrating this issue of THE OOLOGIST are from photos by A. C. Read, to whom we are all under obligations for his contributions concerning the birds of the Isle of Pines.

#### Charles J. Pennock.

No tidings have been received of Mr. Pennock, whose mysterious disappearance was recently noted in THE OOLOGIST. That he is deranged, and has wandered away is now regarded as certain, otherwise his body would have been discovered. A countrywide search has been instituted and we hope it will prove successful.

#### Trumpeter Swan.

We have added another of these rare birds to our collection of living wildfowl. This gives us four of the eight known specimens. The skin of the one that died for us in the winter of 1911-12, we have presented to the Field Museum of Natural History. Would that there were more Olor buccinator.

#### The Herons of the Isle of Pines, Cuba.

The birds of the Heron Family, especially during the rainy season, because of their tameness and conspicuousness, appear more commonly than those of any other family. At this season when the road ditches are full of water or in fact every little hollow which holds water will have one or two herons near it feeding on young frogs, etc.

*Ardea ripens*, Cuban White Heron, is smaller than the Florida specimens and is entirely pure white with yellow bill and greenish-yellow legs and feet. This is an extremely rare bird. I have seen it very few times in four years continual residence on the Isle.

*Ardea herodias (wardii)*, Great Blue Heron. Although not really rare it is extremely wary. For two years I

lived on the Nuevas River where I saw it almost daily. Although I never took a specimen of it, from observations with the field glass at various times I am confident that it is the subspecies "wardii."

*Herodias egretta* American Egret, not rare, but I have observed it singly and never in pairs.

*Florida cærulea cærulescens*, Southern Little Blue Heron; abundant and quite tame, and very conspicuous, especially in the immature white plumage. This bird suffers quite a bit of persecution from "new comers" who do not know the distinguishing mark (of greenish-yellow legs) mistake it for the Snowy Egret or "Florida Plume Bird" as it is commonly known here, which has black legs.

*Egretta candidissima*, Little White for Snowy Heron, not as common as the last species, and much more wary, but observed frequently.

*Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*, Louisiana Heron; common but only found along the coast in the brackish mangrove swamps and along the beaches.

*Nyctanassa violacea*, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, was common on the South Coast last April, while I spent a week there, but I did not see any of the Black-crowned as I had expected.

*Butorides virescens maculata*, Southern Green Heron; very abundant along all arroyos, or in fact where there is any fresh water.

*Butorides brunnescens*, Cuban Green Heron. Rare; I have seen this species several times this year in what is known as the "West Coast Section." The distinguishing mark is that the white on the throat is entirely lacking; also foreneck and edging to wing coverts.

*Ixobrychus exilis*, Least Bittern; common winter resident, but apparently absent in the summer.

A. C. Read.

McKinley, Isle of Pines.

**New Bird Laws.**

Be it said to the credit of the American Congress that recently there went into effect a law which may be found on page 37 of the Statutes at large of the United States, page 847, whereby all migratory birds are placed under the protection of the Federal law, and hereafter state legislatures will not be permitted to sacrifice them at the will of local politicians.

The penalty for violation is a \$100 fine or imprisonment not more than ninety days, or both, in the discretion of the court, for each violation. The Federal law also now prohibits the importation of egret plumes, also the so-called Osprey plumes, and all plumage of wild foreign birds. But the law relating to the possession of feathers of birds or parts of such birds, does not apply to the feathers of game birds and domestic birds.

Under the law as adopted, the Secretary of Agriculture is to fix regulations for the protection of such birds. These regulations are now promulgated and may be had upon application to the Secretary of the Treasury and are known as Bureau of Biological Survey, Circular No. 92.

Among the many good things which these regulations provide are the following:

Five year closed season from September 1, 1913 on Band-tailed Pigeons, Little Brown, Sand Hill and Whooping Cranes, all swans, curlew and all shore birds except the Black Breasted and Golden Plover, Wilson's Snipe, Woodcock and Greater and Lesser Yellow Legs, and all Wood duck and Woodcock in Minn., N. H., Vt., Mass., R. I., Conn., N. Y., N. J., Pa., O., Ind., Me., W. Va., and Wis., and on Rails in California and Vermont.

The closed season is between January 1, and October 31 of each year on all migratory birds, on the waters of

the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Minneapolis, and on the Ohio between its mouth and Pittsburg, and on the Missouri between its mouth and Bismarck, N. D.

All night shooting is prohibited and from sunrise to sunset is the day during which hunting may be done.

Then follows the division of the country into two zones, that part of the country lying North of Lat. 40, and that part of the country lying South of Lat. 40, and certain special regulations are adopted for each of these zones and many of the states included therein.

All Spring shooting is prohibited and insectivorous birds are protected for all time.

The adoption of these bills is a long stretch toward protecting our feathered friends, and we trust that every reader of THE OOLOGIST will appoint himself a committee of one to see that these laws and regulations are enforced strictly to the letter in his individual territory. Permits for the collection of specimens may be procured from the authorities in the usual manner but unless the law as a whole is enforced according to the spirit thereof, it will be of little avail, and if it is, it will be greatly beneficial.

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**List of Eggs Collected in Black Hawk Co., Iowa, 1875.**

By George D. Peck.

Readers of THE OOLOGIST: Just to show you how the old time Oologists fared we publish the following:

Date.	Name	No. of Eggs.
March		
20.—	Great Horned Owl.....	2
20.—	Great Horned Owl.....	1
22.—	Barred Owl .....	2
26.—	Barred Owl .....	3
26.—	Barred Owl .....	3
April		

6.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	2	3.—*Swallow-tailed Kite.....	3
7.—Barred Owl .....	3	3.—Dickcissle .....	4
7.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	3	3.—Purple Martin .....	6
10.—Barred Owl .....	1	4.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak .....	3
13.—Great Horned Owl .....	3	4.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5
14.—Barred Owl .....	2	4.—Field Sparrow .....	5
20.—Barred Owl .....	2	8.—Yellow-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5
20.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	2	8.—Yellow-bellied Cuckoo .....	2
21.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	2	8.—Least Flycatcher .....	4
28.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	2	8.—Great-crested Flycatcher .....	6
May		8.—Lark Finch .....	4
4.—Barred Owl .....	2	8.—Yellow-breasted Chat .....	4
11.—Barred Owl .....	3	8.—Yellow-breasted Chat .....	4
11.—Sparrow Hawk .....	5	8.—Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2
12.—Turkey Vulture .....	2	8.—Red-eyed Vireo .....	3
12.—Red-tailed Hawk .....	2	8.—Bell's Vireo .....	5
12.—Cooper's Hawk .....	4	8.—Bell's Vireo .....	3
14.—Swainson's Hawk .....	2	8.—Bell's Vireo .....	4
14.—Cooper's Hawk .....	4	10.—Great-crested Flycatcher .....	6
14.—Cooper's Hawk .....	4	10.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	3
15.—Hairy Woodpecker .....	5	10.—Red-headed Woodpecker .....	4
15.—Swainson's Hawk .....	1	10.—Green-crested Flycatcher .....	2
15.—Whitebreasted Nuthatch .....	7	10.—Swainson's Hawk .....	2
17.—Long-eared Owl' .....	5	12.—Green-crested Flycatcher .....	3
17.—Prairie Hen .....	7	12.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
18.—Cooper's Hawk .....	5	12.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	4
19.—Swainson's Hawk .....	3	12.—Yellow-throated Vireo .....	4
19.—Swainson's Hawk .....	3	12.—Yellow-throated Vireo .....	1
21.—Red-bellied Hawk .....	3	12.—Bell's Vireo .....	4
21.—Whip-poor-will .....	2	12.—Green Heron .....	4
24.—Swainson's Hawk .....	3	12.—Green-crested Flycatcher .....	3
24.—Red-bellied Hawk .....	2	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
24.—Lark Finch .....	3	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
25.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
26.—Swainson's Hawk .....	2	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
26.—Purple Martin .....	6	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
27.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5	14.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5
27.—Field Sparrow .....	2	14.—Red-eyed Vireo .....	4
27.—Green Heron .....	4	14.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
29.—Yellow-breasted Chat .....	2	15.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
30.—Redstart .....	4	15.—Wood Pewee .....	2
31.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5	15.—Great-crested Flycatcher .....	2
31.—Downey Woodpecker .....	5	16.—Great-crested Flycatcher .....	3
31.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5	16.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
31.—Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	3	16.—Red-bellied Woodpecker .....	5
31.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	5	16.—Least Bittern .....	2
31.—Yellow-throated Vireo .....	3	17.—Least Bittern .....	4
June		17.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
1.—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher .....	4	17.—Swallow-tailed Kite .....	2

17.—Blur-gray Gnatcatcher .....	2
19.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
22.—Great-crested Flycatcher .....	4
23.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
24.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2
27.—Ruby-throated Hummer .....	2

\* Of 14 sets of this Kite collected in Iowa, this is the only one containing three eggs.

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### The Louisiana Water Thrush. (*Seiurus motocilla*)

In Southern Pennsylvania the Louisiana Water-thrushes arrive from their winter home early in April. At this time one may find them busily engaged in searching the muddy banks of creeks and runs, bent upon securing their food.

As the warm days of late April appear, these birds seek a mate and repair to the brooks that slowly wind their way through the small clumps of woodland; these woods abounding in the locality. Here they wade about in the sparkling water, or flit from stone to stone, in search of some dainty morsel of food.

Nest building is begun late in April or early in May, depending upon the weather. The sites chosen are varied. Some birds build their nests under overhanging rooty sod; others build their homes in crevices among a mass of fallen dry leaves; while a few select a bunch of tangled roots that dangle from a small tree, standing near the water. All of these situations are near the clear water of a brook.

The materials used for nest construction are dry oak or chestnut leaves, bits of dry grass, some rootlets, and a few horse hairs.

From three to six eggs are deposited in this cozy nest—three being a full clutch when the lazy cowbird adds one or more of her eggs. These have a pure white ground color, and are

either heavily spotted, or lightly speckled with reddish brown and lilac.

During a tramp of a single day I have found as many as 15 nests. Had I searched especially for nests of the waterbrush, I have no doubt that I should have found many more.

The song is commonly a sharp "chip, chip"; but at times a very beautiful song is uttered from the darker and quieter parts of the woodland.

Water-thrushes are busy birds, and seldom do we find them at rest. They are quite interesting to a bird lover, and great entertainment may be derived from studying their habits.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

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### Breeding Warblers of Harvey's Lake, Luzerne County, Pa.

Harvey's Lake is situated among the foot hills of the Blue Mountains, in Pennsylvania. It is the largest lake in the state, covering about six square miles, and is surrounded by high hills covered with Hemlock, White Pine, and a few Chestnut, Beech and other deciduous trees.

My father and myself during two trips have found the following Warblers breeding: Black and White Warbler with young, and nest placed among roots of upturned tree; Parula Warblers were abundant among the higher Hemlocks, and evidently breeding. We found no nests. Black-throated Blue Warblers were fairly common, and several nests were seen among the Laurel and in small bushes.

Of all the Warblers the Magnolia was by far the most abundant. We counted at least a dozen nests, and found a most beautiful set of five eggs which unfortunately were too much incubated to preserve. Most of the nests were on low branches of the Hemlocks.

Chestnut-sided Warblers were scarce, although we found one pair that evidently had a nest in the bushes. Blackburnian Warblers were scarce. One pair was noted feeding young at the nest, which was situated in a large Hemlock and far out on the end of a limb. An almost inaccessible place. My father observed a female of this species at work on a nest, the first nest having evidently been destroyed.

Black-throated Green Warblers were common and were certainly breeding, but no nests were found. Ovenbirds were common breeders. One pair of Water Thrush were feeding their young. Nest under bank of small stream.

Only one pair of Mourning Warblers was seen, and were evidently breeding in the underbrush, although we could not find the nest. A nest of the Yellow Warbler was found in an Apple tree with five small young therein. Maryland Yellow-throats were breeding commonly in the bushes and briars along the lake.

Yellow-breasted Chats were breeding also among the low bushes. Canadian Warblers were very common, and undoubtedly breeding, but no nests were located. Redstarts were nesting commonly along the edge of the lake in Beech trees.

Some of the other birds we found breeding in this locality were Yellow-bellied Sapsucker (with young), Winter Wren, Bob-o-link, Least Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Marsh Hawk, Great-horned Owl, Woodcock, Nighthawk, Whip-poor-will, Brown Creeper, Scarlet Tanager, Bob-white, Buffed Grouse, Chickadee and Sparrow Hawk.

Archie Benners.

Ambler, Montgomery Co., Pa.

## NOTES.

### Sad.

Pingrey I. Osborne of Pasadena, California, who at one time had a bright and brilliant future as a promising young naturalist, has been expelled from membership by the Cooper Ornithological Club upon charges preferred against him. Those interested in knowing what the charges are can learn them by referring to the January-February issue of *The Condor*. It is sad indeed that a young man in the morning of life will wreck a promising future in such a manner. And it leaves a feeling of dissatisfaction and suspicion lingering in the minds of every one of us who are unfortunate enough to have any of his specimens in our collections.

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### "Skeered."

An ex-ologist calls upon the Supreme Being to protect Ye Editor until he shall meet us, that he may have the privilege of delivering the personal violence that his communication threatens.

We trust all interested oologists will lend us their prayers until that occasion arrives, because we are "skeered."

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### Notice.

The following persons will be denied the use of the advertising columns of *THE OOLOGIST* until further notice:

Pingrey I. Osborne, J. D. Sornberger, D. Wilby. We have one or two others under consideration.

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### To Panama.

H. B. Bailey of Newport News, Va., one of the veteran Oologists, has been spending the last two months collecting birds and eggs in the Canal Zone.

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Frank I. Harris, La Crescent, Minn.

## THE OOLOGIST

### A May Day Afield.

On May 11, 1913, in company with Mr. John Bausewein of Bloomfield, the writer spent five of the most pleasant hours afield that he has experienced for many a day. The country canvassed was that part of Morris County, New Jersey, which is known as the Troy Meadow section. Starting at the terminus of the trolley line in Caldwell, the course pursued was along Bloomfield Avenue to Pine Brook, thence over the Hanover Neck Road to the Rockaway, thence along its southern shore to the Junction of the Whippany, thence to the Pleasantdale Road to Swinefield Bridge over the Passaic River and finally to Beaufort.

While walking over this section many novel and interesting features, ornithologically and oologically occurred and these are worthy of more than passing interest. On the way from Caldwell to Beaufort many species were encountered and numerous nests of the resident species located. Those which appeared in abundance were: Crow, Meadowlark, Field, Vesper, Chipping and Song Sparrows, Goldfinch, Redwings, Flicker, Starling, Barn and Tree Swallows, Catbird, Bluebird, Yellow-throated Vireo, Robin, Swift, Yellow Warbler, Purple Grackle, Kingbird, Redstart, Baltimore Oriole, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Red-eyed Vireo and Bobolink. These species were heard many times and were present throughout the period spent afield. Just after leaving Caldwell a pair of Cliff Swallows were observed circling about over the low pasture lands on the right side of the road. For some unknown reason these birds have been rather scarce in this section for several years past. In this immediate vicinity a Marsh Hawk and a House Wren were seen and the latter often heard.

At Pine Brook a Great Blue Heron was seen and as he stood in the water calmly and silently watching its depths for a passing member of the finny tribe, presented a very beautiful and imposing picture. Along the Rockaway a Chewink was heard calling, as well as several Blue Jays. In the open fields adjacent, a pair of Cowbirds were silently but very industriously searching the newly plowed surface for grubs and insects which prevailed in great abundance. At the junction of the Whippany and the Rockaway a pair of Chebecs were busily engaged in completing their home in a low maple sapling. At the foot of this tree a pair of Swamp Sparrows were also working on their future domicile. In the shallow waters of the Whippany a Green Heron was seen in about the same attitude as the Great Blue. Along the Whippany 14 or 15 Wilson Snipes were seen and often heard. Along the Pleasantdale Road a Sparrow Hawk was seen feasting upon the remains of a batrachian (species unknown). At the Swinefield Bridge a Red-headed Woodpecker was seen flying low over the water and as we left the vicinity its rolling tattoo was heard several times. Near Beaufort in a copse of White birches and Maples on the bank of the Passaic, numerous species were found and a number of these were nesting. Among these species were: Five Chickadees and one half completed nest in a white birch; one Crow's nest with three young about ten days old and the parents in the near neighborhood uttering cries of protest all of the while we were in the vicinity; five Crested Flycatchers, three Killdeers, a Spotted Sandpiper, an Ovenbird, female with completed nest; five White-breasted Nuthatches; a Downy and five Black and White Warblers. These latter were frequently heard as they

searched the tree trunks in the vicinity for the hidden larvae. An Orchard Oriole was also located here and its song often heard.

In this section the country is but little populated and the birds have almost a free range, and to the naturalist this is, indeed, a Mecca well worth visiting, even if only for a few hours. Today 48 species of birds appeared and in addition an abundance of natural life, both botanically and otherwise, was apparent, sufficient to satisfy the cravings of the most enthusiastic observer regardless of the department of the nature study which he may be seeking.

A striking incident of the days outing was the battle between a Black Snake (*Coluber constrictor*) and a Garter Snake (*Thamnophis sirtalis*) in the grove near Beaufort for the possession of a small Green Frog (*Rana clamata*) which the Black Snake had captured and the Garter Snake was trying to get away from him. The battle lasted for about fifteen minutes during which the Black had completely crushed the Garter Snake until all life was apparently extinct and then he swallowed the frog with a gleam in his eyes of apparent satisfaction as he coiled himself up to digest his prey and enjoy the heat of the sun as it receded over the western horizon. Although the *T. Sirtalis* was fully six inches longer and considerably stouter than the *C. constrictor*, he was completely outclassed and fell an easy victim to the squeezings of the latter.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. Y.

#### Unusual Nesting Sites of the American Merganser.

(*Merganser americanus*.)

By Walter Raine, Toronto.

In all works on North American birds, nests and eggs the nesting sit-

uation of this species is given as being in a hole in a tree, after the manner of the hooded merganser, bufflehead American golden-eye and wood duck. I was therefore very much surprised to find American mergansers nesting in holes under boulders on an island in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, during June, 1903.

My son and I found about 30 pairs nesting on Gun Island on June 16th. All the nests that we could reach were built far back at the end of dark passages under boulders on the highest part of the island, some nests being from four to six feet back from the entrance and were hard to get at; in some cases my boy had to crawl between the boulders to reach the eggs and I had to pull him out by the feet. In one hole he caught a female on the nest, and afterwards my boy tied a fishing line to its leg and let it swim around the boat. It was astonishing with what speed it cut through the water using its wings and fairly flying under water, after which we gave it its liberty and it flew away. The nests contained from 8 to 12 eggs, one nest containing as many as 13. They are easily distinguishable from other duck eggs by their very large size and pale buff tint, averaging 2.60 x 1.80. One nest contained eggs laid by two females as half the eggs were of a deeper tint and different size and shape than the others. The down is pale greyish-white after the fashion of all other ducks that nest in holes in trees or in the dark. The male mergansers flew away as our sail boat approached the island, but the females sat close dashing past our feet as we scrambled amongst the boulders where they were nesting. On this same island several red-breasted mergansers had nests containing 8 and 9 eggs each; their nests were not at the end of burrows, but in depressions under a dense under-

growth. The eggs are smaller than those of the American merganser and of a darker tint, being yellowish-drab or warm drab; average size 2.50 x 1.70. The down is also darker and of a warm greyish tint. Both ducks are very destructive to fish and are therefore disliked by the fishermen. They are known to gunners as sawbills, and their flesh is rank and unpalatable.—The Ottawa Naturalist.

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#### Field Notes.

On May 9th I discovered a Marsh Hawk's nest containing three eggs. Visited it again on May 10th, it then contained five eggs, and on the 17th it contained seven eggs. They measured from 1.75 x 1.98 to 1.75 x 1.3. When I visited the nest on the 24th, all of the eggs had been punctured and all were in a different stage of incubation. This was the largest number of eggs I have ever found in a nest of this species.

During the first week of April, 1912, a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks began building in a beech tree in the border of the woods. They built a large nest and were about it until other birds of this kind left their nesting sites. The female set on the nest much of the time, but deposited no eggs. Again in April, 1913, a pair built in a beech about 15 rods from the first nest, and this one has not been used. I am convinced these are the same birds that built the first nest. Is this common and can any one give a reason for it?

In April, 1912, I found the nest of a barred Owl containing three eggs. When the young were about one week old they disappeared from the nest, and a few days later I found three young Owls in an old stub about 30 rods away. The last of March, 1913, I found this stub again occupied by a Barred Owl who deposited but two

eggs. When the young were six days old they also disappeared, and the second stub again contained two Owlets. Both seasons I examined these stubs, and nothing was in the stub up until within ten days of finding these. Do the old Owls carry the young away when disturbed? I am quite sure they did in this case, as the Owl at both stubs had lost part of its tail.

Since sending in my article on birds of prey, which appeared in the May number of THE OOLOGIST, I was told by a man that Ravens were seen about an old slashing some 25 miles away. As this is a rare bird in this section I decided to visit the place. So on May 20th in company with a young friend we wheeled to see the Ravens and look for the nest. But when we arrived we found the man had mistaken Turkey Buzzards for Ravens. We wanted to explore that slashing which contains about 1200 acres of land and is the home of many Turkey Vultures. It began to thunder so we left off hunting for nests and returned home. But in the heart of the woods and in a swampy part we found one of the finest large Herons I have ever known. With nests in all stages of construction even up to good sized young Herons.

My article in the May issue should have read, "I put the Young Ma Marsh Hawks in the coop."

The English Sparrows are here. I have watched them pick up many insects while I have been plowing, and that is good. This spring they have destroyed many nests and of more useful birds than they. Two nests of Phoebe, four of the Chipping Sparrow and three of the American Robins, all in my yard. These I have seen being robbed, and since then the shotgun has been doing good.

S. V. Warram.

Ohio,

### May Birds in Essex County, N. J.

During May, 1912, bird life in this section of northern New Jersey was unusually abundant and many species were found building homes and rearing their progeny in greater profusion than ever before.

It is the concensus of opinion of local ornithologists, as well as my own, that this superabundance of our feathered friends was largely, if not wholly, due to the delightful weather conditions which were prevalent throughout the entire month. In all ninety-three species appeared locally during the month, which is far in advance of the usual quota of visitors and residents, especially in view of the densely populated district such as this county is.

Among the above number were such species as the Least Sandpiper, Black-crowned Night Heron, Rough-winged Swallow and Carolina Wren which are very unusual, and, in fact, are the first of their kind which have appeared upon my personal records for May during the past decade. Other species such as the Grasshopper Sparrow, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Mourning Dove and Screech Owl were found nesting towards the end of the month, the records of which are worthy of more than passing interest. The biggest find, of all, however, was a nest of the Blue-winged Warbler in a *Platanus occidentalis* at Montclair Heights.

Below will be found an annotated list of the species as they were recorded during the month:

(1) Starling—*Sturnus vulgaris*. Common on every day except the 6th and 16th. On these days they were for some reason, wholly absent. Seventy-six nests of this species were located during the month in many places, some odd and others quite usual.

(2) American Robin—*Planesticus*

Migratorius. Common on each day. Forty-two nests located and of these forty families reached maturity so far as I know. The other two were destroyed by several house cats, shortly after the eggs hatched.

(3) Wood Thrush—*Hylocichla ustulata*. Numerous birds of this species were present on fifteen days and three nests were located in Branch Brook Park, Newark, N. J.

(4) Towhee—*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*. Present on eleven days. Two nests located both with young about five days old.

(5) Hermit Thrush—*Tylocichla guttata pallasi*. But one of this appeared on the 1st. It was probably a straggler or last of the spring migrants to appear locally.

(6) White-throated Sparrow—*Zonotrichia albicollis*. Numbers of birds appeared on nine days during the earlier part of the month and were in full song whenever located. The last appeared on the 20th.

(7) American Goldfinch—*Astragalinus tristis*. Common on twelve days. One nest located in a pear sapling in southern Bloomfield, containing a completed set of five eggs.

(8) Cowbird—*Molothrus ater*. Present on eleven days. Two nests of the Red-eyed Vireo and one of the Yellow Warbler found with eggs of these birds in them.

(9) Bluebird—*Eialia sialis*. Present on eight days. No nests of this species were located this year anywhere within the precincts of the county.

(10) Song Sparrow—*Melospiza melodia*. Common throughout the month and many nests were located in many places throughout the county.

(11) Meadowlark—*Sturnella magna*. Present on eighteen days. Four nests located in old stubble fields, all of which contained completed sets of four and five eggs.

(12) Red-winged Blackbird—*Agelaius phoeniceus*. Common on twenty-eight days and numerous nests found throughout the country wherever swampy and marshy grounds were located.

(13) American Crow—*Corvus brachyrhynchos*. Present on fifteen days and usually quite common. Two nests were located in a small swamp in southern Bloomfield in immense elms about sixty feet from the ground.

(14) Flicker—*Colaptes auratus luteus*. Present on seventeen days and fifteen nests were located all of which contained completed sets in an advanced stage of incubation.

(15) Purple Grackle—*Quiscalus quiscula*. Present on twelve days and on most of these days were quite common. Two nests were located in a pine near Bloomfield Centre.

(16) Chipping Sparrow—*Spizella passerina*. Common on sixteen days. Five nests located, each of which contained broods of four and five fledglings.

(17) Junco—*Junco hyemalis*. One of this species appeared on the 1st day.

(18) Barn Swallow—*Hirundo erythrogastra*. Common on twenty-one days and two nests located with six eggs in each in old barns near the northern limits of the county.

(19) Grasshopper Sparrow—*Ammodramus savannarum australis*. Present on three days in the northern part of the county. On each of these days a single nest was located containing uncompleted sets.

(20) Yellow Warbler—*Dendroica aestiva*. Common on twenty-one days and numerous nests were located, all of which contained eggs well advanced in incubation.

(21) Pine Warbler—*Dendroica vigorsii*. One individual of this species on the 2d.

(22) Wilson Thrush—*Hylocichla fuscescens*. Present on six days. No nests located this year, but in prior years usually one or two were found in isolated spots in this county.

(23) Spotted Sandpiper—*Actitis macularia*. Present on sixteen days on Newark Meadows and when present were usually very abundant.

(24) Catbird—*Dumetella carolinensis*. Present and common on eleven days. Three nests with young found in Branch Brook Park.

(25) Black and White Warbler—*Mniotilta varia*. Found on four days. Quite common on the eleventh.

(26) Least Flycatcher—*Empidonax minimus*. Common on fourteen days. Four nests located in maple saplings containing in each case a completed set of four eggs well along in incubation.

(27) Cedar Waxwing—*Bombycilla cedrorum*. Present in small flocks on the 2d, 15th, 19th and 28th.

(28) Field Sparrow—*Spizella pusilla*. Common on nine days and twenty-seven nests located in hedgerows in numerous places about the county. Some contained young four or five days old and others eggs which had just been laid.

(29) Chimney Swift—*Chaetura pelagica*. Present in goodly numbers on fifteen days, and two nests were located containing freshly laid eggs in several house chimneys.

(30) Tree Swallow—*Iridoprocne bicolor*. Common on fifteen days but no nests found this year where they have heretofore been located.

(31) Killdeer—*Oxyechus vociferus*. Present on the 2d, 3d, 5th, 13th and 15th. Quite common on the 13th.

(32) Yellow Palm Warbler—*Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea*. One of this species appeared on the 3d.

(33) Blue Jay—*Cyanocitta cristata*. Common on ten days. No nests

located this year, whereas in prior years usually ten or twelve were located.

(34) Wilson Snipe—*Gallinago delicata*. Located on the 3d, 6th and 11th. Common on the morning of the 3d.

(35) Bank Swallow—*Piparia riparia*. Present on eight days. Two nests located apparently with young as the parents were carrying insects into the openings and removing the excreta.

(36) Kingfisher—*Ceryle alcyon*. Present on six days near the brook-sides in the northern half of the county.

(37) White-breasted Nuthatch—*Sitta carolinensis*. Individuals located on the 4th and 12th.

(38) House Wren—*Troglodytes aedon*. Common on nine days. One nest located with five young about ten days old.

(39) Kingbird—*Tyrannus tyrannus*. Present on eight days. Common on the 19th, 20th and 26th. No nests located this year.

(40) Sharp-shinned Hawk—*Accipiter velox*. Only one of this species appeared. This was on the 4th.

(41) Baltimore Oriole—*Icterus galbula*. Present and common on thirteen days. Seven inaccessible nests located especially in elms and cherries.

(42) Vesper Sparrow—*Poocetes graminus*. Individuals present on five days. No nests located this year.

(43) Ovenbird—*Seiurus aurocapillus*. Present on ten days. Two nests with young located on Crow Hill near State Normal School at Montclair Heights.

(44) Phoebe—*sayornis phoebe*. Present on six days. Common on the 12th and 26th.

(45) Redstart—*Setophaga ruticilla*. Common on nine days. Three nests located with young in each, ranging between ten and twelve days.

(46) Rose-breasted Grosbeak—*Zamododia ludoviciana*. Present on seven days. Common on the 11th and 19th. One nest located with three nestlings about four days old.

(47) Parula Warbler—*Compsothlypis americana usneae*. Present on the 5th, 10th, 11th, 12th and 19th. Common on the 11th and 19th.

(48) Black-throated Green Warbler—*Dendroica virens*. Present on the 5th, 19th and 20th. Common on the 19th.

(49) Warbling Vireo—*Vireosylva gilva*. Present on eight days. Common on the 20th and 26th.

(50) Yellow-throated Vireo—*Lani-vireo Flavifrons*. Present on twelve days. Common on the 12th and 19th. Two nests located with uncompleted sets.

(51) Brown Thrasher—*Textostoma rufum*. Present on six days. Common on the 26th.

(52) Myrtle Warbler—*Dendroica coronata*. Present on the 5th only. Two individuals, both males, were seen this day.

(53) Downy Woodpecker—*Dryobates pubescens medians*. Present on the 5th, 12th, 20th and 26th.

(54) Sparrow Hawk—*Falco sparverius*. Individuals present on 5th, 10th, 11th and 28th.

(55) Maryland Yellowthroat—*Gothlypis trichas*. Common on nine days. Fourteen nests of this species located within the limits of the county.

(56) Magnolia Warbler—*Dendroica magnolia*. Common on the 10th, 11th and 19th.

(57) Chestnut-sided Warbler—*Dendroica pensylvanica*. At Montclair Heights on the 10th three pairs were located with partly completed nests.

(58) Indigo Bunting—*Passerica cyanea*. Present on the 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th, 19th, 20th and 26th. Com-

mon on the 19th and 20th. No nests were located this year, which is very unusual.

(59) Cooper Hawk—*Accipiter cooperi*. An individual of this species appeared in Branch Brook Park on the 10th.

(60) Purple Martin—One appeared on Newark Meadows during the afternoon.

(61) Least Sandpiper—*Pisobia minutilla*. Common on Newark meadows on the 10th, 11th, 13th, 22d, 25th and 27th.

(62) Red-eyed Vireo—*Vireosylva elivacea*. Common on 12 days after the 10th. Thirteen nests located towards the end of the month. Three of these had eggs of the *Melothrus ater* in them.

(63) Canadian Warbler—*Wilsonia canadensis*. Individuals present on the 11th and 19th.

(64) Wilson Warbler—*Wilsonia pusilla*. Two seen on the 11th. Common on the 19th.

(65) Bobolink—*Delichonnx erythrorus*. Common on the 11th, 12th, 13th and 19th.

(66) Red-headed Woodpecker—*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*. Individuals present on the 11th, 19th and 29th.

(67) Black-throated Blue Warbler—*Dendroica caerulescens*. Common on the 11th. Individuals present on the 12th, 14th and 19th.

(68) Olive-backed Thrush—*Hylodichla ustulata swainsoni*. Individuals appeared on the 11th and 14th. Common on the 19th.

(69) Grey-cheeked Thrush—*Hylodichla alicae*. On the 11th ten appeared. On the 19th were very common. On the 20th an individual was recorded.

(70) Worm-eating Warbler—One appeared on the 11th in Branch Brook Park.

(71) Black-crowned Night Heron—*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*. One appeared in Branch Brook Park on the 11th. This was an adult male and in excellent plumage.

(72) Ruby-throated Hummingbird—*Archilochus colubris*. One pair with nest located at Montclair Heights on the 11th. Individuals appeared on the 11th and 20th. The nest mentioned hereto was placed on the horizontal limb of a cherry sapling in a sheltered grove on the northern slope of Crow Hill and both birds were busily engaged in putting the finishing touches just prior to the depositing of the eggs. On the 25th the nest was again visited and found to contain two eggs. Neither of the birds were to be seen anywhere within the vicinity.

(73) Swamp Sparrow—*Melospiza georgiana*. Individuals present on Newark Meadows on the 11th and 19th.

(74) Yellow-breasted Chat—*Icteria virens*. Individuals present on the 12th and 20th.

(75) Yellow-billed Cuckoo—*Coccyzus americanus*. Common on the 12th, 19th, 20th, 26th and 27th.

(76) Rough-winged Swallow—*Steigodopteryx serripennis*. One male of this species appeared in Branch Brook Park on the 11th.

(77) Orchard Oriole—*Icterus spurius*. Individuals appeared on the 12th, 19th and 26th.

(78) Scarlet Tanager—*Piranga erythremelas*. Common on the 12th, 19th, 20th and 26th. Three nests located in oaks on South Mountain Reservation.

(79) English Pheasant—*Phasianus colchicus*. Individuals present on the 12th and 13th.

(80) Mourning Dove—*Zenaidura macroura carelinensis*. Individuals present on the 12th, 13th and 20th. Two nests located on the 19th at Montclair Heights.



The Gulls, Catalina Id., Calif., March, 1912

—Photo by R. M. Barnes

(81) Hooded Warbler—*Wilsonia citrina*. Individuals present on the 19th, 20th and 26th.

(82) Wood Pewee—*Myiarchus cinerascens*. Individuals present on the 19th and 20th. This bird was unusually rare during the month. Prior to this time the bird was always a regular resident and home-builder here.

(83) Blackpoll Warbler—*Dendroica striata*. Common on the 19th, 20th and 26th.

(84) Black-billed Cuckoo—*Scolecophagus arthrothalamus*. Individuals present on the 19th and 20th.

(85) Crested Flycatcher—*Myiarchus cinerascens*. Common on the 19th, 20th and 26th.

(86) Blue-winged Warbler—*Vermivora pinus*. A pair of this species were found working upon a nest in a sycamore at Montclair Heights on the 19th. This is a very unusual species to nest in this vicinity.

(87) Carolina Wren—*Thryothorus ludovicianus*. One of this species appeared in Branch Brook Park on the 19th.

(88) Marsh Hawk—*Circus hudsonicus*. One appeared on the 19th in Branch Brook Park.

(89) Long-billed Marsh Wren—*Tomatodytes paustris*. Common on Newark Meadows on the 22d, 23d, 25th, 27th and 30th. Numerous nests of this species with sets in them found here on these days.

(90) Screech Owl—*Otus asio*. A pair found on the 20th with a brood of four young in a hollow tree in a small swamp in southern Bloomfield. These young birds were about two weeks old.

(91) Nighthawk—*Chordeiles virginianus*. Individuals appeared locally day on which they were present.

(92) Whippoorwill—*Antristomus vociferus*. Common on the 26th. Only on the 25th, 26th, 29th and 31st.

(93) Black Duck—*Anas rubripes tristis*. A pair observed at a small pond in Montclair Heights on the 26th.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

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#### To Brazil.

Robert Becker, one of Wisconsin's leading naturalists, sailed for Brazil in December, where he will meet Malcolm P. Anderson of the Field Museum of Natural History, and together they will make an investigation into the fauna of much little-known territory along the Amazon River.

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#### The Red-bellied Woodpecker.

(*Centurus carolinus*)

In many of the deciduous woods that adorn the steep ridges of Southwestern Pennsylvania, the Red-bellied Woodpecker may be found as a spring and summer resident. A few birds remain throughout the year during milder winters, but usually they leave us in October.

During early spring these Woodpeckers are quite noisy birds. Then they may be seen chasing each other about the woods, and occasionally they pause to pound upon some dead tree trunk. March is the mating month of the Red-bellied Woodpeckers; at this time they are quite noisy. Two males are often seen fighting at this time.

As the nesting time approaches, which is early May, these birds become quiet, and seldom is their presence noticed. The dead tops of Oak trees or Maples provide these pretty Woodpeckers ample nesting places. One nest was dug into the live trunk of a tall, straight Red Oak tree that stood in a grove of Oaks, high up on a hillside. May 3d, it was examined and found to hold four glossy eggs, resting in soft wood chips. The birds were anxious as the intruder cut an opening to their home. Both of them



The Gulls, Catalina Id., Calif., March, 1912

—Photo by R. M. Barnes

fluttering about on the tree trunks nearby, uttering their peculiar clucking notes.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker must do an enormous benefit to the wood-lets, for they are continually creeping about the trees picking at the crevices where they obtain their insect food.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

#### Mourning Dove Sets.

H. F. Duprey of Dixon, California, writes that he has a set of four of the western variety of this bird, taken by Alfred Shelton between Santa Rosa and Petaluma, California. We likewise have sets of both three and four in our collection of this western variety.

**Nesting of the Grasshopper Sparrow.**  
(*Ammodramus savannarum australis*).

Among the common birds I think that the Grasshopper Sparrow is my favorite. At least when I pass some deserted field and catch the sound of the faint Grasshopper-like notes of this inconspicuous sparrow, I find that the fondest memories return to me—memories of past experiences with this bird. And it is just these recollections of days spent in the woods and fields that makes the study of birds and eggs so attractive.

I shall ever remember my first nest of the Grasshopper Sparrow. On May 15, 1908, I was slowly tramping through a field of heavy grass which lay on a steep hillside, when suddenly, but a step or two beyond me, one of these Sparrows dashed from the grass and flew out of sight around the hill. Upon close examination I found the nest built in a slight tuft of grass, and somewhat arched over. It held four eggs. Dark grass stems and stalks of weeds were the constituents

of the nest; and it was lined with soft blades of grass. I left the nest and in two days returned to find that it held five eggs. These were pure white in ground color and were well spotted with chestnut-brown.

May 17, 1909, after hearing one of these Sparrows singing in a pasture field that lay part way up a hillside, I made a careful search of the tufts of grass; finally I found an arched nest built in a deep depression in a grass tuft. At this time it held no eggs. On May 24, I returned and flushed the female bird from five fresh eggs. These specimens proved to be lighter marked than those of the preceding set, being blotched with finer spots which were of a yellowish-brown shade.

A year or so later, during the first week in May, while I was tramping through a grassy orchard, high up on a ridge, I was fortunate enough to flush a Grasshopper Sparrow from a tuft of grass where she had started to build her nest. Upon a visit two weeks later the nest was found to hold five exceptionally lightly marked eggs. These specimens were speckled with light reddish-brown, chiefly about the larger ends.

This year I located my last nest. May 29, accompanied by two friends I was walking through a level field, covered with rather long grass, when a Grasshopper Sparrow flew up in front of us. A search revealed the nest. It was built in an exposed situation beside a bare space of ground, and was composed of dark grass stems. In her hurry to leave the nest the female scattered two of the eggs on the ground. The five eggs of this clutch were the heaviest marked of all four sets, having large wreaths of chestnut on them.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

**An Albino Crow.**

On July 6th Mr. J. Isaac of this city was working in his field, and noticed a pure white bird flying with a flock of crows.

After expending much time and labor he managed to shoot the bird, and upon examination found that it was an albino crow, being pure white from the tip of its bill to the tips of its toes.

It is the first bird of its kind that has ever been killed around Fond du Lac, Wis.

O. J. Gromme.

This is an Albino Crow and very unusual.—Ed.

**Tufted Titmouse.**

There lies at the head of a long, narrow ravine, some four miles from my home, a grove of oaks, consisting of both the red and white varieties. It was my great pleasure to stroll through this cluster of trees upon a bright, sunny morning, late in April, of a few years past. As I neared a splashing brook which merrily made its way down the ravine, I caught sight of a Tufted Titmouse with nesting material in its bill; it flitted from tree to tree finally reaching a large white oak that stood on the very border of the grove. After pausing a moment to look about, it flew to a cavity in the end of a partly dead limb, and disappeared within. Of course it was too early to expect eggs, so I departed intending to return early in May.

May 4, appeared,—dark drizzly, and wet. I left the house immediately after dinner, and splashed along the muddy road. I reached the ravine about 3 o'clock and made my way to the nesting tree of the Titmouse. Since the day was so dark and wet there were few birds to be seen, and no signs of the Titmouse could be noted. Upon my reaching the limb

which held the nest the female Titmouse dashed out scolding and fluttering about. I reached the cavity, after I had removed sufficient dead wood to admit my hand, and found six, seven—surely that was the full set—no there were eight lovely eggs! These rested upon a lining of black horse hair and soft green moss.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

**After Ducks and Shore Birds.**

Several years ago while spending a few days on the "Peninsula" at Erie, Pa., in the fall I found quite a flight of birds on October 6th. All day it was cloudy and sultry with a moderate and rather warm S. W. wind.

I crossed Misery Bay at day light and went at once to the outside beach.

Three Mallards flew over but were a little too high.

Noticing a small duck coming I laid low but it alighted just out of range. The instant it struck the water I rushed it and by the time it got started out again I was in long range and secured a fine Greenwinged Teal. Seeing one large and several small shore birds along the water edge, I sneaked up and gathered in a Black-bellied Plover. Following up the smaller ones I found one Dunlin and four or five snaderlings. I shot the Dunlin but let the others go.

Off shore away several dark ducks were flying low over the breakers. I think they were Scoters. A few Herring Gulls were about and here and there a little bunch of Horned Grebes. Noticed several Loons flying during the morning.

Quite a few flocks of ducks passed but were all well off shore. Seeing a bunch of eight or ten Sanderlings I sneaked up and noticed two odd ones among them. These I shot and found them to be a Dunlin and a Semipal-

mated. A Black-bellied Plover came speeding along and I dropped him. Farther up I found a bunch of a dozen Sanderlings and with them one Dunlin. These I passed by. The next bunch contained about fifteen birds and noting the direction they were working I made a detour and hid behind some wreckage. They passed very close and I saw that there were three Dunlins, one Semipalmated, one odd one and the rest Sanderlings. I shot the odd one and found it to be a Bairds Sandpiper, a rather rare bird in this state. At the report of the gun a larger bird got up off the high beach and as it swung around me I connected with a load of 8's and got a Golden Plover. A few more Dunlins and Sanderlings were along the beach but nothing rare.

As I was well up toward the Flash Light I turned inland to the woods and ponds.

I found large numbers of birds. Some places fairly swarmed with small migrants. The great bulk seemed to be White-throated Sparrows. There was many flocks of Robins and quite a few Hermit and Olive-backed Thrushes. Myrtle and Black-poll Warblers were quite plentiful, but the most of the Warblers had passed at this date. Going around one of the ponds I shot a Rusty Grackle in fine rusty plumage and flushed and shot about the largest and nicest specimen of Wilson's Snipe that I ever took.

At the next pond, I saw two Mallards and a Black Duck feeding, but they were out of range. From some wild rice at this pond I bagged a pair of Coots. In the thicket I saw what I am sure was an Orange-crowned Warbler, but lost sight before I could slip in a light load.

At the next pond which was always the best, I took a good look and soon made out some ducks feeding. Sneak-

ing out a little wooded ridge until I got about opposite I crawled out through the brush and bog until I got into the long grass then I took a careful look and in nice range I saw three Black Mallards and two smaller ducks. When the Mallards got bunched I saluted them, killing two and badly wounding the third. When the two smaller ones jumped they happened to get in line and I dropped both dead with the second barrel. Another shot was needed for the wounded Mallard. The smaller ducks were a Green-wing Teal, and a fine Pintail. I was just in sight of the bay again, when I saw a long necked duck feeding and I crawled up and bagged a drake Pintail.

This concluded the day's performance and I had a nice string of game.

The best specimens I saved, and the rest kept us in meat for several meals.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

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#### Great Blue Heron.

On April 27th, 1913, visited the Herony here, which is seven miles north of Spencer, Wis., and contains about seventy-five nests. It is located in an interminable, dense, wooded district. The nesting grounds are partly in the lowlands and about one mile from the Eau Plaine River.

The nests are placed near the outer ends of the topmost branches of the largest Elms, but few were in Birch and Bass wood trees. There is an intermingling of fine Hemlock trees, but none contain nests. As we entered the grounds, we at once busied ourselves with the camera, and a few exposures were made.

The Herons would soar over our heads at low elevations, and a dozen or more could be seen at a time. With slowly beating wing, flying about in large circles, they kept an eye on their intruders.

Strange to say, they were not very noisy, and not many sounds escaped the birds. It was only frequently that a harsh squeak was heard. Nor were they very timid, lighting high up in the trees, at almost a stone's throw.

J. W. Stierle.

Marshfield, Wisconsin.

#### Frank I. Harris.

We are in receipt of a card from Frank I. Harris of La Crescent, Minnesota, an oologist well known throughout the country, advising us that he had the misfortune to break one of his legs and is now confined to a hospital at La Crosse, Wis. We trust he may be favored with an early recovery.

#### Notes on the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

My seeing an article on the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in THE OOLOGIST (Vol. XXVIII, No. 6, June, 1911) has prompted this attempt to add further notes to the data already acquired in reference to this interesting bird.

There is very little variance in the dates of arrival at Houston, the birds usually making their appearance about March 23d.

Found breeding in the neighborhood of ranch and farm houses in the prairie districts, but never in wooded localities or, to the best of my knowledge, on the edges of woods or forests.

About the 26th of April the birds begin courting, and perform many queer aerial gymnastics, which, to the casual observer, would indicate that the bird had gone crazy. The males dart at each other angrily, sometimes as many as four or five seemingly entangled and rising straight up in the air with a gyrosopic motion.

The first nests are usually completed about May 10th, and the first egg laid on the 11th; the first full sets of eggs were found on the 17th and 18th,

and the first young hatched on May 31st. There are rarely any variations in these dates for the first brood from year to year, but the second brood, wherever one is raised, comes any time in June and July.

The nests are built in isolated bushes on the prairie, in the occasional oak "mottes," and in the trees which grow around every house on the prairie, planted there by the hand of man. They are placed in the extremities of the branches and very difficult to reach, as low as six feet and as high as thirty. They are composed of weed-stems, small twigs and thistle down, and lined with thistle down, cotton or small fibrous rootlets. Sometimes the nests contain pieces of string, newspaper, rags and other rubbish; all thrown together into a very untidy structure. All the sets which have come under my observation were composed of four and five eggs, never six.

A nest found on June 21, 1911, on the coastal prairie south of Houston, was placed in the structure of a windmill behind a ranch house. The nest was under the gearing near the top and within six inches of the flying planes of the fan. This did not seem to bother the bird at all. Nest composed of twigs and clover stems, and lined with a small quantity of cotton; and contained four slightly incubated eggs.

The birds are very pugnacious when the nest is reached, and quite often I have felt their wings fan my face as they flashed angrily about their possessions, all the while keeping up an excited twittering.

A set of four eggs measures: .870 x .673, .850 x .653, .877 x .645, .870 x .653 inches.

The annual molt takes place about July and August, when the birds assemble in small flocks and wander

around the cotton and corn field after the breeding season is over.

Observations made of a pair of these birds from which a set of eggs had been collected, showed that within forty-two days they selected a site, built a nest, laid five eggs, hatched them and raised the young. In other words within forty-two days after their first set was collected, they had fully grown young flying about.

When flying, the bird goes in a direct line with the long tail streaming out straight behind; there is no undulating motion as is observed in the flight of most Passeres.

The last Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were observed on the 18th of October, although the majority leave for the south about the last of September.

Finlay Simmons.

Houston, Texas.

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#### Personal.

The Editor returned to his office after seven weeks' absence, on the last day of August, and is again able to take up routine matters. Our correspondence has got badly behind during our absence but will receive attention in due time. All that those awaiting reply need is a little patience, and in due time we will also enlighten our readers on some things that we observed during our absence, during which we met many of the leading ornithologists of the East.

Our old friend, Charles Russell Orcutt of San Diego, California, is at it again. We are in receipt of Volume I No. 1, August, 1913, of ORCUTT'S MEXICO, published in the City of Mexico. Orcutt for many years was one of the best known publishers of amateur and scientific magazines on the west coast. It seems like a disease, when you once get it, you can't let go. We trust he will receive the best of encouragement and success with his new undertaking.

Harry C. Bigglestone sends us a separate from the Wilson Bulletin of June, 1913, "A Study of the Nesting Behavior of the Yellow Warbler," which is a very exhaustive and thorough treatise of the subject.

We are in receipt of a sample "Bird Study Note Book," published by Clara Cozad Keezel at Carnett, Kansas, which is one of the best arrangements for notes on bird study that has come under our observation in a long time, and would be of great deal of service to the fraternity were it adopted generally.

We are glad to note that Isaac E. Hess is meeting with unusual success in his weekly bird talks published in the Decatur (Ill.) Herald, with the result that the Herald subscription list is growing because thereof.

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Editor OOLOGIST:—Have you ever heard of a Blue egg of the Prairie Hen? It is about the shade of the eggs of the White-faced Glossy Ibis.

C. H. Vandercook.

Odin, Ill.

No; it is unusual.—Editor.

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#### Another Double Shelled Hen's Egg.

Arthur W. Brockway, of Hadlyme, Connecticut, writes: "I have the largest double shelled hen's egg that I have heard of as yet, measuring  $9\frac{3}{4}$  inches by  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches. It weighed before its contents was removed, seven ounces and was laid by one of the Rhode Island Red variety."

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#### Our Birds.

Last summer C. F. Willard of Tombstone, Arizona, who is well known to the readers of THE OOLOGIST as one of the leading bird students of the Southwest, spent the day at Ye Editor's home and during that time took some photos of our wild fowl, two of which are published in this issue of THE OOLOGIST.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y. OCT. 15, 1913.

WHOLE NO. 315

*Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.*

## Notes from Texas.

Bird life is certainly holding its own down here. I think I found altogether over 200 nests of the Mockingbird this summer. The following is a list of birds taken from a buggy that was driven on a rural mail route and therefore I had several varieties of road:

Aug. 15. Lark Sparrow .....	100
King-bird .....	5
Crow .....	5
Quail .....	3
Mocking Bird .....	27
Sissor-tailed Flycatcher...	26
Orchard Oriole .....	17
Turkey Vulture .....	9
Red-headed Woodpecker..	1
Bluebird .....	3
Mourning Dove, ...	abundant
Cowbird (Female).....	11
Cowbird (Male) .....	2
Blue Jay .....	4
Road Runner .....	7
Cardinal .....	5
Aug. 20. Orchard Oriole.....	11
Turkey Vulture .....	5
Red Headed Woodpecker..	2
Blue-bird .....	4
Mourning Dove .....	35
Chicadee .....	5
Cowbird (Female).....	6
Cowbird (Male) .....	4
Blue Jay .....	2
Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	1
Road Runner .....	5
Downey Woodpecker .....	1
Sissor-tailed Flycatcher...	20
Mockingbird .....	23
Quail .....	1

Cardinal .....	3
Crow .....	3
Kingbird .....	3
Aug. 23. Sparrow Hawk .....	11
Red-tailed Hawk .....	1
Cooper's Hawk .....	1
Upland Plover .....	1
Crow .....	7
Quail .....	5
Dove .....	abundant
Killdeer .....	abundant
Barn Swallows.....	hundreds
Mallard (range 2 miles)...	6
Teal .....	5

I visited a Lake Club several times and saw several Coots, Mallards and a bunch of White Cranes. There were about 25 in the bunch and they were eating dead fish along the bank. There were many small water birds, Killdeer, Plover, Blue Heron, etc.

Taking it all around I saw more birds this summer than ever before. I think that the recent bill that was passed by Congress is about the best thing that could be done, if it is only enforced. I wish THE OÖLOGIST could print the rules of that fine bill.

Cole Godsey.

Dallas, Texas.

## Bird Life on the National Pike.

During the latter part of June and the first of July, 1913, I had the pleasure of spending several weeks in the Allegheny Mountains and the bird life there differing so much from the locality from which I had come, I had a very interesting time. There was hardly a place within five miles of my

residence, that I did not visit but my favorite walk was on the National Pike and it was there that I saw many birds found in no other locality. The highest point on the Pike is known as the Summit and from there, for a mile or so toward Farmington, Pa., the place is extremely wild, quite free from any civilization whatever. This is the favorite haunt of many unusual birds, and one of the most plentiful of them is the Slate-colored Junco. I had in no other place seen this bird during the summer months and I soon found that its habits were quite different from those I had always known, watching it in the winter. The males were most often seen and almost invariably, they would be perched on a telegraph wire or pole, singing occasionally, to be sure. I found them feeding on the road but usually when I came across them in this position it would turn out to be a female or a young bird. I was somewhat surprised to find them feeding on Horse-manure after the fashion of the English Sparrow, and often seemed so eager for it that I could walk up to within a foot or so of them before they flew. As a matter of fact, I always found them quite tame and easy to approach.

Another bird which I also saw for the first time during the summer, and which was around in unusually large numbers was the Canadian warblers. I never walked along the Pike without seeing at least ten of them and often I saw many more. They were always very inquisitive and when I stopped near one of them to look at a bird it would come within two or three feet of me, so I never had any trouble in watching them. At this time of the year they had young just out of the nest, and when I would appear they would by their excited shipping, cause quite a number of the birds to come around. The majority of these birds

would, however, always turn out to be Canadians.

Next to them in abundance, were the Black-throated Blue Warblers. At all times I could hear their notes coming from the woods near me but I did not see them often. They usually fed in the larger trees and were quite adept to keeping out of sight. I soon found a way, however, by which I could always get them quite close to me. This was by exciting a Canadian Warbler. All the birds seem to enjoy coming around when there is any disturbance and I found that the Black-throated Blue Warblers were no exception to this. In most cases, however, it was the males that appeared; only once did I see a female.

It was in this manner that I saw two Warblers, the Blackburnian and the Black-throated Green Warbler. These birds were rather scarce, and I saw each of these but twice during my stay.

One of the rarest Warblers that I saw, I came across quite accidentally and in an unexpected manner. I was watching a Red-eyed Vireo when I noticed a small bird in a bush near me and on looking at it carefully I was delighted to find that it was a Hooded Warbler. It was an adult male, quite a handsome bird, and proved to be rather tame, allowing me to get a fine view of it. In passing this place the next day, I looked for it again and was fortunate enough in soon seeing it, almost in the same place. It evidently had a nest nearby but although I searched for it, I was unable to find it.

Another bird which was quite plentiful was the Vireo, but unfortunately, it was also very timid. For three days I heard its peculiar song without getting a glimpse of the bird, although at every opportunity I followed it until it disappeared. Finally, I was rewarded. Though so plentiful, I saw them

so seldom that I always considered myself fortunate when I did so.

Besides these more or less rare birds, the common ones such as the White-throated Nuthatch, Hairy Woodpecker, Oven-bird and Towhee were around in large numbers, so that it would be hard to find a place that contained more birds than this hole or so on the Pike.

Thos. D. Burleigh.

Pittsburg, Pa.

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STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, Management, Circulation, etc., of The Oologist, published monthly at Albion, N. Y., required by the Act of August 24, 1912. Editor, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.; Managing Editor, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.; Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.; Publisher, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill. Owner, R. Magoon Barnes. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders, holding 1 per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: None.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 23d day of Sept., 1913.

(Seal)

Erma Thiedohn,

Notary Public.

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#### Cape Cod Notes.

With a friend, Mr. Howard A. Jones, of Greenwood, Mass., I spent three days August 30th to September 1st, 1913, at a hunting camp at Great Herring Pond, near the town of Cedarville, Cape Cod. This pond is perhaps two miles long by three-fourths of a mile wide, and is connected by Carter's River with a smaller pond called Little Herring, about one-half a mile to the North. These two ponds are situated on a narrow part of the Cape, and are only about three miles from Cape Cod Bay, on the North and possibly a little longer distance from Buz-

zard's Bay on the South. The country around the ponds is rather hilly, with very sandy soil, the prevailing vegetation consisting of scrubby oak brush three or four feet high, which at this season of the year bears an abundant supply of unripe acorns.

Formerly a thin growth of pitch pine forty or fifty feet tall was scattered over much of this territory, but the forest fires, which annually sweep over the Cape districts have killed most of the trees near the ponds, and their bear trunks and limbs stand out very prominently above the oak growth.

The path, or wood road, from the camp to the beach on the north or Cape Cod Bay side, leads through this kind of country for about two and one-half miles, the remainder of the way being an ordinary carriage road where we pass through the village of Cedarville. Occasionally a few bushes of beach plums, with clusters of purple fruit nearly ripe, relieve the monotony of the scrub oaks.

The beach of coarse yellow sand, is about seventy-five feet wide at ordinary high tide, and, on the side toward the woods, the sand bluffs rise almost perpendicularly to a height of about fifty feet, and in a few places the higher peaks are fully seventy-five feet above the sea level.

As we travel eastward along the beach these sand bluffs gradually decrease in height, until finally, at a distance of possibly three miles, the land becomes a flat point of sand, sparsely grown with patches of coarse beach grass, and soon we come to a river flowing down from the salt marshes, which are situated a few hundred yards inland from the beach proper.

Saturday, August 30, we spent most of the day at the beach described above. Of the shore-birds which we

found there, the Semipalmated Sandpipers were the most abundant; hundreds of them were seen, both on the beach and on the salt marshes. Closely associated with them were the Semipalmated Plovers, which were also quite plentiful. On the beach Sanderlings were quite common, and four or five Black-breasted Plovers were scattered along the end nearest the river. One of the latter birds appeared to be in full plumage, with a glossy black breast, but this bird could not be approached within gun range. A pair of Knots were feeding among the Sandpipers. A few Gulls were present, mostly Herring Gulls.

Hundreds of Terns were in the air, the greater part of them were Wilson's Terns, but other species were undoubtedly with them.

A Harbor Seal came up to breath a few yards off shore. On the salt marsh a flock of about twenty-five Lesser Yellow Legs were feeding in a shallow salt pond. I flushed one Pectoral Sandpiper from the grass.

We collected the following birds for specimens: Two Black Breasted Plovers, (adult birds, but in transition plumage), two Knots, two Lesser Tellow Legs, one Pectoral Sandpiper, six or seven Semipalmated Plovers, a few Sanderlings and some Semipalmated Sandpipers.

Sunday, August 31. I spent most of the day in camps making bird skins. for shore birds will not keep very long without spoiling during the hot weather.

Late Sunday afternoon I took a walk around the shores of the two ponds. I saw an Osprey and an immature specimen of the Bald Eagle on some dead trees in the scrub oak country. At the Northern end of the Little Herring pond I saw a fine adult Red-shouldered Hawk, several green Herons, a pair of Nighthawks and a flock of eight Wood

Ducks. The latter appeared to be still in their summer plumage.

White tailed Deer are rather plentiful on this part of the Cape, and we found fresh tracks of two which had been down to the ponds.

Monday, September 1st, we again made the trip to the beach. Along the wood-road we saw the tracks of Ruffed Grouse, and Bobwhite, but saw no birds of either species. A flock of four Wood Ducks flew over our heads, going toward the larger pond. Hairy Woodpeckers and Chickadees were seen on the dead trees along the path and one lone Chipmunk fearlessly watched us from the lower branch of an old stub. Towhees were common under the Oak brush.

A flock of Crows started an outcry in a grove of pitch pine, and just as I went in to investigate matters a warning shout from Mr. Jones notified me that something had taken place at the other side of the grove. When I rejoined him, he said that a White-tailed Deer had jumped from the bushes and had just crossed a nearby clearing. Whether or not this deer was the cause of the excitement among the crows I am not certain, but it seems very probable.

When we reached the beach we found the Semipalmated Sandpipers, Semipalmated Plovers, Sanderlings and Terns as common as they were two days before. On the salt marsh we found but one Lesser Yellow Iegs. We saw four Pectoral Sandpipers, which we collected.

As we walked along the beach on our return to camp we saw a flock of thirteen Loons, (*Gavia imber*) swimming about two hundred yards off shore. Their loud, laughing cry was repeated many times as long as we were in hearing distance of them.

An Osprey sailed over us, quite close, apparently not at all disturbed by the proximity of hunters.

When we once more reached Great Herring Pond we saw a young Bald Eagle, probably the same one which we saw the day before. He attempted to catch a fish with his talons while we were watching him, but I could not see whether he was successful or not. Although this was the only Bald Eagle seen on our trip this species is still common around these ponds.

Of course they are not so numerous as they were twenty years ago but for the last ten years they seem to have held their own pretty well. I believe this locality not only is, but will be for years to come, one of the last strongholds of the Bald Eagle in Massachusetts.

The above notes are by no means a complete list of the birds which we saw during the three days. I have simply mentioned these, which for various reasons, most strongly attracted our attention. Even the common Chickadees, Towhees and Hairy Woodpeckers prove highly interesting in a locality where they are practically the only small birds to be seen in a wild bush grown country which stretches for mile after mile as an unbroken waste.

Although trips like this lack the excitement of hunting in the wilderness proper, remote from civilization, nevertheless they are a source of pleasant recreation to those of us who are unable to make long excursions.

Horace O. Green.

Stoneham, Mass.

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#### Notes from Mississippi.

In the five years that I have been collecting I have observed that the Bob White is a rather careless bird in its nesting habits. I have found single eggs a number of times in fields. Last January I found a fresh egg in the middle of an old cotton field. I have seen their eggs in

Meadowlark nests at least twice and have found them in guinea fowl nests as many as three times. One day this summer I came upon a guinea nest out in the field and flushed a female Bob White from the nest or very near it. I was surprised to find that the nest had six guinea eggs and three Bob White eggs.

I have found or examined about fifty Cardinal nests as my notes show and have found that the full complement of eggs is usually three or sometimes two. But on May 8th, 1911, I found a nest in a thick tangle of vines which held four eggs. All were natural but appeared to be advanced in incubation so I did not take the set. This is the only case I have ever seen or heard of that had over three eggs.

Sometime ago a number of Hungarian Partridges were liberated near Starkville, in the Northwest part of the state and a few days ago while out walking I flushed a single bird. I could find no others although I tried, so I suppose they are making poor headway.

I have searched long and earnestly for a set of Bachman Sparrows in a pasture near here which has several groves of pines in it but could never even find a nest although a school mate of mine took a fine set of four in this same pasture. The birds were plentiful but no amount of watching would help and searching was no better. But this spring quite by accident I stumbled on what I took to be a fresh nest. I watched from a distance and sure enough one of the birds soon went to the nest. I watched that nest carefully and always from a distance but never got a thing for my pains. I finally concluded that it was an old nest and so am biding my time until next year, when I'll be on hand early.

This spring while I was on my way to what I thought was a Red Shouldered Hawk's nest I saw a large nest in an oak which was in an open place by a big pecan grove. The nest was about sixty-five feet up and out of a large limb but was an easy climb to me. It was a fresh nest not quite finished, and of decided Hawk architecture. But as I had accidentally put my hand in it I was not expecting anything from it. I went on down the branch to the swamp where my other nest was located. This was about ninety feet up in a tall sweetgum and was the hardest climb that I have ever had. It had five young Crows in it and I was disappointed, but going back I found another nest, apparently fresh, in a small piece of woodland not far from the first nest. This had nothing in it and so I went back two weeks later but only a little work had been done on both nests. A week later I heard that the hawks were still hanging around and so I went back. The first nest held two beauties and the second nothing. I left the eggs three days to see if I could not get a third but no more were laid. This nest was found on March 21st but did not contain eggs until April 14th, which is rather late for these birds in this state. I am almost certain that the same pair of Hawks worked on both nests, but have wondered why. I am rather looking for a set of eggs from the second nest next spring as the Hawks are still in that neighborhood.

J. B. Lackey.

Clinton, Miss.

#### A July Tramp in Allegheny Co., Pa.

July is the month when everything in bird life is at a stand still. The month before the birds were still nesting; the next month the Autumn migration will have begun; but in July, there is little of interest for the bird

student. Birds are usually scarce and far between and those seen are usually the ones that, at any other time can be seen without looking for them. So, when I started out on the 19th of July, 1913, for a long tramp through the country, I had little expectations of seeing many birds, but I was interested in seeing what birds were still in evidence. From the minute I started out however, when I came across a Sparrow Hawk trying to do away with a Robin, until I arrived home, I found the birds plentiful and things were almost as interesting as they were in June. The following are the species seen with notes as to their abundance, etc.:

Spotted Sandpiper—Seen occasionally at small creeks.

Bob-white—Heard several times; gradually increasing within the last few years.

Morning Dove—Rather scarce.

Sparrow Hawk—Seen but once.

Black-billed Cuckoo—Scarce.

Belted Kingfisher—Common at large creeks.

Downy Woodpecker—Fairly common.

Red-headed Woodpecker—Seen but once.

Flicker—Very common.

Nighthawk—Seen toward end of walk.

Chimney Swift—Common, seen in small flocks.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird—Seen twice; both males.

Kingbird—Rather plentiful.

Phoebe—Scarce.

Wood Pewee—Scarce.

Least Flycatcher—Seen but once.

Crow—Rather scarce.

Meadowlark—Not very plentiful.

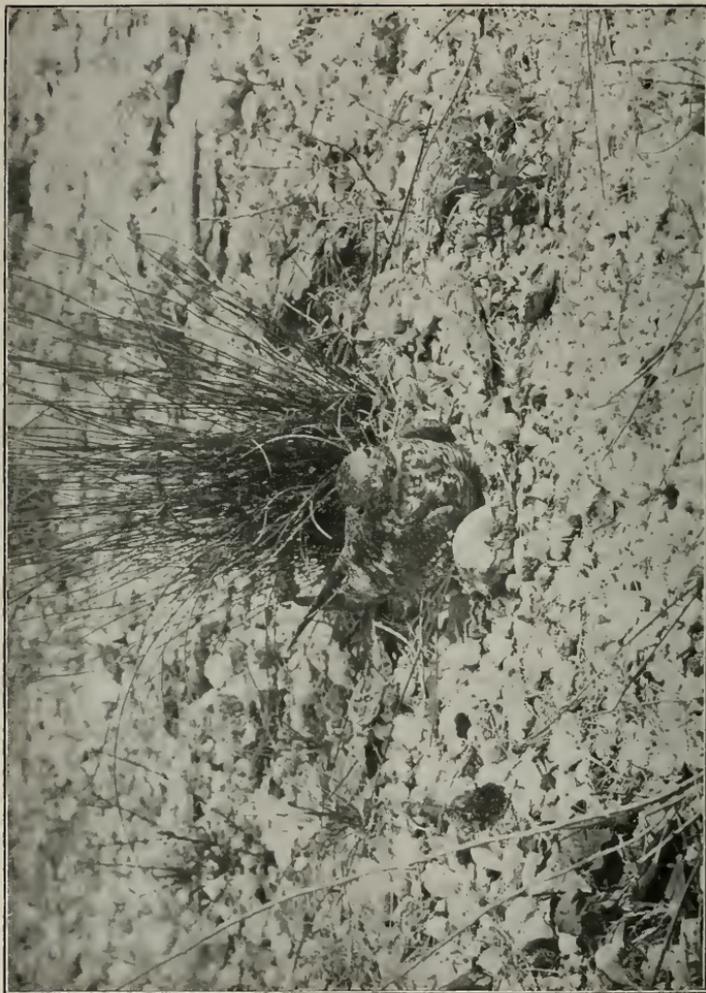
Baltimore Oriole—One bird, an adult male, seen.

Bronzed Grackle—Scarce.

American Goldfinch—Very plentiful.



West Indian Nighthawk on Nest, 6 ft. from Camera.  
—Photo by A. C. Read.



West Indian Nighthawk on Nest, 4½ feet from Camera  
—Photo by A. C. Read.



West Indian Nighthawk on Nest  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from Camera.  
—Photo by A. C. Read.



Nest and Eggs of West Indian Nighthawk,  
Santa Barbara, Isle of Pines.

—Photo by A. C. Read.

Vesper Sparrow—Fairly plentiful; feeding in the road.

Chipping Sparrow—Common.

Field Sparrow—Common.

Song Sparrow—Very plentiful.

Towhee—Quite abundant.

Cardinal—Rather scarce.

Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Seen but once; a female.

Indigo Bunting—Scarce.

Barn Swallow—Common; seen in small flocks.

Cedar Waxwing—Rather scarce.

Red-eyed Vireo—Scarce.

Golden-winged Warbler—One bird seen.

Black-and White Warbler—Scarce.

Yellow Warbler—Rather plentiful.

Oven-bird—Somewhat scarce.

Louisiana Water Thrush—Seen but once.

Kentucky Warbler—Scarce.

Maryland Yellow-throat—Very plentiful; heard and seen all day.

American Redstart—Scarce.

Catbird—Very plentiful; found nesting.

Brown Thrasher—Scarce.

Carolina Wren—Rather common.

House Wren—Plentiful.

Tufted Titmouse—Little flocks observed.

Chickadee—Plentiful.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher—Fairly plentiful; seen occasionally.

Wood-thrush—Scarce.

Robin—Quite abundant.

In all, forty-eight species were seen, which is not, I think, a bad showing for a hot July day.

Thomas D. Burleigh.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

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#### Records.

The following records may be of interest to your readers, as it is the first time I have met these species in this locality, although I have resided here for several years, making numerous

hunting and fishing trips into the surrounding country.

Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura macroura*). On Sunday, August 24th, 1913, while spending the day at Silver Island, a deserted mining settlement on the north shore of Lake Superior about five miles from Thunder Cape, now used as a Summer resort; my attention was attracted by a bird of this species feeding on the trail in front of the cottages, it did not seem in the least disturbed by passers by, only flying out of their way, to resume its feeding after they had passed. I saw it frequently during the day and on one occasion was able to get within a comparatively short distance of it. It was apparently alone and though I have spent a considerable time at this spot during the summer, this was its first appearance.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea Herodias*). I came across an individual of this species, on Monday September 1, 1913, while on a fishing trip to a small lake about 35 miles east of this city (Fort William, Ont). It was first observed flying overhead, but I later saw it wading in the shallows of the lake.

I have frequently seen this bird in the vicinity of Guelph, Ont., but this is the first time I have met with it in this northern country.

L. S. Dear.

Fort William, Ontario, Can.

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#### The Yellow Warbler.

Since 1909 I have been trying in vain to find a nest of this pretty little warbler in Mississippi, but my search has been in vain. When I started collecting in 1909 I remember that one of the first nests I ever found was one that I was sure was a Yellow Warbler's nest. It was in a good place, along the railroad but I never took a setting of eggs from it and thus spoiled what was my only chance

to take a setting here. I have seen the bird here only twice in the summer that I can remember and while I have searched carefully for their nests I have about decided that they do not nest here. They are fairly common in the fall and even in the winter I have at times seen numbers of them but I am sure that those two I saw in the summer were isolated cases. I have looked their range up in several books by various authors and have found that they are supposed to breed here, but neither myself nor another collector, A. W. Eager, have ever been able to find nests or records of nests. I have tried in three counties of the state, widely separated. Of these three counties Hinds Co. is well adapted for the birds, but brought no results. If anyone has a record of their nesting, especially in the central or southern part of the state, I would like to hear of it.

J. B. Lackey.

Clinton, Miss.

#### Rare Bird Thought Extinct, Found by Stanfordite.

Professor Harold Heath of the zoology department of Stanford University, reports the discovery made this summer of a colony of the rhinoceros Auk, supposed extinct.

The birds were found in large numbers on Forrest Island, off the southern coast of Alaska.

Heath also found that the King Salmon were not being destroyed by native birds, as has been thought. He was sent to Alaska by the National Audubon Society expressly to investigate the report.

The Auk Heath found to be a nocturnal bird, about the size of a large pigeon. It makes its home in the earth, burrowing about fifteen feet below the surface.—San Francisco Bulletin.

The articles published in this issue of THE OOLOGIST entitled "Cape Cod Notes," and "Birds on the National Pike," are specially interesting to the editor, as he passed over both of these roads in last summer auto trip. We propose giving our readers, in due time, some news and notes gathered while on this trip.

#### Birds Seen on a Long Journey.

As I made a business trip from the Island last month to Winnipeg, Manitoba, and was constantly on the lookout for my old friends the birds, I thought that my observations might be of interest to you.

The start was made Thursday, July 3, at 2 p. m. for Nueva Gerona, where we took the boat for Batabano, Cuba. The following birds were seen from the machine:

1. Cuban Quail.
2. W. I. Mourning Dove.
3. I. of P. Lizard Cuckoo.
4. Southern Turkey Buzzard.
5. Limpkin.
6. Red-legged Thrush.
7. Florida Cormorant.
8. White Ibis.
9. Snowy Heron.
10. Cuban Barn Owl.

July 4, Batabano to Havana, Cuba, 30 miles.

1. Southern Turkey Buzzard.
2. Cuban Grackle.
3. Red-legged Thrush.
4. Cuban Red-winged Blackbird.
5. Cuban Sparrow Hawk.
6. Cuban Kingbird.
7. Cuban Crow.
8. W. I. Mourning Dove.
9. W. I. Killdeer.
10. Ani.

11. English Sparrow.
  12. Cuban Meadowlark.
  13. Cuban Ground Dove.
  14. Cuban Green Heron.
- Havana, Cuba, to Key West, Fla.,

92 mfiles.

15. Royal Tern.

16. Noddy.

17. Frigate Bird.

July 5, Carson to Jacksonville, Fla.

1. White Ibis.

2. Fla. Grackle.

3. Kingbird.

4. Fish Crow.

5. Great Blue Heron.

6. Fla. Ground Dove.

7. Turkey Buzzard.

8. Fla. Cormorant.

9. Nighthawk.

10. Little Green Heron.

11. Purple Martin.

12. Royal Tern.

13. English Sparrow.

July 6, Bolingbroke, Ga., to Ind.

1. English Sparrow.

2. Red-eyed Vireo (Tenn. Mts.)

3. Meadowlark.

4. Turkey Buzzard.

5. Red-winged Blackbird.

6. American Goldfinch.

7. Phoebe (Gutherie, Ky.)

8. Robin.

9. Red-headed Woodpecker.

10. Bronzed Grackle.

11. Song Sparrow.

12. Kingbird.

13. American Crow.

14. Purple Martin.

July 7, Homestead to Chicago, Ill.

1. Mourning Dove.

2. Crow.

3. Bronzed Grackle.

4. Song Sparrow.

5. English Sparrow.

Chicago to Saint Paul, Minn.

1. Barn Swallow.

2. Red-headed Woodpecker.

3. Crow.

4. Kingbird.

5. Meadowlark.

6. Bronzed Grackle.

7. Red-winged Blackbird.

8. Yellow-headed Blackbird.

9. American Sparrow Hawk.

10. Cowbird.

11. House Wren.

12. Western Red-tailed Hawk.

13. Song Sparrow.

14. Goldfinch.

15. Pied-billed Grebe.

16. Chimney Swift.

July 8, Saint Paul to Winnipeg, Manitoba.

1. Red-winged Blackbird.

2. Crow.

3. Eng. Sparrow.

4. Meadowlark.

5. Great Blue Heron.

6. Barn Swallow.

7. Killdeer.

8. Kingbird.

9. Chimney Swift.

10. Purple Martin.

11. Barn Swallow.

12. Red-eyed Vireo.

13. Robin.

14. Song Sparrow.

July 9, Assiniboine Park, Winnipeg.

1. Song Sparrow.

2. Cliff Swallow.

3. Barn Swallow.

4. Yellow Warbler.

5. Robin.

6. Bronzed Grackle.

7. Meadowlark.

8. Kingbird.

9. Red-eyed Vireo.

10. Chimney Swift.

July 11, Auto ride through the city of Winnipeg.

1. Song Sparrow.

2. Purple Martin.

3. Robin.

4. Red-eyed Vireo.

5. Bronzed Grackle.

6. Chimney Swift.

July 13, Kildonan Park, a natural park on the Red river, Winnipeg.

1. Bronzed Grackle.

2. Robin.

3. Crow.

4. Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

5. Cedar Waxwing.
6. Barn Swallow.
7. Red-eyed Vireo.
8. Song Sparrow.

July 16, Winnipeg Beach, 60 miles north of the city on the lake of the same name.

1. Bronzed Grackle.
2. Prairie Chicken.
3. Robin.
4. Kingbird.
5. Meadowlark.
6. Crow.
7. Song Sparrow.
8. Franklin's Gull.
9. Common Tern.
10. Purple Martin.
11. American Bittern.
12. Cowbird.
13. Red-eyed Vireo.
14. Black Tern.
15. Barn Swallow.
16. Red-headed Woodpecker.

July 19, Winnipeg to Manitoba Beach, 60 miles west on the lake of the same name.

1. Robin.
2. Purple Martin.
3. Bronzed Grackle.
4. Kingbird.
5. Red-winged Blackbird.
6. Meadowlark.
7. Robin.
8. Song Sparrow.
9. Barn Swallow.
10. Crow.
11. Goldfinch.
12. Field Sparrow.
13. Pied-billed Grebe.
14. Prairie Chicken.
15. Black Tern.
16. Franklin's Gull.
17. Herring Gull.
18. Long-billed Marsh Wren.

July 20, Manitoba Beach is ideally located for the observation of different birds. The beach lies about a mile from the station which is in an old French village, between which

is a good sized marsh; the village (St. Laurent) lies in an immense prairie, while east of it is a large poplar thicket.

1. Black Tern.
2. Bonaparte Gull.
3. Yellow-headed Blackbird.
4. Kingbird.
5. Bronzed Grackle.
6. Prairie Horned Lark.
7. Meadowlark.
8. Song Sparrow.
9. Field Sparrow.
10. House Wren.
11. Purple Martin.
12. Tree Swallow.
13. Red-winged Blackbird.
14. Long-billed Marsh Wren.
15. American Goldfinch.
16. American Robin.
17. American Bittern.
18. Herring Gull.
19. Crow.
20. Virginia Rail.
21. Common Tern.
22. Barn Swallow.
23. Black Duck.
24. Mallard.
25. Catbird.
26. Red-head Duck.
27. Cliff Swallow.
28. Little Green Heron.
29. Cowbird.
30. Marsh Sparrow.
31. Sora Rail.
32. Killdeer.
33. Red-backed Sandpiper.
34. Franklin's Gull.

July 21, Manitoba Beach to Winnipeg.

1. Black Tern.
2. Bonaparte Gull.
3. Yellow-headed Blackbird.
4. Kingbird.
5. Bronzed Grackle.
6. Bobolink.
7. Robin.
8. Meadowlark.
9. Common Tern.

10. Killdeer.
11. Cowbird.
12. Song Sparrow.
13. Prairie Chicken.
14. Crow.
15. Franklin's Gull.
16. Red-winged Blackbird.
17. Barn Swallow.
18. Cliff.
19. Long-billed Marsh Wren.
20. Goldfinch.

July 22, Winnieueg, Nighthawk.

July 25, Red River, Bank Swallow.

July 26, To Winnipeg Beach, 6:30

p. m.

1. Kingbird.
2. Bronzed Grackle.
3. Robin.
4. Meadowlark.
5. Crow.
6. Barn Swallow.
7. Herring Gull.

July 28, Winnipeg to Saint Paul,

4:45 p. m.

1. Bronzed Grackle.
2. Robin.
3. Crow.
4. Barn Swallow.
5. Mourning Dove.
6. Sowbird.
7. Kingbird.
8. Song Sparrow.
9. Red-winged Blackbird.
10. Yellow-headed Blackbird.
11. King Rail.
12. Black Tern.
13. Long-billed Marsh Wren.

July 29, Saint Paul to Chicago, Ill.,

8:30 a. m.

1. Mourning Dove.
2. Bronzed Grackle.
3. Song Sparrow.
4. Red-winged Blackbird.
5. Flicker.
6. Chimney Swift.
7. Sparrow Hawk.
8. Crow.
9. Kingbird.
10. Goldfinch.
11. Barn Swallow.

12. Red-headed Woodpecker.
13. Spotted Sandpiper.
14. Bobolink.
15. Field Sparrow.
16. Solitary Sandpiper.
17. Meadowlark.
18. Belted Kingfisher.
19. Vesper Sparrow.
20. Marsh Hawk.
21. Sharp-shinned Hawk.

July 31, Cincinnati, O., to Chattanooga, Tenn.

1. Belted Kingfisher.
2. Barn Swallow.
3. Crow.
4. Mourning Dove.
5. Sparrow Hawk.
6. Meadowlark.
7. Bobolink.
8. Yellow Warbler.
9. Goldfinch.
10. Bronzed Grackle.

August 1, Jesup, Ga., to Jacksonville, Fla.

1. Black Buzzard.
2. Sparrow Hawk.
3. Belted Kingfisher.
4. Turkey Buzzard.

August 2, Keylargo to Key West, Fla.

1. Everglade Kite and nest.
2. Great Blue Heron.
3. Louisiana Heron.
4. Little Blue Heron.
5. Fla. Quail.
6. Spotted Sandpiper.
7. Belted Kingfisher.
8. Little Green Heron.
9. Mourning Dove.
10. Fla. Ground Dove.
11. White-crowned Pigeon.
12. Fla. Cormorant.
13. Royal Tern.
14. Snowy Heron.
15. Crow.
16. Kingbird.
17. Great White Heron.
18. American Egret.
19. Turkey Buzzard.
20. Ani.

21. Barn Swallow.
22. Killdeer.
23. Red-winged Blackbird.
24. Brown Pelican.
25. Black Buzzard.
26. Fla. Fish Crow.
27. Semi-palmated Sandpiper.
28. Frigate Bird; Key West to Havana.
29. Noddy.
30. Wilson's Petrel.
31. While 50 miles from Key West a Yellow Palm Warbler flew aboard several times but did not settle down.

Havana, Cuba, to Los Indios, Isle of Pines, August 5 to 8; 300 miles.

1. Royal Tern.
2. Noddy Tern.
3. Sooty Tern.
4. While 180 miles west of Havana during a small squall a Parula Warbler flew aboard of us and all around the cabin.

August 9, Los Indios and dock.

1. W. I. Mourning Dove.
2. Cuban Crab Hawk.
3. Ani.
4. Cuban Ground Dove.
5. Cuban Green Parrot.
6. Cuban Green Woodpecker.
7. Cuban Grackle.
8. White Ibis.
9. Pigeon (*C. inornata*).
10. Black-crowned Night Heron.
11. Fla. Cormorant.
12. Royal Tern.
13. Southern Turkey Buzzard.
14. Mangrove Warbler.
15. Cuban Meadowlark.
16. Cuban Kingbird.
17. Red-legged Thrush.
18. Cuban Red-bellied Woodpecker.
19. Cuban Quail.
20. I. of P. Lizard Cuckoo.
21. I. of P. Trogon.
22. Antillean Nighthawk.
23. Great Blue Heron.

A. C. Read.

Isle of Pines.

Hanford, Sept. 4.—Sportsmen who annually hunt ducks on the shores of Lake Tulare see before them this season a dismal outlook. The same strange disease which in 1910 and 1911 appeared among the ducks has broken out and thousands of birds are dead and more are dying.

The birds, while fat and apparently in the healthiest condition, become seized with paralysis and are unable first to fly and then to walk.

The University of California in 1911 investigated the disease, but was unable to trace its origin.—The San Francisco Examiner.

W. A. Strong.

San Jose, Cal.

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#### The Isle of Pines.

We propose to devote the August issue of THE OOLOGIST to The Isle of Pines. This little-known Isle has a splendid bird student now and we and our readers are in luck that he takes time to send, for our and your benefit, notes on the birds from time to time. Our August number will be good. Mark that.

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I also want to take this opportunity to tell you what a fine little magazine The Oologist is. I read quite a number of the current bird magazines but I always look forward with greater pleasure to the coming of The Oologist than to any other. I have yet to find an article in it that isn't reliable and any magazine that can have that said of it, is bound to be good.

June 3, 1912. Thos. D. Burleigh.

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#### Personal Notice.

As this issue of THE OOLOGIST is closed (Oct. 6th), the Editor leaves for California on a sad errand, occasioned by the death of a very dear brother-in-law, and expects to be absent until the 25th of the month; during which time our correspondents will have to bear with us, as we leave directions that no ornithological mail be forwarded.

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WHOLE NO. 316

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Riccord's Hummingbird and Nest,  $\frac{3}{4}$  life size, Sept. 22, 1912, Los Indias, Isle of Pines. Nest in Grapefruit tree. —Photo by A. C. Read.

### Bird Tagging.

J. Claire Wood.

What wonderful impulse causes the great southward movement of vast multitudes of birds and directs their return in Spring? All attempts to solve this problem will ever remain, in my opinion, just as satisfactory as the origin of species and sources of life. The key to the whole mystery concentrates in the materialization of the properties of instinct! Despite all that has and will be said, the only probable satisfactory explanation is the guidance of that mighty and mysterious influence that directs the workings of all nature. I believe in transmutation of species on the data generally accepted as absolute fact of gradation. Though less definite, a consideration of such problems as natural selection, law of design, conditions of existence, etc., where they bear in any manner, on migration together with traits I have observed in both birds and mammals (even very young examples of the genus homo) has convinced me that migration is hereditary habit. But I would like to see it proved. To attempt this, involves consideration along the lines of contradictory evidence. I frankly confess a confusion of understanding, and as a recreation turn to a consideration of the floral and other beauties of summertime in northern climes and look upon migration as a provision of nature that birds should swarm into the scene, and by their beauty, melody and activity, assist in making it a season of delight. Warned, by instinct, of winter's approach, they retreat into the land of perpetual warmth, thence their departure according to their constitutional susceptibility to the cold or the first promptings of an inner foreboding. Many, like the Bobolink, abandon an abundance of food to begin the jour-

ney and never wait until warned by physical contact with cold weather. The Bobolink is southward bound in August and does not reappear until the fruit trees are in blossom. And so strongly is he influenced by the southward impulse that he passes beyond our border, even to the marshes of the Rio de la Plata.

Contemplating the wonderful in nature, we fail to understand why an evolutionary tendency has not hardened these birds to endure the severity of winter as some species do; but these species are in turn, more or less migratory, being forced southward by extreme cold or failure of food supply. There is nothing remarkable in being driven by a sense of feeling and hunger, but what more impressive of intelligence and design in nature than the early migrants taking an unerring direction to continued warmth and plenty?

The glacial epoch theory gives no reason why birds should leave warmth and plenty beyond the rather weak explanation of seeking the barren waste to rear their young safe from numerous tropical enemies, but we know if birds possessed such intelligent sagacity they would take advantage of the many southern retreats affording almost absolute security. The question naturally arises of how they existed before this northern land became accessible, if it is now necessary to them. Thousands perish during these migrations, and it might be asked if the movement is not a natural cause to check increase beyond stipulated bounds; or, on the other hand, to assist in keeping down the overproduction of tropical insect and plant life, but all such questions are mere speculation, and of no value except to stimulate discussion. Some endeavor has been made to prove a "law of retrenchment" and again to show that

birds are guided on their journey by landmarks, the adults acting as pilots, but as the majority travel by night, this would necessitate a knowledge of astronomy, nothing said of those that travel in cloudy weather or over a vast expanse of water, while we meet with numerous small parties of juveniles working southward without an adult among them.

Despite the various theories and convictions entertained by the Ornithological world regarding the phenomena of bird migration, we all have a common interest in the great movement, and as a detailed discussion of the general subject is not my intention, those who are not wholly familiar with it, are referred to Leon J. Cole's paper in Vol. IV, No. 1, of the Michigan Bulletin, but it is Mr. Cole's second communication in No. 4 of same volume that has induced me to take up the subject there presented, in order to efface the erroneous impression that considerable difficulty would attend the securing of birds for the purpose of "tagging", and furthermore to second his proposition that the work be taken in hand by an Ornithological organization.

The possibilities of bird "tagging" offers far greater satisfaction and stimulates a greater interest than the method of tracing the migratory movement by records of arrivals, departures, etc., where so much depends upon the data of individuals without positive proof of their competency or veracity. The return of a tag, however, is proof beyond question; and hence of the highest value and interest. Young birds, just prior to leaving the nest, furnish an abundance of material.

A reference to my note book for the season of 1903 reveals a personal find of 2015 eggs and nestlings in Wayne and Oakland Counties, and this does

not include the finds of other members of the party. Making every allowance, I could have easily "tagged" one hundred nestlings of appropriate species, and at least a dozen bird students in the state could have done the same. And surely the neighborhood of twelve hundred labeled birds could not fail to produce some results. It is an accepted fact that many birds return yearly to the same nesting site or vicinity, but what becomes of the young? The proposed system is doubtless the only satisfactory road to a solution of the question. Personal observation has shown conclusively that Great Blue Herons and Red shouldered Hawks roared in this locality do not return to breed, and this is probably the case with most species. A majority of the few new pairs of Red shoulders that nested here were shot and examined and were in the first adult plumage. For years my field work was confined to Greenfield township and every pair of hawks, and all the larger nests of the various species of timber were well known to me; so probably the pair of Broad wings that nested in that township were the only ones to do so. The nest was located by Mr. Bradshaw Swales, who secured the female, which is now in his collection. But the bird is in the immature plumage of the second year.

Six species of birds were selected for especial observation by the Committee on Geographical Distribution. One of these is resident and none are suitable for the proposed system. This is obvious when we contemplate the vast area to the south and the comparative small number of Ornithologists in it; but sportsmen invade every section of the country, and who knows of a village, no matter how small, that cannot claim a gunner or so. And nearly every farmer pos-

esses fire arms. Few can resist a shot at hawk or crow, and the village or city boy will down any bird of size, while the sportsman enjoys blackbird and meadow lark shooting in the absence of more worthy game. It thus becomes evident that meadow lark, blackbird, jay, shrike and any bird of much greater size should be selected. Red-winged Blackbirds could be easily obtained as they are found in every piece of marsh land of any size, but are the least desirable by reason of migrating in large flocks, and retaining this social tendency at the winter quarters, and the same may be said of the crow, though to a lesser extent, but fair results could be expected after their return in Spring. My choice would be the meadow lark and hawk, with preference to the latter as the larger the bird the less an artificial weight would hamper it.

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**Note.**

A female Red-tailed Hawk was brought to me for mounting today, of which the stomach contents proved very interesting.

The stomach contained one complete Grey Squirrel torn to pieces, for swallowing; one Garter Snake, 21 inches long, and one Water Snake 15 inches long. The heads of both snakes were missing, but otherwise the bodies were not mutilated and the measurements are of the pieces. Due to the crowded condition of the stomach, the Garter Snake was contained in the mouth and gullet of the bird and several folds of the snake could be seen on opening the beak. This is the first case of snakes in this bird's food with me, and I wondered if it was common.

Raymond Spellum.

Viroqua, Wis.

### The Calliope Hummingbird.

By Charles S. Moody.

The theory of protected mimicry may be overworked as some naturalists insist, but that the Calliope Hummingbird is advised of its value will be equally patent to any person who has put in any time hunting one of their nests. Most birds resort to some degree of protection, either by position, manner of nest building, or concealment, but none, so far as I have investigated, takes the pains to blend the nest so perfectly with the surroundings as this aerial sprite.

The Calliope is a western bird, the smallest and most unobtrusive of the family. It is quite different from the eastern and southern species which nest about farm houses, even in rose arbors in towns and villages. Calliope is a forest lover, haunting the deep confiers of the Pacific slope, north into Alaska, south into northern California. I have found them at an altitude of 11,000 feet in the Bitter Root mountains, again at sea level in the Douglass fir belt along the Pacific Ocean.

The nest is invariably placed upon a low horizontal branch of cedar, spruce, or black pine, extending over a mountain stream, and in plain sight—if you can see it.

There's the rub; no larger than an English walnut, composed of cottonwood down, sitting flat on the branch, the outside covered with fine bits of gray bark lain on with glue, it is the most baffling thing in nest hunting. You may be positive that the tree contains a nest, but you cannot find it.

An amusing incident occurred at Mullan, Idaho, a few years ago. The teacher of ornithology in one of the state institutions visited our country during the nesting season. His education had been accomplished in the



Nest and Eggs of Caliope Hummingbird  
—Photo by Chas. S. Moody

east, and he was making a study of western birds. A few days previous I had located three nests of the Calliope in one tree, a black pine. Black pine trees retain their cones for a year or more. This tree was covered with them. I took the professor down and asked him to locate the nests. He spent an hour without avail. All the time the three were within four feet of him. They so closely resembled the cones that he could not distinguish them apart.

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Whit Harrison, one of the real old time ornithologists of La Cresent. Minnesota, sends us the following clipping from one of the local La Crosse, Wisconsin, papers, which will be of interest to all of the older readers of THE OOLOGIST. Mr. Boehm was known throughout the northwest as a student of nature and a taxidermist of unusual ability as well as a man having real scientific attainments:

"Albert Boehm, taxidermist, ornithologist and student of nature, is dead.

"Apoplexy called one of La Crosse's well known men at the age of almost 84 years, at 3:19 o'clock this morning, at his home, 512 Oakland street. He had lingered a week after being stricken. His wife was at his bedside when death came.

"Mr. Boehm was in apparently good health and active in his work, for which he was known throughout the northwest, until his first attack on Tuesday of last week, since which time he gradually failed.

"Over a thousand birds and animals which at present adorn the new east room at the La Crosse public library were preserved and mounted by him and it is considered one of the finest exhibits of its kind in this part of the country. Every bird from the smallest humming bird to the largest hawk

and eagle was stuffed by Mr. Boehm. Even the snakes of all varieties and species are the produce of his labor.

"In his study of nature, birds, bees, butterflies and the trees, hundreds of children of this city became associated with him. Whenever a dead bird or animal was found, the thought which was uppermost in many of their minds was to take it to Mr. Boehm to have him preserve and mount it.

"A number of prizes were awarded Mr. Boehm for various exhibits of his. He received several awards from displays at the World's fair at St. Louis in 1904.

"Decedent was born in Germany on December 4, 1829, and came to America when a small boy. He has resided in La Crosse for the past 27 years.

"Surviving are a widow and four children. The children are Mrs. A. J. Lange of Superior, Mrs. M. Rassmann of Beaver Dam, Charles A. Boehm of Neenah and Mrs. J. T. Riordan of Marion, Ind.

"The remains will be taken to the home of a sister at Beaver Dam tomorrow noon and interment will be at that town. Previous to the sending of the body, short services, conducted by Rev. D. C. Jones, will be held at the late home of the deceased."

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#### Migration Notes.

On the 13th of May, 1908, while visiting at Pompton Lakes, N. J., I witnessed one of those scenes most deplored by the bird lover and over which he can have but little or no control. On the morning of the 12th I found at the foot of a rather lofty windmill the dead bodies of two Myrtle and three Chestnut-sided Warblers, they having apparently hit the blades of the wheel in their flight over this section on their way northward, as I found traces of bloodstains on several of the steel blades upon close inspection.

On the evening of the 13th a heavy wind from the southeast prevailed and the mechanism of the mill became disengaged from the heavy strain and it was necessary to carry a light upon the tower to the point of trouble and repair the damage before a far greater trouble might arise. We found that it required several hours of hard and constant labor to get things back into shape. While thus engaged during the first hour I was hit about the legs and body by several small birds, but in each case they righted themselves and continued their flight. Close on to midnight this flight increased in immense numbers, and, as the light which we had was apparently drawing the birds towards it, they were continually striking against mine and my helper's body and on all parts of the wheels. As it was very dark and the high wind made it rather difficult to maintain our foothold and together with the trouble in hand, we were given but little opportunity to think of anything but our own and the wheels' safety and but little attention was paid to the migrating birds. When, after two hours and a half of hazardous labor we had fixed things up temporarily for the night we both went to the house and retired.

I arose shortly after sunrise the next morning and immediately went to the windmill to see if any further trouble had arisen, but found things in the same condition as left the night before.

But on the ground at the foot of the mill I beheld a sight which was indeed very heartrending. All about were the bruised and maimed bodies of Warblers and other small Passerine birds. On gathering them up found thirty-two all together. There were six Chestnut-sided, two Black-throated Blue, four Black-throated Green, four Magnolia, two Parula, five Canadian

and five Myrtle Warblers, two Maryland Yellowthroats, an Indigo Bunting and a Savanna Sparrow. On the platform near the tank were six more Canadian and four additional Myrtle Warblers.

Since that time I have often visited this mill to see if any further tragedies of this kind had occurred, but have never found another occurrence in the vicinity.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, New Jersey.

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#### Notes From the Lower Connecticut Valley.

The following records from my notebook may be of some interest to the readers of THE OOLOGIST:

Aug. 16, 1911. At Saybrook Point and up the valley. Warm and clear. Thousands of Swallows, mostly Tree, some Barn and Bank, were perched in rows along the wires. The passing trains would send clouds of them into the air. Blackbirds were as abundant. These consisted of Red-winged, Bronzed and Purple Grackles and Cowbirds. Kingfishers, Green Herons, Meadowlarks, Savannah and Sharp-tailed Sparrows, Ducks—too distant to identify—and Semi-palmated and Least Sandpipers were common. The very extensive marshes at this point, and the numerous creeks connected with the river, make it an ideal resort for marsh loving birds.

Aug. 6, 1912. Warehouse Point, Conn. Hot and clear. Great flocks of Tree Swallows were noted, flocking for their southern movement. Six Sparrow Hawks observed in the valley and as many Nighthawks were zig-zagging over Hartford last evening, uttering their peculiar and characteristic notes.

Aug. 14-15, 1912. Saybrook Point, warm and a little fog. Tree and Barn Swallows abundant. Red-wings,

Bronzed and Purple Grackles, Night and Green Herons, Bitterns, Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Semi-palmated Sandpipers common. Saw flocks of 20 to 50 of the latter. Kingfishers not so common as previous year, when they were very plentiful for the species. Saw five Summer Yellow-legs hurrying around in shallow water near hotel. I watched them for five minutes, not over forty feet away. They were securing food in shallow water and their long legs and bills were perfectly adapted to the work. One took a nice bath in six inches of water. He partly spread his wings and fluttered and shook himself and spent a minute in apparent enjoyment.

Aug. 16, 1912. Saybrook Point. Clear and cool. Noted on and around muddy beach, near Long Island Sound: 200 Semi-palmated Sandpipers, 50 Least Sandpipers, 300 Semi-palmated Plovers, 75 Summer Yellow-legs, 2 Night Herons, 2 Green Herons, 1 Sharp-tailed Sparrow, 6 Kingbirds, 1 Kingfisher and 1000 Swallows, mostly Tree and Barn, a few Bank and Cliff observed.

The small Sandpipers frequently flew, wheeled, showing white underparts, when they might easily be mistaken for Sanderlings or Piping Plovers, and returned to nearly the same spot to resume feeding. They constantly emitted their low, peeping notes. A flock wheeled over my head as I was standing on a bridge the evening before. I could hear the various species whistling all the evening. There was a small crescent moon. The small Sandpipers frequently bathed in two inches of water. The Yellow-legs, Plovers and Sandpipers kept in separate companies, as a rule. The former preferred shallow water to the bare flats. All frequently changed position.

This locality is exceedingly rich in bird life and it would pay one to spend some time there in observation and study.

Charles L. Phillips.  
Taunton, Mass.

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#### Urinator Imber—Loon.

This wild inhabitant of our northern lakes and ponds possesses all the characteristic traits of the Divers. It is rarely seen on ponds of less than several acres in extent and is never common, except on the larger rivers and lakes, where it keeps in the open water and escapes its pursuers by diving and swimming long distances under water. In this manner it can elude the swiftest oarsman, but when cornered in shallow water, it takes wing and makes a long flight before alighting.

When on land the Loon is a very awkward fellow. He stands with his body erect and his tarsi usually resting on the ground. He cannot walk, but progresses by tumbling forward and flopping his wings and pushing his feet in a most ungainly manner.

It is asserted by the best authorities that this bird can evade a gunshot by diving at the flash, and I have no doubt that this is true when black powder is used, but with a modern gun loaded with buck-shot there was no trouble to secure a fine male on Muskoko Lake, in Canada, where they breed quite abundantly. Our guide told us that he never saw more than 2 eggs in a nest, which is invariably near the waters edge, so that you can easily wade to the same. It is a mere depression in the rock or ground.

The upper parts, wings, tail and neck black with bluish or greenish reflections, spaces on the side of the neck streaked with white; back and wings spotted and barred with white; breast and belly



A Male and Female Loon

white; sides around a band at the base of the under-tail-coverts black, spotted with white. The female has none of those gorgeous colors, which proves that in all animal life for beauty the male is superior.

The eggs are grayish, olive-brown, thinly spotted with blackish, size 3.50 x 2.20. The young are covered with a soft down, sooty-brown in color and leave the nest as soon as hatched.

What a fine group, a male and female with the two young would make when given to our artistic taxidermist, Mr. H. Grieb in Buffalo. Such a group would equal those of the Great FIVE—OOLOGIST

Blue Herons and the Whistling Swans in the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences.

The food of the Loon consists entirely of fish, which it catches by swimming after them beneath the surface of the water.

In the early spring some can be found near Navy Island, above Niagara Falls and some have been seen in our Buffalo harbor near the new water works before their northern migration to their breeding places and in the same localities late in September on their southward journey to the Gulf of Mexico.

I am indebted for an exceedingly fine male, which can be seen at my home, to Mr. Christ Schwartz, of Niagara Falls.

Ottomar Reinecke.

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#### Notes on the Kingbird from Harris County, Texas.

The Kingbird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) is a common summer resident of the prairie districts of Harris county, Texas, one or more pairs being found in every orchard, "motte", or ranch yard. They inhabit the same localities as frequented by the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, although the Kingbird

is more often seen along the edges of woods.

They arrive at Houston from their winter quarters about April 2, and by the 27th the birds are mated and begin their nests. The first nests are completed May 10 and the first egg laid the following day. By the 17th or 18th the set is usually completed and the birds commence incubation. The first young noted were hatched on May 31.

In this locality I think only two broods are raised yearly, the second set being laid about the end of June or first of July. August 1 sees the birds gathering in flocks and wandering around cotton and corn fields and by the end of that month they begin migrating southward. This migration continues up until the first part of October, when the last stragglers are seen.

The food in this locality consists of insects, fruits and berries; numbers of times I have seen these birds feeding on ripe figs, grapes, pears and various berries, as well as following plows, in company with many other species, securing the worms brought to light.

The birds are very vicious in the defense of nests and young, and during the nesting season I have seen vultures, hawks, and many smaller species fleeing panic-stricken before the rush of this dauntless little warrior.

The nest is placed in the orchard trees, and in the "mottes" and shade trees around the ranch houses or farms, on either horizontal limbs or in crotches near the tops of the highest branches. It is a bulky structure, and, like the Scissor-tail's is a very untidy structure and very easy to find; composed of twigs, weed-stems, grasses, rootlets, cotton, string and thistle-down, and lined with thistle-

down, cotton or rootlets.

For the last four years a pair has nested in a certain persimmon tree in a Red-wing colony near Houston, and it would be of interest to know whether this is the same pair of birds each year, or the offspring of the preceding pair.

The eggs are either three or four in this number, some of the eggs being identical with those of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. The smallest eggs are those from a set of three taken June 21, 1911, from a nest in a hui sache five feet from the ground. They measure: .86 x .70, .90 x .69, and .87 x .70 inches. On the other hand the largest set of eggs measures: 1.04 x .70, 1.02 x .70, 1.03 x .70, and 1.04 x .70 in. This set was taken May 27, 1912, about seven miles south of Houston. Other sets from this region yield the following measurements: .91 x .64, .94 x .64, .92 x .66, and .94 x .67; .90 x .64, .96 x .68, .86 x .69, and .87 x .64; .92 x .65, .92 x .68, .94 x .67, .87 x .70; .91 x .70, .87 x .71, .90 x .72; and another set of three .91 x .68, .94 x .68, .92 x .67 inches.

#### Unusual Wintering of the Catbird at Pittsburg, Pa.

Thomas D. Burleigh.

On the 10th of November, while out on a tramp, I was surprised to see a Catbird fly out from a thicket of grape vines, the first I had seen for over a month. It appeared in good condition, but was entirely silent for the few minutes that I observed it. I was very much surprised at seeing it at this late date, but I was more surprised when several weeks later, on the 23d of November, I saw another of these birds. The first one was seen near Harmarville, some eight miles from where the second one was seen, at Pittsburg, and so whether they were the same bird or not, I do not know.

Like the first, the second was seen in a thicket of grape vines and was also entirely silent, making no sound at all. I visited this place the next day but found the bird gone, and I had no idea of seeing any more of these birds until the following Spring, but was surprised a month or so later to find it still around, although again in a different place.

With Henry S. Frank I was, on the 4th of January, 1913, exploring McKinley Park, a small park on the outskirts of Pittsburg, near Mt. Oliver, when I heard a Catbird calling (or mewling) and soon saw it in a dense thicket of bushes. The weather on that day was fairly cold and very windy, temperature 32 degrees, with several inches of snow on the ground, but the Catbird seemed contented and appeared well fed.

A week later, on the 12th, I was at this place again and had the satisfaction of finding the bird in the same place, in as good spirits apparently, as on a warm day in June. From that date on, I have been at the park once a week and have always, except once, on the 18th of January, found it at the same place, up to the present date (February 16th.)

I fully expect that it will remain there the remainder of the Winter, and I intend to continue my visits until the other Catbirds arrive, as I wish to make my record as complete as possible. Why, however, a bird like the Catbird, one of the last to arrive in the Spring and one of the first to leave in the Fall, should remain here during the winter, I am unable to understand. I would almost as soon have expected to see a Nighthawk or a Barn Swallow, for I have never before heard or read of a Catbird wintering anywhere except in the extreme southern parts of the United States. Thomas D. Burleigh.  
Pittsburg, Pa.

### The Northern Pileated Woodpecker.

May 7, 1913, a friend and I left State College, Pennsylvania, for a mountain valley, situated on the northern border of Huntington county, and about fourteen miles distant from the college. The country here is much covered with timber slashings, which provide excellent abodes for the Northern Pileated Woodpecker.

Late in the afternoon of this day we reached a low, wet timber slashing in which there were many dead snags that showed evidence of former nesting places of this Woodpecker. We soon found an old logging road by which we were enabled to penetrate the thick undergrowth of laurel and rhododendron. We had just crossed a swift stream when my friend caught sight of a Pileated Woodpecker as it silently flitted from the trunk of a large sugar maple tree that stood by our road. The presence of this bird gave us great hope of finding a nest, so we carefully scanned all the old snags in sight. Evening was now fast approaching and we made our way down the valley to a farm house where we spent the night.

On the following morning we arose early and started on our way to the haunts of the Pileateds. No sooner had we entered the slashing than we heard the peculiar notes of a Woodpecker as he called from some distant hemlock spike. The search for a nest was begun where we left off last evening. On account of the thick undergrowth we found it difficult to reach and properly examine many of the dead snags. Upon approaching a forty-foot, leaning, dead red maple snag I could discern two newly excavated entrance holes; and beneath these there were many large chips. This snag stood by a small open space, close to a clump of young hemlocks. Vigorous pounding on the

stump failed to arouse the Woodpecker, but as the holes appeared so new, I decided to investigate them. I procured the climbing irons and ascended to the lower cavity; it was new, but only slightly excavated. As I neared the upper cavity, which was thirty feet above the ground, my friend called out from below, "there she is!" A female Woodpecker left the nest and hurriedly secluded herself among the neighboring trees. From her hiding place she sent forth vigorous alarm notes which soon brought the male bird to the vicinity. I carefully examined the nest-hole and found that it contained four large, glossy, white eggs, quite fresh, and resting on soft chips of wood.

The entrance hole measured three and one-fourth inches wide; it was not circular, but ovate. The cavity turned downward after extending in for an inch or more. The eggs rested fifteen inches below the entrance.

While I was at the nest the female bird flew quite near, clucking and making a great fuss. She soon settled herself on the higher part of an old snag, from which she sent forth her loud cries.

With a camera I secured a number of views of the nesting snag and its surroundings. The two days following were spent in other parts of the mountain valley searching for nests of this Woodpecker. Two more pairs were located and a promising looking nest found. It was inaccessible to me, however.

Throughout the mountainous country of central Pennsylvania many bare snags show the remnants of former nesting sites of these great Woodpeckers. However, the lovely birds are seldom met with, and it will not be long until they will all vanish from our forests.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

**Unusual Winter Birds.**

Thomas D. Burleigh.

The winter 1912-13 was remarkable to me because of the number of Summer residents that remained here, many of which I had never before seen during the winter and had never heard of anyone seeing. The one that most surprised me was the Catbird, but as I have dealt more fully with it in another article, let it suffice to say that it was seen occasionally the entire winter, remaining for the last two months in almost the same thicket.

The Flickers were quite plentiful and I was surprised at their abundance, especially as I have never recorded them here in the winter before. Up to the middle of October, I saw them almost daily, but at that time they suddenly disappeared and I saw no more of them until the 9th of November. On that date I saw two and after that I occasionally came across them; seldom, however, in the same place.

On the 28th of November, while watching a large flock of Tree Sparrows, I was amazed to hear a Towhee. At first I thought I must have imagined it, but I soon found out that I had not, for while I was listening for the sound to be repeated, the bird, a male, very obligingly hopped into view from a dense thicket, allowing me to absolutely identify it. I came back to this place several times later, hoping to see it again, but with no success and I finally gave it up. It must have wintered there, however, for as I was passing the same place on the 18th of February, I again saw a Towhee, presumably the same bird, for as before it was a male and was exactly in the same place.

The crow is more or less of a resident here, but I was rather surprised on the 31st of December, while out on

a tramp near Harmaville, to come across a flock of about one hundred and fifty of these birds. They were feeding in a large field, almost covering it, and, as I approached, flew off in small detachments, continuing to do so for quite a while.

On the same day, I also saw two Golden Crowned Kinglets feeding in some hemlocks, the first I've ever seen during the winter.

While crossing a large field on the 22nd of January, I flushed two Meadowlarks from the ground (or snow) and I was delighted to see them, as they very rarely winter here. They must have left soon after, for although I searched for them several days later I was unable to find them.

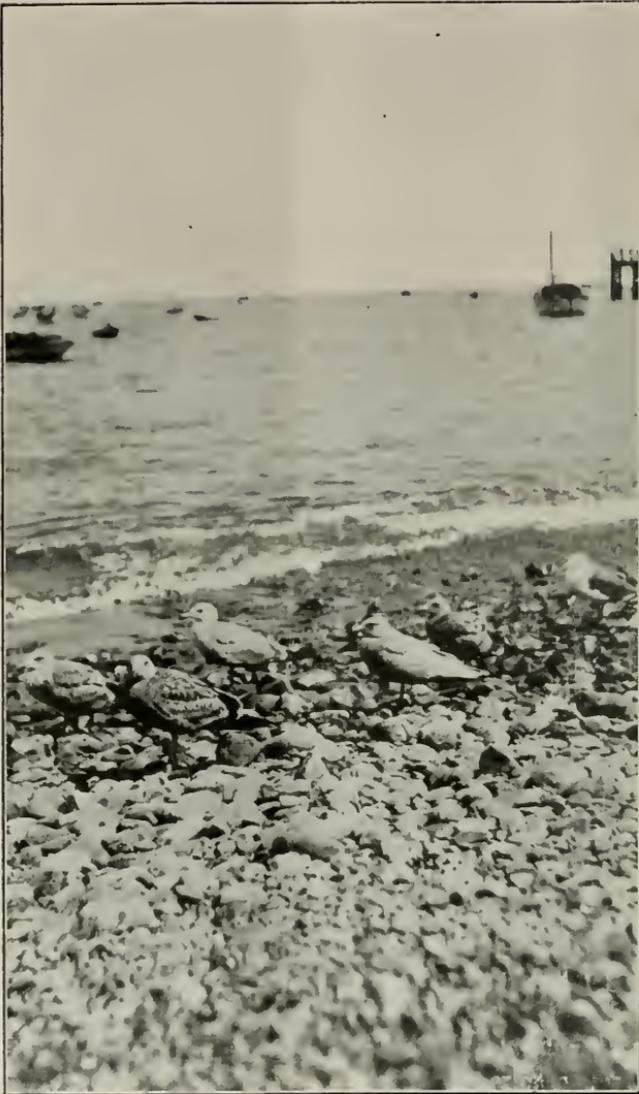
While out on a tramp on the 11th of January, I came across a flock of ten birds feeding near the tops of some large trees, which I did not at first recognize. One of them, however, finally flew down to the ground and I saw at once that they were Bluebirds. Most of them were males and I certainly did enjoy watching them (what ornithologist would not?) Just about a month later, on the 12th of February, I saw another little flock of Bluebirds at this same place, but whether they were the same birds, I do not know.

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**Two Partridge Nests.**

Geo. H. Murphy.

How many of you have ever seen a Partridge nest? I remember of seeing one about ten years ago. My sister and I lived at our uncle's, and he had a habit of wandering around the woods. One Sunday he told us he had found a Partridge nest up in "Aunt Betty's" woods, but he wouldn't tell us just where it was for fear we would spend the whole day in looking for it, and he didn't like to have us do that. We went to church



The Gulls, Catalina Id., Calif, March, 1912.

—Photo by R. M. Barnes.

in the morning and in the afternoon we decided we would find the Partridge nest without any more asking. The woods were not very large, and we carefully hunted and had about-given up when, just as we were coming out of the woods we heard a slight rustling and turned just in time to see Mrs. Partridge leaving the nest—we were within a few feet of it. It was at the foot of a maple tree, and in plain sight of anything that passed. There were twelve or fourteen brownish-buff colored eggs in the nest. The nest was simply a hollow lined with leaves.

About a week ago we were at our uncle's and he told us he had found a Partridge nest with twelve eggs in it, out in the west woods. Now, in the ten years that have gone, I have become a "Camera fiend", as some of my friends now call me. Here was a chance for a picture, I thought, so next day I got permission to try it, if I would get back as soon as I could. I loaded up the No. 2A Brownie and took my Vest Pocket Kodak and asked my brother if he wanted to go; he said he did, so we cranked up the Overland and in about thirty-five minutes we were at uncle's. It didn't take any urging to get him to say he would show us the nest.

They thought it best that I take the auto and go out to my Friend Bill's and get his five-by-seven camera, which I did. While I was gone, they thought they would go out to the woods and I would come in on the other side. I didn't expect to find Bill home, but did, and it didn't take very long to get some holders loaded.

When we got to the woods the other fellows were there. Uncle told us to go quiet and we would probably see the Partridge leave the nest. We soon came to the nest and they gave me the big camera and thought I

might get a snap shot as she was leaving. I nearly strained my eyesight trying to see the nest. The other fellows kept telling me they could see her head move, but I soon discovered that it was a leaf moving in the breeze instead of the bird. I finally got clear up to the place where my uncle said the nest was. Uncle said he might have got mixed up, but he was quite sure we were in the right place; all at once he knelt down and lifted up some cedar branches, and there underneath was all that was left of a once beautiful nest, just a hollow in the ground lined with leaves. We knew the eggs had not hatched, as there weren't any shells scattered around. We looked around closely, and found quite a few feathers, wet down by a yesterday's rain, and we then knew that the little mother Partridge had met her death as she was covering her precious eggs. Uncle was mad. "Some hanged old fox has done this," he said; "if I knew there was a den of foxes in this wood, I would dig them out to pay for this." "It's against the law," I cautioned him. "Well, I would be a law-breaker then," he answered.

As we were going out of the woods, we heard a Partridge fly by, and it was the drummer. We soon left for home, feeling sorry about the little tragedy that had been enacted there in the lonely wood road. Vermont.

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#### Owl Nesting on the Illinois.

Big floods in Ohio and Indiana; dangerously high water in Southern Illinois; streams full everywhere. The Illinois river was no exception and at the end of the railway trip, the bridge at Lacon being submerged to reach the home of the Editor of THE OOLOGIST a motor-driven flatboat was brought into requisition. It was a

pleasant passage across the flooded bottoms, the willow-haunting song sparrows and cardinals singing their vespers, and on the morrow the broad expanse of the river a mile or more in width, was to be traversed to the site of a barred owl's nest, previously located by the Editor Barnes.

Day broke unpromisingly but the adventures set forth, and before the motor boat, ready at the river side, had cast off the sun began to shine. Soon a fair progress was had against the stormy current which, even in the dead water covering cornfields and willow swamps, was to be reckoned with, and the voyage bade fair to prosper. On the way birds of recent arrival were noticed. One was struck, particularly, with the large numbers of male tree-swallows, evidently having come with the warm rain of the night before. The writer had never before met a sight such as was afforded by a raft of blue-bills, some three or four thousand in number. All the blue-bills on the river, it seemed, had gathered in one flock. We were told by Mr. Barnes, that a greater flock had not been seen at this point for several years.

A barred owl, we may judge, will not be denied residence of its former home. At least the bird to which our visit was paid showed some such pertinacity. A river fisherman had set up his tent beneath her ancient bass wood tree long before the duties of incubation had urged her to select a nesting site; but no other would do. Into the domain of the fisherman and the owl, enter the editor and the reporter of this tale. Of the former one may be sure that he is no more closet naturalist; as a witness the account given in the paragraph below.

Now the well-built young man who piloted us up the river seemed the logical person to climb thirty feet into

that tree;—a fine vegetable seven feet around—but no! in a twinkling the editor-guide and woodland expert, had harnessed on his climbing irons. It was no slight task for a younger man—the Editor of THE OOLOGIST is more than fifty,—but the difficulties of protruding knots and snags were overcome with a skill nothing short of surprising.

The Owl left the hollow as the climber put spurs in the base of the tree,—this is contrary to the belief of the writer, who held that the species sets closely. Flying into the upper branches of a nearby tree one or two further flights lost her in the timber and she was not seen again. The nesting site was a natural elliptical hollow, the lower portion descending below the rim of the ellipse and in a measure protected by the extension of the cavity above. The eggs were far advanced in incubation.

An invitation to the fisherman to guide us to other owl trees of which he had knowledge was declined. A heavy wind had come up blowing contrary to the current, and the river man didn't "like the looks of things out there." But the leader of the expedition obtaining directions from our squatter-host, we undertook to reach two more "snags" supposed to contain nesting owls. These were, however, untenanted and so the run was made for home with a stop enroute in the shelter of a timbered "hog-back" to lunch and talk and let the sun and wind "soakin."

Nothing is lacking of a successful Oologist experience when a bright April day, good company and to acquire the special treasure sought are all so happily combined.

E. A. Ford,

Chicago, Illinois.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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VOL. XXX. No. 12.

ALBION, N. Y. DEC. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 317

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## 1913 and 1914

Anno Domini 1913 is behind us. The year has been prolific in good bird news. The Federal Game Protection Act has become a law, much to the delight of all true lovers of nature. This is the chief stride forward made in bird protection in the past year.

Much has been added to our knowledge of Ornithology during the past twelve months. Species whose nidification has been unknown, have revealed their nesting treasures and secrets. Interest in our favorite study was never at a higher pitch than at this time. All has not been of pleasure to the bird men. Sorrow, misfortune and death have stalked ruthlessly amongst us. Some of our leaders, beloved and revered, are no more. The process of consolidation of the smaller with a few of the very large collections continues. All this leaves a most alluring opening for the beginner with a real nature lover's desire to learn and to do.

THE OÖLOGIST for 1914 will be conducted along the lines of the past. We have, with the aid of its friends, made it better than it was. We will make it better than it is. To this end we crave the aid of all its friends. The end of the year is a good time to pay up subscription, and this is a good time to send THE OÖLOGIST to some friend as a Christmas present.

The Editor.



Fred B. Spaulding

**Fred Spaulding.**

Mr. F. B. Spaulding of Lancaster, N. H., died October 22d. What this means to me and to many other of his friends, the heart has not power to express. To have known Mr. Spaulding, long and intimately was an honor. Viewing his character from every standpoint, it may well be said that he was one of the noblest works of God.

My acquaintance with him dates back to 1901, and from our first meeting I have prized him as a friend and as a man. Calm, deliberate, unpretentious, intelligent, accurate, loyal and true, with a heart that knew no limits in love and sympathy, and a nature that knew no limits in kindness and hospitality. In him a sterling man has gone to his rest and the places that knew him will miss him for all time.

I believe Mr. Spaulding never recovered from the loss of his little daughter Helen, in August, 1910. She was a remarkably lovely child whom I knew and loved from the time she was four years old. At the age of seven she developed a disease of the heart, from which she died six years later. The anxiety and untiring effort during this period of time to save her life was worthy of success, but it was not to be so, and the blow which finally fell did much to shatter Mr. Spaulding's hold on life. The last letter, which I received from him, only a month or two ago, related tears in his words as he spoke of his lonesomeness in the woods, on collecting trips, "now that the sweet little face that always greeted me on my return, to ask what new eggs I had found for myself and what new flowers I had found for her, was no more"—a wail from the depths of a wounded soul—heart-years that only death can calm.

Mr. Spaulding was born in Lancaster, about thirty-eight years ago and

has been all his life an enthusiastic student of Ornithology, and he has done valuable work in a most prolific locality, that has scarcely been touched by any one else—the White Mountain region.

Energetic, tireless and observant, never jumping at conclusions, the accuracy of his records has never been questioned. The variety of Warblers, which he found breeding in his locality, is most remarkable, and the state of New Hampshire is indebted to him for many of its rarest records. Among a wide circle of friends and correspondents, particularly in Oology, Mr. Spaulding will be missed, possibly more than any other, who might have been removed from the sphere of usefulness in that field.

John Lewis Child.

October 25, 1913.

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**Two Months in the Everglades.**
**PART I.**

By Oscar E. Barnard.

The Spring of 1911 saw the fulfillment of a trip I had long planned for and I was able to spend part of February, all of March and part of April in this wonderful "Naturalist's Paradise." To treat the subject right I will divide it into two parts, first the one describing the water trip, the second the land trip.

I left Fort Myers one evening on the "Wanderer," a cabin launch with my canoe behind. The trip up the Caloosahatchie River is one of the finest to be had any where. The river is very crooked, one is always being surprised at the natural scenery, it flows between high banks and for several miles flows through a settled country and some of the finest groves of citrus fruit to be found any where are along its banks. The vegetation is largely hammocks of the beautiful Cabbage Palmetto, Pine and Oak. Very few



Coffee Mill Hammock, a Famous Camping Place

—Photo by O. E. Baynard

birds were seen excepting Kingfishes and Water Turkeys until we passed Fort Thompson the end of the River, and the beginning of a 40 mile canal running through the flooded marshes and Lake Flirt. Bonnet Lake and Lake Aicopogee and then into Lake Okeechobee. After leaving Fort Thompson large flocks of White Ivis, all the Herons and Egrets, Gallinules, Coots, Bitterns, Blackbirds were to be seen at all times until we reached Lake Okeechobee. Sanhill Cranes were heard now for the first time trumpeting in the adjacent marshes and occasionally a bunch of a dozen or more would rise in the air with a great noise and go sailing off, a very shy bird this, but one of the most interesting to study. While passing through Lake Flirt I saw my first Swallow Tailed Kites for the trip. Four of these most handsome and graceful "Forked-Tailed Fish-Hawks," (their local name here) kept sailing over our boat for several hours and it is beyond me to describe their wonderful and graceful antics in the air. I saw them catching wasps on the wing. These birds are becoming scarcer yearly and it wont be long before they are in the missing column. I have heard of one licensed Hog coming down here earlier in the Winter and collecting 22 of these fine birds for scientific (spare the word) purposes. However he will never get another license to collect in Florida as we have the "dope" on him now.

After crossing Lake Chicapogee we entered a canal leading to Lake Okeechobee and now we could see the real saw grass, as far as the eye could see, nothing but vast sea of saw grass resembling in color a half ripened wheat field waving in the wind. This is murderous grass alright and true to its name and to penetrate in any distance requires grit, it is from ankle

deep in mud and water to passed one's armpits and snakes, snakes, everywhere, and the nasty Cotton Mouth Moccasin at that. After a few excursions into it I would pass it up for anything but the mysteries of a Cary Bittern or Everglade Kite's nest. The saw grass abounds in snakes, frogs, frogs and aligators and is the feeding grounds of Ibis, Herons, and in fact all birds of this character, which congregate here by the thousands.

The canal enters Lake Okeechobee by a large flat topped cypress "the lone sentinel of the Lake" and camping here for the night I experienced the first real trouble. This is, I guess, mosquito factory for the world and to cook in a closed cabin was an almost impossibility and I took to my mosquito bar at once. This was invariably the case at night during my whole trip and on three occasions during the day I had to seek the shelter of the net.

Lake Okeechobee is a wonderful body of water, 70 miles long by about 50 wide, it looks like a real Ocean and in the canoe, I was several times out of sight of land. I left the launch here and taking the canoe I struck out on a trip by myself for exploring the lake and everglades. I pushed up every canal, river, creek, slough, bay or ditch around the Lake, penetrating south into the sawgrass as far as possible and in all covered about 300 miles in this way. On one occasion was eight days without seeing a white man. It was lonely alright but being all new to me, never noticed the lack of human company for did I not have the better company of Nature's children? Birds were everywhere feeding and flying, very few were nesting at this time but saw migrants on their way north. Next to snakes in abundance were the frogs and to them I am indebted for most of my fresh



A fine Camping Place on the Calooshatchie  
—Photo by O. E. Baynard

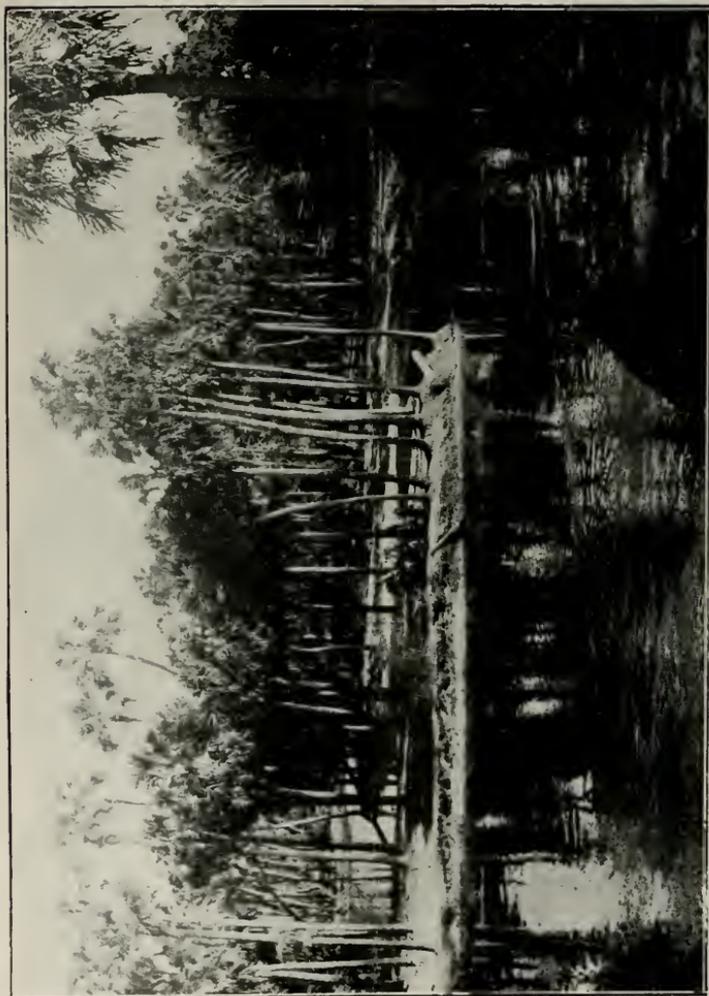
meat. Suitable camping places are hard to find in this country and many nights had to bunk down in the bottom of my canoe on my blankets. Here under the net I passed the long hours of the night and they were long, believe me. Would have to eat before dark on account of "Skeets" and I would pass the time before becoming sleepy playing my harmonica and listening to the eternal song of the "Skeet" and the never ending "glug-glug-glug" (frog talk for O-you Kid) very often changed to a cry of distress and help as some wily old Moccasin would make a meal off him. Then for a few seconds there would be quiet, then the frog chorus would resume.

About 8:30 one night I arrived at a small camping place on a canal bank on edge of Lake, I should of stopped earlier but wanted to make a camp where I could do a little cooking as grub out of cans, and crackers were beginning to become too much like "monkey food." I carried no tent as was traveling light, so put down my poncho on ground, spread blankets on it and hung net over them, then another poncho over net to keep off the heavy dews and fogs, getting inside and tucking net under blanket I was ready to sleep. This was the regular way I camped on this trip. Just as day was beginning to show signs of breaking I was awakened by a violent movement of the net, thinking it was only a raccoon, of which I usually had plenty as nightly visitors, I called out and rolled over. The net kept moving so I knew it was no coon and looking sharply I saw a hugh Moccassin was outside nosing the net and evidently trying to get inside. I slipped out the opposite side and soon put an end to his fun with a stick and killed two others equally as large that had just crawled out of the saw grass. There was a well worn path around the net

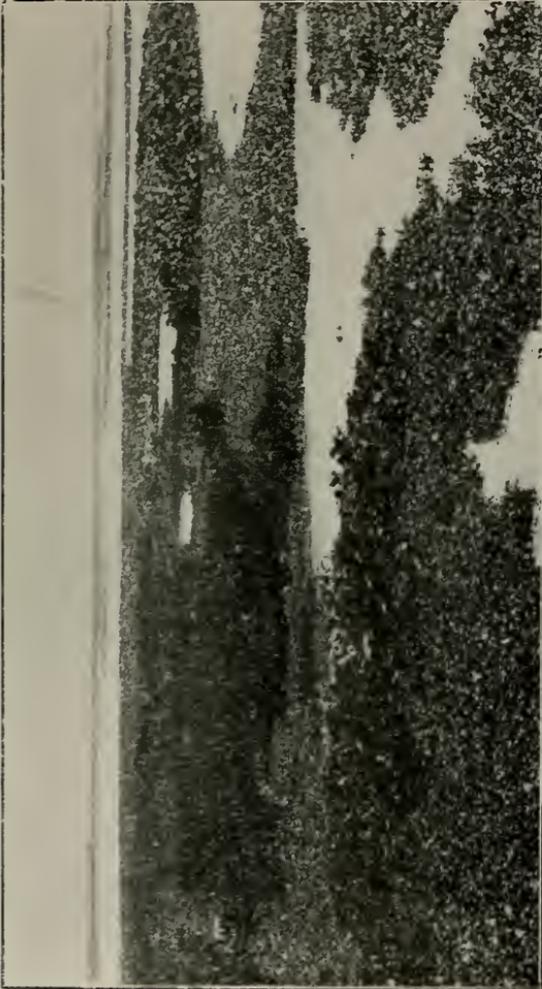
showing the Moccasin had trailed around the net a long time.

When broad daylight had again wakened me, I came out and saw four more large Moccasins on the camping ground, making seven in all killed there. I camped one night with a fisherman and as the gators had been molesting his nets and lines, he suggested a gator hunt for the night. I put a Bulls Eye Lamp on my head and seated in bow of his boat he noiselessly paddled me around the winding creek in the Everglades. It was weird and then some, the rays of the lamp catching the eyes of Coon and a few Wild Cats, besides the eyes of gators, often having to break away through the ever hanging moss, and hearing large snakes slipping off logs and once an otter slid into the dark water of the creek. The absolute quiet necessary to hunt the gators made the darkness more intense. Once we were nearly startled out of our senses by a Barred Owl right over our heads letting loose his weird "Whoo-Whoo-Whoo-Whoo-ah". After several hours we succeeded in killing five gators.

Ospreys were very abundant around the Lake and Eagles very scarce, even in Eagle Bay saw not a single one. Hence its name? Had the pleasure of seeing the beautiful Black Necked Stilt, saw seven in one bunch mating and was sorry was too early for nests, same way with Everglade Kites, found them beginning to build in the saw grass. Found one rookery of over 400 pairs of Florida Corwarants with newly hatched young late in March, while 10 miles further along there were two small rookeries that had hatched off in December. One cypress had 32 nests in, another 55 and the fishermen had named the nearest camp "Nigger Duck". This is the local name here for the Camorants and is a fitting one as they are hatched out black and



Rope Bend—a famous point on the Caloosahatchie  
—Photo by O. E. Baynard



Lake Hicopogee—Snake Heaven  
—Photo by O. E. Baynard

never recover from it.

Boat Tailed Grackles were nesting and over 600 nests were counted in less than one-fourth mile in saw grass along an old abandoned canal, all of which contained three eggs. Here in this old canal choked with water lettuce I had another seance with the snakes, every dip of the paddle brought one of the wriggling monsters out and one landed in the canoe but started something he could not finish, as his tanned hide on my wall will testify. It was about this time I had a mix-up with a steamer carrying supplies to the dredges. We met in a narrow crooked canal and I was washed bodily out of the canal, canoe and all, into the saw grass, losing overboard a large box of nearly all of my dry plates and what sets I had collected, into over 20 feet of swiftly running water. It was hard to see all my photographic work go after the hard time I had in getting it. However, the Captain of the steamer heard a few "new ones" beside my usual stock on hand before he got away. I was lucky to get away alive under the circumstances, I suppose.

March 24 and 25 will long be remembered days to me. I was in one of those severe galls on the lake that sometimes sweep across this part of the world. I had chartered a small launch to carry me across the lake to a camp of a guide who was to go on the Prairie with me. Having the canoe in tow we came out of the creek and onto Okeechobee where the waves were piling up 10 to 15 feet high and wind was blowing a gale. After a few minutes run we decided it was too rough to cross and so headed in for harbor in Eagle Bay. This we made after two hours of the wildest riding I ever experienced. We dropped anchor in the bay but lost it right now, and the wind then blew us up in-

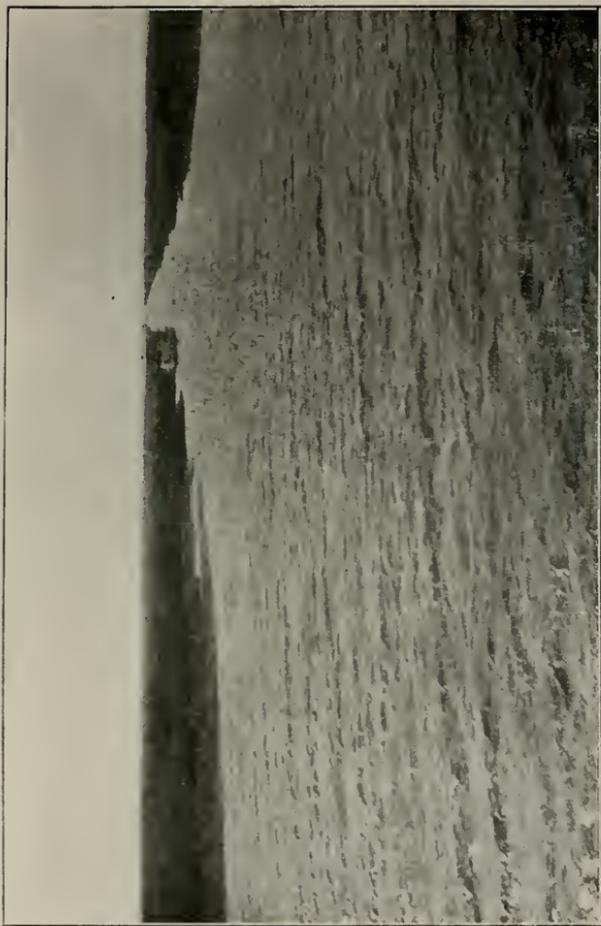
to the saw grass and here we stayed, as our old-styled propellor would not work on the grass and weeds. Two days and nights we stayed here until the gale abated somewhat. We had plenty of rations to cook but no land to get on to build a fire. A few cans of sardines and Uneeda Biscuits on board and we sure lived high on them. We would change our menu from Uneedas and lake water for breakfast, to water and Uneedas for dinner and plain Uneedas for supper. Uneedas are good, no doubt of it, but very slow in filling up. I recall the supper of the second night, sitting with one arm around a stanchion to keep from being blown away eating Uneedas and drinking water, the "Cracker" owner of the launch spoke up, "Say, Professor, how many of these d— crackers does it take to fill a man up, no how." We were each in the middle of our fourth package then. Sleeping on a 12 inch seat has its disadvantages also, when one has to keep an arm around a stanchion to stay in the boat, and there might be harder beds than a board, but I never slept on them. However, as is usual in such cases, the wind died down the next day and by nightfall we arrived at the guide's camp in time for supper. As luck would have it, he had a part of four ducks and two squirrels stewed with potatoes and remarked that for men who had been dining so freely on Uneeda biscuits, "we could sure eat some."

(To be continued.)

#### Books Received.

**Game Laws For 1913**—A summary of the provisions relating to seasons, export, sale, limits and licenses, by T. S. Palmer, W. F. Bancroft and Frank L. Ernsshaw.

This bulletin of 59 pages, is a comprehensive review of the subject



Lake Okechopee, canal through the saw grass  
—Photo by O. E. Baynard



The Lone Sentinel of Lake Okeechobee  
—Photo by O. E. Baynard

treated. It is to be hoped that the laws with reference to the protection of game will be rigidly and impartially enforced and this summary of the laws on these subjects is issued for the purpose of enlightening all those who desire to know what the law is.

**North American Fauna, No. 35**—Life Zones and Crop Zones of New Mexico, by Vernon Bailey.

This Fauna contains 100 pages, is well illustrated, and has an addenda of bibliography relating to the subjects of the bulletin. Much valuable and desirable information is included within its pages, including lists of birds, mammals, reptiles, plants and the like which are to be found within the territory covered.

**The Defenseless Child**, by Josie Dayton Curtis. Brethren Publishing House, Elgin, Ill. 1912.

This small book is an appeal for the helpless and homeless little ones, and touches the tender chords of any and all who peruse its pages, setting forth as it does, the work of caring for the homeless children in attractive well chosen sentences.

**Catalogue of a Collection of Books on Ornithology in the Library of John E. Thayer.** Compiled by Evelyn Thayer and Virginia Keyes, privately printed, Boston, 1913.

This is a well arranged, beautifully bound and splendidly printed catalogue of the wonderful collection of books relating to the subject of birds that have been gathered together by Honorable John E. Thayer, than whom no better known ornithologist and collector exists on the North American continent.

The catalogue is arranged alphabetically under the names of the authors, contains 187 pages, and within its covers will be found nearly all of the works relating to North American ornithology, as well as many very rare

titles. It is especially rich in Audubonia, is a monument to Mr. Thayer and a credit to the compilers, as well as a pleasure to those who are favored with a copy.

**The Birds of Virginia**, by Harold H. Bailey. J. P. Bell Company, publishers, Lynchburg, Va., 1913; with 14 full page colored plates, one map and 108 half-tones taken from nature.

This monumental work, treating of 185 species and sub-species of birds that are known to breed within the state of Virginia, is the result of years and years of laborious field work and close library study. It is dedicated to the father of the author, and without doubt, will remain for many years the standard work upon the subject of the breeding birds of Virginia.

It is especially rich in half tones and a perusal of its pages will delight the lover of birds as well as store his mind with much that we have no doubt is new. This at least was the result of our investigation.

The arrangement of the species is that of the A. O. U. list, giving the A. O. U. number, the scientific name and the common name of each variety in that order, following this with the description of the range and then a popularly written description of the breeding habits of the species.

Interpolated throughout the work are numerous species treated under the head of "Hypothetical," and under these headings are placed all of those species which are not absolutely and authentically known to breed within the state. The volume contains 362 pages, is nicely bound and will be a valued addition to the library of any scientific ornithologist or amateur bird lover.

**Preliminary List of Water Birds of the Middle Delaware Valley.**

**A Correction.**

In the September, 1912, OOLOGIST, I published a paper, "Preliminary List of Water Birds in the Middle Delaware Valley," which was severely criticized in the Auk, 1913, p. 139; and Cassinia, 1913, p. 64. These criticisms seem to call for a reply and as Mr. Barnes has asked me to explain what there is in them it is necessary for me to do so.

The chief faults of my article, according to the critic, appears to be its lack of originality and the enumeration of some species of which there are no published records, but as I wrote the paper without any pretention to originality and as it is only a preliminary list I really cannot see where I have erred in enumerating the doubtful occurrence of these species, particularly in view of the fact that full data upon these misleading? records were to be given in the final report. My paper, moreover, was purposely written to excite the professional ornithologists to adverse criticism—and it seems to have accomplished its purpose! But it may not be as misleading as they appear to think or believe.

Mr. Whitmer Stone has written me upon this subject and I present herewith a list of most of the species which are supposed never to have occurred in this region or are of exceedingly rarity, as accidental stragglers, which struck Mr. Stone as open to criticism. The quotations are his:

Kittiwake—"No published evidence as far as I know."

Franklin's Gull—"Purely accidental. No record but mine in the Auk, 1912."

Gull-billed Tern—"I know of only one not very satisfactory record."

Royal Tern—"No record."

Foster's Tern—"Purely surmise, as you say, 'There is no evidence'."

Least Tern—"No evidence that it

was anything but an extremely rare straggler."

Roseate Tern—"No evidence."

Greater Shearwater—"No record."

Strom Petrel—"One record which is probably erroneous as has been pointed out."

Brown Pelican—"No record."

Scotters—"Pure guess work for two at least."

White-franted Goose—"Only one record."

Roseate Spoonbill—"No record."

White Ibis—"No record."

Buff-breasted Sandpiper—"No record."

With several exceptions, there are no authentic records of the occurrence of most of the foregoing species in the Middle Delaware Valley, but that does not indicate that they have never occurred or been taken here because their capture or observance were never recorded.

In conclusion I will again assert that what I shall have to say in regard to the unfortunateness and misleadings of my paper apropos my lack of annotations, etc., will be dealt fully with in my final report upon the "Water Birds of the Middle Delaware Valley."

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

**Notes on the Red-cockaded Woodpecker From Texas.**

The Red-cockaded Woodpecker is an extremely rare resident of pine woods near Houston, Texas, and in all my roamings about Harris county in search of interesting bird nests since moving to Houston in 1909, I never found a nest of this bird until one day in May, 1912.

The birds had occasionally been seen in a certain tract of pine woods bordering Buffalo Bayou west of Houston, so on May 25, I gathered my out-

fit together and struck out for that locality. A brisk walk brought me to the locality about eleven o'clock, for it was a good eight miles from town, and I begun my search.

One of the birds was seen on a tall dead pine over a pigsty on the edge of this tract, but a careful search failed to show a likely looking hole in any of the trees, so I crossed over on the north side of the stream, and began searching carefully among the dead pine stumps. I had hardly gone a hundred yards before I spied another Red-cockaded Woodpecker on a tall dead pine in a small clearing, and just above the bird a likely looking hole. With difficulty I reached the base of the tree, for a dense thicket covered the clearing and it was almost impossible to pass through on account of the thorns on the Cherokee rose and blackberry vines.

Strapping on my climbers I was soon at the cavity, twenty-one feet from the ground, and by removing the front I found the nest contained two well-incubated eggs, nest stained and laid on a small quantity of pithy pine chips. The bird was very shy while I was at the nest and stayed a considerable distance, now and then uttering their short, shrill, and very clear note.

The birds are extremely active in their movements and very difficult to observe for the reason that they always keep the tree trunk between themselves and the observer, as well as keeping to the tops of the tallest trees.

The two eggs taken from the nest mentioned above, measure: .87 x .69 and .91 x .69 inches, and are very glossy.

Finlay Simmons.

Houston, Texas.

### The Henslow's Sparrow A Summer Resident in Central Pennsylvania.

(*Passerherbulus h. henslowi*.)

During early May, 1913, Mr. R. C. Harlow and I made a visit to a mountain valley on the northern border of Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania. One morning as we tramped along a road bordering a low, boggy pasture field, Mr. Harlow discovered the presence of a Henslow's Sparrow as it uttered its peculiar notes while perched on a tall weed.

May 23d, we returned to this field and made a search for the nest. The Sparrows were there and flitted about in the grass, but were unable to find their nest.

On the evening of the day following we again went to this field and, with long switches, beat over the clumps of grass quite thoroughly. Just about dusk I flushed one of the Sparrows from a tuft of grass, but failed to see a nest. However, I hid myself nearby and saw the bird return. Upon my hurrying up to the spot she flittered from the nest and secluded herself in the grass near at hand.

The nest held five slightly incubated eggs and was composed of soft blades of swamp grass, being lined with fine grass stems. It was placed on a deep clump of grass and was slightly arched over. This bordered on a slight, damp depression in the ground, and was about thirty feet above a small swamp.

One week later Mr. David E. Harrower and I visited this valley and I was fortunate enough to locate a second pair of these sparrows. They were in a low, wet field about one-half mile from the preceding field. After we had spent several hours in careful search for the nest Mr. Harrower was so fortunate as to locate a second one. On this day, which was

May 30, the nest held but a single egg. Five days later we returned and flushed the female bird from the nest of four eggs. This nest was not so well concealed as nest number one; it was built in a depression beside a tuft of grass and was near several wet places. The nest was, as in the first case, composed of soft grass blades.

The finding of this second nest caused me to search for another pair of birds. On June 4, I returned to field number one. Farther down this field I found another pair of Sparrows. They frequented the very center of a small swamp that contained many large tufts of swamp grass. With a switch I carefully worked over the whole area. Finally I flushed the Sparrow from her nest and found that it held four quite young birds. The nest was built in the center of a large clump of grass which grew beside several wet places. The construction of this nest resembled that of the others.

The two sets of eggs were very much alike in ground color which is a faint greenish-white. The first set was more heavily marked in the form of wreaths about the larger ends of the specimens. The set of four contained the markings on all parts of the shell. These eggs remind me of large specimens from the field Sparrows.

To my knowledge these are the only records of the Henslow's Sparrow nesting in Pennsylvania.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pa.

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Notes.

We have recently come into possession of the larger portion of a collection of eggs made by Lieutenant F. B. Eastman of the U. S. Army at different places where he has been stationed, and have just settled up with him.

It is a pleasure to quote, for the benefit of our readers, a clause in the letter which we sent him at the time of the final settlement which is as follows:

"I have at last got your specimens unpacked and proved up with data, and I want to say to you that they are the most satisfactory lot of specimens as a lot that I have received in many a long day."

Among the rarities included in this collection, is a full series of beautiful sets of the Semi-palmated Sandpiper, and many others equally as rare, though none showing a more beautiful variation in series.

\* \* \*

We notice by the Associated Press dispatches that Dr. Ora W. Knight of Bangor, Maine, has recently bequeathed to the United States National Museum (Smithsonian) his entire collection of Ornithological, Oological, and Entomological specimens. Some time ago the Doctor sent us a list of the eggs contained in this collection which at the time impressed us as being one of rare value.

\* \* \*

Finlay Simmons of Houston, Texas, has contracted with the Houston Post, a leading daily of that city, to supply them a weekly article on the subject of birds of that locality, and it is a pleasure to note the success he is having along these lines. The articles first appear in the Sunday Post and later in the Farm and Fireside, reaching approximately 80,000 readers ultimately.

A vast amount of good can be done by work of this kind, and we should be glad to see it taken up by other competent ornithologists in different parts of the country.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 306

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc. inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

### TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 304 your subscription expires with this issue. 293 your subscription expired with December issue 1911. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office, at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

### BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpet-er Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

BIRD SKINS.—Exchange generally. FRANK S. WRIGHT, 14 Cayuga St., Auburn, N. Y. (2-p)

I desire to exchange bird skins and bird eggs with all collectors; send full list of skins and eggs. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga. (1-p)

Duplicate mounted birds and skins, many rare, at bargain prices. I need room. Send stamp and state your wants. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Pa. (1-p)

WANTED.—A No. 1 skin of male Golden Pheasant, and fresh skin of black squirrel for mounting; will pay cash or exchange A No. 1 mounted specimens or skins. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill. (1-p)

WANTED.—First class skins of Passenger Pigeons, male and female, for which I will give in exchange first class skins of Heath Hens. FRED H. KENNARD, 220 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass. (1)

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have left one pair Passenger Pigeons, (*Ectopistes Migratorius*) nicely mounted and good condition. Will take part cash and part in rare sets or birds. PHILO SMITH, 1824 Byers Ave., Joplin, Mo. (1-p)

WANTED.—First class skins of 585b, 550a-550b, 550c, 547a, 546a, and many others. Have fine skins of 550, 549, 549.1a, 575a, and others in exchange. Collectors please send lists. C. W. CHAMBERLAIN, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass. (2)

FOR SALE.—Exceedingly rare sets, full data of *Comatikis comata* (*Geronticus eremita*) North Syrian Deserts for \$25. (the two eggs). Ch. GIRTANNER, Clarens, Switzerland. (1-p)

### EGGS

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

EXCHANGE.—Personally taken sets, 263, 300, 388, 412a, 444, 466a, 488, 528, 529, 540, 581, 624, for sets of Warblers only. H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Quebec (1-p)

## EGGS, Continued

I have a few good sets to exchange. Want 334, 334a, 337a, 337d, 340, 344, (351) 352a, 356, 360c, 361 and many others. DAVID E. BROWN, Room No. 11, Federal Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (1 p)

FOR SALE—700 egg trays, made with white paper all sizes and in good condition. I will also exchange for sets of eggs for others new to my collection. I have also many magazines for exchange. C. M. CASE, 7 Holcomb St., Hartford, Conn.

"Ideal" data blanks, your name and address inserted, exchanged for sets of birds' eggs listing 25 cents or over. C. F. STONE, Printer, Branchport, N. Y. (1-p)

Fine sets from Greenland, Iceland, Arctic America, also Antarctic. Will exchange European for North American sets. H. T. BOOTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Fulham, England. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—A fine series of ten of the Pallas Murre from Cape Hope, Alaska. I want 188, 332, 343, 348, 362, 364 and many others. D. E. BROWN, 6044 1st Ave., No. W. Sta. F. Seattle, Wash.

EGGS FOR EXCHANGE.—A few sets each of the following to exchange for other sets. Nos. 49, 120c, 122, 127, 294a, 360a. Send full list: J. S. APPLETON, Simi, Ventura Co., Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, North American and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. Dr. T. W. RICHARDS U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

FOR EXCHANGE.—For anything of use to a sportsman. A. 1. mounted birds and skins of water fowl and owls. MILO DENNY Waubeek, Iowa. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Vol. 23 Physical Culture. Want Reed's Color Key to North American Birds, Holland's Butterfly book, Hummers, Sets of 144 Eggs, flying squirrel skins. EARL HAMILTON, Yohogany, Pa. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 1 sets taken this season, Glaucus Wing Gull, Pigeon Guillemot Violet Green Cormorant. W. F. BURTON, Esq., 937 St. Charles S. T., Victoria, B. C.

WANTED.—To hear from collectors who have sets with Cowbird eggs in them. Who wants skins of the Wild Turkey, 310 A? Last year I put up ten. I need many of the common sets with nests, Canada Jay, Northern Raven, Audubon's Oriole, and nests, Cooper's Tanager, Warbling Vireo and nest, numerous Warblers, -t, Lucas, Mearns' and LeCont's Thrashers, and Varied Thrush and nest. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va. (1)

I have the following North American Birds' Eggs in original sets with full data, to exchange for others that I need to add to my collection. A. O. U. Nos. 47 1-3, 76 1-1, 79 1-1, 86 1-1, 108 1-1, 132 1-8, 144 1-9, 1-11, 172 1-4, 191 1-5, 208 1-10, 219 1-8, 221 1-12, 275 1-3, 277a 1-1, 326 1-2, 337b 1-2, 339b 1-3, 462 1-3, 405 1-2, 478a 2-4, 2-5, 417 1-2, 429 3n-2, 430 n-2, 594a 2-4, 631 1-3. Many of these are extremely rare, especially the Florida Burrowing Owl which are absolutely authentic, having been a part of the collection formed during the '80's by S. B. Ladd. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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Choice cabinet sets with full and accurate data for exchange for sets and large rare singles. DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga. (2-p)

Marine Shells, Pacific Coast species, Smithsonian Identification, for specimens and curiosities of any kind, Birds' Eggs preferred, W. W. WESTGATE, 809 1st North, Seattle, Wash. (1-p)

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FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—For skins or eggs in sets. Bird Lore, Vol. VIII, Vol. VII, No. 5-6; Vol. IX, No. 1. Nidologist, Vol. III, No. 1; Vol. II, No. 9; Vol. III, No. 2; Osprey, Vol. 1-3; Condor, Vol. 2-1; Museum, Vol. I, No. 3-4-5-12. Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. XVIII; Oologist, Vol. XXIII-XXVI-XXVII-XXVIII; Vol. X, No. 4-7-11; Vol. XI, Nos. 7 and 9; Vol. XII, Nos. 10 and 11; Vol. XIV, No. 3 and 7. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of several hundred sets of eggs. Want bird and mammal skins, mounted birds and animals, game heads, beetles, old relics, stamps and curios. My special wants are skins of Bull Crested Sandpiper and female Dickcissels, mounted birds, A. O. U. Numbers 11, 32, 47, 64, 74, 80, 125, 128, 134, 150, 166, 169, 171a, 177, 206, 211, 218, 225, 226, 253, 260, 269, 280, 281, 286, 288, 293, 308, 309, 311, 325, 326, 327, 362, 370, 377a, 381, 443, 471, 476, 483, 487, 513, 513a; Mounted Mole (*Scalops*), Civet (*Bassariscus*), Southern Fox Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Texan Pecary, Antelope head, Gila monster and 3 foot Alligator. List everything you can offer. No eggs wanted. W. E. SNYDER, R. F. D. No. 6, Beaver Dam, Wis. (1)

## BOOKS

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CASH OR GOOD EXCHANGE.—For Agassiz Companion, Amateur Naturalist, Exchange, Empire State Exchange, Field and Forest, and 40 other titles, to complete files. Lists exchanged. FRANK L. BURNS, Berwyn, Pa. (1-p)

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Studier's Birds of North America for sale or trade. J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Ia. (1-p)

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# The Oologist

FOR 1913

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Lacon, Ill. or Albion, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 307

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc. inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 304 your subscription expires with this issue. 293 your subscription expired with December issue 1911. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office, at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

### BIRDS

WANTED.—Live American Wild Trumpet-er Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

BIRD SKINS.—Exchange generally. FRANK S. WRIGHT, 14 Cayuga St., Auburn, N. Y. (2-p)

WANTED.—To exchange skins, also bird photographing camera for cash. CORNELIUS BUS, Detroit, Mich. (1-p)

TO EXCHANGE.—Mounted birds, skins and eggs in sets and singles. Want American and Foreign bird skins. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 811 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Mich. (2-p)

TO EXCHANGE.—A large collection of birds' skins as a whole only for a large collection of stamps. No trash wanted. F. T. CORLESS, 80 Killingsworth Ave., Portland, Ore. (2-p)

I desire to exchange bird skins and bird eggs with all collectors; send full list of skins and eggs. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga. (1-p)

Duplicate mounted birds and skins, many rare, at bargain prices. I need room. Send stamp and state your wants. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Edge Hill, Pa. (1-p)

WANTED.—A No. 1 skin of male Golden Pheasant, and fresh skin of black squirrel for mounting; will pay cash or exchange A No. 1 mounted specimens or skins. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill. (1-p)

WANTED.—First class skins of Passenger Pigeons, male and female, for which I will give in exchange first class skins of Heath Hens. FRED H. KENNARD, 220 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass. (1)

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have left one pair Passenger Pigeons, (*Ectopistes Migratorius*) nicely mounted and good condition. Will take part cash and part in rare sets or birds. PHILO SMITH, 1824 Byers Ave., Joplin, Mo. (1-p)

WANTED.—First class skins of 585b, 550a, 550b, 550c, 547a, 546a, and many others. Have fine skins of 550, 549, 549.1a, 575a, and others in exchange. Collectors please send lists. C. W. CHAMBERLAIN, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass. (2)

FOR SALE.—Exceedingly rare sets, full data of *Comatikis comata* (*Ceronticus eremita*) North Syrian Deserts for \$25. (the two eggs). Ch. GIRTANNER, Clarens, Switzerland. (1-p)

## EGGS

In sending in your exchange notices for nests and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

EXCHANGE.—Personally taken sets, 263, 300, 388, 412a, 444, 466a, 498, 528, 529, 540, 581, 624, for sets of Warblers only. H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Quebec (1-p)

I have a few good sets to exchange. Want 334, 334a, 337a, 337d, 340, 344, (351) 352a, 356, 360c, 361 and many others. DAVID E. BROWN, Room No. 11, Federal Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (1-p)

FOR SALE—700 egg trays, made with white paper all sizes and in good condition. I will also exchange for sets of eggs for others new to my collection. I have also many magazines for exchange. C. M. CASE, 7 Holcomb St., Hartford, Conn.

"Ideal" data blanks, your name and address inserted, exchanged for sets of birds' eggs listing 25 cents or over. C. F. STONE, Printer, Branchport, N. Y. (1-p)

Fine sets from Greenland, Iceland, Arctic America, also Antarctic. Will exchange European for North American sets. H. T. BOOTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Fulham, England, (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—A fine series of ten of the Pallas Murre from Cape Hope, Alaska. I want 188, 332, 343, 348, 362, 364 and many others. D. E. BROWN, 6044 1st Ave., No. W, Sta. F, Seattle, Wash.

EGGS FOR EXCHANGE.—A few sets each of the following to exchange for other sets. Nos. 49, 120c, 122, 127, 294a, 390a. Send full list: J. S. APPLETON, Simi, Ventura Co., Cal.

TO EXCHANGE—Sets with data, North American and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. Dr. T. W. RICHARDS U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

FOR EXCHANGE.—For anything of use to a sportsman. A. 1, mounted birds and skins of water fowl and owls. MILO DENNY Waubeek, Iowa. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Vol. 23 Physical Culture. Want Reed's Color Key to North American Birds, Holland's Butterfly book, Hummers, Sets of 144 Eggs, flying squirrel skins. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghany, Pa. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 1 sets taken this season, Glaucous Wing Gull, Pigeon Guillemot Violet Green Cormorant. W. F. BURTON, Esq., 937 St. Charles S. T., Victoria, B. C.

WANTED.—To hear from collectors who have sets with Cowbird eggs in them. Who wants skins of the Wild Turkey, 310 A? Last year I put up ten. I need many of the common sets with nests, Canada Jay, Northern Raven, Audubon's Oriole, and nests, Cooper's Tanager, Warbling Vireo and nest, numerous Warblers, t. Lucas, Mearn's and LeCont's Thrashers, and Varied Thrush and nest. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va. (1)

One Portable Tradic Medical Battery, two cells with all appliances good as new. 40 issues of Recreation, Dry plate camera 4x5. Exchange for birds' eggs. C. B. VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ill. (2-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets with data and singles for first class bird skins. B. G. WIL-LARD, 30 Huntington, Ave., Boston, Mass., (1-p)

FINE COLLECTION BIRD EGGS, many birds and nests photographed, to exchange for microscope, fly rod, casting rod, or tackle Box 775, Stanford University, Cal.

Choice cabinet sets with full and accurate data for exchange for sets and large rare singles. DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga. (2-p)

Marine Shells, Pacific Coast species, Smithsonian Identification, for specimens and curiosities of any kind, Birds' Eggs preferred, W. W. WESTGATE, 809 1st North, Seattle, Wash. (1-p)

WANTED—Fine sets Flycatchers, especially 459; also rare postage stamps, British, North American colonies only. Offer sets with nests 228, 227a, 474b, 533, 558, 641, 648, 673, 743c and others. H. MOUSLEY, Que. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A large list of fine sets with data, to exchange for fine sets of Raptors and large singles. Exchange also desired in minerals, sea shells, butterflies and moths. L. C. SNYDER, Lacona, N. Y. (1-p)

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—For skins or eggs in sets. Bird Lore, Vol. VIII, Vol. VII, No. 5-6; Vol. IX, No. 1. Nidologist, Vol. III, No. 1; Vol. II, No. 9; Vol. III, No. 2; Osprey, Vol. 1-3; Condor, Vol. 2-1; Museum, Vol. 1, No. 3-4-5-12. Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. XVIII; Oologist, Vol. XXIII-XXVI-XXVII-XXVIII; Vol. X, No. 4-7-11; Vol. XI, Nos. 7 and 9; Vol. XII, Nos. 10 and 11; Vol. XIV, No. 3 and 7. ARTIUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of several hundred sets of eggs. Want bird and mammal skins, mounted birds and animals, game heads, beetles, old relics, stamps and curios. My special wants are skins of Bull Crested Sandpiper and female Dickcissels, mounted birds. A. O. U. Numbers 11, 32, 47, 64, 74, 80, 125, 128, 134, 150, 166, 169, 171a, 177, 206, 211, 218, 225, 226, 258, 260, 269, 280, 281, 286, 288, 293, 308, 309, 311, 325, 326, 327, 362, 370, 377a, 381, 443, 471, 476, 483, 487, 513, 513a; Mounted Mole (*Scalops*), Civet (*Bassariscus*), Southern Fox Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Texan Pecary, Antelope head, Gila monster and 3 foot Alligator. List everything you can offer. No eggs wanted. W. E. SNYDER, R. F. D. No. 6, Beaver Dam, Wis. (1)

I have the following North American Birds' Eggs in original sets with full data, to exchange for others that I need to add to my collection. A. O. U. Nos. 47-1-3, 76-1-1, 79-1-1, 86-1-1, 108-1-1, 132-1-8, 144-1-9, 1-11, 172-1-4, 191-1-5, 208-1-10, 219-1-8, 221-1-12, 275-1-3, 277a-1-1, 326-1-2, 337b-1-2, 339b-1-3, 462-1-3, 405-1-2, 478a-2-4, 2-5, 417-1-2, 429-3n-2, 430 n-2, 594a-2-4, 631-1-3. Many of these are extremely rare, especially the Florida Burrowing Owl which are absolutely authentic, having been a part of the collection formed during the '80's by S. B. Ladd. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

## EGGS, Continued

WANTED.—Least Sandpiper 1-4, have sets of Osprey, Least Bittern 1-4, and Green Heron 1-5 to exchange for same. WM. B. CRISPIN, Salem, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Two hundred sets with data, in first class condition, including 50 European (without data) in cabinet. List sent on application.—DR. JAMESON, 105 N. Washington St., Titusville, Pa. (4-p)

EXCHANGE.—I can supply in choice sets, the following species: 34, 35, 38, 47, 60-1, 81, 92-1, 95, 96, 103, 114, 114.1, 116, 123, 129, 130, 152, 178, 182, 183, 188, 210, 230, 258, 258a, 269.1, 274, 286, 293a, 295, 327, 330, 352, 354, 359, 384, 389, 391, 416, 419, 445, 449, 459, 478b, 479, 602, 639, 654, 699, 726c, 748a, 760, 764. Can use sets of land birds' eggs of similar rarity. THOMAS H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa. (2-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—The following A. O. U. sets with data 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6, 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-3, 594b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-4, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 458 1-4, 474 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725, 1 1-4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2 for advertising duobill against Victor Electric Co., Chicago; McIntosh Battery & Optical Co., Chicago; also 335 1-3, 334, 192, 70, 305, 498, 444, 231b, 704, 766, 448, 316, 598 and 495 to Century Magazines of 1912 and 1913. Answers by letter, not post card, for further particulars. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas. (1)

## BOOKS

WANTED.—The Auk, Vol. 26, No. 2. A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York.

CASH FOR BOOKS.—Whole libraries or single volumes purchased. What have you? A. R. WOMRATH, 72-74 Madison Ave., New York.

Studier's Birds of North America for sale or trade. J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Ia. (1-p)

WANTED.—Ridgway's Birds M. & N. A., parts one to four, or works on Mex. and C. A. Birds. C. L. PHILLIPS, 5 West Weir St., Taunton, Mass. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, Vol. 6 except No. 3. Warbler Vols. 1 and 4. Odd numbers of ornithological magazines. HARRY S. HATHAWAY, Box 1466, Providence, R. I. (1-p)

WANTED.—Nos. 4 and 5 of Vol. 1, New Series Osprey, April and May 1902. Will pay cash. O. WIDMANN, 5105 Von Versen, St. Louis, Mo. (1-p)

WANTED.—Nidologist, Vol. 1, No. 6. Indexes to Vol. 2 and 4. Will pay cash. EARLE R. FORREST, 261 Locust Ave., Washington, Pa. (1-p)

CASH OR GOOD EXCHANGE.—For Agassiz Companion, Amateur Naturalist, Exchange, Empire State Exchange, Field and Forest, and 40 other titles, to complete files. Lists exchanged. FRANK L. BURNS, Berwyn, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—Coues' Key, last edition, 2 vols. \$7.00; cost \$12.50. Or will entertain offers of rare Warbler sets only. H. MOUSLEY HATLEY, Quebec. (1-p)

WANTED.—"Bulletin of the Cooper O Club," Vol. I complete or odd parts. W. LEE CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Cal. (1-p)

BIRD BOOKS WITH COLORED PICTURES, pocket size. Write for my free descriptive circular. E. M. DUNBAR, 39 Rowena St., Boston Mass.

WANTED AT ONCE.—We will give \$5 for Volume IX of the Ornithologist and Oologist, covering the period from March 1, 1884 to March 1, 1885. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—Books on birds. Will pay a reasonable cash price for those that I desire. State title and author, condition, etc. CHAS. F. CARR, (Personal), New London, Wis.

I will give \$2.00 for No. 6 of Vol. 5 of THE OOLOGIST in the original covers and in good condition. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

BOOKS FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Ridgway's Birds of N. & M. America, parts 1 to 5 inclusive, paper covers. Bound vols. of The Ibis, 1875 up. Forest and Stream, Bird Notes. Also have wild turkey, ducks, geese and swan skins to exchange for books or sets of eggs. H. H. BAILEY, Box 154, Newport News, Va. (1-p)

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—Audubon's Birds of America, First subscription, 8 vo., ed. Phila. & N. Yori, 1840-44. Five dollars (\$5.00) per part will be paid for numbers 10 and 80. FRANKLIN BOOKSHOP, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE.—Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio. Plates (15½ x 17½ inches) beautifully colored by hand. Two volumes, finely bound. The most beautiful work on natural history ever published in the United States. Very scarce. Price and full particulars on application. Address, A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York. Catalogues issued.

BIRD MAGAZINES.—I have about 500 old bird magazines for exchange, including complete volumes of Auk, Condor, Nidologist, Osprey, Oregon Naturalist, and odd numbers of all of these. W. LEE CHAMBERS, 1226 11th St., Santa Monica, Cal.

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Geo. L. Cook.

June 29, 1912.

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WANTED.—Osprey, Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 4 (old series). Have for sale Mich. Ornith. Club, Bull., Vol. 4, No. 2, serial numbers. NORMAN A. WOOD, Ann Arbor, Mich. (1-p)

WANTED.—Correspondence with those having old books or magazines (complete volumes of odd numbers) on ornithology or natural history for sale or exchange. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J. (1-p)

WANTED.—Oologist Vols. 16 to 20; The Museum, Vol. 1, Nos. 5 to 11; Vol. 4 all after No. 1. Have for exchange, Natural Science News, complete except Nos. 20 and 22; Oologist Nos. 116, 120, 201, 203, 225, 293; Auk, Vol. 28, No. 3; Journal Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. 7, No. 1. A. D. DUBOIS, 320 Waldron St., W. LaFayette, Ind. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Pennant's Arctic Zoology, Ord's Wilson, text only. Ridgway's Birds, North and Middle America, first four volumes and others. Need Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; Vol. 3, Nos. 8, 9; Vol. 4, Nos. 8 to 10; Nidologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 9 and all after Vol. 4, No. 9. C. J. PENNOCK, Kennett Square, Chester County, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, volumes 1 to 15 bound in brown morocco and volumes 16 to 26 in numbers as issued, all first class. Price \$100.00. Wanted, Bird Lore, Vol. 1, No. 6; Vol. 2, No. 2. Write me and see what a liberal offer I will make for these two numbers. LAUREN TREMPER, 136 N. Dewey St., Philadelphia, Pa. (2-p)

EXCHANGE OR SELL CHEAP.—McIlwraith's Birds of Ontario, Macoun's Catalogue of Canadian Birds, Ottawa Naturalist, Vols. 23, 24, 25; Davies Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds; Oologist, last four volumes. Wanted, a pair of good Marine Glasses or specimens of interesting Minerals. LEWIS BROWN, 31 Willcocks St., Toronto, Can. (1-p)

This little magazine has certainly made rapid strides of improvement since it passed into your hands.

O. M. Greenwood.

April 18, 1912.

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RARE BIRD BOOKS.—Shelley's Monograph Nectariniidae; Rothschild's Monograph Casuarii; Sclater's Jacamars and Puffbirds; Ornithology of Dorbigny's Voyage; Birds from Voyage Frigate Novara. All with colored plates. Will sell or exchange for N. A. Ornithological books or periodicals. Particularly desire Nuttall Bulletin and early vols. Auk. Would also like to exchange A 1 nest photos. L. W. BROWNELL, 45 East 59 St., New York City. (1-p)

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### A Magazine of Western Ornithology

Published Bi-monthly by the

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Edited by J. Grinnell and Harry B. Swarth

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BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 4. ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 15, 1913. WHOLE No. 309

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 5. ALBION, N. Y., MAY 15, 1913. WHOLE No. 310

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I want this spring the following first class eggs in original sets accompanied by reliable data. I have a most attractive exchange list to offer for those I want, including many exceedingly desirable specimens. First come, first served! For those that I want and cannot get by exchange I am willing to pay a fair cash price for. These are the eggs I want, viz:

ONE set each of A. O. U. Nos. 42, 70, 120a, 135 1-12, 138, 167, 178, 179, 184 1-4, 218, 261 1-4, 310, 319, 332 1-4, 341 1-4, 343, 359 1-4, 375 1-4, 375a, 375d, 419, 423, 454, 493, I. T. S., 567, 586, 597, 652, 674, 707a.

TWO sets each of A. O. U. Nos. 25, 26, 29, 103, 129, 142, 145, 148, 154, 160, 161, 180, 195, 207, 252, 260, 289b, 295, 335 2-4, 339 2-5, 341 2-2, 356, 377, 397, 409, 457, 477, 498e, 510 2-5, 511b 2-6, 529b, 554, 581, 611, 639, 657, 676, 698, 733.

THREE sets each of A. O. U. Nos. 13a, 21, 43, 54, 115, 131, 150, 153, 162, 171, 196, 210, 211c, 223, 229, 243, 300a, 309, 310a, 310b, 337b 3-3, 347, 351, 352, 356a, 376, 383, 387, 396, 374e, 293a, 337b 4-2, 357, 478, 482, 486, 497, 708, 726.

FOUR sets each of A. O. U. Nos. 10, 14, 34, 38, 81, 82, 83, 123, 128, 185, 192, 264, 286, 293a, 337b, 357, 478, 482, 486, 497, 708, 726.

FIVE sets each of A. O. U. Nos. 52, 92, 120b, 123a, 141.1, 194b, 204, 206, 213, 220, 222, 227, 258a, 272, 278, 281, 287, 289a, 292, 293, 300c, 334, 345, 373a, 373b, 375c, 377a, 384, 488a, 570, 581e, 621, 622, 702, 744.

Address,

**R. M. BARNES**

Lacon,

Ill.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 6. ALBION, N. Y., JUNE 15, 1913. WHOLE No. 811

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

### TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 311 your subscription expires with this issue. 305 your subscription expired with December issue 1912. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

### BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpeter Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

BIRD SKINS.—Exchange generally. FRANK S. WRIGHT, 14 Cayuga St., Auburn, N. Y. (2-p)

WANTED.—To exchange skins, also bird photographing camera for cash. CORNELIUS BUS, Detroit, Mich. (1-p)

WANT TO BUY—Live wild ducks, geese, swan, cranes, stork, Pelican, eagles, Guinea pigs, and all wild animals. IRL E. BENNETT, "Naturalist," Cambridge, Ohio. (1-p)

TO EXCHANGE.—A large collection of birds' skins as a whole only for a large collection of stamps. No trash wanted. F. T. CORLESS, 80 Killingsworth Ave., Portland, Ore. (2-p)

I desire to exchange bird skins and bird eggs with all collectors; send full list of skins and eggs. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Can offer good exchange in skins and eggs to anyone who will mount some dried skins for me, such sets as; Mandt's Guillemot, Whistling Swan, Canada Geese, Old Squaw, etc. ARTHUR W. PROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

First class skins Illinois, California and Costa Rica to exchange for birds from Southern or Western States, or from other countries. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Ill. (1)

WANTED.—First class skins of Passenger Pigeons, male and female, for which I will give in exchange first class skins of Heath Hens. FRED H. KENNARD, 220 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass. (1)

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have left one pair Passenger Pigeons, (*Ectopistes Migratorius*) nicely mounted and good condition. Will take part cash and part in rare sets or birds. PHILO SMITH, 1824 Byers Ave., Joplin, Mo. (1-p)

WANTED.—Extra fine skins for mounting, two Am. Avocets, male, ads., two Am. Woodcocks, male, ads., two Black-necked Stilts, male, ads., and two Boxwhites, male, ads. Offer A I Skins or mounted birds. FRANKLIN J. SMITH, Box 98, Eureka, Cal. (1-p)

WANTED. Scientific skins of A. O. U. 20, 242, 289a, 320, 320a, 327, 360, 357, 372a, 373a, 373b, 373c, 373d, 373e, 373f, 373g, 373h, 373i, 373j, 374, 374a, 377, 378a, 379, 379i, 380, 381. Will exchange, for them A. O. U. 34, 380. The Owls must all be the small Genra of the Varieties. H. W. AITKEN, 1521 Vine St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1-p)

## Skins Continued

WANTED.—General birdskin exchange, particularly Pacific Coast and Southern Collectors, though I solicit lists from anywhere. RAYMOND SPELLUM, Viroqua, Wis. (1-p)

WANTED.—A fine skin of Eskimo Curlew, for which I can offer such skins as Surf Bird, Black and Socorro Petrels, Xantus Murrelet, Ringed Kingfisher, Harlequin Duck, Roseate Spoonbill and others too numerous to mention. A. B. HOWELL, Covina, Cal. (1-p)

## EGGS.

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

FOR EXCHANGE.—For anything of use to a sportsman. A. I. mounted Birds and Skins of water fowl and owls. MILO DENNY, Waubeek, Iowa.

EXCHANGE.—Personally taken sets, 263, 300, 388, 412a, 444, 466a, 498, 528, 529, 540, 584, 624, for sets of Warblers only. H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Quebec (1-p)

I have a number of sets of Brandt's Cormorant for exchange. Can use duplicate sets. CHAS. H. CULP, Pacific Grove, Calif. (1-p)

I have a few good sets to exchange. Want 334, 334a, 337a, 337d, 340, 344, (351) 352a, 356, 360c, 361 and many others. DAVID E. BROWN, Room No. 11, Federal Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (1 p)

FOR SALE.—700 egg trays, made with white paper all sizes and in good condition. I will also exchange for sets of eggs for others new to my collection. I have also many magazines for exchange. C. M. CASE, 7 Holcomb St., Hartford, Conn.

Fine sets from Greenland, Iceland, Arctic America, also Antarctic. Will exchange European for North American sets. H. T. BOUTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Fulham, England. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—A fine series of ten of the Pallas Murre from Cape Hope, Alaska. I want 188, 332, 343, 348, 362, 364 and many others. D. E. BROWN, 6044 1st Ave., No. W. Sta. F. Seattle, Wash.

EGGS FOR EXCHANGE.—A few sets each of the following to exchange for other sets: Nos. 49, 120c, 122, 127, 294a, 360a. Send full list: J. S. APPELTON, Simi, Ventura Co., Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, North American and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. Dr. T. W. RICHARDS U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

EXCHANGE.—Vol. 23 Physical Culture Want Reed's Color Key to North American Birds, Holland's Butterfly book, Hummers, Sets of 144 Eggs, flying squirrel skins. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghany, Pa. (1-p)

WANTED. I will collect sets in North West Canada this season. I want sets of Eagles, Hawks and Owls. THOS. S. HILL, Relics, fossils, shells, Moodys. Okla. (1-p)

One Portable Tradic Medical Battery, two cells with all appliances good as new. 40 issues of Recreation. Dry plate camera 4 x 5. Exchange for birds' eggs. C. B. VANDER-COOK, Odin, Ill. (2-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets with data and singles for first class bird skins. B. G. WIL-LARD, 30 Huntington, Ave., Boston, Mass., (1-p)

FINE COLLECTION BIRD EGGS, many birds and nests photographed, to exchange for microscope, fly rod, casting rod, or tackle Box 775, Stanford University, Cal.

Marine Shells, Pacific Coast species, Smithsonian Identification, for specimens and curiosities of any kind, Birds' Eggs preferred. W. W. WESTGATE, 809 1st North, Seattle. Wash. 1-p

FOR EXCHANGE.—Two hundred sets with data, in first class condition, including 50 European (without data) in cabinet. List sent on application.—DR. JAMESON, 105 N. Washington St., Titusville, Pa. (4-p)

WANTED—Fine sets Flycatchers, especially 459; also rare postage stamps, British, North American colonies only. Offer sets with nests 228, 227a, 474b, 533, 558, 641, 648, 673, 743c and others. H. MOUSLEY, Que. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A large list of fine sets with data, to exchange for fine sets of Rap-tores and large singles. Exchange also desired in minerals, sea shells, butterflies and moths. L. C. SNYDER, Lacona, N. Y. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—At less than half cost; Oak Egg Cabinet, nine drawers; 26x35 inches; 209 permanent divisions 2 1/2 to 3 inches deep. Made especially for my Water Birds Egg. THOS. H. JACKSON, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pa. (2)

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—For skins or eggs in sets. Bird Lore, Vol. VIII, Vol. VII, No. 5-6; Vol. IX, No. 1. Nidologist, Vol. III, No. 1; Vol. II, No. 9; Vol. III, No. 2; Osprey, Vol. 1-3; Condor, Vol. 2-1; Museum, Vol. I, No. 3-1-5-12. Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. XVIII; Oologist, Vol. XXIII-XXVI-XXVII-XXVIII; Vol. X, No. 4-7-11; Vol. XI, Nos. 7 and 9; Vol. XII, Nos. 10 and 11; Vol. XIV, No. 3 and 7. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of several hundred sets of eggs. Want bird and mammal skins, mounted birds and animals, game heads, beetles, old relics, stamps and curios. My special wants are skins of Bull Crested Sandpiper and female Dickcissels, mounted birds, A. O. U. Numbers 11, 32, 47, 64, 74, 80, 125, 128, 134, 150, 166, 169, 171a, 177, 206, 211, 218, 225, 226, 253, 260, 269, 280, 281, 286, 288, 293, 308, 309, 311, 325, 326, 327, 362, 370, 377a, 381, 443, 471, 476, 483, 487, 513, 513a; Mounted Mole (*Scalops*), Civet (*Bassariscus*), Southern Fox Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Texan Pecarry, Antelope head, Gila monster and 3 foot Alligator. List everything you can offer. No eggs wanted. W. E. SNYDER, R. F. D. No. 6, Beaver Dam, Wis. (1)

## EGGS, Continued.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 1 sets taken this season, Glaucus Wing Gull, Pigeon Guillemot Violet Green Cormorant, W. F. BURTON, Esq., 937 St. Charles S. T., Victoria, B. C.

WANTED. Sets of Bald, Gray, and Sea Eagles; Duck, Pigion, Sharp-shinned Hawks; Hucsonian Curlew; Whooping, Sandhill, and Little Brown Cranes; Canada Goose; Sandpipers; Swallow-tailed and Everglade Kites; and many others; Extraordinary exchange bonus given. DR. M. E. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga. (4)

EGG COLLECTORS NOTICE.—For all personally taken A No. 1 sets of eggs with nests and good data sent me, I will exchange one of the best data blanks ever put on the market at the following terms: Latin-Short Standard Egg catalogue. Eggs & catalogue rates. Blanks at the rate of \$1.00 per 100 blanks in large or small lots. Send a set or two of eggs and try these blanks. Sample for a stamp. C. I. CLAY, Box 353, Eureka, Calif. (4)

EXCHANGE.—I can supply in choice sets, the following species: 34, 35, 38, 47, 60-1, 81, 92-1, 95, 96, 103, 114, 114.1, 116, 123, 129, 130, 152, 178, 182, 183, 188, 210, 230, 255, 258a, 269.1, 274, 286, 293a, 295, 327, 330, 352, 354, 359, 384, 389, 391, 416, 419, 445, 449, 459, 478b, 479, 602, 639, 654a, 699, 726c, 748a, 760, 764. Can use sets of land birds' eggs of similar rarity. THOMAS H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa. (2-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—The following A. O. U. sets with data 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6, 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-3, 594b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-4, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 453 1-4, 474 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725.1 1-4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2 for advertising duobill against Victor Electric Co., Chicago; McIntosh Battery & Optical Co., Chicago; also 335 1-3, 334, 192, 70, 305, 498, 444, 231b, 704, 766, 448, 316, 598 and 495 to Century Magazines of 1912 and 1913. Answer by letter, not post card, for further particulars. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas. (1)

NOTICE—THE FOLLOWING REMNANT OF AN OLD PRIVATE COLLECTION WANTED.—No specimens wanted in exchange. What am I offered for the lot? All must go to one party. Data furnished for each (A. O. U.) set, as follows: 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6, 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-3, 594b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-2, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 453 1-4, 474 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725.1 1-4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2, and some singles. No post cards. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas.

## BOOKS.

WANTED.—The Auk, Vol. 26, No. 2. A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York.

Studer's Birds of North America for sale or trade. J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Ia. (1-p)

CASH FOR BOOKS.—Whole libraries or single volumes purchased. What have you? A. R. WOMRATH, 72-74 Madison Ave., New York.

WANTED.—The Naturalist, Nature's Realm, Naturalist's Journal, Owl, Science Record, Young Naturalist, and many Natural History papers. Cash or exchange. FRANK L. BURNES, Berwyn, Pa. (1-p)

WANTED.—Ridgway's Birds of N. & N. A., parts one to four, or works on Mex. and C. A. Birds. C. L. PHILLIPS, 5 West Weir St., Taunton, Mass. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, Vol. 6 except No. 3. Warbler Vols. 1 and 4. Odd numbers of ornithological magazines. HARRY S. HATHAWAY, Box 1466, Providence, R. I. (1-p)

WANTED.—Nidologist, Vol. 1, No. 6. Indexes to Vol. 2 and 4. Will pay cash. EARLE R. FORREST, 261 Locust Ave., Washington, Pa. (1-p)

CASH OR GOOD EXCHANGE.—For Agassiz Companion, Amateur Naturalist, Exchange, Empire State Exchange, Field and Forest, and 40 other titles, to complete files. Lists exchanged. FRANK L. BURNES, Berwyn, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—Cones' Key, last edition, 2 vols. \$7.00; cost \$12.50. Or will entertain offers of rare Warbler sets only. H. MOUSLEY HATLEY, Quebec. (1-p)

WANTED.—"Bulletin of the Cooper O Club," Vol. 1 complete or odd parts. W. LEE CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Cal. (1-p)

BIRD BOOKS WITH COLORED PICTURES, pocket size. Write for my free descriptive circular. E. M. DUNBAR, 30 Rowena St. Boston Mass.

WANTED.—Books on birds. Will pay a reasonable cash price for those that I desire. State title and author, condition, etc. CHAS. F. CARR, (Personal), New London, Wis.

I will give \$2.00 for No. 6 of Vol. 5 of THE OOLOGIST in the original covers and in good condition. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill. (1)

BOOKS FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Ridgway's Birds of N. & M. America, parts 1 to 5 inclusive, paper covers. Bound vols. of The Ibis, 1875 up. Forest and Stream, Bird Notes. Also have wild turkey, ducks, geese and swan skins to exchange for books or sets of eggs. H. H. BAILEY, Box 164, Newport News, Va. (1-p)

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—Audubon's Birds of America, First subscription, 8 vo. ed. Phila. & N. Yori, 1840-44. Five dollars (\$5.00) per part will be paid for numbers 10 and 80. FRANKLIN BOOKSHOP, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

BIRD MAGAZINES.—I have about 500 old bird magazines for exchange, including complete volumes of Auk, Condor, Nidologist, Osprey, Oregon Naturalist, and odd numbers of all of these. W. LEE CHAMBERS, 1226 11th St., Santa Monica, Cal.

FOR SALE.—Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio. Plates (15½ x 17½ inches) beautifully colored by hand. Two volumes, finely bound. The most beautiful work on natural history ever published in the United States. Very scarce. Price and full particulars on application. Address, A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York. Catalogues issued.

WANTED.—Complete set of Bird-Lore, Nos. 1 to 15. J. D. KUSER, Bernardsville, N. J. (2-p)

FOR SALE.—Fisher's Hawks and Owls in fine condition. THOMAS H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa. (2-p)

CASH PAID FOR OLD BOOKS on American travel and exploration; Natural history (particularly birds and plants); early music titles with lithographic portraits of actors. N. MCGIRR, 221 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—Chapman's Warblers of N. A., new, plates loose, \$2.50 prepaid. Butterflies, Vicinity of New York, cuts and text, 40c prepaid. Vol. IX Oologist, and many odd numbers, lot \$2.75 prepaid. GEO. W. H. VOS BURGH, 284 Riverside St., Janesville, Wis. (1-p)

WANTED.—Osprey, Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 4 (old series). Have for sale Mich. Ornith. Club, Bull., Vol. 4, No. 2, serial numbers. NORMAN A. WOOD, Ann Arbor, Mich. (1-p)

WANTED.—Correspondence with those having old books or magazines (complete volumes of odd numbers) on ornithology or natural history for sale or exchange. E. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J. (1-p)

WANTED.—Oologist Vols. 16 to 20; The Museum, Vol. I, Nos. 5 to 11; Vol. 4 all after No. 1. Have for exchange, Natural Science News, complete except Nos. 20 and 22; Oologist Nos. 116, 120, 201, 203, 225, 233; Auk, Vol. 28, No. 3; Journal Maine Ornithological Society Vol. 7, No. 1. A. D. DUBOIS, 320 Waldron St., W. LaFayette, Ind. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Pennant's Arctic Zoology, Ord's Wilson, text only. Ridgway's Birds, North and Middle America, first four volumes and others. Need Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; Vol. 3, Nos. 8, 9; Vol. 4, Nos. 8 to 10; Nidologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 9 and all after Vol. 4, No. 9. C. J. PENNOCK, Kennett Square, Chester County, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, volumes 1 to 15 bound in brown morocco and volumes 16 to 26 in numbers as issued, all first class. Price \$100.00. Wanted, Bird Lore, Vol. 1, No. 6; Vol. 2, No. 2. Write me and see what a liberal offer I will make for these two numbers. LAUREN TREMPER, 136 N. Dewey St., Philadelphia, Pa. (2-p)

FOR SALE.—Fine sets of the Museum, Random Notes on Natural History, Field and Forest—Bulletin of the Potomac-Side Naturalists' Club—Hawks and Owls of the U. S., by Dr. A. K. Fisher, PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. (1-p)

EXCHANGE OR SELL CHEAP—McIlwraith's Birds of Ontario, Macoun a Catalogue of Canadian Birds, Ottawa Naturalist, Vols. 23, 24, 25; Davies Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds; Oologist, last four volumes. Wanted, a pair of good Marine Glass or specimens of interesting Minerals. LEWIS BROWN, 31 Wilcocks St., Toronto, Can. (1-p)

Authors and Publishers of Bird Books send us particulars of your books. We intend making Ornithology one of the important sections of our business. It will pay you to get in touch with us. We buy in large or small quantities. A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York. (3-t)

WANTED FOR CASH.—The Condor, Vols. 1 to XIII, The Auk, Vols. 1 to X, Bird Lore, Vols. I-II-III-VII-X. All or any part of these, also: Wilson Bulletins, Nos. 1 to 25. The Oologist a complete file or parts. And any bird book by Coues, Mrs. Bailey, N. S. Goss, Ridgway, Audubon, Toerey, Lowell or C. C. Abbott. I will purchase bird books new to my library. Send list of any that you have for sale. J. N. SWIFT, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—"Auk"—Vols. 1 to VII-XIX-XXVII and later "Nidologist"—Vol. I numbers 2 and 6; "Osprey", Vol. 1 number 2, Vol. 4 number 3; also other natural history literature. Send for my list of duplicates. DR. T. W. RICHARDS, U. S. Navy, 1207-19th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. (1-p)

WANTED.—Davies nest and eggs of N. A. birds; C. J. Maynard's eggs of N. A. birds and Warblers of New England; Stearn's Birds of New England. (2 Vols.) Coues' Key. Will exchange skins and eggs, Samuel's Birds of New England and Shakespear's Tragedies 512 pages. ARTHUR W. PROCHWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

EXCHANGE. Vol. I, III, IV, Geology of Wisconsin; Naturalist on River Amazon; Studies of Animated Nature, for books on Archaeology, Nature, Birds, Relics, Curios etc. JOHN EGAN, Cleveland, Wis. (1-p)

Audubon's Birds and Mammals. Will buy odd volumes or plates of the octavo or folio editions. Also Wilson's Ornithology, quarto only. N. MCGIRR, 221 S. 5th St., Philadelphia, Pa. (1-p)

WILL EXCHANGE.—Temminck's "Manuel 'D Ornithology" 3 vols. 1820, and Sr. Charles Linne "System of Nature" 4 vols. 1802, for Bird Skins or sets. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Ill. (1)

FOR SALE.—To complete your files, numbers of "Hawkeys O. & O.", "Bay State Oologist," "Museum," "Am. Ornithology;" some others 25c. each. "Nature," Eng. 10c. each. CHAS. O. THROWBRIDGE, Station A., Framingham, Mass. (1-p)

WANTED.—No. 3 Vol. I "The Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club and odd numbers, Vol. IV to Vol. VII of The Condor; also Auks and Vol. I Bendire's Life Histories N. American Birds, for cash or exchange, am interested in Eagle's eggs— L. BROOKS, Milton, Mass. (1)

NOTICE.—People's Cyclopaedia, five thousand engravings, many birds and animals. The three large volumes for \$7.00. Botta's History War of the Independence, 1837, two volumes for \$3.00. Firearms in American History, \$2.00. Exchange for choice sets with data. JAMES C. JOHNSON, Southington Conn. (1-p)

### MISCELLANEOUS.

WANTED.—Live reptiles and reptile eggs from all parts of the U. S. Offer cash, sets or books. B. S. TAUBENHAUS, 137th and Amsterdam Ave., New York City.

EXCHANGE.—My entire stock of Fossils, Shells and Stone Relics. I want coin, stamps and all kinds of old paper money and Gem Stones. THOS. S. HILL, Moodys, Okla. (1-p)

TAXIDERMY SUPPLIES S.—Glass eyes tools, materials, for taxidermists. Biggest and best stock in America, lowest prices. Get our catalog 56 free. Write for one today. N. W. SCHOOL OF TAXIDERMY, Omaha, Nebr.

FOR SALE.—4 x 5 long focus camera equipped with Plastigmat lens and B. & L. Shutter. Camera is slightly used but in the best of condition. Parties interested write for full description and price. Also have a number of others, new and second hand, for sale cheap. F. C. WILLARD, Tombstone, Ariz. (1-p)

WANTED.—Photographs (any size from 3½ to 4½ inches and up) of birds nests with eggs in situ. As I desire these for coloring, prints must be made on velox or platinum paper, the latter preferred. Send any number you may have on approval, and I will remit 25c. each for those I keep. JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, N. Y. (3t-9)

I offer fine exchange in first class sets for American Animals, Stone & Cram. The Reptiles Book, Ditmars, Ernest-Thompson-Seton's new two-volume work of American Animals, for the following if in first class condition: Colt's or Savage Automatic Pistol 32 cal., Winchester Automatic Rifle, 22 cal., Marble's Game Getter. G. W. STEVENS, 81 Oxford St., Cambridge, Mass.

FOR SALE.—Named collections of 100 species, 200 specimens, all perfect, of Marine Shells, \$5.00 postpaid; also of land and fresh water shells, \$5.00 postpaid. Smaller collections at same rate. A. G. REYNOLDS, Gulfport, Fla. (2-p)

FIELD GLASSES FOR SALE.—Fine field glasses, used only one trip, like new. Genuine "Colemont French" with leather case. Cost \$14.00. Will take \$8.00. R. COLE, Shukert, Bldg., Omaha, Nebr.

IMPORTED COCOONS.—Atlas, Mylitta, Roylei, Selene, Trifen-estrata and other Indian pupae for Regalis, Versicolora and other desirable native pupae and eggs. JAMES L. MITCHELL, Indiana Trust Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

POST CARDS, of birds, nests and eggs of many of our Florida birds. Egrets, Ibises, Gallinules, Limpkin, etc. About three hundred good negatives to select from. Work guaranteed. State your wants in first letter Price \$1.00 per dozen. O. E. BAYNARD, Orange Lake, Florida. (3)

FOR SALE.—The following first class freshly mounted specimens. 1 very large Bull-bison head; 3 Alaska musk-ox heads; 1 pair of locked Virginia deer heads; 1 extra large Alaskan Grizzly-bear rug. Send for photos and particulars. Scientific Taxidermy in all its branches. KARL W. KAHMANN, 2457 Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill. (4t)

ATTENTION MR. ONDERDONK—Will the young man in Philadelphia by that name, who wrote me about a year ago PLEASE send me his name and address. CHARLES A. HEWLETT, Woomere, N. Y. (1-p)

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Sea Shells of this vicinity for sale or exchange for good stamps. GEORGE ROSSITER, 819 Fort St., Victoria, B. C. (1-p)

WANTED—Stevens "Off Hand" target pistol. Must be in first class condition. Will pay cash. ERNEST E. LUSHER, Van Nuys, Calif. (1-p)

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CASH.—For Bird Lore, either set, Vols. or Nos. Especially want Vols. 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, or parts; also Vols. 1 to 13 of "The Condor" and "The Auk." "Land Birds of N. A." by B. B. & R. Cones "Key" and "Birds of Colorado Valley" and many others. What have you? LAURA KEANE, Steubenville, Ohio. (1-p)

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 7. ALBION, N. Y., JULY 15, 1913. WHOLE No. 312

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

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**WANTED**.—First class skins of Passenger Pigeons, male and female, for which I will give in exchange first class skins of Heath Hens. FRED H. KENNARD, 220 Devonshire St., Boston, Mass. (1)

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## Skins Continued

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NOTICE—THE FOLLOWING REMNANT OF AN OLD PRIVATE COLLECTION WANTED.—No specimens wanted in exchange. What am I offered for the lot? All must go to one party. Data furnished for each (A. O. U.) set, as follows: 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6' 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-5, 594b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-2, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 458 1-4, 474 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725, 1-1, 4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2, and some singles. No post cards. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of several hundred sets of eggs. Want bird and mammal skins, mounted birds and animals, game heads, beetles, old relics, stamps and curios. My special wants are skins of Bull Crested Sandpiper and female Dickcissels, mounted birds, A. O. U. Numbers 11, 32, 47, 64, 74, 80, 125, 128, 134, 150, 166, 169, 171a, 177, 206, 211, 218, 225, 226, 258, 260, 269, 280, 281, 286, 288, 293, 308, 309, 311, 325, 326, 327, 362, 370, 377a, 381, 443, 471, 476, 483, 487, 513, 513a; Mounted Mole (*Scalops*), Civet (*Bassariscus*), Southern Fox Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Texan Pecary, Antelope head, Gila monster and 3 foot Alligator. List everything you can offer. No eggs wanted. W. E. SNYDER, R. F. D. No. 6, Beaver Dam, Wis. (1)

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TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 8. ALBION, N. Y., AUG. 15, 1913. WHOLE No. 313

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OWLS.—I want the scientific skins of the Elf, Hoskins Pigmy, Dwarf Screech Owls, Flamulated, Mexican, Texan, Rocky Mt., Kennicots, Small Florida Screech Owls, skins of Baby Moles, Baby Bats, Birds of Prey, Shore Birds in the Downey Stages, or the Nestlings, skins of Gophers, Burrowing Owls, newly hatched Green Turtles, Hawks-bill Turtles, Land Tortoises, and Wood Turtles, Will exchange Ferrig Pigmy Owls or Dovekis skins or other specimens. Baby Amidillas. H. W. AITKEN, 18 So. 20th Street, Philadelphia, Pa. (1-p)

## EGGS.

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

Send for my list of fine Southern and South-western sets. E. F. POPE, Colmesneil, Texas.

WANTED.—Three or four good sets of Sage Grouse. Address, JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, New York. (3-t)

EXCHANGE.—Personally taken sets, 263, 300, 388, 412a, 444, 466a, 498, 528, 529, 540, 584, 624, for sets of Warblers only. H. MOUSLEY, Hatley, Quebec (1-p)

I have a number of sets of Brandt's Cormorant for exchange. Can use duplicate sets, CHAS. H. CULP, Pacific Grove, Calif. (1-p)

Have some personally collected finely prepared sets of eggs from the Farallone Islands to exchange. Satisfaction guaranteed. H. W. CARRIGER, 5185 Trask Ave., Oakland, Calif. (1-p)

I have a few good sets to exchange. Want 334, 334a, 337a, 337d, 340, 344, (351) 352a, 356, 360c, 361 and many others. DAVID E. BROWN, Room No. 11, Federal Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (1-p)

Fine sets from Greenland, Iceland, Arctic America, also Antarctic. Will exchange European for North American sets. H. T. BOOTH, 8 Cranbury Road, Fulham, England. (1-p)

FOR SALE—700 egg trays, made with white paper all sizes and in good condition. I will also exchange for sets of eggs for others new to my collection. I have also many magazines for exchange. C. M. CASE, 7 Holcomb St., Hartford, Conn.

EXCHANGE.—Bird skins, books, bird craft, squirrels and other fur bearers, wild animals I have known. Want skins, 155, 293, 294, 295, 331, 337b, 443. EARL HAMILTON, Yoboghanys, Pa.

EGGS FOR EXCHANGE.—A few sets each of the following to exchange for other sets. Nos. 49, 120c, 122, 127, 294a, 360a. Send full list: J. S. APPLETON, Simi, Ventura Co., Cal.

WANTED. I will collect sets in North West Canada this season. I want sets of Eagles, Hawks and Owls. THOS. S. HILL, Relics, fossils, shells, Moodys, Okla. (1-p)

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, North America and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. DR. T. W. RICHARDS, U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets with data and singles for first class bird skins. B. G. WIL-LARD, 30 Huntington, Ave., Boston, Mass., (1-p)

FINE COLLECTION BIRD EGGS, many birds and nests photographed, to exchange for microscope, fly rod, casting rod, or tackle Box 775, Stanford University, Cal.

Marine Shells, Pacific Coast species, Smithsonian Identification, for specimens and curiosities of any kind, Birds' Eggs preferred, W. W. WESTGATE, 809 1st North, Seattle, Wash. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Two hundred sets with data, in first class condition, including 50 European (without data) in cabinet. List sent on application.—DR. JAMESON, 105 N. Washington St., Titusville, Pa. (4-p)

WANTED.—Fine sets Flycatchers, especially 459; also rare postage stamps, British, North American colonies only. Offer sets with nests 228, 227a, 474b, 533, 558, 641, 648, 673, 743c and others. H. MOUSLEY, Que. (1-p)

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—For skins or eggs in sets. Bird Lore, Vol. VIII, Vol. VII, No. 5-6; Vol. IX, No. 1. Nidologist, Vol. III, No. 1; Vol. II, No. 9; Vol. III, No. 2; Osprey, Vol. 1-3; Condor, Vol. 2-1; Museum, Vol. I, No. 3-4-5-12. Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. XVIII; Oologist, Vol. XXIII-XXVI-XXVII-XXVIII; Vol. X, No. 4-7-11; Vol. XI, Nos. 7 and 9; Vol. XII, Nos. 10 and 11; Vol. XIV, No. 3 and 7. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

## EGGS, Continued.

WILL EXCHANGE both American and European birds' eggs, with all collectors; Southern exchange, especially wanted; HARRY CARLETON, 51 Victoria St., Ottawa, Canada. (6-13)

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EXCHANGE.—Vol. 23 Physical Culture. Want Reed's Color Key to North American Birds, Holland's Butterfly book, Hummers, sets of 144 eggs, flying squirrel skins. EARL HAMILTON, Yohogany, Pa. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A large list of fine sets with data, to exchange for fine sets of Raptures and large singles. Exchange also desired in minerals, sea shells, butterflies and moths. L. C. SNYDER, Lacona, N. Y. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—I can supply in choice sets, the following species: 34, 35, 38, 47, 60-1, 81, 92-1, 95, 96, 103, 114, 114.1, 116, 123, 129, 130, 132, 178, 182, 183, 188, 210, 230, 258, 258a, 269.1, 274, 286, 293a, 295, 327, 330, 352, 354, 359, 384, 389, 391, 416, 419, 445, 449, 459, 475b, 479, 602, 639, 654a, 699, 726c, 748a, 760, 764. Can use sets of land birds' eggs of similar rarity. THOMAS H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa. (2-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—The following A. O. U. sets with data 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6, 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-3, 504b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-4, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 458 1-4, 471 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725 1-1-4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2 for advertising duell-bill against Victor Electric Co., Chicago; McIntosh Battery & Optical Co., Chicago; also 335 1-3, 334, 192, 70, 305, 498, 444, 231b, 704, 766, 448, 316, 598 and 495 to Century Magazines of 1912 and 1913. Answer by letter, not post card, for further particulars. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas. (1)

NOTICE—THE FOLLOWING REMNANT OF AN OLD PRIVATE COLLECTION WANTED.—No specimens wanted in exchange. What am I offered for the lot? All must go to one party. Data furnished for each (A. O. U.) set, as follows: 335 1-5, 335 1-4, 362 1-3, 510 1-6, 591c 1-3, 700 1-3, 500 1-4, 521 1-3, 522 1-2, 580b 1-4, 522a 1-4, 610a 1-3, 504b 1-2, 719a 1-5, 632 1-2, 466a 1-4, 508 1-4, 458 1-4, 471 1-4, 751a 1-4, 725 1-1-4, 373d 1-4, 411 1-3, 105 1-1, 386 1-4, 420c 1-2, 501a 1-4, 414 1-4, 347a 1-2, 52 1-2 and 45 1-2, and some singles. No post cards. Address: DR. W. W. MARTIN, Masonic Temple, Wellington, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of several hundred sets of eggs, Want bird and mammal skins, mounted birds and animals, game heads, beetles, old relics, stamps and curios. My special wants are skins of Bull Crested Sandpiper and female Dickcissels, mounted birds, A. O. U. Numbers 11, 32, 47, 64, 74, 80, 125, 128, 134, 150, 166, 169, 171a, 177, 206, 211, 218, 225, 226, 258, 260, 269, 280, 281, 286, 288, 293, 308, 309, 311, 325, 326, 327, 362, 370, 377a, 391, 443, 471, 476, 483, 487, 513, 513a; Mounted Mole (*Scalops*), Civet (*Bassariscus*), Southern Fox Squirrel, Jack Rabbit, Texan Pecary, Antelope head, Gila monster and 3 foot Alligator. List everything you can offer. No eggs wanted. W. E. SNYDER, R. F. D. No. 6, Beaver Dam, Wis. (1)

EGG COLLECTORS NOTICE.—For all personally taken A. No. 1 sets of eggs with nests and good data sent me, I will exchange one of the best data blanks ever put on the market at the following terms: Lattin-Short Standard Egg catalogue, Eggs & catalogue rates. Blanks at the rate of \$1.00 per 100 blanks in large or small lots. Send a set or two of eggs and try these blanks. Sample for a stamp. C. I. CLAY, Box 353, Eureka, Calif. (4)

## BOOKS.

WANTED.—Cone's Key, 5th edition, two volumes for cash; state condition and price in first letter. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas. (1-t)

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Studer's Birds of North A. mericof sale or trade, J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Ia. (d-p)

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WANTED.—The Naturalist, Nature's Realm, Naturalist's Journal, Owl, Science Record, Young Naturalist, and many Natural History papers. Cash or exchange. FRANK L. BURNES, Berwyn, Pa. (1-p)

EXCHANGE.—Fully equipped 1910 Yale single Motorcycle; clutch and presto, for Indian Relics, must be good. JOHN BOCK, Paullina, Iowa. (1-)

WANTED.—Photographs of live birds, old or young; nests and eggs in situ; of any of the birds in the A. O. U. Check List, in exchange in eggs or skins. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va.

I paint to your order any living object, in any medium, for den or scientific use. Work guaranteed. Cash or exchange. MILLO DENNY, Waubesa, Ia. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, Vol. 6 except No. 3. Warbler Vols. 1 and 4. Odd numbers of ornithological magazines. HARRY S. HATHAWAY, Box 1466, Providence, R. I. (1-p)

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I will give \$2.00 for No. 6 of Vol. 5 of THE OOLOGIST in the original covers and in good condition. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

WANTED.—Audubon's Birds of America, First subscription, 8 vo. ed. Phila. & N. Yori, 1840-44. Five dollars (\$5.00) perpart will be paid for numbers 10 and 80. FRANKLIN BOOKSHOP, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Pennant's Arctic Zoology, Ord's Wilson, text only, Ridgway's Birds, North and Middle America, first four volumes and others. Need Osprey, Vol. 1, No. 2; Vol. 3, Nos. 8; 9; Vol. 4, Nos. 8 to 10; Nidologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 1 to 9 and all after Vol. 4, No. 9. C. J. PENNOCK, Kennett Square, Chester County, Pa. (1-p)

FOR SALE.—The Auk, volumes 1 to 15 bound in brown morocco and volumes 16 to 26 in numbers as issued, all first class. Price \$100.00. Wanted, Bird Lore, Vol. 1, No. 6; Vol. 2, No. 2. Write me and see what a liberal offer I will make for these two numbers. LAUREN TREMPER, 136 N. Dewey St., Philadelphia, Pa. (2-p)

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WANTED.—"Auk"—Vols. I to VII-XIX-XXVII and later "Nidologist"—Vol. I numbers 2 and 6; "Osprey", Vol. 1 number 2, Vol. 4 number 3; also other natural history literature. Send for my list of duplicates. DR. T. W. RICHARDS, U. S. Navy, 1207-19th St., N. W., Washington, D. C. (1-p)

WANTED.—Davies nest and eggs of N. A. Birds; C. J. Maynard's eggs of N. A. birds and Warblers of New England; Stearn's Birds of New England, (2 Vols.) Coues' Key. Will exchange skins and eggs, Samuel's Birds of New England and Shakespear's Tragedies 512 pages. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn. (1-p)

WANTED.—Correspondence with those having old books or magazines (complete volumes of odd numbers) on ornithology or natural history for sale or exchange. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J. (1-p)

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WILL EXCHANGE.—Temninck's "Manuel 'D Ornithologie" 3 vols. 1820, and Sr. Charles Linne "System of Nature" 4 vols. 1802, for Bird skins or sets. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Ill. (1)

FOR SALE.—To complete your files, numbers of "Hawkeys O. & O." "Bay State Oologist," "Museum," "Am. Ornithology;" some others 25c. each. "Nature," Eng. 10c. each. CHAS. O. TROWBRIDGE, Station A., Framingham, Mass. (1-p)

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WANTED.—Live reptiles and reptile eggs from all parts of the U. S. Offer cash, sets or books. B. S. TAUBENHAUS, 137th and Amsterdam Ave., New York City.

EXCHANGE.—My entire stock of Fossils, Shells and Stone Relics. I want coin, stamps and all kinds of old paper money and Gem Stones. THOS. S. HILL, Moodys, Okla. (1-p)

TAXIDERMY SUPPLIES.—Glass eyes tools, materials, for taxidermists. Biggest and best stock in America, lowest prices. Get our catalog 5¢ free. Write for one today. N. W. SCHOOL OF TAXIDERMY, Omaha, Nebr.

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WANTED.—Photographs (any size from 3½ to 4½ inches and up) of birds nests with eggs in situ. As I desire these for coloring, prints must be made on velox or platinum paper, the latter preferred. Send any number you may have on approval, and I will remit 25c. each for those I keep. JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, N. Y. (3t-9)

I offer fine exchange in first class sets for American Animals, Stone & Cram. The Reptiles Book, Ditmars, Ernest-Thompson-Seton's new two-volume work of American Animals, for the following if in first class condition: Colt's or Savage Automatic Pistol 32 cal., Winchester Automatic Rifle, 22 cal., Marble's Game Getter, G. W. STEVENS, 81 Oxford St., Cambridge, Mass.

WANTED.—I will buy Indian Arrow Heads for cash. What have you? At what price will you sell? Also interested in Eagle Eggs. L. BROOKS, 113 Bedford St., New Bedford, Mass. (1)

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ATTENTION MR. ONDERDONK—Will the young man in Philadelphia by that name, who wrote me about a year ago PLEASE send me his name and address. CHARLES A. HEWLETT, Woomere, N. Y. (1-p)

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**CASH.**—For Bird Lore, either set, Vols. or Nos. Especially want Vols. 1, 2, 3, 7, 9, 10, 13, 14, or parts; also Vols. 1 to 13 of "The Condor" and "The Auk." "Land Birds of N. A." by B. B. & R. Cones "Key" and "Birds of Colorado Valley" and many others. What have you? LAURA KEANE, Stockport, Ohio. (1-p)

I want back numbers of many amateur Natural history magazines. Send me your list. I will pay the highest prices for those I want. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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### EGGS

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 9. ALBION, N. Y., SEPT. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 314

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

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### TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 315

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y., Nov. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 316

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "The Oologist," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

## BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpeter Swan. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

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WANTED.—General birdskin exchange, particularly Pacific Coast and Southern Collectors, though I solicit lists from anywhere. RAYMOND SPELLUM, Viroqua, Wis. (1-p)

First class skins Illinois, California and Costa Rica to exchange for birds from Southern or Western States, or from other countries. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Ill. (1)

EXCHANGE.—Male Passenger Pigeon finely mounted, nearly perfect, for Winchester automatic shot-gun, or might consider a Winchester pump gun as a part. PHILLO W. SMITH, 1915 Penn. Ave., Joplin, Mo. (1-p)

## Skins Continued

WANTED.—Bird skins American or Foreign; offer in exchange mounted birds, skins, and eggs in sets. Send lists. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 811 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Mich. (2-p)

EXCHANGE.—Southern bird skins and bird eggs. Ten sets of Turkey and Black Vultures with data. RAMON GRAHAM, Taxidermist, 401 W. Lenda St., Ft. Worth, Texas. (1-p)

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EXCHANGE.—Bird skins, books, bird craft, squirrels and other fur bearers, wild animals I have known. Want skins 155, 293, 294, 295, 331, 337b, 443. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghan, Pa.

WANTED.—Skins of California Vulture, Whooping and Little Brown Crane, Trumpeter Swan and Falcons. Cash or good exchange. A. H. Helme, Miller Place, New York. (1-p)

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In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

Send for my list of fine Southern and Southwestern sets. E. F. POPE, Colmesneil, Texas.

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EXCHANGE.—51, 59, 64, 202, 313, 364, 375, 385d, 477, 488, 528, 587, 637, 639, 674, 681, 719d, 725, 761a. I want all Sandpipers 270, 272, 309, 328, 330, 332, 370, 371, 398, 399, 400, 401, 446, 451 and others. R. P. SHARPLES, West Chester, Pa. (3-t)

EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. Nos. 114.1, 2-3; 122, 5-4; 194, 2-3, 2-4; 394a, 1-3; 430, N-2; 498e, 2-3; 573a, N-3, N-4; 591.1a, 1-2; 607, N2-3; 633a, N-4; 741b, N2-6, N-5; first class, with data. Wanted first class sets with data; no nests. G. K. SNYDER, 142 W. Jefferson St., Los Angeles, Cal. (1-p)

## EGGS, Continued.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—A large list of fine sets with data, to exchange for fine sets of Raptors and large singles. Exchange also desired in minerals, sea shells, butterflies and moths. L. C. SNYDER, Lacona, N. Y. (1-p)

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WANTED.—To exchange fifty broken sets at  $\frac{1}{2}$  rates for full sets of anything, all fine eggs; also want sets of 332, 343, 359t, 362, E. J. DARLINGTON, Wilmington, Delaware. (1-p)

WANTED.—Fine sets Flycatchers, especially 459; also rare postage stamps, British, North American colonies only. Offer sets with nests 228, 227a, 474b, 533, 558, 641, 648, 673, 743c and others. H. MOUSLEY, Que. (1-p)

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WILL EXCHANGE a few choice sets, personally taken such as Limpkin, Sand Hill Crane, Florida Burrowing Owl, Florida Wild Turkey, Wood Duck and other rare as well as many commoner species, with exception of hummers of all kinds. My wants are sets from species that visit Florida. Send complete list in first letter. OSCAR E. BAY-NARD, Clearwater, Florida. (2-t)

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WANTED.—Oologist Vols. 16 to 20; The Museum, Vol. 1, Nos. 5 to 11; Vol. 4 all after No. 1. Have for exchange, Natural Science News, complete except Nos. 20 and 22; Oologist Nos. 116, 120, 201, 203, 225, 293; Auk, Vol. 28, No. 3; Journal Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. 7, No. 1. A. D. DUBOIS, 320 Waldron St., W. LaFayette, Ind. (1-p)

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Authors and Publishers of Bird Books send us particulars of your books. We intend making Ornithology one of the important sections of our business. It will pay you to get in touch with us. We buy in large or small quantities. A. R. WOMRATH, 72 Madison Ave., New York. (3-t)

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## BOOKS.

ONE DOLLAR apiece I offer for a copy of Nidologist, Vol. 1, Nos. 2 and 6, and Osprey Vol. 1 No. 2. DR. T. W. RICHARDS, 1207 19th St. N. W., Washington, D. C. (1-p)

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# 1914

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXX, No. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DEC. 15, 1913.

WHOLE No. 317

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Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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