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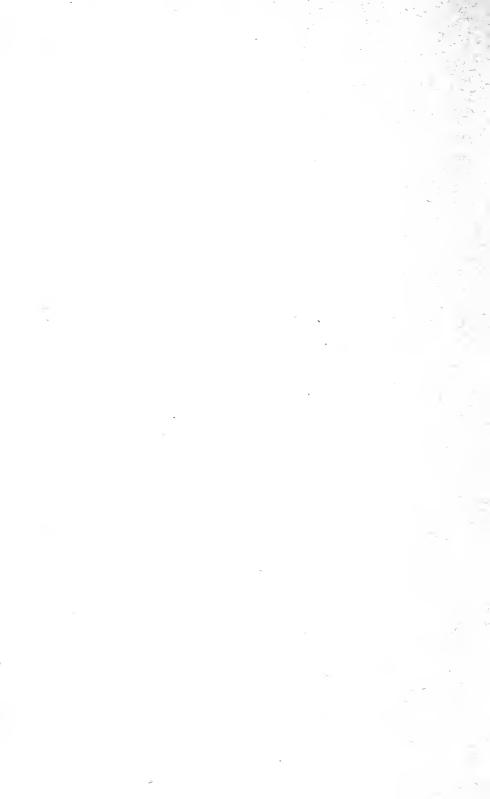
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THE OOLOGIST

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-FOR THE-

⟨⊕ STUDENT OF BIRDS, ♠⟩

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

VOLUME III.

ALBION, N. Y.: FRANK H. LATTIN, PUBLISHER, 1886. JOHN P. SMITH,
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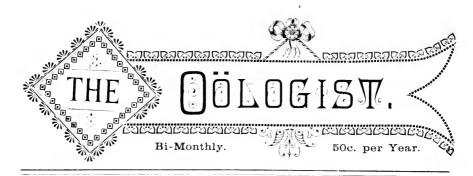
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Vol. III.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN. & FEB., 1886.

No. 1.

New Subscribers for the "Oologist."

For every new subscriber one of our present subscribers may send us, we will give twelve and one-half cents worth of anything we advertise, or offer for sale in The Oologist, our catalogue, or any circular we may send out. We trust our friends will obtain for us as many new subscribers as possible. We consider our premium list one of the largest and most varied ever sent by any publisher in America. Parties desiring to obtain a costly premium can send in their names, as fast as obtained and we will give them a check good for 12½ cents, in trade, when the required number of checks are obtained they may send to us and we will send the premium desired. Parties preferring cash in place of the above will be allowed 10 cents on each subscribtion.

To be entitled to the above commission, you must (if not already a subscriber) send in your subscription for THE OOLOGIST with your first order. We can allow you no commission on your own name.

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In addition to all other premiums offered, we will give to the persons sending us the greatest number of subscribers for the Oologist before March 20th, 1886 the following prizes:

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Fourth.—An egg of the South African Ostrich.

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Seven to Ten.—Oologists Directory.

Ten to Fifteen.—Oologists Handbook. Subscriptions must be mailed from your office not later than March 20th. Subscriptions mailed on the 20th will count. Premiums will be forwarded to the lucky winners on the 1st of April, and their names published in the following Oologist. Should two or more parties send the same number of subscribers, the highest prize will be awarded to the party whose list was sent earliest. Don't delay, but commence work at once. Address.

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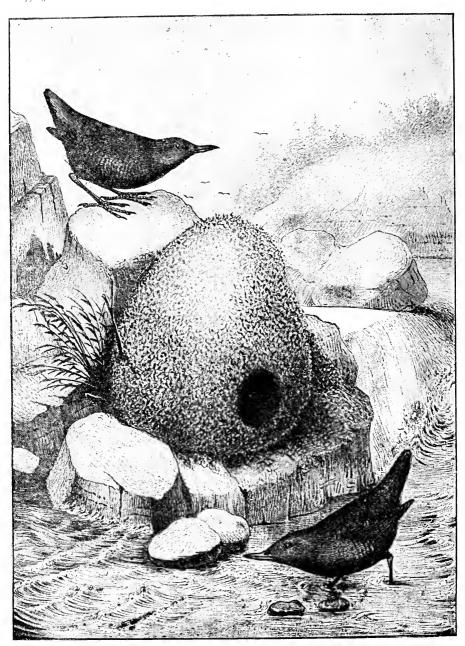
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AMERICAN WATER OUZELS AND NEST.

(Cinclus mexicanus.)

THE OOLOGIST.

Vol. 3, No. 1. ALBION, N. Y., JAN. & FEB., 1886.

BI-MONTHLY.

One Day on Chester Island with the Marsh Wrens.

Twelve miles below Philadelphia, in the Delaware River, is situated a mass of mud, reeds and dead vegetation, known as Chester Island. This uninteresting marsh is one mile in length by about one-quarter mile in width, and is uninhabited by man. Despised alike by inhabitants of both States between which it lies, and by mariners because of its obstruction to navigation, it has few redeeming points, except for the naturalist. Tradition says that in the Revolutionary times a fine manor house stood here owned and tenanted by an Englishman of wealth, in which hospitality was freely dispensed, and revelry reigned supreme. Such, however, is merely heresay, and to-day no evidences remain of former occupancy.

This spot, seldom visited by man, offers peculiar facilities to the Long-billed Marsh Wren for nidification, being nearly covered with a rank and luxurious growth of reeds and splatterdocks. I had made a collecting trip here during June, 1874, a trip, too, replete with experiences, and the eleven years which have since elapsed have failed to efface some recollections thereof. I recall how near a permanent fixture I became by sinking in the soft, deceptive mud, how tortured, too, by a species of fly with painful sting, which inhabits the reeds, and how now and then one of the rightful owners in the form of snake or muskrat appeared, as if to dispute my invasion of his domain. These and kindred reminders came before me when the thought of a second visit occurred, but finally I decided that some new points regarding the habits of these wrens, some sets of their little chocolate colored eggs and the possibility of an encounter with the short-billed species, would well repay me for the trouble and exertion.

At this season (June 15th) the reeds have attained their greatest height, (from 7 to 10 feet.) and are in their best color. perfect wilderness of them, stretched out over the entire island, and growing thickly together, as they do, it becomes impossible to see more than ten feet distant, at any one time; the floor, so to speak, is only rendered solid enough to bear man's weight by reason of dead reeds and grasses of former years, which make a carpet sufficiently soft and velvety to the tread, to suit the most fastidious; the highest of hip boots are not high enough to preserve dry feet, for here and there a muskrat hole or natural sluiceway appears, and without warning one is precipitated from an erect position to one of reclining horror. This is the favorite haunt of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, and for many years a vast colony of them have occupied the place as a summer resort. This season they are very numerous, probably not having been disturbed for many years, and their harsh, short, quickly uttered and not unpleasant note (to me) is heard without intermission all day, hundreds, aye thousands of nests presented themselves for inspection, and in a few hours, almost without being aware of it. I had taken nearly 100 sets of eggs. The well known habit this bird is said to possess, of building one or more duplicate nests, was abundantly corroborated on this occasion, as upon many previous ones, I observed that when one of these duplicate nests was found, the nest with the eggs was not more than ten feet distant. such a wonderful home they make for their tiny infants to be born in, a number of matted reeds, of previous years growth are covered and worked with mud into a globular ball not unlike a cocoanut in shape; this is securely fastened to the growing

reeds about three or four feet from the ground, a small opening is left near the top, at one side, which is the entrance to a warm and snug inside, comfortably lined with the blossom of willow and cat-tail. I regard a full average set as six, though many nests contained sets of five, as evidenced by the advanced incubation, and from several nests I took seven and eight eggs respectively. In one case only did I find nine, which was without precedent in my personal experience. The eggs are spherical or oval, so uniformly covered with spots of brown, as to present a chocolate color. One set of six were veritable albinos, and almost suggested the Shortbilled Marsh Wren, but a diligent search of hours failed to reveal a single nest or bird of this species. The Long-billed and Shortbilled do not breed in common, in this section at least; and I know of no authentic set of the latter ever having been taken here.

Toward evening, nearly overcome by thirst, and devoured by insects, a mud begrimmed and thoroughly fatigued collector returned to land in quest of a much needed bath and refreshing sleep.

Harry G. Parker. Chester, Pa., June 24th, 1885.

BIRDS OF CORTLAND CO., N. Y.

The following list does not claim to be perfect or complete, as I have purposely refrained from naming any species but those that I have fully identified, or that have been identified by those I considered competent authority.

Any information concerning species not in the list will be thankfully received by the Compiler, care Bennett & Dean, Cortland, N. Y.

(Numbered after Ridgway's Nomenclature.)

No. 1. Hylocichla mustelina. (GMEL.) BAIRD. WOOD THRUSH. "FLUTE BIRD," "SWAMP ROBIN," Common in swampy or wet woods. Breeds. Arrives about last week in April. Departs about first of October.

No. 2. Hylocichla fuscescens. (Steph.)

Baird. Wilson Thrush. "Veery." Not uncommon. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs about first of September.

No. 7. Merula migratori. (Linn.) Sw. & Rich. American Robin. Breeds. An extremely common summer resident. Arrives about middle of March. Departs in October, occasionally a few wintering here.

No. 12. Galeoscoptes carolinensis. (Linn) Caban. Cat-Bird. "Mocking-bird." Very common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs about first of October.

No. 13. Harporhynchus rufus. (LINN.) Caban. Brown Thraser. Formerly very common. Noted in 1882 for the first time in about fifteen years.

No. 22. Sialia sialis. (LINN.) HALDEM. EASTERN BLUE-BIRD. Abundant. Breeds. Arrives about first of March. Departs middle of November.

No. 33. Regulas satrapa. LICHT. GOLDEN-CROWNED RINGLET. Migrant. Abundant during last of April and first of May. Again the last of October.

No. 41. Parus atricapiilus. Linn. Black-capped Titmouse or chickadee. Resident and abundant. Breeds.

No. 51. Sitta carolinensis. GMEL. WINTE-BELLIED NUTHATCH. "SAP-SUCKER" Resident and abundant. Breeds.

No. 52. Sitta canadensis. Linn. Red-Bellied Nuthatch. Regular migrant during April and October.

No. 55. Certhia familiaris rufa. Brown Creeper. Abundant in Spring and Autumn.

No. 63. Troglodytes &don. VIEILL. HOUSE WREN. "JENNY WREN." Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs in October.

No. 67. Telmatodytes palustris. (Wils.) BAIRD. Long-billed Marsh Wren. I am informed that this and the following species breed in the marshes near Glen Haven, at the head of Skaneateles Lake.

No. 68. Cistothorus stellaris. (Licht.) Caban. Short-billed Marsh Wren. No. 74. Mniotilta varia. (Linn.) Vieill. Black and White Creeper. Regular migrant. Last of April or first of May, and in September.

No. 88. Parula americana. (Linn.) Bonaparte. Blue-Yellow-backed Warbler. A migrant. Noted in 1882, May 5th.

No. 93. Dendroca æstiva. (GMEL.)
BAIRD. SUMMER YELLOW-BIRD. "YELLOW WARBLER." "YELLOW WREN."
Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives last of April or first of May. Departs
first of October.

No. 95. Dendræca coronata. (Linn.) Gray. Yellow-rumped Warbler. Not uncommon.

No. 97. Dendræca maeulosa. (GNEL.) BAIRD. BLACK AND YELLOW WARBLER. Common spring and autumn migrant.

No. 99. Dendræca pennsylvanica. (LINN) BAIRD. CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER. Somewhat common. Breeds. Arrives about second week in May. Departs in September.

No. 102. Dendræga blackburniæ. (Gm.) Baird. Blackburnian Warbler. Common migrant. Arriving first week in May. Departing last of September.

No. 115. Siurus auricapillus. (Linn.) Swains. Golden-Crowned Thrush or Accentor. "Oven-bird." Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives second week in May. Departs middle of September.

No. 122. Geothlpis trichas. (Linn.) Caban. Maryland Yellow-throat. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives about middle of May. Departs latter part of September.

No. 128. Setophaga ruticilla. American Redstart. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives first week in May. Departs in September.

No. 135. Vireosylvia olivacea. (LINN.) Bonap. Red-eyed Vireo. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives second week in May. Departs in September.

No. 139. Vireosylvia gilva. (VIEILL.) CASS. WARBLING VIREO. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives about second week in May, Departs in September.

No. 140. Lanivireo flavifrons. (VIEILL.) BAIRD. YELLOW-THROATED VIREO. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives with the Red-eyed Vireo. Departs in September.

No, 149 a. Lanius Indovicianus excubitorides. White-rumped Shrike. "Butcher-bird." Not uncommon summer resident. Breeds. Arrives last of March or first of April. Departs in October, usually; though I find noted one specimen seen Nov. 12, 1884.

No. 151. Ampelis eedrorum. Carolina Waxwing. Cedar-bird. Cherry-bird. Resident; common in winter. Breeds.

No. 153. Petrochelidon lunifrons (SAY.) LAWR. EAVE SWALLOW. CLIFF SWALLOW. Abundant summer resident. Breeds. Arrives middle of April. Departs last of August or first of September.

No. 154. Hirundo erythrogastra. Bodd. Barn Swallow. Abundant summer resident. Breeds. Arrives about middle of April. Departs in September.

No. 157. Cotile riparia. (LINN.) BOIE. BANK SWALLOW. Common from first week in May to second week in September. Breeds.

No. 161. Pyranga rubra. (Linn.) Vieill Scarlet Tanager. "Red-bird." Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives second week in May. Departs in September.

E. S. Passer domesticus. (LINN.) Koch. English Sparrow. Resident, and a nuisance.

No. 168. Carpodaeus purpurus. (GM.) BAIRD. PURPLE FINCH. "LINNET." Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in March. Departs in October.

No. 172. Loxia curvirostra americana. (Wils.) Coues. American Cross-bill. Occasional winter visitant.

No. 181. Astragalinus tristis. (LINN.) CABAN. AM. GOLDFINCH. "THISTLE YEL-LOW-BIRD." Abundant and resident. Breeds in July.

No. 186. Plectrophanes nivalis. (Linn.) Meyer. Snow-bunting. "Snow-bird." Quite a regular winter visitor. Common from December to March.

No. 193 a. Passerculus sandwichensis savanna. (Wils.) Ridgw. Savannah Sparrow. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in April. Departs in October.

No. 197. Poæcetes gramineus. (GM.) BAIRD. GRASS FINCH. "BAY-WINGED BUNTING. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives first week in April. Departs last of October.

No. 206. Zonotrichia leucophrys. (F'st.) Swains. White-crowned Sparrow. Migrant; last of April, middle of October.

No. 209. Zonotrichia albicollis. (Gm.) Bonaparte. White-throated Sparrow. Migrant; Middle of April, last of October.

No. 211. Spizella domestica. (Bartr.) Coues. Chipping Sparrow. "Chippie." Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives middle of April. Departs early in October.

No. 214. Spizella pusilla. (Wils.) Bonaparte. Field Sparrow. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in April. Departs last of October.

No. 217. Junco hyemalis. (Linn.) Scl. Black Snow-bird. "Rain-bird." Common spring and late autumn migrant, occasionally winters, rarely summers. Several cases of its breeding have been noted within the last two years, '83 and '84.

No. 231. Melospiza fasciata. (GMEL.) Scott. Song Sparrow. "Ground-Bird." Very common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives first of March. Departs in November.

No. 233. Melospiza palustris. (WILS.) BAIRD. SWAMP SPARROW Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in April. Departs in October.

No. 244. Zamelodia ludoviciana, (Linn.) Coues. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives middle of May. Departs last of September.

No. 248. Passerina eyanea. (Linn.) Gray. Indigo Bunting. "Indigo-bird." Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives about first of May. Departs last of September.

No. 257. Dalichonyx oryzivorus. (Linn.) Swains. Bobolink. Skunk Black-bird. Very common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs in August.

No. 258. Molothrus ater. (Bodd.) Gray. Cow Bunting. Cow-bird. Abundant. Occasionally winters.

No. 261. Agelæus phæniceus. (Linn.) Vieill. Red - and - buff-shouldered Black-bird. "Red-winged Black-bird." Extremely abundant. Breeds. Arrives middle of March. Departs in November.

No. 263. Sturnella magna. (Linn.) Swains. Meadow Lark. "Field Lark." Abundant summer resident. Breeds. Occasionally winters.

No. 271. Icterus galbula. (LINN.) COUES. BALTIMORE ORIOLE. "GOLDEN ROBIN." "FIRE-BIRD." "HANG-NEST." Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs in September.

No. 278. Quiscalus purpureus. (Bartr.) Licht. Purple Grackle. Crow Black-Bird. Common summer resident. Breeds. Occasionally winters.

No. 282. Corvus frugivorus. Bartr. Common Crow. Common resident. Breeds.

No. 289. Cyanocitta cristata. (LINN.) STRICKL. BLUE JAY. Common in localities, as Gracie's Swamp, near Messengerville, etc. Breeds.

No. 300. Eremophila alpestris. (Forst.) Bgie. Shore Lark. "Horned Lark." Resident; most common in spring aud fall. Breeds.

No. 304. Tyrannus carolinensis. King-Bird. "Bee Martin." Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives in May. Departs last of September.

No. 312. Myiarchus erinatus. (LINN.) Caban. Great-crested Flycatcher. Summer resident, not rare. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs in September.

No. 315. Sayornis luscens. (GMEL.)
BAIRO PEWRE. "PHOEBE BIRD."
"BRIDGE-BIRD." Common summer resi-

dent. Breeds. Arrives last of March. Departs first of October.

No. 320. Contopus virens. (Linn.) Caban. Wood Pewee. Not rare. Breeds. Arrives about middle of May.

No. 326. Empidonax minimus. Baird. Least Flycatcher. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives first of May or earlier. Departs last of September.

No. 335. Trochilus colubris. Linnæus Ruby-throated Humming-bird. Summer resident. Breeds. Arrives early in May. Departs in September.

No. 351. Chetura pelasgica. (LINN.) BAIRD. CHIMNEY SWIFT. "CHIMNEY SWALLOW." Abundant summer resident. Breeds. Arrives last of April. Departs middle of October.

No. 357. Chordeiles popetue. (VIEILL.) BAIRD. NIGHT HAWK. "BULL BAT." Common summer resident. Breeds.

No. 360. Picus villosus, Linn.eus, Harry Wood-Hecker. Common resident. Breeds.

No. 361. Picus pubescens. Linnæus, Downy Wood-Pecker. Common resident. Breeds.

No. 369. Sphyrapicus varius. (Linn.) Baird. Yellow-bellied Wood-pecker. Spring and autumn migrant. Arrives first week of April. Departs in October.

No. 375. Melanerpes erythrocephalus. Linn. Red-headed Wood-pecker. Common resident. Breeds.

No. 378. Colaptes auratus. (Linn.) Sw. Yellow-shafted Flicker. "High-holder." "Golden-winged Wood-pecker." "Wake-up." "Pigeon Wood-pecker." "Yellowhammer." "Flicker." "Yucker." "Yarup" "High-hole." "Claype," etc., etc., etc. Abundant in summer, occasionally winters. Breeds. Arrives middle of April. Departs last of October.

No. 382. Ceryle aleyon. (LINN.) BOIE. BELTED KINGFISHER. Summer resident; occasionally winters. Breeds. Arrives early in April.

No. 387. Coccyzus americanus. (Linn.)

BP. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Summer resident. (Rarer than No. 388). Breeds. Arrives about first of May. Departs last of September.

No. 388. Coecyzus erythrophthalmus. (Wils.) Baird. Black-billed Cuckoo. Common summer resident. Breeds. Arrives first of May. Departs last of September.

No. 397. Strix nebulosa. Forst. Barred Owl. "Hoot Owl." Resident. Breeds.

No. 402. Scops asio. (Linn.) Bp. Little Screech Owl. Not uncommon.

No. 405. Bubo virginianus. (GM.) Bonap. Great Horned Owl. Resident. Breeds.

No. 406. Nyetea scandiaca. (LINN.) NEWT. SNOWY OWL. Irregular winter visitant.

No. 420. Tinnunculus sparverius. (Linn.) Vieill. Sparrow Hawk. Summer resident; rarely winters. Breeds.

No. 425. Pandion halietus carolinensis. (GM.) RIDGW. AMERICAN OSPREY. F1SH HAWK. Occurs regularly.

No. 430. Circus hudsonius. (LINN.) VIEILL. Marsh Hawk. Marsh Harrieb. Summer resident. Breeds.

No. 431. Accipiter cooperi. Bonap. Coopers Hawk. "Chicken Hawk." Not uncommon.

No. 432. Accipiter luscus. (GMEL.) Bp. Sharp-shinned Hawk. "Pigeon Hawk." Not uncommon.

No. 436. Buteo borealis. (GM.) VIEILL. RED-TAILED HAWK. "HEN HAWK." ('ommon summer resident. Breeds.

No. 439. Buteo lineatus.(GM.) JARD. RED-SHOULDERED HAWK. "HEN HAWK." Common summer resident. Breeds.

No. 443. Buteo pennsylvanicus. (WILS.) Bp. Broad-winged Buzzard or Hawk. Rare.

No. 451. Halietus lencocephalus. (LINN.) SAVIG. BALD EAGLE. "BIRD OF WASHINGTON." Not uncommon. Said to have formerly bred in this County.

No. 459. Ectopistes migratoria. (LINN.) Sw. Passenger Pigeon. "Wild Pigeon." Formerly very common during migrations: occurs semi-occasionally in small flocks.

No. 460. Zenaidura carolinensis. (Linn.) Bp. Mourning Dove. "Turtle Dove." Rare summer resident. Breeds.

No. 473. Bonasa umbellus. (Linn.) Steph. Ruffed Grouse. "Partridge." Common resident. Breeds.

No. 480. Ortyx virginiana. American Quail. "Bob-white." Rare resident. Breeds.

No. 487. Ardea herodias. Linn. Great Blue Heron. Common summer resident,

No. 494. Butorides virescens. (Linn.) Bp. Green Heron, "Shike-poke." Common summer resident. Breeds.

No. 497, Botaurus lentiginosus, (Montae) Steph. American Bittern. Occurs occasionally.

No. 498. Ardetta exilis. (GMEL.) GRAY. LEAST BITTERN. Spec. secured in May, '82.

No. 516. Oxyechus vociferus. (Linn.) Reich. Killdeer. "Ring-neck Plover." Common summer resident. Breeds.

No. 525. Philohela minor. (GMEL.) GRAY. AMERICAN WOODCOCK COMMON. Breeds.

No. 538. Actodromas minutilla. (Vieill) Bp. Least Sandpiper. Common spring and fall migrant.

No. 550. Rhyacophilus solitarius. (Wils) Cass. Solitary Tattler. Common migrant.

No. 555. Bartramia longicauda, (Bechst) Bartrams Sandpiper. "Field Plover." Specimens secured spring 1881.

No. 557. Tringoides macularius. (Linn.) Gray. Spotted Sandpiper. "Tip-up." Common summer resident. Breeds.

No. 571. Rallus longirostris crepitans. Gmel. Clapper Rail. Rare. Breeds.

No. 572. Rallus virginianus, Linn. Virginian Rail. Occurs rarely.

No. 574. Porzana carolina. (Linn.) Baird. Sora Rail. Occurs rarely; two cases of its breeding here noted. No. 569. Gallinula galeata. (LICHT.) Bp. FLORIDA GALLINULE. Specimen secured in 1880.

No. 613. Aix sponsa. (Linn.) Boie. Wood Duck. "Summer Duck." Somewhat common. Breeds.

No. 731. Podiceps holbolli. REINH. Am. RED-NECKED GREEE. Live specimen brought me this spring, '85.

No. 732. Dytes auritus. (Linn.) Ridgw. Horned Grebe. Specimen brought to me in May, 1885.

No. 736. Colymbus torquatus. Brunn, Loon. "Hell Diver." Occurs occasionally.

> COMPILED BY M. D. M. JR., FOR BENNETT & DEAN.

A Cheap and Convenient Cabinet.

Dear Editor: - As there are many collectors of Oölogy who cannot afford walnut cases for their collections, I will try and describe a method by which I keep mine free from dust, away from the light, packed away snugly, and yet in such a shape as to be arranged for exhibition in a few moments Should you deem it worthy of publication you can insert it, otherwise, consign it to the waste-basket. Select several empty cigar boxes about of one size, (as they pack away nicely if all of one size) put a partition through the center, lengthwise, just enough lower than the sides to admit a window glass; remove the bottom carefully, (so as to admit a fine saw), then cut one, two, three or four saw curfo, according to number of partitions wanted, which depends on size of egg, in both sides and also the middle partition; cut very light, as it does not require much depth; if you cut your cross partitions just the right length, replace the bottom, and for cross partitions cut pieces of tin the right length, to go from side to center and just high enough to be level with centre partition; this then makes a good rest for your glass. At almost any hardware store you can find plenty of pieces of glass large enough for such purpose which they will cut for you

for about two cents apiece, or if you have a glass cutter, which are quite common now, you can cut them yourself just so as to fit inside of the box and rest on partitions; put some cotton in each partition, arrange the eggs to suit you, place in the glass, close the lid and they are away from the light, which we all know fades them if left in the light; and so you can pack them away as snug as a "brick." I have a great many boxes packed away, thus keeping the different varities of the same family in the same box, where one box will hold them, otherwise in two or as many as are required to do so; and yet I can set them out, canted up a little on edge with lid turned back and make about as pretty a display for the number of eggs I have as any of them, I think. Hoping to hear from others in regard to how they manage their collections, I remain,

> Fraternally yours, R. D. Goss, New Sharon, Ia.

Nest of the Black and White Creeper.

This species, belonging to the family of the warblers, generally frequents the margins of the woods, in low, swampy places, where from the crevices of the bark of trees it gleams its food of insects and their larvæ; and from its peculiar manner of creeping or leaping up and around the trunks of standing timber, it has received the name of Creeper, though in other respects it has little relationship with the other species known as the "Brown Creeper." In general it does not ascend high up the trees, like the brown species, and nuthatches, but usually pursues its food-hunting operations near the ground. Its common note is a sharp "chip," and its song a repetition of a few simple notes, uttered in a low but pleasing warble. The plumage on the upper parts of the body consists of alternate bars of white and dusty black; there is white on the throat and under parts, and the head of the male is marked with a yellow strip on the crown and over each eye; in length it is over four

inches. It arrives in Canada about the middle of May, and nests toward the end of that month. On the 18th of June last, when putting up some fence on my farm, one of these birds flushed from my feet, darted through the rails of the fence and disappeared, without uttering a note or pausing to see what fate might befall its possession. I soon discovered the nest, which contained five young about a week old. It was placed on the ground among the leaves with a few twigs bending over it, and near to and under the shelter of a fence stake, over which was the spreading branches of a beech tree, and formed of leaves, rootlets and hair. A few feet off was a gap in the fence where cattle and sheep had daily passed, and where the fence had just been taken down and was being put up, and yet the nest had not been crushed nor the bird flushed, and not until the side of the nest had been actually trodden upon had she left her charge. hour or so afterwards I looked at the nest again. The mother bird was seated upon it, and although I was within arms length of her she did not leave, but her little black eves twinkled as she looked up at me like stars on a frosty night. She had doubtless often seen me before and regarded me as a friend, although I was not aware of her existence or that of her nest. In the evening when passing I noticed with regret that the cattle had trampled on the nest, and the brood were cold and dead.

This was the fourth nest of this species that I had observed in this locality, but the other three were in the roots of fallen trees, in a low, woody place. these also contained four young the other two, eggs, one a set of four, the other of five. Of the set of five eggs in my collection, I note that they are a little larger than those of the yellow warbler, of a white hue, irregularly dotted toward the large end with brown spots, two of them having the large end covered with brown. In my "notes" for this year I note that this species was first observed be my on the 13th of May. WM. R. KELLS.

Listowel, Canada.

THE OOLOGIST.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

JOTTINGS.

All copy for the next Oölogist must reach us before March 1st.

We want our friends to send us in "lots" of interesting items for next issue.

All subscriptions commence with this number. When remitting, please state whether you have a copy or not.

Collectors, the Oölogist is your journal. Put your "shoulders to the wheel" and help the publishers make it a success,

Each issue of the Oölogist will contain a one or two page list of curiosities and specimens, which we are bound to sell regardless of cost.

This month's Octootst has a very extensive circulation; should you receive more than one copy, or not care for the copy you do receive, neither throw it away nor return it to us, but hand or send it to some friend whom it might interest. Two parties will then thank you for your trouble.

AMATEUR PRINTERS PRINTING OUR REQUEST ADVERTISEMENTS.—After January 1st we will not pay any advertising bill unless said bill is for advertising inserted by our written permission.

Collectors desiring to purchase or exchange desirable specimens should try our exchange and want column. Many of its old patrons received from 25 to 100 an swers from a single notice.

Davie's new "Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is simply immense. We will send it post-paid for only \$1.00; if your old "Egg Check List" is in good condition we will allow you 35 cents for it in exchange.

Future issues will contain twelve pages of instructive and valuable matter, and eight pages of advertising. "Our own horn" will be mostly if not exclusively blown on the advertising pages.

Every Naturalist and Curiosity collector in America should subscribe for The Oölogist. We give more original and valuable reading matter for the money than any like periodical ever published. If you are not interested in ornithology and oölogy the bargains offered in our advertising columns will more than repay the subscription price.

TWO RARE EGGS.

Among our Central American eggs of last fall's importation we find about fifty of the Groove-billed Crotophaga, worth \$3.00 each, and forty of the new and rare Gaumer's Swift, (Cheetura Gaumeri), worth any reasonable price a dealer may ask for them. We think the egg was never before offered by any dealer and doubt if one of our thousands of readers possess a specimen of this species. We have decided to give one of either the above named eggs to the first seventy-flive persons sending us \$1.00 for the egg and The Oölogist, one year. This offer is good until March 1st only.

The famous Carryl collection of birds eggs has been in our possession for nearly two years. The collection will be catalogued in the next issue of the Oölogist and offered for sale as a whole or in single sets. The collection consists of 450 species in sets with data, (besides hundreds of duplicate sets.) The collection is valued at over \$1,600.

We take the following from the Young Oölogist of Aug., 1884:

"We have sent out 125 Yucatan Jay eggs as premiums with The Young Oblogist, and have no more to offer. Many of our friends can congratulate themselves for obtaining such a desirable and beautiful egg at so slight an expense."

Our Central American eggs, including less than 100 of Yucatan Jay and about the same number of each the other species, we offer as premiums, we imported last fall for the express purpose of offering to our friends as premiums. Only about 500 can have one of these eggs. "First come, first served."

A Premium to Every Subscriber.— The publisher of The Oölogist, in order to obtain a large circulation for his little journal, offers the following inducements, which have never been equaled by the publisher of any journal devoted to the interests of naturalists and curiosity collectors.

To any person sending us tifty cents for a year's subscription to The Oölogist we will send any one of the following premiums:

- A. The Oölogist's Handbook.
- B. " DIRECTORY.
- C. 100 Assorted Data Blanks.
- D. Three of our Premium Rubber Initial Stamps with Outfit.
- E. A One-line Rubber Name Stamp with Outfit (additional lines 5 cts, each).
- F. Numbers 10, 11, 12 a, 13 and 14 of The Young Oğlogist (126 pages of valuable information).
- G. Ten Choice, Showy Minerals.
- H. 200 Foreign Stamps, over 100 varieties.
- 1. Ten named Fossils.

- J. An egg of the Ground Dove, No. 465.
- K. " American Eider "627a. L. " Razor-billed Auk "742
- M. " Common Puffln " 743.
- N. " Com. Guillemot " 763.
- N. Com. Guinemot
- O. " Yucatan Jay.
- P. " Euphonia.
- Q. "Gular Oriole.
- R. " Gray's Thrush.
- S. "Graceful Mock'g Thrush
 T. "Golden crowned Fly
 - catcher.
- U. An egg of each the Shark and Skate.
- V. An Exchange or Want Notice of not exceeding thirty words in The Oölo-GIST.

Our premiums are first-class in every respect and would cost our friends, were they to purchase, from 25 cents to \$1.00 each. We will send any one of them from A to V inclusive, and The Oölogist one year for only 50 cents.

Our Canadian friends desiring any premium excepting A. B, C, F, H and V must add 5 cents extra to pay one-half the postage. Premiums O to T are very desirable Central American Eggs and are generally retailed at \$1.00 each. We have sold lots of them at that price.

Natural History specimens are something that cannot be manufactured, and must be obtained through collectors. Our offer will hold good only as long as our present supply lasts; therefore, to secure one of the premiums, we would advise our friends to send in their subscriptions by return mail, as our supply is limited.

As many collectors will desire more than one of our valuable premiums they can, when sending in their subscriptions, enclose 25 cents for each additional premium wanted, and we will forward by return mail. Premiums ordered at other times can be had at regular retail rates.

Many of our friends during the next few months will request us to publish THE OÖLOGIST more frequent and to increase the number of pages. In reply the publisher would say that both requests were

tried with The Young Oölogist and that the publisher lost both his time and hundreds of dollars. Our time is valuable and money is scarce, consequently our "experience." must not be repeated; but we would say to our friends that from the day our subscription list numbers 2,000 paid subscribers The Oölogist will be a monthly publication, and that if every reader of this item will send in his subscription, or if each one of our patrons will subscribe and send one other subscription at once, The Oölogist will never again be sent out as a bi-monthly publication.

Special Notice to the subscribers of THE YOUNG OÖLOGIST.—We want to have each and every one of our old Y. O. friends enrolled on our new subscription book, and as we always endeavor to deal fairly with all, we will give, in addition to any premium offered, to each of these old friends who subscribed or renewed their subscriptions for the Y. O between the dates of September 1st, 1884, and August 1st, 1885, who will now help us by subscribing for The Oölogist before March 1st, an exchange notice of twenty-five or less words. As the value of this notice and the premium is over fifty cents, we are in one sense making you a present of THE Oölogist. This offer will never be repeated and is good until March 1st only.

OUR ENGRAVING

or rather the plate in this number of the Oölogist, was not only loaned but one-half of the whole number (6,000) required for this edition was presented us, by one of the Oölogist's best friends, Mr. Oliver Davie. This plate is one of those given in the second edition of his most valuable work, "Egg Check List and Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds." The following description is also taken from that work:

No. 19. American Water Ouzel—cinclus mexicanus. This interesting bird which has the aquatic habits of a duck and the tilting movements of a sandpiper, inhabits exclusively the mountainous portions of North America west of the Mississippi

from Alaska to Guatemala. It is never found near still water, frequenting only wild mountain streams, cascades, eddies and swift currents. The nest is variously situated but always in a nook or crevice near water, or shelving rocks or roots of trees. It is a beautiful ball of soft green moss about as large as a man's head, dome-shaped, with a small round hole in one side for an entrance; within it is strongly arched over and supported by twigs. Plate I., frontispiece, gives a faithful representation of one placed on a ledge of rock. The eggs are usually three in number, dull white, unspotted, and measure 1.04 by .70.

If you wish to aid us in giving your orders and communications the earliest possible attention, and to avoid making mistakes, which sometimes will happen, carefully read the following and when writing have each subject on a separate slip of paper.

- 1. Business or personal letters.
- 2. Queries (either to be answered by mail or in the Oölogist.)
- 3. Anything to be printed in the Oölo-GIST, including "exchanges and wants," advertisements, etc.. each must be on a separate slip and written on one side of the paper only.
 - 4. Orders for bird's eggs.
 - " " minerals.
 - 6. " books, supplies, etc., etc.
 - 7. " rubber stamps.
 - 8. Subscriptions for the Oölogist.

Sign your name and address in full at the bottom or top of each slip. We always first attend to orders sent as above suggested, before trying to sort out "mixed-up" ones.

Summer Birds About Washington, D.C.

As the bird life around this metropolis has interested me, it occurs to me that some of the readers of the Oölogist might care for a few notes about them. I am struck with the absence of some which are common farther North, as well as with the presence of others not found there. The robin, for instance, is not at all common here during the breeding season. I have heard but one song from him, I think,

since my arrival about the middle of April; and I have scarcely seen him above a half dozen times. The Song Sparrow I have neither seen nor heard during that time; nor Wilson's Thrush, which is so common in Western New York.

One of the most common sounds which reminds me of my change of latitude, is the hoarse croak of the Fish Crow (Corvos ossifragus,) which seems to be much more common than the Common Crow, and so near it in size and in general appearance as to be scarcely distinguishable from it except by its voice. The cheerful whistle of the Cardinal Grosbeak (C. Virginianous,) often sounding as if calling a dog—Prof. Ridgeway has seen the dogs run after the illusion-reminds me, too, that I am farther South. But the gay Cardinal is very shy here, and scarcely lets one have a glimpse of him. In every woods and thicket the monotonous ditty of the Chewink (P. erythrophthalums,) almost wears out ones patience. A beautiful nest of five eggs, which I watched closely, was twelve days in hatching. The first plumage of the young is a beautiful brown edged with lighter, the light breast being finely streaked with darker shades. The winsome song of the Prairie Warbler (D. Jiscolor,) given in the upward slide and bearing quite a resemblance to the song of the Coerulean, is quite common in the breeding season. I have seen one fine male of the Summer Redbird (P. aestira,) in a fine hardwood forest. The Catbird (Mineus Carolinensis,) and the Brown Thrush (Harporhynchus rufus,) are abundant and as musical as usual. The most common sparrow about the fields and pastures is the Yellow-winged (Cote.niculus passerinus.) Its song, so much like the shrilling of an insect, is almost constantly within hearing of the field laborer. nest containing five eggs, very closely resembling those of the Field or Bush Sparrow except that they were longer and more coarsely marked with reddish brown, was found the 23d of June. The frail nest of dried grasses was deeply sunken in a hole in the ground and incubation was well advanced. The Field Sparrow is also abundant, but the Baywing is rather scarce. The Quail seems quite common about the suburbs of the city. They are very frequently heard during the breeding season, and I saw a pair in my garden a few weeks since. I have been fortunate this season in being able to observe a Humming Bird's nest through incubation, which lasted fifteen (15) days. The nest was on a small limb of a pine tree in the woods, and some twenty-five feet from the ground.

A most noticeable species here is the Turkey Buzzard (*Cathartes aura*,) which climbs the sky in such numbers as to be an inseparable part of the landscape. The careas of any dead animal is carefully watched till it becomes mellow, and then it soon disappears.

J. H. LANGILLE.

CLUTCH.

What is clutch; how, and why is it used, and is it properly used?

I have noticed that many collectors use it, but have never been able to ascertain the correctness or origin of the word. Will some fellow-oölogist please enlighten me on this point?

While speaking to a collector who does a great deal of foreign exchanging, on this subject, he said that "clutch" is used in England and Germany in the same manner, and instead of our "set." The etymology of the word in its present meaning is not very clear; the meaning of clutch, as generally used, is to grasp, and this meanning used in an Oölogical sense would indicate the number of eggs taken from the nest, be they a full or but one thirtieth of a complement.

An enterprising friend thinks that if we need a new word, which we do to use instead of "number of eggs taken from nest," that we should have ingenuity enough to manufacture one of our own instead of accepting a mongrel of European origin.

Would be glad to see some opinion in the next number of The Oölogist, also some notes on cabinets, cabinet arrangements, and methods of work.

H. K. Landis, Landis Valley, Pa.

Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds.

One short eventful year has rolled around since we had the pleasure of examining the advance pages of the first edition of Davie's "Egg Check List of North American Birds." Our opinion at that time was given as follows in the Young Oölogist of February last:

"Last December we received a letter from our friend, Mr. Oliver Davie of Columbus, O., in which he hinted that in a short time he would place before the oölogists of America a work which would be as necessary and essential for them to have as "bread and butter," and, in fact, "they couldn't get along without it." Knowing Mr. D. to be a man of his word and not wishing to doubt his statements, we waited patiently to see "the elephant." About January 1st we received advance or sample pages of his new work. To say that we were pleased would be putting it mildly. We were then and are now ready to endorse any of Friend D.'s statements bearing on the value and necessity of his work. The work stands alone in its chosen field, and thousands will be sold during the coming season. The book itself is a marvel of cheapness and beauty, and had Friend D. been one of the "Big Bird Doctors," the idea of sending out the work for less than \$2.00 would have been absurd; but we are happy to say that, for our good, Friend D. does not belong, as yet, to that fraternity. He has concluded to content himself with very small profit, and has placed the price so low that every American collector will obtain a copy. We trust that the extensive sale of his work will more than reward him for his generosity. And we will say to the collectors obtaining a copy from us, we will not only refund their money if not more than satisfied, but will send stamps sufficient to pay the return postage.'

Only ten months has clapsed since the first copy of that edition was placed into hands of American collectors, and such a necessity was the work that not one dozen copies now remain in the possession of dealers, and thousand of collectors now stand ready to attest to its value. Friend Davie writes us in letter dated Dec. 21, 1885: "You have sold three copies to one of all the other dealers combined." We have not had a single chance to refund money to a dissatisfied purchaser.

To-day, Dec. 24th, '85, we are in receipt of advance pages of the second edition, Words cannot express our pleasure, and effuse as much as we may we cannot write Mr. Davie a worthy testimonial. since February last he has been hard at work preparing for this new edition. Collectors throughout the land have been interested, and have made it their work; hundreds, yes, thousands of suggestions, corrections and additions have been sent to him. These valuable and original helps, with gleanings from all previous writings pertaining to oölogy, combined with his own no small knowledge on the subject, have been thoroughly and carefully sifted. The "chaff" has been cast aside and the "wheat" Friend D, presents to us in one of the most valuable works ever placed The work before the oölogical world. contains in the neighborhood of 200 pages, (nearly three times that of the first edition,) and is embelished with seven full page engravings by Theodore Jasper, A. M., M. D. These illustrations are true and careful delineations of the "American Water Ouzels and nest," "Least Tit and nest," "Traill's Flycatcher and nest," "Burrowing Owl and nesting place," Swallowtailed Kite and nest," "Wood Ducks and nesting place" and "Dabchicks and nest." This edition contains and gives the habital and breeding range of each species, synonyms-that is, all the known names of each bird, with complete descriptions of all the nests and eggs of all North American Land and Water birds known to date-including several species never before described in any work. The "Notes" in the first edition have been done away with and the whole contained in the body of the work, valuable improvement. So many and valuable have been the corrections, changes and additions throughout the work that the reader would hardly recognize it as a "second edition" of Davie's "Egg Check List." Friend Davie has properly changed the title to the "Egg Check List and Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." The work will be ready for delivery January 15th, and

will be sent post-paid to any address for only \$1.00, or with The Oölogist one year for \$1.25. Any person obtaining a copy of us that is not more than pleased with his purchase can return the book in good condition and we will refund the amount paid with 25 cents additional to defray expenses. To show our readers more fully its value and the greater amount of information given in this than the first edition, we give the first few descriptions in the new work:

" L Wood Thrush—HYLOCICIILA MUS-TELINA. Color, uniform deep blue, resembling the eggs of the Robin, but smaller. The number laid is usually four, and the average size is 1. by .75. The nest is built in low trees or bushes, and composed of leaves and grasses with a layer of mud; on this there is a lining of vegetable fibres. The bird is found chiefly in low, damp woods and in thickets. Breeds throughout every portion of United States between the Mississippi River and the Atlantic, as far as Georgia on the south and Massachusetts on the north. Habitat: United States east of Missouri plains, south to Guatemala.

Wilson's Thrush—Hylocichla fuscescens. Bluish-green, unspotted: four or five in number and average .87 by .62. The nest is usually placed on the ground or near it at the foot of a bush or tussock. It is eomposed of a mass of weeds, grasses, leaves and bark, lined with fine roots and hair. The nest and eggs are not distinguishable with certainty from those of the Hermit Thrush. The Wilson's or Tawny Thrush breeds as far south as Pensylvania and Ohio and as far west as Utah and occurs in the breeding season throughout Maine, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Canada. Habitat: Eastern North America, Colorado, Utah.

3. Gray Cheeked Thrush—Hylocichla Aliclæ. Deep-green, marked with spots of yellowish and russet brown. The eggs are usually four in number, and average .92 by .64. Nest, generally placed in low trees and made of dry grasses, strips of fine bark and decayed leaves, lined with finer fibrous material. Alice's Thrush is another name for this bird. Breeds in immense numbers between the mouths of the Mackenzie and Coppermine. Habitat: Eastern North America to shores of Arctic Ocean, and along the north coast from Labrador to Kodiak, west to Fort Yukon and Missouri River States.

3a. Bickneil's Thrush—Hylocichla

3a. Bicknell's Thrush — Hylocicilla aliclæ bicknelli. The Rev. J. H. Langille in the Auk for July, 1884, gives a de-

scription of the nidification of this Thrush recently identified in the Catskill and White Mountains and named in honor of its discoverer. He found them breeding on Mud and Seal Islands, off the coast of Nova Scotia, westward from the city of Yarmouth. The nests were all nearly alike in location, structure and materials; placed a few feet from the ground, against the trunk of an evergreen tree. They were composed of various kinds of mosses, a few fine sticks, weed-stems and rootlets and were lined with fine bleached grasses. The nest was as green as a bunch of fresh moss. The eggs were of a light bluishgreen speckled with brown; size .87 by .63."

A Water Blow-Pipe.

I have no doubt but that many of our readers of The Oölogist, after a hard days march collecting eggs, feel pretty tired before they get even half through blowing their eggs, and wish, from the bottom of their watch-pocket that there was a safe way to blow eggs by steam or any other power. The way I am going to tell you now, I have used with perfect success for two or three years, and I made it at the cost of 50 cents. All you need to make it is an empty tin can, holding about 2 quarts, one which has had apples in it I am using, about 10 feet of $\frac{3}{16}$ rubber tubing, some glass tubing that will fit tight in the rubber pipe, and some string. The first thing to do is to clean the can thoroughly, then with a sharp pointed awl make a hole about ½ inch from the bottom of the can a little smaller than the pipe, so that you have to pinch and squeeze the pipe to get it in; the make the glass tubing into blow pipes not more than two inches long, and of different sizes. To go to work, introduce the rubber tube into the hole in the can, and in the other end of the tube put one of the blow pipes. Take a small ring of any kind, about 1 inch in diameter, and then by bending over the end of the tube near the blow pipe put the ring over it to keep the water from going through when not in operation. Fill the can about one-half full of good clean water, and put the can on a book case about 10 feet from the floor. By this simple arrangement we have a blow pipe which does not take a bit of trouble to blow any number of eggs, and there is plenty of force to blow any egg. The same time the egg is being blown, it is being rinsed, and all you have to do is to blow the water out when it is blown.

> Jas. M. Andrews, Saratoga Springs, N. Y,

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Over 100 notices in these columns next issue guaranteed.

N.B.—Every offer or want in this number of The Oologist is made by Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. V., to whom all correspondence offers should be addressed. Owing to the fact that we will receive thousands of letters during the next few months, we cannot reply to any except accepted offers, unless addressed postal is enclosed for reply.

Wanted.—In large or small quantities the following Birds eggs, must be first-class in every respect, or will be returned at senders expense. All packages must be plainly marked with senders name and address. Nos. 2, 41, 50a, 61a, 90, 122, 128, 134, 139, 151, 155, 157, 161, 168, 103a, 218, 237, 248, 257, 258, 263, 271, 278, 287, 300, 312 326, 335, 336, 338, 340, 351, 353, 354, 357, 362, 382, 387, 388, Owls and Hawks any species, 450, 473, 480, 492, 498, 516, 525, 526a 555, 557, 572, 582, 583, 641 and 721 will give in exchange any othe following, at EVEN RATES, sent by mail or express, at your expenses, or one-half rates at my expenses, 12, 13, 13a, 22, 23, 36, 38, 42-63, 67, 123, 152, 104, 170a, 182, 198, 204, 204a, 206, 211, 231c, 242, 243, 244, 251, 254, 238a, 259, 269, 270, 274, 275, 286, 289, 301, 333, 300, 460, 462, 464, 465, 580, 585, 602, 618, 627a, 603, 664, 669, 685, 686, 732, 742, 743, and 763; the above offer is good until March 1st only.

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Vol. III. ALBION, N. Y., MARCH & APRIL, 1886. No. 2.

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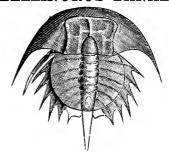
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described on page 13 last OOLOGIST has been pronounced a perfect success by all trying it. We can now by special arrangement send 10 feet of the rubber tubing by mail, post-paid, for 50 cents. Small lots 6 cents per foot; 10 feet or over, 5 cents per foot.

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THE OOLOGIST.

Vol. 3, No. 2. ALBION, N. Y., MAR. & APR., 1886.

BI-MONTHLY.

VAGARY OF A COLLECTOR.

Great Horned Owls; Climbing Strap.

I have had hard luck thus far after the Bubos. The 20th of February I set down as the proper date to look after them, and before that time, for a week or two, I try to locate the birds as best I can, in order to save time when they are nesting. This year I was unusually busy and had but little time for early locating. I knew of three pairs of birds in 1885 and reasonably counted on at least two of them keeping to their old localities this year.

On the 14th I was out and visited one of these locations and saw one bird. On the 19th I spent the whole day, tramped about fifteen miles, visited four woods where I had seen birds or heard of their being seen lately, including the woods visited on the 14th, but found nothing of nests, and no owls, except a single one in the same woods mentioned already. I felt convinced that its mate must be sitting close at hand, and gave a thorough search, pounding on all likely trees and exploring old Hawk's and Crow's nests, but without avail.

The nest found in this woods in 1885 was in a large decayed stub, the top of which had blown off, leaving a cavity without top two feet deep and eighteen inches in diameter. I carefully explored this tree without climbing it. It was at least 50 feet high, with no bark or limbs, and I have made it a rule never to climb to a nest without knowing it to be occupied. I hammered on the hard shell with my climbers, then with a club, and to make finally sure threw heavy stones against it as high up as I could, but to all appearances it was not occupied. Well, I was played out, tired out and disgusted. I had eaten a hasty breakfast at 6:30 A. M.. and after a cold tramp, with considerable snow on the ground, I reached home with nothing to show for my trouble. However, I did justice to a good supper and slept soundly.

Sunday morning, the 21st, I concluded I would take a little stroll, so sauntered off to the nearest woods, about one-quarter of a mile from our village limits, and had not been in the woods ten minutes before I discovered on old Great Horned Owl seated in a last years Crow's nest. Well, it was Sunday, but, fortunately, my "bringing up" does not interfere with my staying home from church on occasions, so I posted back after my climbers, believing it safer to take the bird in hand than wait for Monday's two in the bush. At the first stroke of the climbers the old Owl left her nest and alighted 50 or more yards off in woods, watched my ascent closely. As I neared the nest she flew closer, bent forward on her perch, extended her wings nearly to full length, and with a low. quivering ho-o-o-o, described a circular motion with her body and head, keeping her grasp securely to the perch. In an instant her mate appeared from the far corner of the woods, and together they eyed me savagly, but at a respectable distance. The climb was an easy one. The nest was about 70 feet up, on a small white oak near the top where the small limbs forked. The two eggs were almost buried in loose feathers of the owl. They proved to be quite fresh, probably laid not over five or six days. The next morning I was knocked flat to have an acquaintance come into the office and ask first the loan of my climbers and strap, and then my services to climb to a Great Horned Owl's nest that he had just found. I proffered the former, but emphatically declined the latter request. Upon inquiring I found his nest was in the identical tree where I had found the birdnesting in 1885, and which I had so closely

examined on the 19th of this month, as already related. As he was no climber, he secured the services of a workman and took along an extensive ladder. Later he told me that after vain attempts to erect the ladder they gave it up, but by the use of the strap and irons, got one egg from the nest. That had been set on for a week or more. Of course I was glad for him that he was successful, but I would very much like to know why that Owl didn't fly out when I wanted her to. I worder if collectors generally use a "strap" for heavy climbs? I never did until last year, although I often intended trying one. Mine is 15 feet long, 18 inches wide, by nearly 3-16th of an inch thick, made of good harness leather. It is really in two pieces, one piece has a heavy buckle at one end and a snap hook at the other; the second piece has holes to fasten in the buckle, and in the other end of it are secured four heavy rings, sewed in tight, at distance of six inches apart. By snapping hook to end ring and buckling up so as to draw the body close to the tree I am ready to start, not touching my hands to the tree at all, but grasping the strap which passes close under my arms and around the tree. I climb I raise the strap, and when tired I can lean back in the strap and rest comfortably. As the tree gets smaller I snap the hook into a shorter ring to take up slack. In coming to a limb I find it much easier to make use of the snap than to use a buckle. ORTYX.

Chester Co., Pa.

My First Hunt for Tern Eggs.

One warm, sultry day in the latter part of June, 1883, after loafing about the house and amusing myself in killing a lot of those pesky little insects, the musquito, and thinking what I should do to pass my time away in the afternoon, I was suddenly started by hearing somebody calling me, and almost before I could answer, I beheld the familiar form of my chum and playmate, George Whittington, standing before me. After talking to him for a few

moments, my father made his appearance and gladdened our hearts by telling us to be ready after dinner to make a trip to Gull Island. After getting a basket and a few necessary articles ready, we were called to dinner, but I was in such a flurry that very little dinner I ate. After dinner we had a short walk of a quarter of a mile, to our boat, then everything was packed snugly away in the bow of our boat, sails were raised, my father took the rudder, and away we went sailing over the bright blue waters of the bay. After sailing for about an hour and a half we suddenly rounded a bend in the inlet and Gull Island lav before us. And well may it be called Gull Island, for all at once large flocks of Com. Tern and Black Skimmers arose from the sand and filled the air with sweet music. It did not take us very long to make everything snug on board of our boat, and then we scampered off on a tour of inspection. This was the first time I had ever visited this island, which is nothing more than a sandbar, inhabited only by sea birds, sand-fleas, musquitoes and the different species of shells. I wish some of my readers had been here to see what a beautiful sight this small sandbar presented, for wherever the eye rested you were always sure to see a rude nest or hole in the sand containing from one to three eggs. We were kept busy in gathering the eggs, and my chum would cry out every once and awhile for me to come to him quick, to see what kind of an egg this one was, till I was greatly excited, and in my haste to pick up the eggs I missed a great many nests. After about half an hours work we were called by my father who said it was time to be getting under way, for the tide was rapidly falling, and we had to make for home or else get stuck on the sandbars or oyster beds, of which there are a great many in our bay. While sailing along we took account of stock, and found that between the three of us we had collected 357 Common Tern, 74 Black Skimmer, 17 Herring Gull and 6 Laughing Gull, or a total of 454 eggs in half an hour, and I have no doubt some of them are in some of my readers' cabinets. Three years have elapsed since this egg hunt took place, and the birds have not been molested since. This season I shall pay them another visit.

С. S. Sшск,

Sea Isle City, N. J.

Birds of Cortland Co., N. Y.

To the Oologist:

Cortland County is, I believe, as favored as any inland county with bird life. It certainly has as many enthusiastic collectors and fine collections as one may see anywhere. I have examined all of them I could hear of, and have shot several birds in its limits. I was naturally much interested in the list of Cortland birds, published in the first number of the Oölogist for this year. M. D. M. Jr. has, I am sure, neglected to insert many of the birds that are not here. The list numbers 109, while the Onondaga county list just published contains 204.

I have seen skins, not mentioned on the list, shot in Cortland county in 1885.

Myiodioctes canadensis, L. Canadian Fly-catching Warbler. Shot May 28th. Common.

Lanius borealis, V. Great Northern Shrike or Butcher bird. Common all winter. Seen in January. Shot specimen April 7th.

Iridoproene bicolor. Coues. White-bellied Swallow. Specimen secured May 12. May be rare.

Centurus Curolinus. L. Red.bellied Wood-pecker. Female shot January 1. Not very common; resident.

Gallingo Wilsoni, Temm. Wilson's Snipe. Fine one secured April 10. Not rare in marshes.

Falco Sparverius. L. Sparrow Hawk. Several brought to me. One preserved July 27. A handsome hawk.

Poddymbus podicipes. L. Pied-billed Grebe. April 14, The most common variety here, I think.

In addition there are about sixteen species which might be safely added to the list.

Pine Grosbeak and Redpoll. *Pinicola ermeleator*, L. and *Aegiothus linaria*. L., of which I have seen winter flocks and Mr. Hendrick has specimens.

White-winged Cross-bill rare, specimen in Haight's.

Chewink, *Pipio erythrophthalmus*. L. I have heard two or three speak of shooting them there.

Acadian Owl and Long-eared Owl are not uncommon, and I think I have seen one Short-eared Owl there mounted.

The Northern Goldfinch, *Chryromitris* pinus is common in winter, but I have no specimen secured in county limits.

Of water birds there is quite a list. Wild geese occasionally fly over. Old Wife or Long-tailed duck *Harelda glacialis*, L., still found occasionally. Several specimens may be seen.

One Shoveller Duck, Spotula clypeata, L., was shot by an acquaintance in 1885.

Blue-winged Teal and Green-winged Teal are not uncommon.

Hooded Mergansers are rare, but the common Merganser, Mergus merganser, L., or fish-duck is common where there is open water.

At least one specimen of the large white Gull was stranded there lately and studied.

A flock of small so-called Black-headed Gulls flew over there a few years ago, and I have seen one of them mounted. But for the fact of its not being mentioned, I should judge that the lady keeping it was M. D. M., Jr. This was, I suppose, the Chroicocephalus atrictlla, L., or Laughing Gull. May good luck attend all bird lovers.

F. W. Higgins, M. D.,

March 10, 1886. Chemung, N. Y.

A Popular Nest.

On May 5th, 1885, I took a set of six Bronzed Grackle's eggs from a nest in a small cottonwood tree on the banks of a creek. Passing that way again on the 15th of May a Grackle flew off from the nest, and on climbing I found another set of five eggs. June 9th, while passing in under the tree I found a large blue egg on the

ground unbroken, and the shell of another egg. Noticing that the nest had been altered some I climbed to it and found another egg. The bird, some variety of Heron, had merely laid a few sticks on the top of the nest and laid its eggs on so shallow a platform that I did not wonder that they rolled off. Last, on July 3d I took a set of Mourning Dove's eggs from the same nest. Now, if any reader of the Oölogist ever took a greater number of eggs from one nest I would like to hear from them.

C. A. Babcock,

Harper Co., Kansas.

Summary: Four sets of eggs, of three different species, taken from the same nest inside of sixty days. Who can beat this?—[ED.

Davie Correct.

Will you please tell me the names of the following two kinds of birds' eggs, both being described as eggs of the Black Throated Bunting. Wilson's Ornithology describes the egg of the Black Throated Bunting as a "white egg with spots and streaks of black," like an Oriole, and Davie's Egg Check List describes the egg as light blue, almost exactly like a Bluebirds." Which of the two descriptions is correct?

June 23, 1885, while hunting, I found an Indigo Bunting's nest containing three eggs; two were of the common color, while the third was exactly like the others in size and color, except on the larger end were dark, reddish brown spots. Is that not something unusual? W. S.,

Kewanee, Ill.

From a North Carolina Collector.

Never having noticed any notes from collectors in this vicinity, in your valuable paper, the Oölogist, I thought that a short report of my own work for last season might be interesting to some of your readers.

On June 16th I left Wilmington, N. C., for the mouth of the Cape Fear river on a collecting tour. Arriving there I secured

the assistance of two young boys and started for the beach. After some little walking, we succeeded in reaching the nesting ground of the sea birds of this locality. Upon our arrival dense clouds of Shearwater, Oyster birds, Tern, Gulls, Snipe, Plover, etc., arose, deafening our ears with their cries, but in spite of their great number it was some little time before I could find any eggs, on account of their being so like the sand in color. We were very successful, getting numbers of sets of all the above named varieties, besides a pair of the old birds of each variety, all of which now grace my collection. While collecting these eggs, I came upon a specimen of egg which has puzzled me greatly. It was about the size of a hen's egg of light blue color, but was not perfect in shape, looking as though two eggs had pressed into each other, so that the four ends were perfectly distinguishable, and was evidently partly petrified, being as heavy as lead; it was in a freshly made nest with one other egg, that of the Shearwater. Can any of your readers give me any information on this? On June 11th I went on a collecting tour to a portion of Pamlico Sound, about ten miles from the city, where the Herons had their nesting place in what are called The Hammocks. I succeeded in getting numerous sets of the small white and blue varieties. The nests were built in low trees, and were a flat mass of sticks out of which the eggs would roll upon the least disturbance. I also found a nest of the Marsh-hen or Coot, with eleven eggs, all fresh but two. usual number of eggs in a Heron's nest was three: but I found two nests with four each. At night when the Herons come home to roost they completely cover the trees, making a beautiful sight. I shot a pair of blue and also a pair of the white ones.

The Fish Hawk is common here, there being four nests in one small pond close by the city, all of which are placed upon dead trees, from ten to twenty feet high, and standing in the water. The "Shitepoke," (American Bittron) is very common.

Among the birds I have seen here in plenty are the following: Kingfisher, Catbird, Red-eyed Fly-eateher, Brown Thrush, Morning Dove, Mocking Birds, Red-shouldered Hawk, Coots, Buzzards, Crows, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Robin, Shearwater, Cardinal Grosbeak, Yellow Hammer, Sea-chicken, Snipe, Cedar Bird, Cow Bird, Bull Bats, and a great variety of Ducks. To me this seasons collecting has been very successful, as I have all of the above named birds as well as their eggs. I remain a constant reader of your splendid paper.

E. G. Lewis, Wilmington, N. C.

Whip-poor-will.

Comparatively rare in many localities the Whip-poor-will is, yet so well known by name, at least, that a few words in regard to him may not be amiss. His popular name is a torably accurate rendering of his note, which can be heard on a quiet spring evening for a long distance and prolonged in one unceasing series of repititions far into the night. He is a nocturnal bird, living on the insects that his sharp, owllike eyes spy out in the darkness and gloom of the deep forest. In the daylight he appears stupid and as if half blinded by the light. In breeding he selects rough, unfrequented woodland, and deposits his eggs, two in number, on the ground in a mere apology for a nest.

Last summer, while passing through a strip of woodland thickly covered with undergrowth, a Whip-poor-will suddenly flew up and alighted on a decaying treetrunk a few feet from me, where she sat keenly alive to my every motion. flying, and at intervals, after perching on the tree, she gave utterance to a hissing sound somewhat resembling the hiss of a snake. I at once began searching for the nest, which I soon found. The nest, a very slight depression in the ground in an exposed place, was lined with two dry leaves on which the eggs were deposited. The eggs, two in number, slightly incubated, measure 1,28x,90, are a soiled white

color, spotted and blotched with gray and brown. There was no attempt whatever at concealment, but construction of the nest, color of the eggs and solitude of the locality were all so advantageous that any attempt at concealment would only have tended to lessen the security. The parent, when she observed that I had found her nest, abruptly abandoned her vigil and again uttering that peculiar hissing sound rapidly disappeared through the thick foliage of the intervening trees. I waited some time for her return, but in vain, and I do not think that she ever afterward visited the spot. Н. А. Косн.

College Hill, O.

An Unusual Friendship.

June 11, 1884, I saw what I took to be a Robin's nest in a maple tree on a public avenue. Upon ascending, was surprised to see a Robin and an English Sparrow fly from the nest, which was like an ordi nary Robin's nest, except being thickly lined with feathers, which were well embedded in the cement of the outer nest. It contained three eggs of the Robin and six of the Sparrow, all evenly and highly incubated. The eggs were not intermingled, each kind being on a side in a slight depression, but not separated from one another. The feathers which lined the nest. except the small ones on the bottom, were stuck quill ends in the cement, and the tops or feather ends curved inward, so as to nearly conceal the eggs. The Robin and Sparrow had been setting side by side on their respective eggs.

It may be mentioned that these birds are usually enemies.

L. P. B.

Queens Co., N. Y.

Coues' Wrong.

In Coue's Key to N. A. Birds, 1872 edition, he says: "American Gold-finch—nest small, compact, downy, eggs four to five, white, speckled." I thought the eggs of the American Gold-finch were of a uniform pale blue color. How is this?

J. C. W. Richmond, Ind.

THE OOLOGIST.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,

Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

JOTTINGS.

All copy for the next Oölogist must reach us before May first.

Remember the Oölogist is now a Bi-Monthly, and that if you do not receive the next issue until June 1st, it's on time.

Winter prize contest closes March 20th. We can almost safely say that not to exceed ten names will take the first prize.

Davie's new "Check List" is selling like hot cakes. It already requires three figures to express the number of copies we have sold.

If you want the Oölogist monthly, speak a good word for it to your collector friends and induce them to subscribe. Every new name will count one towards that "2,000."

We have in press the neatest and handiest Checking List of the Nomenclature of N. A. Birds you ever saw, printed on extra fine paper, eight pages, three foldings, and it will go nicely into a No. 6 envelope. Send two cents for sample and see for yourself.

Yneatan Jay and Fossil premiums are exhausted. We "told you so." The supply of many of our other premiums is nearly exhausted.

We are pleased to note that Mr. J. Parker Norris, a prominent lawyer of Philadelphia, has taken charge of the oölogical department of the *Ornithologist and Oölogist*, of Boston. Mr. N. is not a novice in writing up "bird-happenings," and we predict that the present Vol. of the O. & O., oölogically at least, will be the most valuable ever published.

We most heartily thank our friends for the liberal manner in which they have sent in their subscriptions and articles for the Oölogist. We hardly want our friends to think we are "awful greedy," but we do want 1,000 more subscribers and "lots" of interesting original bird-notes—notes on the more rare species preferred. With these two most essential requisites we can make the Oölogist the best monthly bird-magazine ever published.

We regret to announce that the original plates intended for Davie's new "Check List," have been destroyed by fire at the office of the engravers, Crosscup & West, Philadelphia. The originals are now being duplicated, and we expect to be enabled to fill all orders by April 1st. Being sole wholesale agent for this valuable work, it is needless to add that our patrons can depend upon receiving their copies as soon as ssued.

If you wish to aid us in giving your orders and communications the earliest possible attention, and to avoid making mistakes, which sometimes will happen, carefully read the following and when writing have each subject on a separate slip of paper.

- 1. Business or personal letters.
- 2. Queries (either to be answered by mail or in the Oölogist.)
- 3. Anything to be printed in the Oölo-GIST, including "exchanges and wants,"

advertisements, etc., each must be on a separate slip and written on one side of the paper only.

4. Orders for bird's eggs.

5. '' '' minerals.

6. " books, supplies, etc., etc.

7. " rubber stamps.

8. Subscriptions for the Oölogist.

Sign your name and address in full at the bottom or top of each slip. We always first attend to orders sent as above suggested, before trying to sort out "mixed-up" ones.

A Warm Place for a Nest.

Last summer I was told by a little boy that wrens were in the habit of building in lamp-posts. I looked in every lamp-post that I came to after that and have found five in the little ventilator on the top of the post. In several I have found eggs, and in one young ones.

M. G. K.,

St. Thomas, Out.

Nest of the Brown Creeper. (Certhia familiaris rufu.)

Near the centre of my farm-Wildwood -is a tract of low, swampy woodland, the principal timber of which is black ash, swamp elm, red maple, cedar and other soft woods. Until late in the season the ground is generally under water, and as the surface is littered with old logs and brush, and in some places there is a thick growth of young underwood, it will be noted that to oölogize in such a place is a work difficult and unpleasant, as you have either to wade through the cold water or scramble through the brush and jump from log to log. Yet there are reasons to induce the oölogist and student of ornithology to seramble through such places, for since the premises came into my possession, some three years ago, I have seen in this wood and around its margin, nests of the following species: Crow, Robin, Hermit and Tawny Thrushes, Water Thrush, Catbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Song Chipping, White-throated Sparrows, Indigo Bird, Red-eved Vireo, Goldfinch, House Wren, Golden Winged, Hairy Wood-

pecker, Kingbird, Cherry-bird, as well as old nests of the Chestnut-sides Yellowrumped and Yellow Warblers and Wood Pewee. I have also reasons to believe that other species, including the Winter Wren, have also occasionally nested there. And among the many other bird-notes heard there in the early spring are those of the active little Brown Creeper. Its presence there at the period of nidification last spring led me to infer that it also nested there, so I determined, if possible, to discover if such was the case. Being out in this wood on the 13th of May, I was examining the trunk of an old ash tree, when the notes of a Creeper fell on my ear, and glancing upwards I saw the bird running up the trunk of a neighboring tree, with some white wooly-looking material in its bill. From this she flew direct to another old ash tree, which I had just examined. without making any discovery; going back I found the commencement of a nest under a piece of curled bark about eight feet from the root of the tree. Pleased with the discovery I determined to watch proceedings. and calculating that it would take about two weeks for the bird to complete the nest and deposit her full set of eggs, I did not visit it again until the 23d, when. bringing with me a short ladder and reaching the site, I raised the bark a little, and looking in saw in a cosy little nest three pretty eggs. As I supposed the full set would be about six I revisited the nest again on the 27th and found seven eggs in it: as the Creeper was not at home and had evidently deposited that morning, I concluded that the set was not yet completed. so I took part of the eggs and returned again on the 29th, when I found that another egg had been added. I then removed the nest, and it is now with its full set of eight eggs in my collection, in addition to another set of five taken six years ago some twelve miles north of this place: the nest proper is about three inches in diameter by one in depth, and is chiefly composed of the fine fibres of cedar bark with some fine hair and small feathers, the foundation having been formed of rough pieces of bark and the nests of insects. WM. L. KELLS.

Listowel, Canada.

Correspondence.

FROM MISSOURI.

I send you a few extracts from my notes for January and February, 1885: Jan. 1st. —Some people where I am in the country have placed a wide board outside the window on which they put crumbs and bran, and all the winter birds come and feed; among them I notice, Downy, Hairy and Red-bellied Wood-peckers, Black-capped Chickadees, Snow Buntings, Black Snowbirds, Blue Jays, Nut-hatches. Feb.6.—In a twenty mile drive saw nothing new except a few Long-spurs. Feb. 8.—Saw the first Shore Larks, a small flock; saw a Rough-legged Hawk. Feb. 10.—Saw a flock of Goldfinches, the first this winter; a Robin perched in a tree in the yard and sang as merry as if it was May. —Bird life is at a standstill except that Shore Larks are getting plenty. Feb. 15.— Birds are getting noisy, Crows, Jays and Wood-peckers are making love; heard one Blue-bird to-day. Feb. 20.—Blue-birds are plenty this morning, Shore Larks in flocks. Feb. 24.—Blue-birds have thinned out some, gone farther North probably. Saw the first Tit-mice, also a flock of (about 20) Cedar Wax-wings; also five Passenger Wild Geese have been flying Pigeons. north for the last few days; weather warm M. C., and raining. Wayland, Mo.

LATE NESTING.

Following are a few examples of late nesting in this locality, Southwestern Ohio,

season of 1885:

Aug. 30—Y. B. Cuckoo, 3 fresh eggs. Aug. 22—Am. Goldfinch. 4 young, just hatched. Aug. 15.—Chewink, three fresh eggs; Am. Goldfinch, 5 eggs; Y. B. Cuckoo, 4 eggs. Aug. 7.—Indigo Bird. 3 eggs; Chewink, 2 eggs. Aug. 6.—Wood Pewee, 2 large young; Indigo Bunting, 2 eggs. Aug. 5.—Cardinal Grosbeak, 2 young; Bluebird, 4 fresh eggs.

11. A. Koch.

MY CABINET.

I saw in the last number of the Oblogust a communication from R. D. Goss, in regard to cabinets, and as that is a subject which has interested me a great deal I will take the liberty of describing mine, and should be glad to hear from anyone else that may have any suggestions to offer. My cabinet is a thread case like the dry goods merchants keep spool thread in; it has nine drawers, three 24x15 inches, and six 12x15 inches. I have them full of trays, small trays for sets of small eggs, and large trays for sets of large eggs. The

trays are lined with colored cotton, the printed name and number pasted on the inside, and then the eggs put in the numbers are arranged successively so that it is very easy to find any one that may be wanted; then the data blanks are filled out to correspond and placed so I can get to them easily. Now, if anyone has anything better to offer let them come forward and help brother Goss and myself out.

W. W. WESTGATE, Houston, Texas.

A BEHEADED QUAIL.

While a friend of mine in Iowa was cutting his grain with a mowing machine he ran over a quail's nest without knowing it, and when the men who were raking came up they found the nest with the beheaded quail still sitting on her eggs. This goes to show the natural instinct of these birds to keep quiet even when a person is quite near their nest.

WILL P. CHASE,

Medina, N. Y.

NESTS OF GREAT CRESTED FLYCATCHER AND
WOOD THRUSH.

While in the central-eastern part of New Jersey last June, as I was passing through an old apple orchard, I chanced to notice a round hole about four inches in diameter in one of the trees. Thinking it might contain some oölogical treasure I thrust my hand in about ten inches and was agreeably surprised to feel two eggs. I then took one out and examined it. ground work was almost buff and was profusely marked with purplish-red and brown blotches. The nest consisted of some soft material and dried grass, and was nearly flat. As far as I could ascertain the bird appeared to be chiefly brown, and its head was ornamented with a quite conspicuous crest. The nest was so low that I could easily reach it from the ground.

One morning in the latter part of June, as my cousin and I were rambling through some swampy ground bent on the destruction of some "chip-monks" which had evaded us, I chanced to notice a nest, which was placed horizontally upon a tree which had in some way been bent over, and I climbed up the trunk and bent it down still farther so that my cousin could reach the nest. The bird allowed itself to be caught without any apparent fear. It was about the size of a cat-bird and was chiefly brown. Its breast was drab and was marked with round black dots, which were set at intervals upon it. Its head was nearly flat and the bill was about threequarters of an inch in length. The eggs were a bluish-green and were a little smaller than a robin's. There were four of

them and incubation was well advanced. The nest was somewhat compact and was composed of dry grass, horse hair, etc. Will you please oblige me by telling me the names?

H. S. Mallouy,

Akron, Ohio.

Your first nest described is that of the Great Crested Flycatcher; second one, Wood Thrush.—[ED.

PYGMY NUTHATCH.

I notice in vol. II, p. 44, Y. O., an account of the breeding of the Pygmy Nuthatch in South Carolina and Georgia. It is doubtless a mistake, for the Brownheaded Nuthatch, Sitta pusilla, which is a common species through that region. Sitta pygmaa is strictly western in its distribution.

Chas. F. Batchelder,

Cambridge, Mass.

On January 15th I found a nest of the Great Horned Owl, it was in a dead snag about ten feet high, had two fresh eggs. The snow was then two feet deep, and a cold day. The old Owl could be plainly seen from the ground; I had noticed her in the snag frequently but did not think of her laying any eggs so soon. Last season I found one nest of the Great Horned Owl, eight of the Red-tailed Hawk, and one Whip-poor-will.

James C. Jay,
La Hoyt, Ia.

On February 18th I saw a flock of about twelve or fifteen Cedar-birds. I knew from their size and manner of flight that they were not English Sparrows, and concluded they must be some other bird, and watched them until they had alighted and soon found out what they were. They are the first migratory birds that have been seen about here, to my knowledge, with the exception of a Red-headed Woodpecker. One was seen here on February 2d, and, by the way, is the Red-headed Wood-pecker strictly migratory?

F. W.,

Dowagiac, Mich.

I saw a Robin on the 21st of January this year. He was probably brought here by the westerly wind and storm of a few days since.

Fred, C. Test.
Richmond, Ind.

Yesterday while out walking (Jan. 28th) I saw five Bluebird's flying around as if they had come to spend the rest of the winter with us. Is not this rather early for them?

H. W.,
Passaic, X. J.

W. E. Brewster, of Rochester, N. Y., says that he has seen several robins this winter, and others have been seen in different parts of the city.

F. O. H., Grass Lake, Mich., wishes to know the number of birds which are annually slain for millinery purposes.

H. S. Meigham, Mamaroneck, N. Y., reports first Blue-birds on St. Valentine's Day.

Is it only the males of the Ruby-throated Humming-birds that have ruby throats? Do the young males have the ruby throat until the second season V. B. C.,

Port Hope, Ont.

Ans. 1. Males only.

2. Young males are sometimes said to have some ruby on their throats the first season.

An Old Letter from "Davie."

My Dear Friend Lattin:

Allow me to congratulate you on the May number of your magazine. This number makes it at once rank with any other publication of the kind in the country. I am particularly pleased with Mr. Parker's article, and no doubt every young collector who reads the Young Oölogist will devour every word in that of Mr. Chamberlain's. On the whole it is "tip-top," and I do not think the quality of this number could be much improved on.

Your magazine occupies a place that no other one does, and it must succeed. I, at least, shall do all in my power to increase your list of subscribers, and that is what will support a periodical longer than praise. I am hard at work on the second edition of my Check List.

Dr. J. C. Merrill, U. S. A., who is stationed here at present, is assisting me in the preparation of my M.S. With him, Mr. Brewster and Dr. Wheaton, I will have about as accurate and complete a work as can be issued. I regard Dr. Merrill as one of the best ornithologists in this country. He has made some rare discoveries in nests and eggs, and was Dr. Brewer's special correspondent when he was stationed in the extreme Southwest. He has given me some new and original notes, and is very much taken with my first effort. He says I "have got the field and I must keep it."

OLIVER DAVIE.

Black and White Creeper.

There seems to be a difference of opinion in regard to the nesting habits of this bird. Audubon states that it nests in holes in trees; but the universal opinion seems to be that it nests on the ground. The eggs are seldom found in this vicinity, (Queens county, N. Y.,) although the bird is quite common here.

A nest found a few years ago, containing three highly incubated eggs, was on the ground, at the base of a tree.

One found July 18, 1882, containing eight eggs was in a hole in a white birch tree. The hole contained an inner nest of soft stufis.

In May, 1885, I saw one of these birds excavating a hole in a dead cherry tree. I watched it at work for over a week, when a boy caught it and brought it to me. I am sure of identity. Will some of our kind bird friends state their experience in regard to this bird?

L. P. B.

Queens Co., N. Y.

Black-billed Cuckoo Depositing Eggs in a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's Nest.

On the afternoon of July 31, 1885, (about 6 P. M.) I found a Cuckoo's nest containing four eggs of a uniform size and color. The nest was placed in an apple tree and the bird frightened off was a Yellow-billed. The eggs appearing to be newly laid I left the nest, returning to it the next afternoon (Ang. 1), when, to my surprise, the nest contained six eggs, being clearly an increase of two eggs in one day. As it is not probable that the bird would deposit an egg after six o'clock of the evening of July 31, moreover one of the eggs was smaller, a darker green color and smoother shelled than the others, and seemed to be an egg of the Black-billed Cuckoo.

It is well known that the Cuckoo sometimes deposits its eggs in the nests of such birds as the Robin, Cat-bird and Wood Thrush, but I never heard of one Cuckoo using the nest of another.

Later in the season I found another Cuckoo's nest. (I could not determine the species for want of time) which contained six eggs, three of which were larger and lighter green colored than the others, thus dividing the contents into two sets each, of which were uniform in size, color, etc., and one of which appeared to belong to a Yellow-billed and the other to a Blackbilled Cuckoo. To be sure the eggs of the two species are often indistinguishable and the eggs of the same species often vary in size from the same bird, so that in the latter case the eggs might possibly all have been from the same parent, though not, probably, as the unusually large number of eggs and their distinct division into two sets seem to point to the other conclusion.

Н. А. Косп.

Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Large numbers of these birds nest on the salt meadows of Long Island. They prefer a low bush, but sometimes build in the meadow grass. The nest, made of coarse sedges, etc., firmly interwoven, cemented together, and lined with soft stuffs, is not exactly spherical, but longer in its perpendicular diameter. It is usually fastened to the bush or grasses firmly, about three feet from the ground or water, as the case may be. It has one hole in the side for entrance and exit, and usually does not have any preceptible projecting edge over the hole. Of more than three hundred nests examined, not more than ten had the projecting edge; six were double, (i. e., one connected obove the other:) two had the holes in the side: and one had the hole in the top, all centaining eggs.

The usual number of eggs is four or five. Of over three hundred eggs collected, all were in sets of four or five, except one set of six, and two of three. When the eggs are laid they are covered with a bunch of fine grass, when the bird leaves the nest of her own accord. When she is in the nest the grass nearly fills the entrance.

They lay from the early part of June to the last of July and while some nests contain young birds others are not completed.

L. P. B. Queens Co., N. Y.

Intelligence of Birds.

Having read many interesting articles upon the intelligence of birds, I will relate an instance which came under my personal observation, and the nest now in my possession is proof positive to the most skeptical.

An Oriole had woven her nest on the end of a very long limb of a maple-all was completed and the eggs laid, when a severe storm overturned the nest and broke the contents. She soon laid another clutch. which shared the fate of the first lot; a third time she was equally unsuccessful. Seemingly, to examine the position, and determine, if possible, a remedy, she flew round the nest for several hours, hopping from branch to branch. About two feet to the right of the nest was a small branch; the bird flew away, returning later with a quantity of string, which she wove round the branch, then carried the ends to the nest, weaving them in giving the nest the needed support; laid her eggs and reared her birds, a monument to bird intelligence. - [We very much regret that the writer's name of the above has been mislaid and that we cannot give him due credit.—ED.]

Canibalism of the Red-headed Woodpecker.

I noticed two interesting incidents last spring connected with a Red-headed Woodpecker, which may interest the readers of the Oölogist. Early in May I found a nest of this bird containing six eggs, situated in the dead branches of an oak thirty feet high. Near by a Crested Titmouse had industriously carved out his little home, in which he was feeding a nest full of young.

A few days after, having taken the Woodpecker's eggs (I needed them for my collection) I was watching the Titmouse's nest to see him feed his little ones, when suddenly the owner of the robbed nest flew down and lit near the entrance to the nest of its neighbor, and thrusting his head inside, he deliberately drew out a young bird, carried it to a branch near by and ate it. He and his mate repeated the same action until they had killed the whole brood. After which, having pulled out the lining of the nest, they flew away. This was very surprising to me, as I have never heard of Woodpeckers indulging in canibalism before. But I had not yet done with the actions of the Woodpeckers. A week or so after, having broken up the Crested Titmice, I noticed the Red-heads repeatedly visiting the site of their old nest. This aroused my curiosity, and supposing they had decided to lay a new clutch I visited the cavity to see whether my supposition was true. What was my surprise to find that the hollow contained not eggs, but the decaying body of a Great Crested Flyeatcher. How it came there I know not; hut I am fully convinced that the Redheads vtsited the spot for the purpose of devouring the vermin which infected the decaying flesh. Do you not think my birds are a clever pair, though rather cruel?

> L. B. F. Augusta, Ga,

An Albino Sparrow.

Not being very well acquainted with the various kinds of birds, their habits, etc., I write to know if you ever saw a white English Sparrow, and are they common? Please answer through the columns of your paper. The one I saw has been for some time with a large flock of brown ones in the Court House park, and it is almost a pure white.

H. C. B.,

Mexico, Mo.

From Chenango County.

Would like to know if usual for the Baltimore Oriole to get material for building their own nests by robbing the nests of other birds that were building, as I saw one taking from a Chipping Sparrow as fast as they collected. There is a pair of House Wrens building in an old tea-kettle inverted on a post in the garden. Answer through Oblosist if worth it.

J. D. S.

Guilford, N. Y.

A Cunning Hawk.

 Λ very interesting spectacle occurred here this winter. A farmer going out to his barn one morning saw a hawk flying high above him; he gradually came down nearer to the ground. The farmer went to the house to get his gun, but when he came out again the hawk was nowhere to be seen. He waited for a little while and soon saw him cooly walking out of one of the pigeon holes in the barn with a pigeon in his claws. The farmer shot and killed him. He turned out to be a very fine specimen of the Pigeon-hawk, Aesalon Columbarius, and was as fat as he could be which proved that he had made previous visits to the barn. Frank L. Farley,

St. Thomas, Ont.

Second Edition Davie's.

Dr. Theodore Jasper, the eminent bird and animal artist is engaged in making drawings for the second edition of Oliver Davie's work on the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of North America. Some of the plates already made exhibit the touch of his master hand for which he has so long been noted throughout the length and breadth of this country, and all over the world. The most interesting of the plates now finished are the nests of the American Flamingo, Wood Duck, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Baltimore Oriole, Burrowing Owl, Least Titmouse, and Traill's Flycatcher. The delineations of these beautiful nests with the birds and the simple scenery surrounding them will call forth universal admiration

The first edition of Mr. Davie's work had been sold in February last, and he is hard at work on the second. This will contain four special plates of eggs exhibiting characteristic markings of the different orders of birds. The plates will be engraved by the Crosscup and West Engraving Co., of Philadelphia.—From a Columbus, O., paper.

Send in your subscriptions—50 cents each—ane we will give you a live paper.

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miums:

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X. Com. Guillemot " 763. Ο. . . Mexican Cardinal.

6 6 P. Euphonia. Q. Gular Oriole.

Ŕ. Gray's Thrush. Graceful Mock'g Thrush " Golden - crowned Fly-

catcher.

An egg of each the Shark and Skate. An Exchange or Want Notice of not exceeding thirty words in The Oölo-

Our premiums are first-class in every respect and would cost our friends, were they to purchase, from 25 cents to \$1.00 each. We will send any one of them from A to V inclusive, and The Oölogist one year for only 50 cents.

Our Canadian friends desiring any premium excepting A, B, C, F, H and V must add 5 cents extra to pay one-half the postage. Premiums O to T are very desirable Central American Eggs and are generally retailed at \$1.00 each. We have sold lots of them at that price.

To secure one of the premiums, we would advise our friends to send in their subscriptions by return mail, as our supply

is limited.

As many collectors will desire more than one of our valuable premiums they can, when sending in their subscriptions, enclose 25 cents for each additional premium wanted, and we will forward by return mail. Premiums ordered at other times can be had at regular retail rates.

BIRDS EGGS.

Our stock is the largest and most complete in America. Price-list 2 cents.

For the convenience of our younger collectors, we have arranged the following collections, which we believe to be unsurpassed for the price.

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7	44	100	• 6	10.00.
" 8		12 sp	ecies Euro	pean 1.00.
9	4.4	20		2.00.
·· 10	6.6	4 S)	oecies Cent	ral Ameri-
can \$1.0	0.			

No. 11 contains 10 species Central American \$3.00.

No. 12 contains 20 species Central American \$10.00.

No. 13 contains \$1.00 worth of secondclass eggs, 35 cents.

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.05	.20	8	10-32	.01	.07	.33
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.06	.27	10	13-32	.02	.10	. 46
.08	.38	11	14-32	. 02	.14	.66
.09	.40	12	15-32	.02	.14	, 66
. 12	. 55	13	16-32	.02	.16	.77
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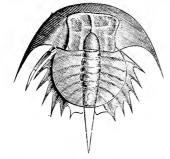
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428	6 Bellerophon bilobatus, 25 2						
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430	Strophomena rhomboidalis,		23	1
431	5 Cyclomena bilix,	-	20	I
432	6 Orthis insculpta,		25	1
433	9 Orthis emacerata,	-	30	I
434	50 Z. modesta,		10	I
435	9 Streptorhynchus subtentus, -	-	35	I
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.04	.16	5	7-32	.01	.05	.20
.04	.17	6	8-32	.01	.05	.20
.04	.19	7	9-32	.01	.07	.33
.05	. 20	8	10-32	.01	.07	. 33
.06	.26	9	11-32	.02	.10	.46
.06	.27	10	13-32	.02	.10	.46
.08	.38	11	14-32	.02	.14	. 66
.09	.40	12	15-32	.02	.14	.66
. 12	. 55	13	16-32	.02	.16	.77
.13	. 60	14	17-32	.03	.19	. 92
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THE OOLOGIST.

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BI-MONTHLY.

The History of a Bird Box.

I have relieved the tedium of office hours, and official duty many times in watching a bird box, which a thrifty and bird-loving mechanic had placed on a pole in his little garden just across the road, and directly in front of the window of the room in which I spent a portion of every day. This box was in reality a miniature two-storied, porch encircled house, very pretty and hospitable to look upon, with its generously opened doors, gabled roof, and antique chimneys, pleasing to the eye at any season, but much more so in the green of the year when tenanted by its noisy families of Martins. My first introduction to it was on March 10th, 1872, when its builder and owner called me into his workshop one evening to see the result of his handiwork. I suggested that we have it painted, and knowing him to be in moderate circumstances, offered to defray the expense of of having it decorated in three colors; then the house was fastened on the top of an old telegraph pole and planted about twenty feet back from the walk in the little garden; thus it was that I became a partner in the house, and have been drawing interest from it ever since, a profitable investment for me, as the contemplation of it has helped to beguile many long and weary hours.

On April 10th of that year a solitary Purple Martin alighted on this house and began to investigate its interior and surroundings. I made a note of his coming and watched him daily for a week, then two more males came, and amid much chattering and interchange of opinions, they continued to hover about this place, until April 20th, when five females arrived, —had they been members of the human family they would have been much criticized, and considered very inmodest to thus follow the males, but in the bird

etiquette it must be all right, as it is sanctioned by custom very generally. April 22d two more males arrived, and one female, which was just one lady too many. It was very amusing to witness the bickerings and pugilistic encounters incident to mating. The extra female finally left the neighborhood, and all became active in preparing for nest building. I noticed that every morning the males and females left the locality and were absent during the greater portion of the day, and even after the nests were finished, up to the time the females began sitting, this unaccountable absence continued. Upon returning towards evening they made the air resound with their loud and musical notes until bed time. The honeymoon passed very pleasantly and the nests were all ready to receive their eggs by May 25th. female began sitting on June 2d. was that the male Martin showed the greatest advantage in his rapid, graceful, and easily sustained flight, paying devoted attention to his wife, bringing a choice wasp, bee or beetle to satisfy her hunger, and then spending several minutes in arranging his plumage, in caressing his partner, and bestowing all manner of endearments upon her. This every attention at this time was expressive of love, and so continued until about the middle of the month, when we had unmistakable proofs that the young were born. Then he turned from the sentimental to the realities of married life, and both the parents were all animation and activity in gathering sustenance for the clamorous infants. The latter left the nest by July 1st, and became an addition to the little colony. A second brood was raised late in July, and by August 20th both old and young had left for the South Matters went on in this way without change for four years, each season some Martins returning (presumably the same individuals,) and in 1875 every one of the twelve apartments in the house was occupied. But a change came the next year. The English Sparrows came to town in 1876, and from the manner in which they possessed themselves, from the first, of the Martin house, it looked as though they had come to stay. Early in January they could be seen going in and out of the doors, and we had fears that our friends, the Martins, would meet with a cold reception when they came North to summer with us again. So it proved. On April 8th, 1876, a lonely and fatigued male Martin flew down on top of the house in which the Sparrows already had nests and eggs, only to be instantly beseiged and driven off by the outraged British. A day or two later a full dozen arrived and the war commenced in earnest. The Sparrows had probably never before seen a specimen of American pluck, and they entered the the fray with a confidence and decision of purpose which had served them well in their former meetings with the Bluebird and House-wren, but did not avail them here. The Martins opposed them right valiantly and would not yield their claim of priority, neither, of course, would the Sparrows sacrifice their homes so newly constructed, and so it happened that the house was tenanted that year by the Martins and Sparrows in a common community. They seemed on the whole to get along well enough, though not infrequently I have been called to the window by their indignant cries, to see a sparrow pursued by several enraged Martins, or visa versa. Every season since 1876 the same state of affairs has existed, both species occupying the tenement and breeding. This would possibly have gone on indefinitely had not a severe storm, which visited us late in 1885, blown the roof off, and in attempting to renew it we found the residence so foul and rotten, that we removed it, and now the bare pole (vine clad in summer) stands the sole monument to a useful past.

I have calculated that during its existence this box sheltered no less than 1,200 Martins,old and young, besides innumerable Sparrows, surely a very good record as regards the former. In this primitive country town there are many Martin boxes provided, and so zealously are they guarded by their owners, that it is impossible for any one to obtain permission to rob them. I doubt if 20 sets of Martin's eggs have been taken here within as many years.

The nest is loosely put together, and consists of tine hay and straw, the leaves of either the silver maple or weeping willow, and a warm and soft feather lining. Sometimes mud enters into the composition of the nest, but not always. These nests are so placed just within the openings as to block the doorway and thus form a partial barricade to the elements and the oölogist. Twice only in fourteen years did I disturb the eggs, one set in 1874, and in 1875 three sets. In all cases the nest complement was four eggs. I never found more than that number anywhere. These eggs were obtained by means of a tablespoon gently inserted, while standing on a long ladder. The birds show their disapproval of such housebreaking by fluttering just above the intruder and emitting a low and plaintive ery.

Now that the career of this box is ended, we will probably raise another tenement before the coming season, for others beside the writer would miss the graceful, beautiful birds, and summer would not be complete without them. Thus ends the history of one bird box.

HARRY G. PARKER, Jan. 20th, 1886. Chester, Penn.

The Tree Sparrow.

Of the same genus (Spizella) as the Social Sparrow, this bird is readily distinguished by the dark, circular spot in the middle of his breast. He is, in this locality, only a winter visitor, appearing in large flocks about the middle of October. I have seen a flock that must have numbered 150 or more. Nearly always, however, when feeding, they are widely scattered, and a careless passer-by thinks there are only dozens where there are scores. Nature has given them a garb almost completely con-

cealing them among the dead weeds and stubble, or in the lower stories of woods, in which places they may always be seen. A favorite haunt is the weedy bank of a small stream, not far from woods. On alarming them they frequently fly to the tops of near trees, (whence the name), and one will sit there several minutes, uttering his metalic chip every few seconds, twitching his tail nervously, and frequently turning around.

Floundering through deep snowdrifts one winter day, I found a large flock scattered through a corn field where the stalks were standing. They were busily tugging at the seeds of weeds which the stalks had protected from the deep snows. All over the white surface were scattered the brown and black seeds. These birds very often light in the wood road and fish up their food from the ground. They almost constantly keep up a sort of chattering which sounds like the squeaking of dozens of pairs of seissors, but occasionally in spring they give a beautiful song, which entitles them to the rank of true bird-poets, for do not the truer poets sing more rarely than the mere versifiers? The majority of the birds leave for a northern home in April, having, however, left behind a good many unfortunate brethren-victims to the ferocity and greed of the Great Northern Shrike. S. L. Whitcomb,

Grinnell, Ia.

Nests of the Green Heron.

Last summer, while I was strolling leisurely through an old orchard in the Wester Reserve in search of eggs, I espied a great heap of brush in the topmost part of an apple tree. Little thinking that my eyes would soon rest on a beautiful clutch of eggs, I climbed steadily up to make sure that it was not an old nest. The limb on which the nest was placed was long and slanting, with hardly a branch on it. After a hard climb I finally came to the great structure, and peeping over, without the least expectation of seeing an egg. as it looked so old and clumsy. But

alas! I was agreeably surprised, as five large, greenish-blue eggs lay before me. They were Green Herons.

I rapidly descended to look for more and I had not gone twenty feet, when I saw a similar structure. Up I went as I fast as I could go, and when within three feet of the nest, the old bird flew off. She was very large and the expanse of her wings must have measured three feet.

I watched the Heron as she darted through the branches and finally out into the clearing, also the peculiar way they fly, as they carry their neck, head and long bill in a straight line before their body, and their long legs in like manner stretched out behind. The bill of the bird is long, compressed and sharp; the tail short, but the legs and toes are long and slender. The wings are also long. Color, black, white and slate, finely blended.

Out of the four nests I found that afternoon, two contained five eggs and two four, all of which were about the same size, viz: 1.55 by 1.35. They were unspotted and elliptical.

The nests were placed about thirty-five feet from the ground and a short distance from a small creek. They were made large and flat, measuring between five and six feet in circumference, chiefly composed of apple twigs, some of which were half an inch thick.

F. W. C.

Cleveland, O.

Bird Notes From Iowa.

I saw a little action of a Hairy Wood-pecker this winter which is worthy of mention. As I was sawing wood in my back yard, a female Hairy came bounding up, and lit on a neighbor's fence-post. Eyeing me curiously for a moment, she then flew down to the back steps to the house and began vigorously tugging at something which I could not see. Standing up straight, sounding every now and then a loud "chirp," and pulling with that powerful beak, she looked a great deal like a robin tugging at a worm. After she had flown I found she had been pecking at

some frozen meat, which had perhaps been thrown out for the dog. I accounted for the unusual boldness and the strange diet by the fact that there had been heavy sleet storms a few weeks before and the trees had been wholly, and still were partially, coated as with mail. The incident may strengthen the theory that the family of Woodpeckers are departing from their old habits and in time may follow the Yellow-hammer's example. It is not uncommon to see the Hairy light on the ground.

I noticed a habit of the Horned Lark this spring which I had not seen before. A male was pursuing a female, uttering with more animation and frequency than usual his "tsip, tsip." They flew close to the ground for about sixty feet, when the female suddenly lit. The male lit a few feet off, expanded his wings and tail widely, and strutted around for a full half minute "tsiping" continually. He then flew to the female and immediately away, with a triumphant air, while the female kept on demurely feeding.

I have heard the real song of the Chickadee a great many times this spring. Once, while a bird was singing, I pulled out my watch and counted thirty-two songs in two minutes. The bird nearly always erects his head, sways his body and pours forth the strain with a sweet pathetic intonation. One cloudy, chilly day in January I heard one sing several times from a bare maple spray. Soon after the sun came out, the snow was fast melting and the atmosphere was warm. The bird seemed to feel the warming touch before men did. But on April 8th I heard a variation or coda to this usual song which increased its effect a hundred per cent. consisted of two notes at a little interval after the usual three, pitched lower, and uttered with the most delicate and pure tone. Going home and trying to reproduce the song on the flute, I found some idea of it might be given by the notes C, A, A, G and E, descending, in the natural key, and making the two A's eighth notes, the others quarter notes.

The Ruby-crowned Kinglet appeared in few numbers April 8th. This bird is quiteeasily approached. The other day I was watching one among the bushes, and several times he let me get within arm reach. At another time I stood within five feet of one, while he went through his whole toilet process, eveing me with a gentle look of surprise and exposing his royal mark continually. His eyes have a wonderfully expressive look, and his plumage is simply elegant. He does not always stay so low down that it is easy to watch him, but when he does you see him quickly glidearound the trees, every now and then making a little eliptical journey in pursuit of an insect, and with a very distinct snapping of his bill, or hovering, like a hawk moth, before an opening bud. I have not had the fortune yet to have heard his song though I have waited patiently for it. It. is said to be a hot-house of melody, rivaling even the Winter Wren's, The bird stands next to the Humming Bird in size, being only about five inches long, and Bradford Torrey tells us that in Boston it. has been mistaken for the Humming Bird.

S. L. WHITCOMB,

Grinnell, Ia.

A Difficult Climb After a Red-Tailed Hawk's Nest.

I am a physician with a large country practice, located in a small town on Spoon river, in central Illinois, with a grand prairie a few miles to the south and west of me, and every degree of brush and timber along the river and creeks.

I have since childhood taken a great deal of interest and delight in observing and studying the inhabitants of these woods and prairies, especially the birds, their nests and eggs; and, being so advantageously situated, I have had opportunities not vouchsafed to every one to observe the birds and collect the eggs of the various species that frequent the timber lands, prairies and water courses. I know of noclass of men that have opportunities equal to that of a physician with a country practice for collecting birds' eggs and securing birds, rare or otherwise, for taxidermic skill.

On my return trips, after visiting the sick in the county, I am never in such a haste during the collecting season but that the sight of a nest in a tree, bush, hedge or bunch of grass will cause me to alight from my buggy or saddle and investigate, and the superb beauties that adorn my cabinet as a result, are the admiration and delight of all who see them.

But it was in my mind when I commenced this article to tell something about my experience in capturing the egg of the Red-tailed Hawk. In one of my rides, about the 9th of April, I discovered a very large nest in the top of a tree, a quarter of a mile from the highway, and riding through the wood to the tree I found it to be the large Red-tailed Hawk's nest, the nest being occupied, but seemingly in an unattainable position, for it was fully ninety feet from the ground, and from the ground to the lower limbs of the tree was at least twenty-five feet. Returning to the village I related my discovery and the apparent inaccessible position of the nest. A number of the young fellows at once volunteered their assistance and set to relating their wonderful feats of climbing for nests, young squirrels, etc.

Not possessing climbing irons, I next day repaired to the tree with five or six of these fellows, determined to put their skill as climbers to a test. But a sight of the tree and the great height of the nest, the tree being on a side hill, at once struck a chill over their enthusiasm. None would attempt to climb the body of the tree, so chopping a tail sapling that grew near we managed to so direct its fall that it lodged against the lower limbs of the tree. One young fellow plucked up courage enough to ascend this till he reached the lower limbs, and then seeing how far it was to the ground on the down hill side he became nervous and made haste to reach terra firma.

Our expedition for the Red-tailed Hawk's eggs now seemed in a fair way to become a failure, unless the "Dr." himself came to the front, and though being nearly forty years old I knew that I could largely discount the younger fellows in the climbing business. Divesting myself of outside

apparel I immediately set to work, and in a very few minutes I was at the nest, which was as large as a bushel basket, but I was much chagrined to find two of the three eggs were partly hatched and worthless. With the third egg I reached the ground in safety, and by careful drilling, eutting and extracting, secured for my cabinet one good specimen, which, I con sidered, amply repaid me for all the risk and labor expended to obtain it. The egg was as large as a turkey's egg, white mottled and clouded with chocolate.

On our return we obtained several fine sets of crows' eggs, the nests being in low trees, my young companions climbing these without hesitation.

Dr. W. S. Strode, Bernadotte, Ill.

From Washington County, N. Y.

NIGHT HAWK.

Common summer resident here. I have taken three or four nests in the last year. The Night Hawk constructs no nest but lays its eggs on the bare ground where it is slatey, sometimes on rocks. The eggs are two in number of a dirty white, spotted and covered with different shades of brown. When you are walking along you can hardly see them. I never found a nest without flushing the bird first. They rear but one brood a year.

CROW

I have taken as many as six nests of this bird in a single day. One day I was collecting in a thick wood and I saw a nest with the old Crow on, and after I got up to the nest there was just one egg in it. I went to the nest again in a week and got five more eggs, making a nice set of six. A good many times since I have taken the eggs of this bird and have often watched them tear the old nest to pieces and build it up again and then taken it the second time. They commence building here about the middle of April. The eggs are of a greenish color, spotted with different shades of brown and black. I have found eggs that were just spotted with a large spot of black on the larger end.

RUFFED GROUSE.

This is one of our most famous game birds. Last year a set of twelve were taken and the year before a set of thirteen. Both nests were built about alike and were placed at the foot of a hemlock tree and made mostly of leaves, leaving a hole just large enough to hold the eggs. They generally lay from ten to eighteen. The eggs are of a dark cream color, sometimes spotted with a dull red. "Owl."

THE OOLOGIST.

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

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JOTTINGS.

All subscriptions to the Oölogist must begin with the January and February number.

The July and August Oölogist will be issued July 1st. All copy must be in by June 20th,

Our new Checking Lists have been unavoidably delayed. Will have them by June 15th, sure.

We thank our friends for the liberal manner in which they have sent in their articles and items of interest for the Oölogist. We have been obliged to hold over some of the best for next issue.

Davic's "Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is now out. We can fill all orders by return mail. If it does not more than give you satisfaction we will refund your money and give you 10 cents extra for your trouble. During July and August we open a branch office, or rather bazaar, at Chautauqua, N. Y. Should you happen in that vicinity do not fail to give us a call. You will find us in the Oriental Building, with a big display of specimens and curiosities.

For 50 cents we will send you the Oölogist for 1886, the Oölogist Hand-book, one-half dozen Checking Lists, and will insert you a free notice in our exchange column. All for only 50 cents. We must have 2,000 subscribers, and thereby be enabled to issue the Oölogist monthly.

Too sad to be true—but, if we are not mistaken, the Oölogist is the only publication in the United States devoted *exclusively* to birds, their nests and eggs, that is issued *as often* as once in two months. Send in at least one subscription and help make the Oölogist monthly.

A Review of the Check Lists of North American Birds, With Special Reference to the New A. O. U. List.

The forming of a Nomenclature which would be the standard for reference in the United States, has long exercised the ingenuity and judgment of ornithologists. In 1858 Baird gave to the world his "List of Species," in which the nomenclature was remodeled from that of the immediately preceeding Audubonian period; it was as complete and satisfactory as the knowledge of North American birds at that time would permit of, and was a masterpiece of classification, the result of years of careful study and scientific research, and was adopted by the Smithsonian Institution, and the thousands of students and collectors of the land. The names came at once into universal employ, and so continued with scarcely diminished force fourteen years. But as our knewledge of bird life increased and the hitherto unknown portions of the country were developed, resulting in very material additions to our fauna, the growing need of a new nomen-

clature was met by Dr. Elliott Coues in his "Key to North American Birds," published in 1872, and his Check List issued the following year. These works sprang into popular and scientific favor and found many converts, but the advent of the Key and Check List only served to make the problem more perplexing, as some still adhered to Baird's List, while many adopted Dr. Coue's code. So that during the succeeding years the country had no list which was universally adopted as the standard. The Ridgway Nomenclature, which appeared in 1881, also found many followers, and probably the majority of ornithologists and oölogists have adopted it during the past five years. Now, however, we have the Code and Check List of the American Ornithologists's Union, in book form, handsomely bound. It contains 392 pages, the first 17 of which are devoted to the Introduction. This is followed by 52 pages of "General Principles," "Canons of Zoological Nomenclature," and "Recommendation for Zoological Nomenclature in the Future." The Check List begins on page 73 and continues to page 347; then a Hypothetical List of 26 species, eight pages of Fossil Birds, and an excellent Index completing the volume. The present numbers are followed in every case by the numbers borne by each species and sub-species in the Lists of Baird 1858. Coues 1873, Ridgway 1880, and Coues 1882; then the habitat of each species is given. The basis of the code of nomenclature here adopted is the Stricklandian. which was drafted by a committee appointed at a meeting of the Council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held in London, February 11, 1842. In speaking of the adoption of this Code, the A. O. U. committee say: It has therefore seemed advisable to take the orignal Stricklandian Code as the initial point of departure to reaffirm and reproduce as many of its rules as may be desirable." The committee, in speaking of the changes which it proposes and recommends in this Code, says: "1st. The adoption of the date of the 10th edition of Systema Naturæ, 1758, instead of that of the XII, 1766 as a starting point of the law of priority for names. Second. "The rule that prior use of a name in Botany does not make that name unavailable in Zöology." "Third, The principle of Trinomials, i, e, using three words as the name of those subspecific forms which are sufficiently distinct to require recognition by name, yet which are known to intergrade with one another; the names of such forms to consist of three terms,—a generic. a specific, and a subspecific, written consecutively and continuously, without the intervention of any mark of punctuation any arbitrary character, any abbreviation, or any other sign or term whatsoever."

The appearance of so great a work prepared by five of America's most eminent, learned and methodical ornithologists will exert an influence perhaps stronger and more widely felt than any of its predecessors; it is intended to supercede all previous lists, and it is fitting that it should. As we will all have to adopt it, and as some may not have seen it, it may be interesting to give an analysis of the principal points of variance, and note the climinations, additions, revisions of nomenclature, and changes of names which have been adopted.

The most striking feature of the A. O. U. Check List, is that it reverses the classification of all previous lists, by commencing with the lowest, or most generalized type. (the Grebes, Guillemots, &c..) and ends with that in which the highest grade of physiological development as well as the most physical organization is found, (Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, &c).

In the following pages, it must be understood that the writer does not attempt to give all the additions, changes of names, &c., but only such as come under his notice upon a cursory examination of the work. The following are some of the additions: Kumliens Gull, Nelson's Gull, Slatybacked Gull, Lesser Fulmar, Cory's Shearwater, Peales, Fisher's, and White faced Petrels, Farallone and Pelagic Cormorants, California Brown Pelican, Ru-

fous-crested Ducks, Ward's Heron, Belding's Rail, European Coot, Mongolian Plover, Grayson's Bobwhite, Masked Bobwhite Chestnut-bellied Scaled Partridge, Partridge, Valley Canadian Grouse, five Ptarmigans, namely, Allen's, Rienhardt's, Nelson's, Turner's, Welch's; Prairie Sharptailed Grouse, Heath Hen, Florida Redshouldered Hawk, Shorttailed Hawk, European Rough legged Hawk, California Screech Owl, Alaskan three-toed Northwestern Woodpecker, Stephen's Whip-poor-will, Blue-throated Hummingbird, Arizona Crested Flycatcher, Olivaceous Flyeatcher, Ridgway's Flycatcher, five subspecies of Horned Lark. namely, Prairie, Desert, Texan, Ruddy and Streaked. We now have a Florida Blue Jay, as well as the old Florida Jay, Labrador Jay, Western Bobolink, Arizona Oriole, McKay's Snowflake. Worthen's Sparrow, Baird's Junco, Mexican Sparrow, Rock Sparrow, Stephen's Vireo, Mangrove Warbler, Belding's Yellowthroat, Western Yellowthroat, Swinhoe's Wagtail, Red-throated Pipit, Ashy Titmouse, California Bush Tit, Gruida's Bush Tit, Willow Thrush, and Azure Bluebird from Arizona.

The changes of Common Names are numerous, the following were noticed: The Thickbilled Grebe changed to Piedbilled Grebe; Pacific and Redthroated Divers are now both Loons, the Auks from 746 to 751 are hereafter Auklets, the Guillemots from 753 to 759 are Murrelets, the Black and Pigeon Guillemots retain their names. the Common, California and Brunich's are Murres, while the Thickbilled Guillemot becomes Pallas's Murre: Richardson's Jaegar to Parasitic Jaegar, Noddy Tern is simply "Noddy," and Common Cormorant is "Cormorant," Frigate Pelican, known now as Man-o-war bird, Redbreasted Rail as King Rail, Redbreasted Snipe as Dowitcher, Sora Rail simply Sora, Redbellied Snipe becomes Longbilled Dowitcher, Bartram's Sandpiper as Bartramian Sandpiper, three Quails are now known as Bobwhite, Florida Bobwhite, and Texan Bobwhite; all the Quails before 481 and 485 are Partridges-the word Quail is not in use at all—Turkey Buzzard is Turkey Vulture, Iceland Gyrfalcon becomes Gray Gyrfalcon, Labrador Gyrfalcon is Black Gyrfalcon, while McFarlane's is simply Gyrfalcon; Caraeara Eagle to Audubon's Caracara, Lapland Owl to Lapp Owl, Screech Owl,—the word "little" is dropped— Whitney's Pygmy Owl to Elf Owl, Savannah Blackbird to "Ani," Groove-billed Crotophaga to G. B. Ani. We now have two subspecies of Hairy Woodpecker, viz: Northern and Southern, Common Crow changed to American Crow, Yellow shafted Flicker to plain "Flicker," Paraugue Goatsucker is simply "Paraugue," the Western Kingbird again takes on "Arkansas," and now poses as the Arkansas Kingbird, the Sulphur-bellied Flyeatcher instead of Henshaw's Flycatcher, Great crested Flycatcher has the "Great" omitted; we now have Phœbe, Say's Phwbe and Black Phwbe in place of Pewee, the Western Yellow-bellied Flycatcher is now Baird's Flycatcher, all the Shore Larks are Horned Larks, Blackbilled Magpie is simple Magpie, in place of the three ridiculous shouldered Blackbird's names, we now have Redwinged, Bicolored, and Tricolored; the Rosy Finches have adopted the Latin, and are all Leucosticte, the Pine Goldfinch is Pine Siskin, Snow Bunting becomes euphoniously Snowflake, Grass Finch changed to Vesper Sparrow, Intermediate and Gambel's have the words "white crowned" omitted, all the Snowbirds are Junco's, and our little winter friend is hereaftter to be called Slate-colored Junco; California Song Sparrow now has Samuels instead of California, the Grosbeaks are now all Cardinals, and we now have a new bird known as Arizona Cardinal : Blackfaced Seedeater changed to Grassquit, Black-throated Bunting to Dickeissel, White-bellied Swallow to Tree Swallow, Blackcrested Flycatcher to Phainopepla. Some radical and very sensible changes have been made in the names of Warblers, thus, Blue Yellowbacked to Parula Warbler, Summer Yellow bird to Yellow Warbler, Black and Yellow again becomes the Magnolia War bler of Wilson, while the afflicted Whitebrowed Yellow-throated Warbler is now relieved by being Sycambre Warbler, the Redpoll becomes Palm Warbler, the Smallbilled Water Thrush is plain Thrush, and the Large-billed species is Louisiana Water Thrush; the capped Yellow Warbler is fittingly called Wilson's Warbler, and the Canada Flycatching is Canadian Warbler; European Titlark is correctly called Meadow Pipit, and Water Ouzel is American Dipper; the California and Texan Bewick Wrens are respectively changed to Vigors' and Baird's Wren, Western House Wren is Parkman's Wren; the White-bellied Nuthatch will not offend the fastidious now, as it is Whitebreasted Nuthatch, Black-capped Chickadee is simply "Chickadee," Least Tit is Bush Tit, Yellow-headed Tit is Verdin, and the Crissal Thrasher is surely an Rufous-vented improvement on the Thrasher.

The Hypothethical list already alluded to, contains 26 species, and the writer has failed to find in addition, these; the European Merlin, Hybrid Woodpecker, Isabella Sparrow Hawk, Mexican Boat Grackle, Tule Wren, Western Warbling Vireo, Eared Grebe, European Kestril and Small-billed Creeper, and there are undoubtedly others which escaped detection. The Texan Orchard Oriole (while not in Bidgway's 1881) is reduced, the two birds being identical. The English Sparrow is not mentioned at all, but he will keep on increasing and multiplying notwithstanding the snub. The Rapacious Birds occupy the same relative position as in Mr. Ridgway's Nomenclature, and the Road Runner, Mangrove, Yellow-billed and Blackbilled Cuckoo's retain their numbers in the list (i. e., 385, 386, 387, and 388,) a distinction which is altogether fortuitous, and which is enjoyed by no other species.

The total number of Mr. Ridgway's list is 764 species and 160 subspecies, making 924. If no mistake has been made by the writer the A. O. U. Check List enumerates

768 species, and 182 subspecies, a total of 950

The appearance of this new List will mark an epoch in American Ornithology, and for the sake of uniformity, its adaption by students and collectors cannot be too strongly urged.

Harry G. Parker, Chester, Penn.

April 4, 1886.

Red Crossbills, Pine Grosbeaks.

While on a collecting tour a year ago last fall, I came across a flock of birds which at first sight I thought were Yellow Birds, and as I did not have a good specimen of that species, shot one. What was my surprise on picking it up, to find instead of a Yellow Bird, a female American Red Crossbill.

On discovering this fact, I immediately followed the flock which had not flown far, and procured two more specimens. There were about fifteen birds in the flock, all of which were females. They seemed to be very tame so that when I shot one out of the flock, (with a sling shot) the others would fly to the next tree and immediately become wholly engaged opening the cones of the pine trees, the seeds of which they fed on. The next day I saw the same flock several times but had not yet seen any males. It was not until four days of hunting that I found a flock of male birds. When I first saw them they were in the top of a very tall oak tree, in the middle of a vacant lot. They saw me before I got within one hundred yards of the tree and all flew. They kept flying until they were out of sight. The next time I saw any males they were in some pine trees near a brook. I crept up very close before they noticed me and shot one This is the just as they started to fly. only specimen of a male bird I got. Although I saw several other flocks, they all seemed to be very shy and tlew before I could get within shooting distance.

The same season I shot several female Canada Pine Grosbeaks, but did not see any males, although I was told that they had been seen in the town.

H. Trippett. Montclair, N. J.

CORRESPENDENCE.

FROM MINNESOTA.

There has been quite a number of Evening Grosbeaks here since January. They were seen on January 30th, March 3d, 5th and 13th, several specimens being secured by parties here. The first Robin was seen on March 17th, five days earlier than last year. Several Crows and a Hawk were noticed to-day sailing by. The Black-capped Chickadee has been here in flocks several times this winter, also the Cedar Waxwing.

C. B. J.
Redwing, Minn,

FROM WISCONSIN; RED-HEADED WOOD-PECKER,

Seeing the item on the canibalism of the Red headed Wood-pecker, reminded me of an incident that a friend of mine witnessed last summer. A Flicker had made its nest in an apple tree about four fect from the ground and had laid six eggs, and then for some reason left her nest. My friend went a day or two later to get the eggs and found one broken on the ground and the rest were gone. Just then a Red-headed Wood pecker attracted his attention by "smacking its lips," as he expressed it, and he went to the tree about two rods distant from the first tree, and there found in a crevice in the upper side of a limb, the missing five eggs, each with a hole in it, and one or two empty.

Last spring I discovered a Hairy Wood-Pecker's nest in an apple tree, in which there were two young birds. The old birds left the nest upon being disturbed, and didn't return. I visited the nest a while after and found the young birds were dead and another bird had lined the nest with rootlets, and laid five eggs, half again as large as a Blue-bird's and somewhat darker in color. I watched the nest for two or three days, and being unable to discover the old birds, I took the set. Shortly after. I revisited the nest and found that a Blue-bird had lined the nest with grass and laid five eggs. Could any of the readers of THE Oblogist tell me what the second bird was by the description of the nest? O. M. Whitewater, Wis.

A NEST OF THE RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD.

Oakhill, a small hamlet situated among the Catskills, afforded fine facilities for egg-collecting, and gave ample space for the observation of bird life when I visted it a few summers ago. It lay in a valley and there was a noisy little brook running through it which was fringed with

willows. Sauntering along a cool, shady road, which was bordered on the right by the brook, and on the left by a hill, and which lead to an old saw-mill, my curiosity was aroused by seeing a beautiful little Ruby-throated Humming-bird (Trochilus colubris) perched upon a limb of a small hickory tree which stood by the roadside. Hoping to find a nest, I began searching the limbs from where I stood. Presently I saw it placed upon a limb about eight feet from the ground. Seeing me ascend the trunk the male flew down from his perch and alarmed his mate who was sit-Together they darted round and round my head, almost touching me in their swift aerial movements. But after finding this to be of no use they retired to a neighboring twig and watched the devastation of their home. The nest measured about one inch and a quarter at its greatest diameter by about one inch in depth. It was covered with lichens and was so disposed upon the limb as to appear almost like a knot from the ground below. Its interior was lined with thistle down and vegetable wool. It contained two little pearly white eggs which, upon blowing, I found to be but slightly incubated.

II. S. M. Akron, O.

Have just returned from a three days' jaunt on the Susquehanua. While there I took the eggs of the Turkey Buzzard, Kingfisher. Red-tailed Hawk, etc.: also found a nest of the Bald Eagle in a water-birch tree, and after climbing, found two young ones on a nest four feet in diameter, the top perfectly level. Brought one of the young home with me and think he will make a bright pet.

Last week I took a nest of five Sparrow Hawks but three and a half feet from the ground, the lowest nest I know of, and a set of Virginia Rails. This is a very rare breeder in this locality. Yesterday morning I found a daisy set of 12 Ruffed Grouse, another rare one here. This morning I struck the Downy Wood-pecker. Think he is early. S. B. LADD.

May 10, 1886.

WHAT CONSTITUTES A SET OR CLUTCH OF EGGS.

Would the eggs taken from a Flicker one at a time till thirty or more are taken, be called a *regular set or clutch?* •

C. H. D., Sharon, Wis.

West Chester, Pa.

A MORAL PAIR OF SPARROW HAWKS.

There is a Sparrow Hawk building its nest in the gable end of the Presbyterian church here. The church is right on the principal street of the town. Is it not unusual for that bird to build quite so near to a town? The church roof is very steep, and there are two pieces put in the end of the gable and the Hawk has built on those.

A. L. H., Kankakee, III.

FROM MICHIGAN.

I found a nest on the ground with three blue eggs in it. The nest was nothing more than a hollow in the ground, and the eggs (three in number) were almost exactly like a Robin's. Can you tell me what they are? Do you suppose that a Wilson's Thrush would lay eggs on the bare ground? You will greatly oblige me if you can tell me what the eggs are. The measurement is almost the same as the average Robin's egg.

D. G.,

Detroit, Mich.

ŕ

Took first set of eggs of Brown Thrasher, April 24, 1886, containing five of the Brown Thrasher and one of the Cowbird. Is it usual for the Cowbird to lay in Thrashers' nests?

Covington, Kv.

TWO SETS OF CROWS IN ONE NEST.

April 24th, as I was on a collecting trip, I found a Crow's nest containing eight eggs. They differed no more in markings than many eggs I have seen in the same set, though one egg was smaller than the rest; but when I blew them I found that four eggs were fresh, but in the other four incubation was nearly completed. I suppose that two Crows used the same nest. Did any one else ever see anything like this?

H. P. D.,

Grinnell, Ia,

ORIOLES NOT DESIROUS OF BEING FOSTER-

PARENTS.

In 1883, after watching a pair of Orioles build their nest, and having waited sufficient time for the hen bird to have completed her set of eggs, I took the nest down, which was no easy matter, and found three of her own eggs and one of the Cow-bird in it. Each egg had a hole pecked in it.

I have often seen birds desert their nests when Cow-bird's eggs were deposited in them, but not before or since have I seen the birds so spiteful as to destroy all the eggs.

V. B. C.,

Port Hope. Ont.

WATER BLOW-PIPE,

The Water Blow-pipe mentioned in No. 1 of The Oblogist is excellent. I would suggest, however, that six fect of tubing is enough to blow any egg with and is much more convenient. Also, instead of punching a hole in the can and making it liable leak, the tube may be led over the side of the can, siphon-like, and fastened with string. The water may be started by sucking the end of the tube.

J. R. H., San Francisco, Cal.

RUFUS-VENTED THRASHER.

The number of eggs in the clutch of the Rufus-vented Thrasher is two to four instead of two, as stated by Davie in his Check List and in Coues Key. So far this season I have taken 33 sets of the above, 22 of them were of three eggs, eight of two eggs, and three sets of four.

R. S., Sacaton, Ariza

TEXAN'S QUERY.

A few days ago I killed a bird, a description of which is given below. Inside of the bird I found one egg about the size of a little Blue Heron's, and of a dirty white color. The head of the bird was white, shoulders of a purplish color, shading off to slate color on the wings, tail slate shading to black, breast and under wings pure white, beak short and curved under; tail about a foot long and forked. The birds have very short wings and frequent the woods adjoining the river. you please give me the name of this bird in the next issue of your highly interesting little paper? Also the name of a bird which frequents the fields and marshy places around here? It has a small head and long beak and legs, top of wings and back of a dark gray mixed with brown, and under wings and breast a dirty white. It is commonly called Plover here. If a Plover, of what species?

Yours truly,

G. H. W., Wharton, Tex.

The State of Maine as a Field for the Orinthologist.

Having seen several times lately in Natural History Papers, the question indirectly asked, "What sort of a locality is Maine for the study of birds?" we may perhaps be excused if we endeavor to answer the implied interrogation. In the Check list of North American birds, pub-

lished by the Smithsonian Institution, we find 888 distinct species occurring within the limits of North America. species are included under 63 Families, 20 Sub-orders and 13 Orders.

Now there are found in Maine, we are told, 303 of these 888 species, but little more than one-third of the entire number, and one would certainly get a very insignificant idea of the bird kingdom, where it would be impossible for him, under the most favorable circumstances, to get a chance to examine more than one-third of that kingdom.

The truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, is an axiom that can be profitably applied to birds. This, that has been told us is the truth, and nothing but the truth, but it is by no means the whole truth. It is true that we can not get any sort of an idea of one Family, Order, or Sub-order by a study of the species belonging to another, but it is equally true that in order to understand one Family we do not need to have an intimate acquaintance with every species of that Family, but a single species is often sufficient, and sometimes a single species, provided it be a typical one, will give a very fair idea of an entire Order. What we want, then, is not to know how many species a given locality possesses, but how many typical species there are to be found within its limits, and this is something which depends in great measure upon geographical position, the typographical character of the country, and its climatic peculiarities.

Now, Maine is situated on either side of the parallel of 45° of North latitude right in the center of the North Temperate zone. In this way it embraces the best of the North Temperate fauna, Animal and Vegetable, and also secures a portion of the Torrid fauna from the South, and of the Arctic fauna from the North. All of one fauna and portions of two others is by no means an insignificent opportunity for the student of Orthiology. And then, in the 303 species found in Maine, are included and represented 12 of the 13 Orders, the single one not included, being the Parrots

with which every one is familiar enough as cage birds. This missing Order embraces but a single Sub-order and a single Family. Of course these are both wanting if the Order under which they occur is wanting. Of the remaining 19 Sub-orders, 14 are found in Maine. The 5 missing ones are the Curassows, the Ibises, the Storks, the Cranes and their allies, and the Flamingoes. Now there are 63 Families in all in North America, or if we detract the 8 Families that come under the 5 missing Sub-orders and the one missing order we have 55 families left; and we find among our birds, representatives of 41 of these or more than eight-tenths.

Maine is therefore as well represented as any single state and could well hope to be. and probably as much if not more so than any other single state. Although it is not in the line of inland migration which lies along the Mississippi Valley, it is yet directly in the line of sea shore migration from the Gulf States, the Gulf of Mexico and the West Indies northward to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Provinces, Canada, Labrador and the great North East. No state can be in both lines, and this sea coast one is presumably the preferable. Being so directly in the line of sea shore migration one would naturally suppose that the the majority of the 303 species which we have given as found in Maine, would be

migrate and so they are.

There are but 33 species resident in Maine throughout the year, leaving 270 as visitors from elsewhere. Of these 113 are migrants from the South and breed regularly in Maine, 21 are from the North and come into the state only in winter. The remaining 136 are stragglers, mainly from the Tropics or the Arctic regions and are found in Maine, some like the Mockingbird and the Vulture, only once in a century, others like the Fox Sparrow, the Coot, and the Plover, appearing regularly every spring or fall or both, but never at other times. The representatives that occur here in Maine are all typical ones, and thus give one as good an idea of the bird kingdom as could be got by traveling a thousand miles through foreign lands. Indeed, the new species to be met with outside of the state are abnormal mainly, and of interest chiefly as curiosities, and not as representative species.

C. B. Wilson, Benton Harbor, Me.

Is The Oologist a Good Advertising Medium?

READ WHAT OTHERS SAY.

The copy which I sent to be inserted in the Oölogist must have been all right I think, for I received nearly one hundred answers in regard to it, and I have made a grand, good thing out of the one little Ad.. although I did not receive any paper from you showing my ad, was inserted. I know it was O. K. from the fact that so many responded and many mentioned seeing it in the Oölogist. The Oölogist is the best advertising medium I have ever tried; each time I have advertised I have made a big success therefrom, and if I could devote my whole time to the Curiosity and Natural History business I should surely keep a standing Ad. in the Oölogist. Please accept my thanks for your kindness and promptness. I will thank you to mail me a copy of your last issue with my Ad. inserted. I would like to see how it looks.

> Chas. P. Wilcomb, Lake Village, N. H.

"You ask me if my "ad" in the Oölogist paid. In reply, I will state that it was the best paying advertisement I have had yet, and you may depend upon it that if I need further advertising, the Oölogist will receive its share."

Geo. G. Pendell, Waverly, N. Y.

"Yes, I have been well pleased with the many good exchanges your newsy little magazine has afforded me. That free exchange notice of yours does the business. Hope you may succeed in your undertaking and make it long live to the student of Ornithology and Oölogy."

W. Otto Emerson, Haywards, Cal.

"My notice in the Oölogist was entirely satisfactory." HARRY H. MILLER, Burlington, Kansas.

"I would say that I actually received more letters than I could answer in a week and run short of specimens the third or fourth day after receiving the Oölogist. Last summer I paid out over \$2 for exchange lists and received but two or three replys from them. Had I put a small

exchange notice in the Oölogist, I no doubt would have had no trouble in disposing of my eggs. Thanking you for inserting my exchange notice, and stating that when in need of morre exchange notices, the Oölogist shall receive my attention." Frank W. Woodrow, Newton, Iowa.

"I received quite a number of replies from the notice I had in the Oölogist."

John S. Appleton.

Needham, Mass.

"I have received over twenty replies to my notice in the OÖLOGIST. I am entirely satisfied that the OÖLOGIST is a good advertising medium. I hope you be able to enlarge the paper before long."

PAUL B. HUDSON, Sherwood, N. Y.

"My notice proved an entire success. Received several replies and made exchanges. Am very much pleased with the Oölogist, think it is the finest paper of its kind I have seen."

Chas. P. Collins, Stafford, Vt.

"I have had as many replies, or more, than I expected." Verdi Burch, Branchport, N. Y.

"My exchange notice in the Oölogist proved a success. Am well satisfied with the results. A. W. Cheney, Huron, Dak,

"My notice in the Oölogist proved a success, as I have been busy almost ever since answering letters and sending and packing eggs. My duplicates are almost run out. As an advertising medium the Oölogist takes the lead.

J. Schneider, Anaheim, Cal.

"I would state that I received about a dozen offers. I could only accept three, but they were of advantage to me. I think it paid."

GEO. B. HOLMES,

Fernwood, Ill.

"Would say that the Oölogist was the best paper of its kind I have ever seen. I have derived the most benefit from it of all the other catalogues and papers I have ever advertised in."

R. R. Gay,
Rochester, N. Y.

"I received five replies within ten days. This I consider splendid, considering the nature of the exchange."

F. H. Metcalf, Holyoke, Mass.

"In reply I would saw that my exchange notice in the Oblogist proved very successful. I have already made some very advantageous exchanges. I also wish to state that the number of rare eggs offered me greatly exceeded my expectations.

T. S. Palmer, Berkley, Cal.

"I received a large number of answers from my notice and consider the Oblogist an excellent medium."

> CARLTON GILBERT, Jackson, Mich.

"I am very well satisfied with the result of my exchange, as I received many re-A. Hanauer, plies. Covington, Ky.

"I cannot too highly recommend the Oölogist as an advertising medium. From my "ad" I received answers from several States, as far west as Indiana. My stock of eggs for exchange, in sets, was exhausted before I had received half of the replies which I received.

J. B. WARREN, Rochester, N. Y.

"Am very well satisfied with the notice in the Oölogist. Have received over 30 letters already and have made several excellent exchanges. Have been so busy answering letters or I would have written FRED. L. CRALL, to you sooner." Ashland, O.

"I received over a dozen replies to my "ad" in the Oölogist and am more than S. B. Ladd, satisfied that it pays." West Chester, Pa.

"Our notice paid well in your paper. We will send another "ad" in a few STEMPEL BROS., months. Fort Madison, Ia.

"Answers came and are still coming from various states in all portions of our country. A number of replies have come from very prominent collectors, and I have added many good correspondents to my list, for which I have to thank you for your kindness in inserting my notice. can heartily recommend your little sheet as an advertising medium.

J. Percy Moore, Phila, Pa.

"As to my exchange, I received as many as 25 or 30 letters in answer to it.'

Frank Greenawalt, South Bend, Ill.

A New Blow-pipe.

We have just received a sample gross of a new style Blow-pipe, which, for blowing large eggs, we find the best ever introduced. This Blow-pipe is of the straight style, finely Nickel-plated, with a wooden enameled mouth-piece. To introduce, a sample will be sent you by return mail for 25 cts., or three samples for 70 cts. Secure samples at once.

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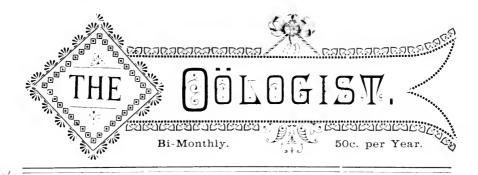
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Vol. III.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY & AUG., 1886.

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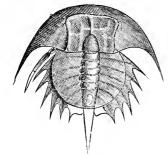
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THE OOLOGIST

Vol. 3, No 4. ALBION, N. Y., JULY & AUG., 1886.

BI-MONTHLY.

My First White Crane's Nest.

A number of years since, while out on a three months' collecting trip in Northern Iowa, I had the pleasure of finding a nest of the White or Whooping Crane. Although I have found many of them since, this set of eggs has especial interest to me from the circumstances connected with its capture.

One cloudy, cold day in early May I left camp on Crystal Lake for a few hours' hunting on the great marsh that stretches to the northeast from Eagle Lake, some seven miles distant from camp. the lakes lies a high chain of rocky, broken hills and ridges covered with short grass. On either side of these ridges are flats and marshes, out of which the Iowa river flows. As I hurried on a fine arrow-point occasionally paid me for a glance on the ground, which at this time of year was burned bare. From the highest knols could be seen several wood-fringed lakes in the distance. At last I reached the marsh and cast about for large birds which might be nesting at this Soon the peculiar manner of a Brown Crane assured me that a nest was somewhere near. After much hunting lt was discovered, only one egg being laid. While engaged with this bird I had seen a Whooping Crane walking about the marsh a mile further on. With great anxiety I now undertook to find the whereabouts of its nest, if it had one; but this kingly fellow is not found napping. His keen eye will detect the most carefully guarded movements a great way off, and at once he advises his mate of danger, when both leisurely walk away in the most unconcerned manner imaginable and perhaps fly away entirely and not return for hours. I was somewhat disappointed when their long flapping wings had carried them from view. Pond and shallow water, overgrown with rushes, stretched for miles with occasional tracts of tussocks. Among these I wandered about, getting sight of a pair of Geese here, a frightened Rail there. sionally a flock of Sand-peeps whistled by Hours passed away, and when I was turning campward I caught sight of the snowy forms of a pair of White Cranes flying slowly toward me. Immediately I fell flat, the birds alighted tar in the swamp, my presence was detected at once and away they went. However, I concealed myself well and watched their return, which occurred in about twenty minutes. time one of the birds walked to a certain point and stopped; as she remained so long I concluded to make my way to where she To my delight she was sitting on her heavily marked drab egg, which lay in a neat cavity in the top of a well-built heap of tough, fine marsh grass 11 feet high on The eggs were the first I had firm sod. seen and were a rare prize to me. When I approached the nest the bird, which had walked some distance away, came running back within a few rods, trotting awkwardly around, wings and tail spread drooping, with head and shoulders brought to a level with the water; then it began picking up bunches of moss and sticks which it threw down in a defiant way: then with pitable mien it spread itself on the water and beg ged me to leave its treasure, which, in a heartless manner, I didn't do. At one time she was within twenty feet of me, but showed no inclination to fight, though they are said to defend their young with courage. The eggs carefully packed, I looked around, when a faint red glow told me that the sun was down and I seven miles from camp, in the midst of a strange marsh, with no house in sight! The great range of stony hills shut off the view, and I could only guess the direction of the camp, which I did and started on a brisk walk, but

darkness began settling down ere I had reached solid ground. Alone and lightly clad I hurried on, following the direction as best I could, there being no path or road -nothing but cold and darkness. On and on I went, well upon the ridges which I followed. When coming up a steep point a great eagle flew heavily trom a boulder right before me and flapped away in the blackness. Mile after mile I went, when I began to appreciate that I was lost and wandering on a wide, lone prairie. A cold north wind blew from the cloudy sky; no light could be seen, not a tree or a stick to make fire from. Cheerless I wandered, when happily my foot struck a cow path. I followed followed it for a long distance; it led into a marsh. I retraced my steps and at last came upon a corral, then the herdsman's shanty, where I stayed the remainder of the night. Many years have passed since then, but the memory of that Crane's nest and the lonely wandering are J. W. Preston. not forgotten.

Baxter, Iowa.

SPRING NOTES.

Oological and Ornithological.

A suspiciou haunted me as to whether the Picidae family wintered with us, particularly the "Red-headed George"—local phraseology here. The Downy's and Hairy's I knew all about, but the species above referred to was still an unknown quantity. Heretofore I had always seen plenty, until after Xmas, Jan. 1st., at the latest, and then they disappeared, not to appear again until the last of March, being plenty in April.

I made it a point the past winter to climb to holes where I knew they should be, and in every instance found the Red-heads at home, sometimes one, sometimes two and three occupying the same cavity. I found them thus during all the weeks from January to date; now, of course, they are common. I watched closely how and where they fed. When the weather was extremely rough, snow eight feet deep and the trees covered with ice, making climb-

ing anything but pleasant. George was found snugly stowed away in the deepest recess of his hole, in some instances more dead than alive. On one occasion, having thrown one from the hole, it fell to the ground without any attempt at expanding its wings, and in three which I dissected, the stomachs were perfectly empty.

During a thaw, or upon sunny days, they would feed on the ground upon acorns, mast, etc., and only twice did I hear any rapping indication of insect hunting. They seemed to depend mainly upon acorns

These birds are very quiet during the cold winter months; anyone expecting to find them by the great noise and fuss which they make at other seasons would be sadly left, thus it happened me at least, and the foregoing observation, made some years ago, would have settled the whole matter.

Five years ago, being picked up on a bird question by an old "wise-head," I made it a "stiff pointer" with myself never to take anything for granted, nor any person's word for anything pertaining to birds, their nests and eggs, in my own locality, and it has taught me ten-fold more than the books ever did.

It is never well to be too positive on questions in our line, there is too much variation in Nature's working. Circumstances may be such as to compel a change of base, characteristics, etc., which being contrary to the accepted rule, the consequence is—you get left.

It has taken me three years to prove to the knowing ones (?) that the Purple Martin does not necessarily need to come on March 28th. The time varied, for and against me heretofore, but this spring decides the whole business. It is now the 5th of April and no Martin has appeared.

I generally entertain between 30 and 40 each season, but where are they now? Probably some skin-hog has gobbled them all, and even now they may be adorning the phenomenal spring hat. But enough, southern friend, keep them yet a week or so, the mercury stands at only 36° and

ice cover the trees, besides, the houses, which were let to *Passer domesticus*, have not as yet been vacated, the rent is overdue and I must "turn the rascals out."

I take the following from some of my winter notes, made during professional trips to the country. I may say, right here, that I never go out day or night without my gun and a complement of loaded shells in the back of the buggy—fixed, you see, for anything in the line. Killed a Screech Owl last December with a load of Arsenious acid pellets; shot worked out of shell, so I loaded the next best; it cost me 45 cents for the load, but I let her go and got the Screecher.

Jan. 10th—Bluebirds in plenty, with Juncoes and Tree Sparrows; counted nine Meadow Larks in scemingly good condition. Thermometer—8° Fah.

Jan. 15th—Marked three pairs Little Screech Owl this morning. Saw a pair of Long Ears in a large spruce this afternoon. Thermometer—5° Fah.

Jan. 18th—Counted seven Meadow Larks around a wheat stack having a big time, one shot was found in excellent condition, they have struck a bonanza, and will work it till spring.

Jan. 20th—Snow eight inches deep—much drifted, Blue-birds, Song Sparrows and Snowbirds in numbers along the road. Shot a pair of Short-eared Owls this afternoon. In good condition and make fine specimens. Thermometer—7° Fah.

Jan. 30th—Pair of Blue Jays put in an appearance and rested in the pines near the house; never visited me so early before. Thermometer—5° Fah.

Feb. 1st—Saw four pairs Blue Jays this morning. An old Red-tailed Hawk's attempt to capture a red squirrel amused me very much. Scene:

Squirrel on fence under den—tree, Buteo hovering, instant's pause—recognition mutual—squirrel skips for home, pulls hole in after him. Buteo slaps bang against tree. Time—not yet calculated.

Very few of the Warblers have put in an appearance; the weather has been very unsettled thus far this spring, but with all the

cold and wet I have the first set of Bluebirds for the season; five, very fresh and pretty. Have marked down seven nests of above, ready for eggs. I have also the first set of Crow's for the season, the nest was finished nine days ago. On Saturday, April 3d, I procured six fresh eggs; do not think the female would have deposited any more.

I collected two sets of the Sparrow Hawk, one five the other six. One set of three of the Red-tailed Hawk, a set of five from Long-eared Owl, and a nest and two eggs from Little Screech Owl, completes my finds thus far. The Screecher's nest I will visit later. I am sure that at least three pairs of our large Hawks are cluding me, so also the Owls, but business has kept me closer than usual, and I have not been able to locate them.

Should you consign the foregoing to the waste basket, I shall not mourn, the *fever* is on, you know, and this half hour's work gives much relief.

Very truly,

J. H. Melsheimer, M. D.,

Hanover, Pa.

We trust the Doctor will have the "fever" often.—[Ed.

From Chester County, Penn.

The past season has been one of rich experience to the oölogists of our county, and thinking some notes on the more rare finds would be of interest, I send you the memoranda of same, prefacing by the statement that so far as published, our breeding list comprises ninety-eight species, the number being restricted on account of lack of any large body of water and the absence of "shore" birds. The principle instances of note that have come under my notice are

1. Long-billed Marsh Wren—Under date of June 13th, 1886, Mr. T. H. Jackson, of West Chester, writes me: "About the middle of May I discovered a pair of Long-billed Marsh Wrens in a swamp near West Chester. At that time they had constructed about four or five nests. Yesterday I again visited the locality, and after searching

about twenty empty nests, came on the right one, containing six eggs. They had probably been set on several days, but I secured them with the nest, and prized them highly. I do not think there is more than a single pair in this locality, but it seems incredible that they should make so many nests." This species breeds abundantly along the Delaware river and on Christiana Creek, as high up as Newport, Del., within six to eight miles of our county, but as there are few localities within our limits suitable for their nesting, they have not, so far as I am informed, previously been found in this county.

- 2. Black and White Creeper—On June 6th Mr. Jackson, in company with two kindred souls, were collecting in the county. Mr. Jackson writes: "The most important find of the day was a nest and five young birds of the Black and White Creeper. They were nearly ready to leave the nest, and together we fully identified the parent birds at close quarters. We also saw a female feeding a young bird, from another nest, that was just able to fly."
- 3. Mourning Warbler—On June 21st a friend brought me a female Mourning Warbler in the flesh, but in poor condition. The bird was found dead by the side of a public road June 10th, partially consumed by ants, etc. The feathers, however, except about one side of the head and on the abdomen being intact. On the same day a male of this species was seen within a quarter of a mile of the same place. The probability is they were or would have nested in that locality.
- 4. Worm Eating Warbler—Mr. Jackson took four nests with eggs this year, the earliest date being May 29, five fresh eggs. Two or three instances of this species nesting in the county prior to this year are on record.
- 5. Virginia Rail—Five nests of this species have been taken this year in the county. I believe but three previous ocurrances are recorded of their breeding in Chester county, one in 1885, one in 1886, and one about 1878, all in this vicinity. I am of the opinion the breeding of this bird

has been heretofore overlooked in our vicinity, and that eareful search will discover it more abundant.

6. Broad-winged Hawk—Mr. T. H. Jackson took a set of three eggs May 29th near West Chester, being the third occurrance to my knowledge within the county.

C. J. Pennock, Kennett Square, Pa.

Turkey Buzzards.

I have noticed from time to time descriptions of the nesting habits of the Turkey Buzzards, but as none of the sketches I have seen describe their nesting habits as I find them, I will briefly describe them. Some writers speak of finding their nests in thickets of briars or "Spanish Dagger," but here the only brush we have are thickets of wild plum bushes, and though they may nest among them I have never succeeded in finding a nest among bushes of any kind. Four or five years ago Coyotes were very common here and had numerous burrows along the banks of the small ereeks and sloughs, but us the country became better settled they went into the wilder parts of the country and now only their "holes" remain to tell of their existence. These old Coyote holes have been "preëmpted" by the Buzzards, who find them a congenial nesting place. The holes are generally dug about eight feet before they turn, and just at the turn the eggs are usually deposited on the bare earth, no attempt to build a nest being made. I took a fine set of two fresh eggs May 14th of this year, and a week later found two nests containing young, so I conclude that the first week in May is the time to look for their nests in this latitude. The nests are easily found, as the male bird may usually be seen perched on some point close to where the female is setting. The eggs have a creamy ground color, dotted and blotched with spots varying from a chocolate to a light brown, the spots sometimes running together on the large end, and measure about 21x13.

C. A. Babcock, Danvile, Kan.

Common Crow.

This bird is very common here, remaining through the coldest winter, when it may be seen perched on the leafless trees, or flying about in the air searching for its food, which consists mostly of carrion and corn which the farmer has left in the field.

When the warm days of spring are fast approaching they may be seen flying about the large timbers along the rivers and country in search of nesting places. Early in April they begin building a large, strong nest, which is completed about the third week in that month.

Their nests may be found varying from ten to forty feet in height, according to the nature of the spot selected by the birds. They are usually found in the tops of oak or wild crabapple trees. The nest is about eighteen inches outside dsameter, eighteen inches inside and six inside depth, made of large twigs, pieces of moss and weeds, lined with horse hair or bark from the wild grape vine. When once robbed the birds seek another wood, where they again build and rear their young. Their eggs vary in number from four to six, are of a light sea green, thickly spotted and blotched with dark brown, with purplish reflections, thickest about the larger end, 1.50 by 1.20.

W. E. DINGMAN,

Newton, Iowa.

Chautauqua.

The Gazette is thoroughly in love with Chautauqua. Time and again it has expressed admiration for the glorious idea that brought that organization into being, and for the glorious manner in which that idea is being developed. Chautauqua has come to stand for something distinct in our educational system—from old methods a thing apart; something that tends to the upbuilding of the people, and offers to the humblest the privileges and the blessings of human enlightenment. The assembly programme for the present season, which takes in the months of July and August, is perhaps the most elaborate, varied and attractive ever presented. Fortunate indeed is the teacher who shall be able to spend a portion of his vacation on the shores of the beautiful Chautauqua Lake. -Penman's Gazette.

How to Make a Cabinet.

I will send the dimensions of a cabinet for birds eggs or insects which I am making for myself to keep my collection of eggs. I think it is good and cheap.

DIMENSIONS OF A CABINET.—For birds eggs, insects, etc., containing four drawers, size to be about 21 inches wide, 14 inches deep and 12 inches high.

Top and Bottom.—Cut two pieces 204 inches long, 13% inches wide, of one-half inch stock, black-walnut.

Sides.—Cut two pieces 13‡ inches wide, $10\frac{7}{8}$ inches long, of 7-16 inch stock, blackwalnut, (grain of wood to run from top to bottom of sides.

Back.—Cut one piece 11½ inches long, 18 5-16 inches wide of 7-16 inch stock, white wood, (probably this will have to be made of two pieces, as you will not be likely to get a piece of above width,) grain of wood to run from top to bottom.

Drawers.—Fronts. Cut four pieces 18¼ inches long, 2½ inches wide, of 7-16 stock, black-walnut.

Ends.—Cut 8 pieces $12\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches wide, of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch stock, white wood.

Backs.—Cut four pieces $17\frac{a}{8}$ inches long, $2\frac{a}{8}$ inches wide of $\frac{a}{8}$ inch stock, white wood.

Bottoms.—Cut four pieces $17\frac{8}{8}$ inches long, $11\frac{7}{8}$ inches wide of $\frac{1}{4}$ inch white wood.

Partitions Between Drawers.—Cut three pieces 18 5-16 inches long, 12³/₄ inches wide of 7-16 inch stock, white wood.

Use 7-16 inch wide, ‡ inch thick mouldings on front edges of sides and partitions between drawers.

Finish off the edges of top and bottoms to suit yourself.

Black-walnut and white wood are as cheap woods as can be used and look well.

The stock for making one of the cabinets will cost about \$2.25. Common white picture knobs will answer as handles on drawers, and cost only a few cents. Divisions can be made inside of drawers if necessary of \$\display\$ inch thick black-walnut or white wood. Care must be taken not to vary at all in measuring, as the least variation may cause the whole to come wrong.

Geo. E. Town, Jr,

Cambridgeport, Mass.

THE OOLOGIST.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

----BY---

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

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

Terms of Subscription.

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FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

JOTTINGS.

Our correspondence during the month of August has been unavoidably neglected, but everything will be "straightened" during the first of September, with interest,

Do not fail to see our exhibit at the Chicago Exposition, Sept. 1st to Oct. 16th. Our brother will have charge of this exhibit, but we expect to assist him from the last of September until the close of the Exposition. Should you happen in Chicago during the time do not fail to visit "Lattin" and his display in the Exposition.

If you happen in South-western New York during the month of August do not fail to visit Chautauqua. "Lattin" will be found 'mid a big stock of the "eurios" in the Dock Building.

"The Birds of Chester County," as given in the 29th and 30th Quarterly Reports of the Penn'a Board of Agriculture, by C. J. Pennock, Esq., of Kennett Square, is of no small value, and as the article will prove of interest to so many of our subscribers, we are in hopes of having space to reprint it in some future Oölogist.

Use our new Checking List. They will save any collector or dealer a big printer's bill. We claim them to be the neatest and handiest Checking List of N. A. Birds ever issued. They are printed on extra heavy paper, eight pages, three foldings, and will go nicely into a No. 6 envelope. This list contains both Ridgeway's and the new A. O. U. C. lists. Sample, 2c.; 12 for 20c.; 100 for \$1.50. See sample page in this issue of The Oölogist.

We call our readers' special attention to the advertisement of Mr. W. C. Brownell of Plymouth, Mich. In the latter part of June Mr. Brownell purchased of us an immense stock of eggs and has paid us \$2,500.00 for them (no doubt, by far the largest sale of "egg shells" ever made at one time by any dealer in America, if not the world). Our business relations thus far have been of the most pleasant nature, and knowing Mr. B.'s stock to be one of the best we have no hesitancy in introducing him to the readers of The Oölogist and, if in need of any of the specimens Mr. B. offers, in recommending them to give him a trial order.

Messrs, J. B. Lippincott & Co. have in press a "Manual of North American Birds," by the eminent ornithologist, Prof. Robert Ridgeway, curator Department of Birds, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. The author has had unrivalled advantages for the preparation of a treatise of this character, arising from his own field experience, as well as his connection with the National Museum and the free access which has been granted him to various other public and private collections of birds, both in this country and Europe. The work is to conrain some 425 illustrations suitably executed, and will conform to the geographical limits, classification, numeration and nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithological Union. doubt not it will be one of the most important, thorough and original contributions to the literature of the subject which has appeared, and presume that naturalist and sportsman alike will find it an invaluable aid.

During the past six weeks we have been very, very busy-have filled orders amounting to over \$3,500.60, been to Chautauqua twice to help arrange our Natural History Stores in the Oriental and Dock Buildings in that place (in the latter building we flatter ourselves on having the finest display of specimens ever exhibited at Chautauqua), have written over 1,000 letters and have traveled nearly, if not quite, 2,000 miles to attend to matters relating to our business. During the month of August we shall make Chautauqua our headquarters, and although we have earned a vacation, we shall work harder than ever, but it is expected that this work, owing to the many pleasant anticipated chats with our friends and patrons, will be a work of pleasure.

Chewink Nests in a Tree.

The nest, situated in solitary woodland, in a sapling overgrown with a wild grapevine, and was about eight feet from the ground, was found Aug. 7th, 1885. The bird on being frightened from the nest, flew to the ground and spread her wings as if she were wounded, ran and hopped along, evidently inviting pursuit. I followed her through the dense undergrowth, being able to keep her in sight. If I halted she would also stop, and if I went forward rapidly she would do the same. This coutinued until she had led me far enough from her nest, as she thought, when she suddenly disappeared and I soon heard her note from a point in the wood quite remote. I returned to the nest. It was quite bulky, its external diameter being six inches, and ex-depth seven inches. The foundation of the nest was a large quantity of leaves, which were quite wet from recent rains, and would from their number and bulk and the cool, shady locality, retain their moisture for a long time, thus securing the same conditions as if the nest had been placed upon mother earth. The middle layer of the nest was a mass of the stringy bark of the wild grape, neatly and compactly arranged. The lining was a thick layer of fine hav which was quite dry.

The eggs, two in number, were slightly incubated. They were uniform in size, somewhat larger than the average Towhee's eggs, and the spots less thickly scattered over the eggs than is usual.

Another nest found August 15th was placed six feet from the ground in a sapling. The construction of the nest was identical with the foregoing, as were also the actions of the bird when driven from the nest. The eggs, three in number, were quite fresh and not in any way different from the usual specimens. There is one other curious fact in connection with the latter nest. The same pair of birds had already made two attempts to breed during the season in the same locality. The first nest was placed on the ground under an old brush heap. It contained, when first found, a number of young, which were stolen by some animal before they left the nest. The parents, not discouraged, soon after deposited another set of eggs in the nest, but were again unsuccessful, as these eggs were soon destroyed. They then left the nest and built in the tree, probably coming to the conclusion that the latter was a safer locality.

Н. А. Коси.

A Day Among the Fish Hawks.

On May 27th, I started out for a day's collecting among the Fish Hawks. I had to walk nearly three miles to get to my boat. Here I took my boat, and after sailing for half an hour, I came in sight of the nesting places of the noble Fishing Eagle. Making everything snug on board the boat, I started out on a tour of inspection. The first nest I came to contained two of the finest marked Fish Hawk's eggs I ever saw. I soon after found another set of three eggs. but after this I climbed to seven nests on which I saw the bird setting, but I was disappointed every time by finding the nest empty. I succeeded in locating two Least Bitterns' nests, one of which contained four eggs. It now began to get dark, and I started home by another route, and on the way succeeded in finding three sets of fine Fish Hawks' eggs. That night about nine o'clock a tired but well pleased oölogist came trudging home, very much grub-(OLD SALT,) struck. Sea Isle City, N. J.

CORRESPONDENCE.

A GOOD TESTIMONIAL,

Mr.W. C. Brownell of Plymouth, Mich., whom we sold that \$2,500.00 worth of eggs, in acknowledging the receipt of the lot on June 25th, writes as follows:

"I will here say that I am very much pleased with both your way of transporting eggs and with the eggs themselves, and that there was not one single egg broken.

WHITE BROWN THRASHER EGGS.

Dear Mr. Lattin:

Did you ever see, or hear of anybody who did, white eggs of the Brown Thrasher? I never dreamt of such a thing, and yet I am forced to the conclusion that it is possible and that I have two of them in my cabinet. A boy got them for me. The nest was built in a small tree and contained four eggs. He left two of them for the bird to go on uninterruptedly and the remaining two he took and gave them to me. The bird that laid them, and true to birdinstinct would have hatched them all four, is none other than the Brown Thrasher. If you have white Bluebird eggs, why not of the Brown Thrasher? You can use this for your journal if you see fit.

Rev. S. C. Tobias, Lititz, Pa.

OUR NEW CHECKING LISTS.

Use them, they will save any collector or dealer a big printer's bill. We claim them to be the neatest and handiest Checking List of N. A. Birds ever used. They are printed on extra heavy paper, eight pages, three foldings, and will go nicely into a No. 6 envelope. This list contains both Ridgeway's and the new A. O. U. C. lists. Sample, 2c.; 12 for 20c.; 100 for \$1.50.

We add the following kind words from leading Oölogists:

"I would do myself and the Lists injustice did I not say that for convenience of size, clearness and beauty of typography, I have never seen anything of the kind that approaches them."

HARRY G. PARKER.

"You will no doubt receive congratulatory letters by the ton now, for the "lists" are by far the best we have ever seen and the typographical and presswork as well as the paper is first-class. In fact, a boon to the collector and a credit to the compiler. Sam'l B. Ladd. "I am well pleased with them."

J. Parker Norris,
(Oölogical editor of the O. and O.

DAVIE'S NEW KEY.

"Davie's book received in good order. I am greatly pleased with it. The descriptions are full and clear, and are often expanded into picturesque reading, so that I have read it with interest aside from its mere technical merits."

(Rev.) W. M. BEAUCHAMP, Baldwinsville, N. Y.

THE YOUNG ORNITHOLOGISTS.

Dear Sir:

Some time ago I wrote an article in *The Young Ornithologist*, published by A. A. Child of Boston, Mass., to the effect that the subscribers to that magazine should start a corresponding club, and have their notes and observations published in the paper. Quite a number agreed to join it, but before we could fix up a constitution or organize the publisher stopped the magazine. I then wrote to Mr. J. B. Richards of Fall River, Mass., and we agreed to make your paper the official organ if you would give us the requisite space. We also drew up the following constitution:

ARTICLE I. The name of this society shall be The Young Ornithologists' Asso-

ciation.

ARTICLE II. It shall be the object of this Association to collect, study and preserve birds, their nests and eggs and to note facts relating to them.

ARTICLE III. The officers of this Association shall be a president and a secretary, who shall perform the customary duties of such offices These officers are to be appointed by the publisher of THE OĞLOGIST.

ARTICLE IV. New Legions may be added with the consent of the president, provided that no legion shall consist of less than three members. (Individual members will be admitted free of charge and will enjoy the same privileges as members of Legions.) Legions shall be named from the towns in which they exist, and if there be more than one Legion in a town they shall be further distinguished by the letters of the alphabet.

ARTICLE V. Each Legion may choose its own officers and make its own by-laws.
ARTICLE VI. This constitution may be

amended by a three-fourths vote of the Association or its representatives.

ARTICLE VII. THE OÖLOGIST shall be the official organ of communication between members and Legions of this Association.

Drawn up by L. O. Pindar. Approved by J. B. Richards.

[Having no time to attend to this matter ourselves, we will donate space in The Oölogist and trust the boys will "work it up." Address L. O. Pindar, Prest., Hickman, Ky., or J. B. Richards, Sec., Fall River, Mass.]

ROSEATE SPOONBILL.

 $Dear\ Sir:$

We have not received THE OÖLOGIST for some time and we miss it very much and hope to receive our copy soon. We think it will be of interest to you and also to the readers of your paper to know that on June 2d, '86, we obtained seven eggs of the Roseate Spoonbill from one nest, which we believe to be the largest set of that species ever obtained. Yours truly,

R. E. RACHFORD & Son, Grigsby's Bluff, Tex.

A Cabinet for a Large Collection.

Editor Oologist:

DEAR SIR—In the last two numbers of your Journal I notice communications descriptive of Egg Cabinets, their mode of construction, etc., by Messrs. Goss and Westgate. From the descriptions given, I take it their cabinets are intended for single egg collections, mere matters of curiosity.

All those having any kind of a collection cannot help but notice the variation in size, coloring, etc.; even a single set of eggs gives you very marked variation, and from a dozen sets from same species, it would almost be impossible to point out the typical set. My collections are made in sets exclusively, and the cabinet which I shall try to describe contains only sets, excepting where one egg completes the complement.

At various times during the last ten years I have made and had made cases for my eggs, until, by the rapid increase, when egg collecting became so common, and rare eggs so easy to get, I found that I needed more room, and then went to work in this wise: I procured four spool cotton cases, made by the Willimantic Company, solid ash except the backs. Two of these contained six drawers each, the others five.

I had two large drawers made, ash faces, the full width of two cases sitting side by side, and four inches deep. Upon these the six drawer cases were placed and fitted snugly; by having the inside top and bottom edge of each, sawed flush, the five drawer cases put on top of these similarly filled, and the whole then cased in ash, doors being solid glass fitted with rubber, making them perfectly moth and dustproof. The metal slip on the face of each drawer, bearing the name of Co., Six Cord, etc. I reversed, and had painted on them the family name of the species represented in each drawer. In cases where only a few species represented a family, I associated them with a near neighbor.

By these slight alterations the cabinet assumed a different appearance, and no one could tell but that it was entirely new, the only give-away being the name of the Co. on the nickel drawer-pulls; but this is scarcely noticeable. Each drawer is filled with 4x3 trays, twenty just filling a drawer, except in two large drawers, trays for which I arranged myself. Each tray is partially filled with cedar sawdust, upon which the set is placed, the data blank being put under the tray. Each tray also bears a small paster, giving number, common and scientific name.

Where one tray was too small to hold a large set, two were united by cutting out the side partitions and pasting a slip on bottom, thus making all neat and preserving the uniformity.

The capacity of a cabinet such as I describe, is from 1,500 to 2,000 eggs, depending on arrangement and size of trays used.

The smaller drawers, two inches deep, will accommodate all eggs from a Hummer's to a Common Tern's. The larger drawers, four inches deep, were made for the eggs of the larger water birds, such as the Anatidæ etc., and the Strigidæ, Falconidæ, Cathartidæ, etc.

As a whole, the cabinet makes a beautiful appearance, hard oil finish, and the price within the reach of all, mine costing, my work not counted, and exclusive of trays, \$16.75.

The condition into which # # # has been reduced by "Quasi Ornithologists" is really deplorable, and I should very much like to dilate, but I forebore, considering the valuable space in the Oölogist. Could not you discountenance this egg-collecting craze, and add your mite to revolutionizing the system? The Audubon Society is rapidly spreading, and will no doubt do much good work in stamping out the skin hunting and egg collecting, to satisfy fashion and a "craze."

With many good wishes for all doing honest work in this line, I remain,

Very truly yours,

J. A. Melsheimer, M. D., Hanover, Pa.

Cuckoo Egg in Wood Thrush's Nest.

July 29th, 1885, I found an illustration of the well known fact of a Cuckoo depositing its eggs in the nest of some other bird. The nest in question was a Wood Thrush's, containing three eggs, two Wood Thrush and one Cuckoo, (species unknown.) The nest had been deserted by the parent. It was situated on a horizontal limb of a beech tree, about eight feet from the ground.

H. A. Koch,

College Hill, Ohio.

How Money will Assist.

Editor Oologist:

What has been accomplished towards making the Oölogist a monthly? stated that it should be done just as soon as the new subscriptions would justify, and I presume by that, subscriptions are coming in slow. Now it seems to me if all present subscribers would go to work, and each send in a new subscriber, by fall we might see the Oölogist a monthly, which would be welcome news to many, as we find it very instructive to egg and curiosity collectors. I will do my share, and will guarantee to send you ten new subscribers next month, and I hope others will lend a helping hand. C. H. M.,

San Barnardino, Cal.

July 21st, 1886.

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," inserted in this department for 2x cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

C, W. FORBES, Clyde, N. Y. A pair of Nickel Plated Roller Skates, with bag and oil can, for a canvas tent or a canoe.

F. C. LUSK, Holley, N. Y., will exchange firstclass bird skins for the same; twenty species of Warblers, Tanagers, Rose-breasted-Grosbeak, Waxwings, &c.

To Exchange.—I desire to exchange with collectors, birds' eggs in sets or single. Address, with list, J. W. JACOBS, Waynesburg, Greene Co., Pa.

To EXCHANGE.—A pair of almost new "Ideal" roller skates, cost \$3, for a good pair of climbing irons. Address JOS. TRAVIS, Fisher, Polk Co., Minn,

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-				
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$\tilde{2}$	Wilson's do			W. Golden-crowned do748a
	Willow do		34	Kennicott's Warbler747
3	Gray-cheeked do		35	Ground Tit
•	Bicknell's do			Pallid Wren-tit742a
4	Russet backed do		36	Tufted Titmouse;731
$\overline{4}a$	Olive-backed do	758a	37	Black-crested do 732
5	Dwarf do		38	Plain do
5a	Rocky Mt. Hermit do			Gray do
5b	Hermit do	759b		Ashy do
[6]	Red-wing do	[760]	39	Wollweber's Titmouse734
-7/-	American Robin		40	Mountain Chickadee738
	Western do		41	Black capped do735
8	Saint Lucas do		41a	Long-tailed do $735a$
9	Varied do		41b	Oregou do 735b
10	Sage Thrasher		42	Carolina do
11	Mockingbird		43	Mexican do
$\frac{12}{16}$	Catbird		[44]	
13	Brown Thrasher		45	Hudsonian do740
	Mexican Brown do		46	Chestnut backed do741
3.4	Saint Lucas do		46a	Californian do
15	Bendire's do	700	47	Least Tit
	Palmer's do			Californian Bush Tit743a
16	Catifornian do		48	Grinda's do
	Leconte s do		49	Blacked-eared do[745]
17	Rufous vented do		50	Yellow-headed do746
18	Socorro do	,	51	White-bellied Nuthatch727
19	American Water Ouzel	701		Slender-billed do727a
[20]	Eue-throated Warbler		52	Red-beilied do728
[21]	Stone Chat		53	Brown-headed do729
22	Bluebird	766	54	Pigmy do
	Azure do		55	Brown Creeper 726
23	Canfornian do		55a	Mexican do
24	Rocky Mt. do		56	Cactus Wren
25	Townsend's Solitaire		57	Saint Lucas Cactus do714
26	Black-crested Flycatcher		58	Rock do
27	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher			Guadalupe Rock do 716
28	Plumbeus do	702	59	Mex. White-throated do. [717]
29 30	Black-tailed do			White-throated do717a
31	Ruby-crowned Kinglet		60 a	Carolina do
32 31	Dusky do	100		Berlandier's do718a
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634	House do	116a	Grinnell's Water do 675a.
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	Aleske de 200	$\frac{119}{120}$	Kentucky do 677 Mourning do 679 Macgillivray's do 680
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THE OOLOGIST.

Vol. 3, No 5. ALBION, N. Y., SEPT. TO NOV., 1886. BI-MONTHLY.

A Day With a Young Collector on Long Island.

Every Saturday last spring, when I was at St. Paul's school, Garden City, my chum and I were in the habit of going on a walk for the purpose of collecting eggs, and usually had the most miserable luck. For instance, once, after walking the whole morning, we came back with only two Red and Buff-shouldered Blackbird's eggs. The last day we were at school we determined to go out in a new direction from the way we After walking about two usually went. miles we came to a farm-house with a small orchard attached- Going up to the nouse we asked permission to walk through the (we don't generally do this, but it was so near the house that we thought it best to), and they gave it to us readily. We began at once to look for nests, only finding a few, which proved to be old ones. We were about to go when I saw a Baltimore Oriole, and looking around discovered its nest in the top of a small pear tree. chum volunteered to climb for it. he got about half way up the old birds commenced to halloo "bloody murder!" and we felt badly to take their nest, but we could not help ourselves. My chum found it rather hard work to get at the nest, for the tree was small and bent under his weight toward the top. He was afraid that it would break; however, he managed to get it down. On looking in we saw four eggs of a light gray color', streaked and blotched with dark purple or black, chiefly at the larger end. They were perfectly fresh and were the first Oriole's eggs I had found, for I had not been collecting long. The nest was made of grass, woolen and threads, was the shape of a bag, about six inches long and larger at the bottom than at the top where there was an opening for the bird to go in.

When the Oriole's nest was being climbed for a pair of Kingbirds made such a noise in the next tree that I thought they must have a nest there, so I climbed into the tree and found that my conjecture was right; there were three fresh eggs in it.

After this we walked on till we came to some woods. Entering them, we walked about a mile before we found anything except a Catbird's nest then I sat down and took a rest while my chum walked on. soon heard him calling to me, so I got up and ran to him and he showed me a nest in a low bush with the bird sitting on it; when we came near I saw that it was a Wood Thrush, and it allowed us to get very close before it left its nest, and then it did not seem much frightened. The eggs were three in number, of Robin egg blue and slightly smaller than the eggs of that bird. One of them was perfectly fresh, but the other two were almost hatched, so that we could not blow them till we got home.

We continued our walk till we were out of the woods, and after walking a short distance we came in sight of the same cottage where we found the Oriole's eggs. This rather surprised us, as we thought we had come out on the other side of the woods, but instead of that we came out not two hundred yards from the point we entered, showing us that we had made a complete circuit in the woods without our knowing it.

On our way back a bountry boy stopped us and asked us what luck we had. He said he knew where a Flicker's nest was, and also the nest of a bird whose name he did not know. When we came to it the bird flew off so quickly that I could not see plainly what it was, but I think that its back was brown and its breast white, and was about the size of a sparrow. The nest was situated on the ground among a lot of dried leaves; it was about six inches high

and four broad, with a hole in one side. The eggs, five in number, white spotted with reddish-brown. [Your bird was the Golden-crowned Thush, or "Oven Bird," as it is commonly called.—ED.] He then showed us the Flicker's nest, which was situated in the top of a dead stump about fifteen feet high. The eggs were pure white and very glossy, as all Woodpeckers' eggs are, and so transparent as to be pink before being blown.

When we had finished blowing them we started for the school, but before we had walked ten feet we came upon another Wood Thrushes nest with three eggs the same as the other, and so nearly hatched as to be nearly impossible to blow them. After this we made our way back as soon as possible.

B. W. Leigh,

New York.

Let Young Oologists Collect Single Eggs.

Editor Oölogist :

As the last numbers of The Oölogist and also of the *Naturalists' Companion* have contained articles in which the writers make it appear that all those who collect single eggs do so, not from a love of study, but from the desire to "show off," allow me to say a few words of defense through your valuable paper.

There may be advantages gained by collecting in sets, it is true, but 1 think that many oölogists witl stand by me when 1 say that as much can be learned from a collection of single eggs, properly kept, as there can from a collection composed of sets. The way I do is to take the egg and fill out a data blank the same as if I had taken the set. An egg register may also be kept, but if the data blank is properly kept there is no need for the register. In this way one can learn as much from a single egg as he can from a set, and is thus saved the additional trouble required to obtain the set.

Collecting single eggs has the advantage of being the more humane way, notwith-standing what Mr. Selover says to the contrary in the last number of the *Naturalists*'

Companion. As oblogists are generally accompanied by one or two of their friends on collecting trips, it will be seen that one nest of eggs would often satisfy all if they collected single eggs, while two or three nests would have to be robbed if they collected in sets. It is bad enough that the birds should suffer at all, and if we can learn as much from a single egg as we can from a set, let us by all means collect single eggs.

Those who collect eggs simply as curiosities would do mankind and the birds a favor by turning their attention to stamps, tags or something else that would cause no suffering to any kind of harmless or beneficial creatures. If such persons cannot be made to desist by gentle means, laws should be enacted by which they can be punished.

As I am, in all senses of the word, a "young oölogist," I should be pleased to know if there are any of the older ones who endorse my plans. If so, let us hear from them through The Oölogist.

Yours fraternally,

F. M. Patterson, Fort Madison, Ia.

The Chimney Siftw.

Although this bird is so common that you may see it almost any time in the day during its stay here, yet I have noticed that it is very seldom I see anything pertaining to it or its habits in any of the magazines I take.

It arrives here in the latter part of April and departs about the middle of October. It seeks its prey of insects mostly in dark and cloudy weather, or in early morning and the latter part of the afternoon, sometimes feeding its young until quite late in the night. When seeking its prey it generally flies close to the ground.

Its nest is a neat basket-shaped structure composed of twigs of nearly uniform size woven together in the form of a half circle, making on the whole a most peculiar and remarkable structure. In selecting twigs for the formation of its nest it prefers the ends of living branches, usually of the elm

ree, which it breaks off at the desired place and gathers with great adroitness and skill while on the wing. This is a fact agreed to by all who have ever watched the Swifts at work constructing their nests.

By means of an adhesive saliva secreted by the bird in the back of its head, and which it can eject at leisure, each twig is securely fastened to its fellows, and by the same cement the whole structure is fastened to the side of the chimney in which it is built. As this saliva dries it hardens - into a tough glue-like substance, so firm that in separating the nest from the chimnev I have known of the bricks to which it was fastened part sooner than it; but when moistened by heavy and long-continued rains this cement becomes softened and the weight of the contents of the nest will sometimes cause it to give way from the side of the chimney and the whole is dashed to the bottom. Sometimes vast numbers of eggs are destroyed in this man ner. The young leave the nest several days before they can fly and cling to the top of the chimney, where they are cared for by their parents.

The eggs are from four to six in number, somewhat elliptical in form, though more acute at one end than at the other. In color they are pure crystalline white and vary but little in size and shape, and measure about .75 in. in length by .50 in. in breadth.

W. H. FOOTE,

Pittsfield, Mass.

A Day With the Loons.

About six miles from Hermon lies a beautiful sheet of water three miles long by one and one-half wide. The water is clear and numerous islands dot the surface of the lake. This to the young oölogist is a fertile field for cultivation, as a goodly number of water fowls breed here, and also of land fowls. June 12 myself and another collector visited this resort to seek a day of recreation and also add some specimens to our cabinets.

We took a skiff and were soon enjoying the bracing air, at the same time carefully watching for anything like a bird's nest. We had not gone far before a Kingbird's nest was spied, but that was not what was wanted. We traversed the lake until Ship Island was reached, and there my two large treasures were found.

The birds are considered the bardest to shoot of any that inhabit the Adirondack forest and their nests are rare to be found. Only two pair inhabit this inland sea, and but cone before has their nesting place been found before hatching.

The nest was about three feet from the water's edge and the eggs laid upon the bare sand. No sticks or other substance was made around it; only the sunken earth' would indicate their nesting place.

The eggs measured 3.80 by 2.25 and 3.55 by 2.30. Only two eggs were found and in these incubation was far advanced, but a resort to an ant hill soon cleaned them of their contents.

The eggs were of a dark olivaceous drab—very dark, with darker spots over the entire surface of the eggs; these are quite pointed at the smaller end and upon exposure to the light soon fade.

I have also this season procured a very fine set of Ring-billed Gulls, and also found the found the cyrie of the Bald Eagle. But as this is my second year collecting I will be sure next time to visit the home of this bird in season, for when I found the next on the 2d of April young eagles greeted me.

Edson A. McMillan,

Hermon, N. Y.

Brown-headed Nuthatches; Spotted Eggs of Indigo Bunting.

Have taken a nice chutch of the Brownheaded Nuthatch. In your hand book you price the egg at 50c. Is that the usual price? Of all dealers whose catalogues 1 have, I know of no one who catalogues the egg.

Have taken a set of eggs of No. 248, Indigo Bunting. One egg was perfectly white, while two were very distinctly spotted; the white egg was the first laid. Have found many nests of this species, but never saw one's egg spotted before. Have you known of a similar instance?

R. B. McL., Statesville, N. C.

THE OOLOGIST.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY

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

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

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JOTTINGS.

All copy for next issue must be in by Dec. 10th.

Advertisers will please note our low rates. Our guaranteed circulation for 1887 will be 25,000 copies.

December Oölogist will be sent free to all new subscribers sending in their subscriptions before Jan. 1st.

Our terms of subscription have been placed so low that we can allow our friends only five cents each for the new subscribers they send us.

Copy for January and February issue of The Oölogist should be in by Dec. 15th. This number will have a very large circulation, and it will pay any wide-awake dealer to have his advertisement therein.

The Oölogist for 1887 and one exchange notice therein for 25 cents. The same with the Oölogists' Hand Book, 27 cents. Or to any person sending us an order of \$1.00 or over for anything we advertise we will send the same free.

Our paid subscription list for 1886 numbered about 1,200. We expect at least 1,000 of these to renew for 1887, and owing to our reduced subscription rates and four liberal offers, it would be an easy matter for each of these old subscribers to send in two This would new ones with their renewal. give The Oölogist 3,000 paid subscribers, and when this number is attained it will make its visits monthly instead of bimonthly.

In regard to our display at the Chicago Exposition we clip the following from the Chicago Telegram of Sept. 24th: "The display of curiosities by the well-known Frank H. Lattin, of Albion, Orleans county, N. Y., attracted a very large number a very large number of sight-seers this year. Among his stock almost every kind of birds' eggs, minerals, shells, natural history and geological specimens were observable, his 'little brown jug' stand coming in for a fair share of amusing comment. It being Mr. Lattin's intention to close out his specimen department, those who take especial interest in such would certainly find this an excellent opportunity to fill up any gaps in their lists at a very trifling cost.

In order to devote more of our time to Oölogy and to be able to spend at least one day in the field during the season (this we have been unable to do during the past three years), we have decided to close out everything we have in stock, except Oölogical specimens and supplies, at less than wholesale prices. Should any of our many readers wish to start in the business we can sell them a good stock for less money than the same could be collected. Or the right parties could more than double their money during 1887 by obtaining our entire stock. We could take part of our pay in desirable real estate or a good printing office outfit. Collectors will do well to make their selections early if we offer anything they can

Bird Notes of an Illinois Collector.

Below is an account of my bird notes for two days this spring:

April 8-Last night the wind changed from north to west. This morning it was south. We had quite a heavy frost last night and this morning at 8 o'clock the temperature was at 35°, at noon at 56°, and at 3:30 it was 10° higher and rising all the time. I was almost certain that this weather would bring a bird wave, nor was I mistaken, for on the next morning I heard a great commotion and some lively singing and went out for a walk through the woods as quick as I could, for I had to leave town at 7:45 A. M. and wanted to see all I could before that time. Among the hundreds of new arrivals were quite a number of Yellow-shafted Flickers, the first arrival in any numbers of this bird; 50 or more Hermit Thrushes, 3 Yellowbellied Woodpeckers, besides 2 or 3 other large Woodpeckers to which I could not get near enough to obtain a description. have since thought they were the Hairy. Large numbers of Robins and Fox Sparrows accompanied the wave, with a fair sprinkling of Brown Creepers and Phœbes and hundreds of Black Snowbirds or Juneos, which latter were all over the woods-in the trees, in the bushes, on the ground, everywhere. Song Sparrows, Bluebirds, Kinglets, Blue Jays, Nuthatches, Crows and Winter Wrens all sent more or less representatives to the conference. Saw several flocks of ducks and one of geese, and in passing over a wet place in the prairie near the woods I got up a flock of 20 or more noisy Killdeer and a small flock of 7 or 8 Pectoral Sandpipers or Grass Snipe. The woods and prairies were actually ringing with bird melody this morning, the latter furnishing the songs of the Meadow and Shore Larks! Slightly warm this morning, with sun shining brightly.

The next morning, having reached my destination mentioned above, I paid a visit to the swamps of the place to see what bird life I could discover. I was rewarded for my search by making a large bag of Pec-

toral Sandpipers, two Passenger Pigeons, which I got out of a flock that flew over about a "mile" high, four Jack Snipe, of which I saw seven. Saw large numbers of ducks and geese, but as I had become an "anti-spring shootist" in the duck line. I did not kill any, although I had abundant chances to do so. This is my last spring shooting of game of any kind, however, as I have at last been converted. I was, at the opening of the season, requested by a sportsman friend to examine the birds I The result is that I found a majority of the birds I killed were females, most of which contained eggs of various sizes, varying in the different species, and always one or more rather large eggs. In the case of 15 Rail I killed on the 16th I found in 8 females eggs nearly ready to be expelled from the body, and in one case several pellets struck and broke an egg which would have been laid in two or three minutes, it having already a shell covering. The bird would not get up for quite a while, but my dog insisted on it, with the above result. On May 1st I shot a female off a nest of 11 eggs and saw several other full nests. I have enough opportunities to shoot in the fall, so good-bye to spring game shooting. for I shall have no more of it.

> G. B. H., Suburb of Chicago.

A Plucky Wood Pewee; Long-billed Marsh Wrens.

In the spring of '85 I found the nest of a Wood Pewee, and on the 17th of June there were three eggs in it. I took the eggs and nest. Not long after I saw the bird flying around where the old nest was, so I watched her and saw her take a little of the wool that was left and fly with it to where she was making a new nest. This nest was soon completed, but she had not built it strong enough, for it tipped before she had laid any eggs. She carried this nest away and again built another nest, which was somewhat better than the last, as she laid one egg in it. It also began to tip and the next day when I returned there was just one egg in it. I thought it strange, so I looked on the ground under the nest and found one broken egg. The next day (1st of July) I went and saw only one egg in the nest, and after searching awhile on the ground found a broken one. I took the one good egg out, as I was afraid it would share the same fate as the other two. Not discouraged at her poor success, the poor little bird set to work and earried this nest away and built another just where the first one was. She built it strong and laid two eggs in it, which she hatched and reared the young birds.

In an article in the last number of The Oölogist I noticed that a party stated that he knew of a pair of Long-billed Marsh Wrens which built several nests. I have seen several descriptions of the nesting habits of this species, but never before heard anyone mention their making a number of nests.

The first time that I looked for their nests was on the 12th of last June. I discovered three nests and I thought that if I got their eggs they would do me. In a week I and my friend went back. There were no eggs in these nests and out of about twenty more we found only three containing eggs. The nests which they did not use were only shells, and not lined. One pair of birds would have four or five nests, never more than twenty feet apart, and sometimes only five or six. The birds would fly to the empty nests. Should like to know their object in constructing so many nests. V. B. C., Port Hope, Ont.

Marsh Wrens.

On June 11th of the past year, desiring to obtain a series of the eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, I visited a swamp a few miles north of the Pennsylvania line and near the Delaware river. A previous visit discovered the birds in moderate abundance, but the reeds only just started to grow and no completed nests. A few were seen in various stages of completion. The reeds at the time of my last visit were

from four to six feet high and navigation among them was quite laborious, the ground being flooded at high tide, leaving a soft footing. The day was extremely warm, which detracted much from the pleasure of the enterprise. After an hour or more of collecting I secured eight or ten sets of eggs, from three to five in a set-the former incomplete, the latter usually if not always a full set, as incubation in most cases was advanced. After packing-the eggs I determined to secure two or three nests with eggs, so after a short search found what was required and packed them in the wagon without examination other than to insert a finger to make sure they contained one or more eggs. Upon arriving home, what was my surprise to discover that one of these nests contained three eggs undoubtedly of the short-billed species. They were clear white and very fragile. The birds were not seen, nor was anything peculiar noted in the construction of the nest.

I returned ten days later to the same locality, hoping to secure the remainder of the same or to get another set of this species, but a diligent senrch failed to discover them.

I noted about three empty nests for every one that was occupied, which is, I believe, about the usual average. The unoccupied nests were more conspicuously placed in the reeds, the opening always prominent, and the nests were, moreover, unlined with the soft material. In all of which they differed from the egg-containing nests, which were lined or floored with a soft mat or bed of fine grass, eac., which usually so completely filled the entrance as to make it difficult to discover. In almost every case this peculiarity was sufficient to determine which were the unoccupied nests and which contained eggs. My inference is that the extra nests are built either for a roosting place for the males and young after leaving the home nest or for the better concealment of the real nest from marauding vermin, or for both purposes.

"ORTYX," Kennett Square, Pa.

Notes from Red Wing, Minn.

On April 24th this year noticed a Robin building her nest in an apple tree, and on the 29th found the first House Phæbe's nest containing five eggs. The next find was on May 7th-a set of five eggs of the Field Sparrow and a set of five Lark Finch, both fresh; also a set of six White-rumped Shrike, incubation well advanced: on May 11th, a set of four Blue Jay's, and on the 14th a set of twelve Ruffed Grouse. I took three of the eggs, incubated slightly. sat down not two feet from the nest and watched the female to see what she would do. She did not seem to be a bit disturbed by my presence, but cocked her head first on one side then on the other, while watching me. I put my hand almost onto her before she left the nest, which was made by hollowing out the drifted leaves at the foot of two young burr oaks. On May 31st I found a set of two Whippoor-will's, incubation well advanced. The eggs were laid on a drift of oak leaves near a young oak tree and a stump, and is the finest set that I have yet seen. Also found a set of three Rose-breasted Grosbeak. The male bird was on the nest. On June 8th a set of two Night Hawks, also a Bluebird's nest in a Bank Swallow's hole, not three feet from one occupied by a swallow. On the 27th found a curious set of three Kingbird's eggs. The first egg was the common size and color of the average egg; the second one was a little longer and had a large reddish-brown blotch covering little over one-half of the larger end; the ground color is dirty white; the third egg, ground color same as second, with large blotches of reddish-brown on large end and several smaller ones scattered over the surface. There are no lilac shell markings on these two.

Davies in his new "Key" says the Catbird "builds its nest on low bushes or clusters of vines." I have never yet found one except in the wild plum trees in ravines and on hillsides. Seeing that article, in last number, of white Brown Thrush eggs reminds me of a set of four eggs of the

White-rumped Shrike which I found in July, 1880, that were white and without any spots. I took one egg, which I still have.

The Lark Finch nested in large numbers here this year and I found between fifty and sixty nests, but took only three of them. One set of eggs were nearly round. During a walk I took over the same ground in the middle of August the Lark Finches seemed to be everywhere and I counted over theee hundred within a radius of a mile square. Baltimore Orioles were more common this year than they have been for several years past, and I noticed some new species, but could not identify them. The Brown Thrush, Wood Thrush, Yellow-shafted Flicker and Wren were rare this year, or else I missed them, as I only found one or two sets of each where I found dozens of them other years. Early this spring a Pileated Woodpecker was shot near here and given me to mount. They are a rare bird here now, but were common thirty years ago, when this country was first settled. C. B. J.

American Goldfinch.

The query of J. C. W. in the March and April number of The Oölogist in regard to the American Goldfinch leaves the erroneous impression that the eggs are light blue colored.

Astragaunus tristis—Am. Goldfinch, alias "Wild Canury," "Thistle Yellowbird," etc. One of these aliases is derived from its superficial resemblance to the Canary, the other from its partiality to the seeds of the thistle. It breeds abundantly in this locality during the latter part of July and August. The nest is generally placed in the branches of ornamental elm and maple trees, though I have seen nests in beech, pear and apple trees. It is always situated on the extremity of the branch, swaying readily with every motion of the air, and is firmly bound, generally in a small fork, with cobweb and vegetable fiber. In construction the nest somewhat resembles that of the Summer Yellowbird (Dend occa astiva), though somewhat larger, being composed of small weed stems, pieces of leaves, hempy fiber of dry weed stems, etc., firmly interwoven with each other and tightly bound together with cobweb, the whole well lined with "wild cotton" of the milk and silk weeds. The nest is very compact and well finished, and necessarily from its precarious position on the end of a limb, built with a deep cavity for the contents, the depth of the nest being about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches and its diameter about the same. Nevertheless I have found nests, after a rain or wind storm, from which the contents had been thrown to the ground.

The eggs, from four to six (usually five) in number, of a pure bluish-white color (never spotted), much resemble those of the Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) and average about .55 by .52 in.

The bird, generally well-known by sight, can easily be identified when in motion by its irregular, undulating flight.

Н. А. Косн.

Nest of the Blue Yellow-backed Warbler.

While out hunting on September 2d I saw, as I thought, a large bunch of the kind of moss generally found growing on fir trees and cedars. On a closer examination, however, I discovered that some bird, whose species I could not determine, had made its nest in the bunch. The nest was hung on a branch of a grape-vine, about ten feet from the ground. I suppose the bird brought the moss from the neighboring cedars, and having festooned it about the vine, she drew up about half the bunch, out of which she shaped the nest, bracing it with two small twigs at the top and leaving the rest of the moss hanging down. The nest was lined with a few horse hairs and had an opening near the top on the south side. The bunch of moss was nearly four feet long, with the nest about a foot from the top. The dimensions of the nest were as follows: Length, 4.10 in.; breadth, 3.15 in.; thickness, 3 in. A. C. T., What is it?

Lexington, Va.

Notes from Yates County, N. Y.

April 1—Took my first set for 1886. It was a set of two Red-tailed Hawk, and the finest set of this bird I ever saw. They were a dirty white color, blotched and spotted with reddish-brown, mostly at the larger end.

April 10—Took a set of three of Redshouldered Hawk. The nest was in an oak tree, lined with needles from pine and hemlock.

May 16—Found a White-bellied Nuthatch's nest with four eggs, but could not get them, as they were in a small hole and I didn't have my net with me.

May 18—Found a Yellow-shafted Flicker's nest with six young and three eggs almost hatched.

May 16—Took a set of four Belted Kingfisher. The nest was composed of a few dry leaves and fish bones at the end of a burrow in bank of creek.

June 22—Took a set of three Greatcrested Flycatcher. Nest was in a hole in a stump and was composed of sticks, fine pieces of bark and rootlets, two of the (essential) snake skins, fur from a squirrel's tail, a lock of human hair, two feathers, a piece of paper, some dead leaves and cow and horse hair. How is that for a nest?

July 23—While coming home from work I flushed a Goldfinch from her nest in a small bush and was very much surprised find five eggs, four of which were spotted thickly with light brown, mostly at the larger end. The other had no spots on. Has anybody ever found spotted eggs of the Goldfinch?

August 5—Took another set of spotted eggs of Goldfinch. I think the same bird that layed the others laid them, as the nest was not over forty rods from the one I took the others from.

August 14—Mr. Frank Botsford brought me a fine specimen of Double-crested Cormorant which he shot on this lake—Keuka. This is the first time 1 ever heard of them around this lake.

September 7—Saw a Bald Eagle on a dead limb in top of a tree.

V. Burtch, Branchport, N. Y.

The Screech Owl.

As I came home through the woods about seven o'clock one evening I came upon three Screech Owls sitting on a fallen limb of a tree. When I approached they flew, but one flew towards me and I caught it, held it by the tips of the wings and brought him home. I tied him to a plum tree, but he got himself so twisted in the branches that I untied him and fastened him to the fence where I left him for the night. In the morning after breakfast I made a perch for him, fastened a soft leather strap to his leg and tied one end of an old heavy steel watch chain to that and the other end to the perch. His food consisted of fresh raw beefsteak. I would give him a piece and he would swallow it at a gulp. He steadily refused insects of all kinds, bread, cake, etc. I kept him till June 7th, when, on going to look at him, I found the chain broken and his owlship gone. He was a source of amusement to the small boys of the neighborhood (limited because I would not let them see him often), who persisted in calling him a "scrinch owl." He did not get at all tame, snapping his bill (which was all the noise, except a low hiss, he ever made) whenever approached. He was in the red Whether the owls with him plumage. were in the same plumage or not I cannot L. O. PINDAR, Hickman, Ky,

Pigeon Guillemot:

I send by to-day's mail the skin and one egg of a bird known here as a "Sea Pigcon." I can find no such bird in Davies' Check List. Its nest is a hole in a sand bank, about a foot in depth, and the eggs are laid on the sand. I have dug out several Kingfishers' nests, and in about a week the Sea Pigeon had taken possession. They lay one or two eggs. I have found four sels of two and two of one eggs each. The egg which I send to-day is of unusual markings. They generally are of a pale bluish green, with small blotches distributed all over the egg, instead of the yellowish-green with blotches at the larger end, as has the egg I send.

W. R. M., Seabeck, Wash. Ter.

A Strange Bird.

This morning, as I was riding out in the woods, I saw a bird sitting on a limb of a tree. It had a yellow crest, black throat and breast, was snow-white. Ir was about the size of a Great-crested Flycatcher and had spurs about a quarter of an inch long. Will you please tell me the name of the bird in the next Oğlogist?

E. K. G., Austin, Tex.

Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," inserted in this department for 2- cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

Will exchange for eggs in sets a mounted male of No. 426 Swallow-tailed Kite, Also skin of Longbilled Curlew. SAML. B. LADD, West Chester, Pa

To Exchange.—Fine showy fossils, (Devonian), for other fossils or minerals. Those wishing to exchange, addr ss LEWIS M. ROBINSON, Coralville, Iowa.

Notice of Exchange.—First-class sets of 17, 56, 286, 140, 1493, 437b, 483, to exchange. I want Nos. 4, 47, 68, 00, 115, 161, 206, 248, 280, 320, 341, 475, 430, 436, 439, 473, 477, 480, 571, 687, 688, 690, 721. (Ridg way's Nos.) Correspondents solicited. FRED M. DILLE, Greeley, Colo.

Will exchange one set of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's Land Birds (New) for sets of Warblers or Hawks. Would prefer nests with former. SAML. B. LADD, West Chester, Pa.

Wanted.—To exchange first-class Bird Skins for the same or for first-class eggs in sets, with data, C. W. HARRISON, West McHenry, Ill.

Wanted.—To exchange Birds eggs or skins with collectors throughout the United States and Canada, L, W. NICHOLS, Jr., West McHenry, Ill.

I wish to exchange Texas Bird's eggs with all collectors. I have only sets, and want sets in return. Sea Bird's Eggs preferred. EDWIN C. DAVIS. P. O. Box, 405, Gainesville, Texas,

I will exchange a live "Bald Eagle" for North American eggs in sets, nicely prepared with full data. SAML, B. LADD, West Chester, Pa.

NOTICE.—Pair of extension half-club roller skates (bronzed) used very little. Will exchange for *Indian relics*, minerals, or fossils. GUY STAYMAN, Delaware, O.

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9	66	20	"	2.00.
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can \$1.00).	-		

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worth \$1.50, \$1.00.

B contains 7 species of the Lark, Bluebirds and Gnatcatchers, worth \$2.00, \$1.50.

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D contains 7 species of the Wrens and Wagtails, worth \$1.50, \$1.00.

E contains 9 species of the Warblers, worth \$5.50. \$3.00.

J contains 5 species of the Crows, Magpies and Jays, worth \$1.50, \$1.00.

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L contains 4 species of the Humming Birds, Swifts and Goatsuckers, worth \$3.00, \$2.75

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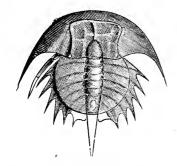
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	T. D.	
	Domestic Pigeon	
		Moorhen
C 1 1 C 11	Second Class	Guillemot25
Property and Grackle	0	Puffin
Boat-tailed Grackle		
Purple Grackle		
Bronzed Grackle		kast India
Common Crow		
Black-billed Magpie		Striated Bush Babbler\$0.50
Plue Jay		
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher		
Kingbird; Bee Martin	4 Red - and - white - shouldered	Bank Mynah50
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Blackbird	
Groove-billed Crotophaga, 1.0	Blue Grosbeak	3
American Osprey4	o W. Yellow-bellied Flycatcherc	7 Ostrich\$2.00

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Cubanite			Lithographic Stone	.02 "	.25	Slate	.02 "	,25
Cuprite	.03	.25		.02 "		Smithsonite	0= **	. 25
Cyanite	.03	.25	Magnesite	.02 "	.25	Soapstone	.02 "	.25
Datolite	.03	.25	Magnetite	.02	. 50	Silver Ore	.03 "	.50
Dendrite	,02	. 50	Malachite	.03	.25	Strontianite	0- "	. 15
Deweylite		. 10	Mesolite	.05	.25	Spinel	.02 "	.25
Diamond	.40 ''	.75	Menaccanite	.03	.25	Specular Iron	.02 "	
Dolomite	.02 "	.25	Marble	.02	.25	Sphalerite	.03 "	.25
Dogtooth Spar	.03	1.00	Marcasite	.02	.25	Staurolite	.03 "	
Elaeolite	.03	.25	Mica Schist	.02	.25		.02 "	. 25
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Electric Stone	.03	. 50	Mexican Onyx	.02	.25	Stibnite	.02 "	.25
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Emery	.03 **	.25	Moss Agate	.03	. 15	Stink Stone	.03	.25
Feldspar	.02	. 50	Muscovite	.02	. 50	Stream Tin	.02	. 15
Fibrolite	.02 "	.25	Natrolite	.02	-25	Succinite	.03	.25
Flint	.02 ''	.25	Nephelite	.03	.15	Sulphor, Native		25
Floss Ferri	.02 ''	. 20	Novaculite	.02 '	.15	Talc	.02 "	.25
Fluorite,	.02	.25	Obsidian	.02 **	.25	Tourmaline, (black).	.02 **	. 25
Franklinite	.03 "	.25	Ochre	.02	.15	Tourmaline, (red &		
Fluorspar	.02 "	.25	Onyx	.05 **	1.00	green)	.05	.25
Forest Rock	.02 **	. 50	Opal Wood	.02 "	. 15	Tremolite	.02	.25
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Garnet	.02 **	.25	Pectolite	.02	.25	Variscite	.03 "	1.00
Geodes	.03 ''	1.00	Peacock Coal	.02	. 15	Verde Antique	.03 **	.25
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Garnetiferous Mica	.02	. 23	Porphyry	.02	.25	Willemite	.02 "	. 50
Schist	.02 **	0.5	Pumice	.02 "	.15	Williamsite	.02 **	. 50
Gneiss	.02	.25	Phlogopite	.02 "	.15	Wollastonite	.05 **	. 15
	.03	.25		.03 "		Wollongongite	.02 **	.25
Gold Ore	.03	.25	Picrolite	.04	.25	Wulfenite	.03 "	.15
Graphite	.03	. 15	Prehnite	.05	.25	Zinc Blende	.03 **	.25
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Heavy Spar	.ó2 ''	.25	Pudding Stone	.02	.25			

SHELLS

The following shells are all very fine and showy, all are cleaned and many highly polished, and are sold at wholesale at the prices we are offering them.

Chines	e Pearl Snail\$	0.35 t	0 \$1.50	sorted	shells; size of			East Indian Marlin-		
4.4	Banded Snail.	.,,	.40	case, r	1x16x3 in. Just			spike\$	0.15 to	\$0.25
1.6	Blotched Snail		.40	the tl	hing for the			" Tiger Cowry	.05 ''	. 10
**	Trochus (Top)		.20	voung	student of			" Panther -		
**	Spider,		.20	Conche	ology		\$1.50	Cowry		. 10
				T3 . 1	ndia Clam	.25 to	1.00	New Zealand White		
	Harp	- 5	.15	4.6	Furblo Clam		.40	Ear		.50
**	Haliotis	.05 +		**	Scorpion		.25	New Zealand Green		
	Small Ear	.03 1	.06	**	Valute	.07 ''	. 15	Ear	. 25 ''	.75
	Turrittella	.01	.05	**	Melon	.25 **	1.00	Japan Black Ear		.40
4.4	Sun & Nison.	.05	.30	44	Turk's Cap.	. 15 ''	. 30	" Haliotus		. 15
. 4	Strumbus	.03 *	, 10	**	Goldmouth.	-		California Red Ear		
4.4	Ranella				Pearl Trocus	.20 ''		(Abalone)		1.50
4.4	Eburna				Cone	.05	. 15	Panama Black Murex	.30 ''	.75
**	Dolium				Virgin Cone.	. 10 **	.25	" Pink Murex.		.25
	Case of Shells	3					1.50	L.1., Pectens-polished	.02	. I O
contain	about 125 as-			**	Mitre	.10 "	.15			

Bahama Black Hel-		Olivedoz	05 to \$0.10	Lucky tooth from	
met	.50	Rose Leaf. " Frog. " Screw " Horn. "	.05 .25	Codfish	.08
Bahama Hatchet Hel-		Frog	.05 .15	Miscellaneous Cu	riosities.
met Bahama Lavona	.50 .10	Horn "	.05 .25	Brazil Nut Pods	\$0.35
Wesi India Conch15	.50	Guinea Peas	.02	Liver Beans	.05
	- 3-			Sea Beans, red	.02
(rough)05 '	.10	MARINE CURIO	DITTES.	" gray " brown banded Vegetable Ivory Ap-	.02
New Jersey Razor		Corals.		" brown banded	.04
Shell	.10	Organ Pipe \$	0.03 to \$0.50	Vegetable Ivory Ap- ples	.40
carica	.25	Mushroom		Chinese Horn Nuts	.05
New Jersey Pyrula		Feather Brain	.03 1.50	Beetle Nuts, New	,
canaliculata	.25	Rose	.03 " .15	Zealand	.05
New Jersey Arca		Star.,	TO " T 00	1000 mixed Foreign	
pexata	.10	Branching, W. Indies	.02 " .25	Stamps Chinese Coins	.20
New Jersey Boat02 Mussel02	.06	E. Indies.	.02 " 1.∞	Japanese Coins, ob-	.05
Naticaos	.10	Pink, from Caroline		long	.15
Petricola, .o2	.07	lsles, This lace like coral is quite ex		Bark from the "Big-	
Florida, Strombus		pensive, rare, and		trees" of California	.03 " 10.∞
alatus	.05	very beautiful, our		Resurrection Plant	
Florida Olive Shell		supply is limited,		from Mexico, when placed in water will	
(Key) Florida Fasciolaria05	.10	fine sprays	.03 ' 5.00	unfold and assume	
" Pyrula oz "	. 10	Sea Fans	.05 " .25	a beautiful green	.15
Murex	.15			Tarantulas	.40
riddle heado3	.10	_ Sponges.		Fossils.	
" Bloody Tooth .or	.03	A large assortment of			
Zanzibar Orange - Scorpion		curious forms and	46	Wholesale assortme mon and rare small for	
Zanzibar Camea	50	species Fine Venus Coral or	.10 " .25	exchangers, each as	
" Cockel25		Glass Sponge	1.25 " 1.50	worth three times the	price asked.
Large Tritons .75	2.00	Sea Urchins. Atlantic	02 " 10	Good Lots at from \$	0.50 to \$5.00
Monusks from Erie		" Pacific	.0510	Fossil Fish Wyoming	50
Canal	.05	" large -		Shark Teeth, S. C Shark Vertebræ	.05 " .25 .50 " I.00
Magpie Trochus English Scollops05	.20	white Bahamas	.15 .25	Mazan Creek Fossil	.50 " 1.00
Engraved Cameoor	35	Sea Urchins, Mam- moth purple, Pacific	.50	Ferns	.05 " .50
Motto Cowry.	.25	Sea Urchins, (Sand	.30	Other Mazan Creek	
" (Lord's Pray-		Dollars)	.03 " .10	Fossil Ferns	.05 " .50
er) Snail	1.25	Starfish, common At-		Crinoid Stems, Tenn.	.01 '' .10
Engraved (Lord's Prayer) Trochus		lantic	.02 `` .25	fordsville, Ind., the	
Engraved (Lord's	1.00	Starfish, the largest		finest in the world.	.02 '' .20
Prayer) Cowry	. 50	saw, some measur-		Fossil Coral	.02 " I.00
Shell Pocket Books	.25	ing 16 in. diam, and		" Petoskey	
We can put up an assort	ment of	4 in, through	.50 " 1.00	Mich	05 " .25
large showy shells, at from		Sand Crabs	.10	Indian Rel	ics.
\$25.00; they will retail a these prices.	t twice	backs	.02	Arrowheads, Ohio\$	
•		Hermit Crabs Soldier Crabs	. 15	" Mich	
Smaller Shells.		Skate Eggs	.10	" Georgia .	.02 " TO
Cowry Shells, assorted, in	cluding	Shark Eggs	. 12	" Alabama.	.02 " 10
Cypræa Moneta, Lynx, Al		Alligator Eggs Teeth	.10 " ,25	Va	.05 " .10
Pantherina, Heloola, Caf	ut-ser-	Teeth	03 11 35	Maithas	.0625
pentis, etc., each 2 to 5 ct doz. 5 to 30 cts.; per 100 \$1.		Whale Teeth	.15 .25	Vineyard Indian Pottery, Ohio	
		Barnacles, from the Pacific, very fine		We have other India	
Venetian Snail " .05	. το	and Curious:	.05 " .25	supply is too limited t	
Black Snail " .05	.10	Goose Barnacles, At-		for what you want.	
Venetian Snail	., .10	' lantic	.05 " .25		
		1		1	

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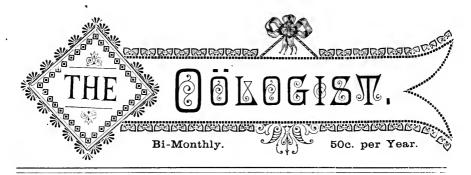
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Vol. III.

ALBION, N. Y., DECEMBER., 1886.

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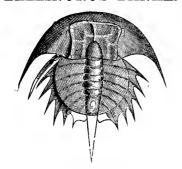
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Grass Finch	Thick-billed Grebe	Bullfinch 20
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Lark Finch	Common Guillemot	Jackdaw
White-throated Sparrow 25	Yellow-throated Vireo 25	Magpie
Black Snowbird,	Purple Martin	Wren
Song Sparrow	Yellow-headed Blackbird 10	Ring Dov
California Brown Towhee 20	Acadian Flycatcher25	Pheasant
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Allophane	.02 "	. 10	Asbestus		.25	Calc Spar "	.02	.25
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Andalusite		.25	Beryl	.05	.10	Cerolite	.05	.25
Anhydrite	.02 "	.25	Biotite	.02 "	.15	Cerussite	.10 "	.15
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Cymatolite	.05	.25	Hornstone	.02 **	.25	Quartz, Milky	02 ''	
Chalcopyrite	.02 "	.25	Honestone	.02	.15	Quartz, Crystals	.02 **	€5
	.02 "		Iceland Spar	.02	.10		.05	5.00
Chalk		.15	Industral Class	.02		Quartz, Drusy Quartz, Glassy	.02 "	. 2
Chromite		.15	Indurated Clay,		. 15		.02	. 2
Cinnabar	.03 "	.15	Iron Pyrites,	.02	. 50	Quartz,	.02	2.00
Clay	.02	.25	Jasper		.25	Quartz, Ferruginous.	.05 '	. 1
Clay-stones	.03 "	.25	Jet	.03 "	. 10	Quartz, Rose	.02	. 2
Covelite		.25	Kaolin	.02	.10	Quartz, Smoky	.02 "	. 2
Coquina	.02	.50	Kyanite	.02	.25	Rensselaerite	.02	. 2
Conglomerate	.02 "	.25	Labradorite	.02	. 15	Rock Crystal	.03 ''	. 50
Coke, Native	.02 "	. 15	Leelite	.02	. 25	Rutile	.02	2
Copper Ore	.05	.25	Leopardite	.03	.25	Satin Spar	.02	. 1
Copper Pyrites	.02	.25	Lapidolite	.02 1	- 15	Scapolite	-05	.2
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Crocidolite	.05	2.00	Limonite	.02 **	- 50	Semiopal	02 **	. 1
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Flint	.02 **	.25	Muscovite	.02 ''	- 50	Stilbite	.02 "	. 1
Franklinite	.03 "	.25	Natrolite	.02	.25	Stink Stone	.03 "	.2
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Forest Rock	.02	. 50	Novaculite	.02	.15	Sulphur, Native	.03 ''	1
Galenite	.02	. 25	Obsidian	.02	. 25	Talc	.02	. 25
Garnierite	.03 "	.10	Ochre	.02 **	.15	Tourmaline, (black).	02 **	.29
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Hallyosite	.02	.25	Picrolite	.03 "	.25	Wollongongite	.02	.2
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Heavy Spar	.02 '	.25	Pyrite	.02 "	.50	Zinc Blende	.03	.2
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sorted shells; size of	New Zealan White	carica							
case, 11x16x3 in. Just	Ear	New Jersey Pyrula							
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(Kev)	coral is quite ex	1000 mixed Foreign		
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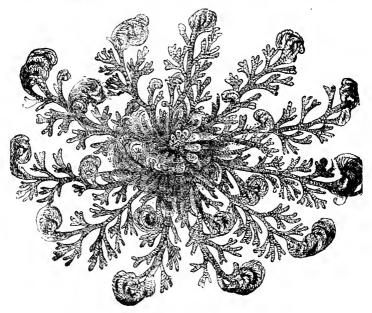
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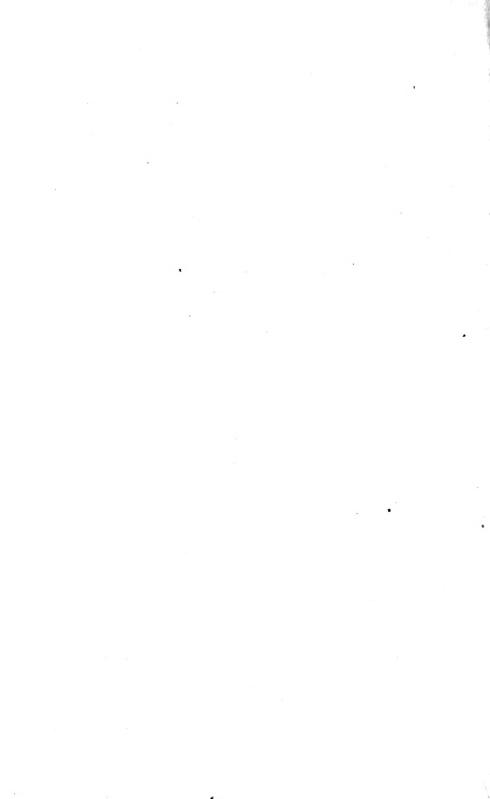
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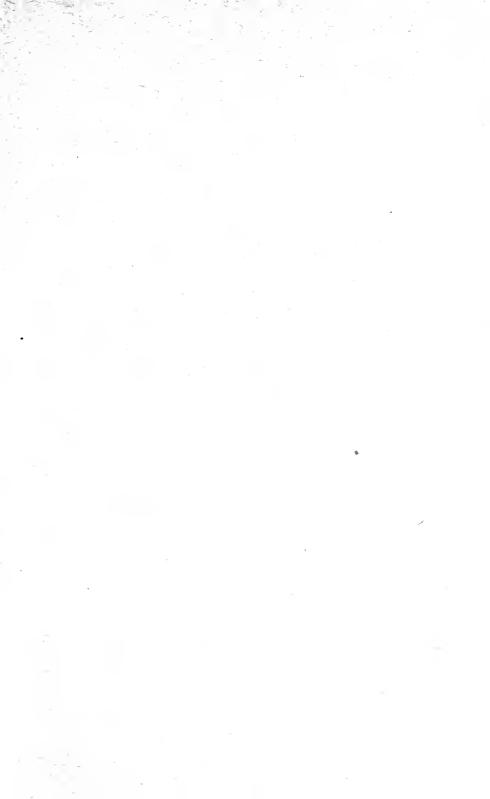
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