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BIRDS

American Osprey, The

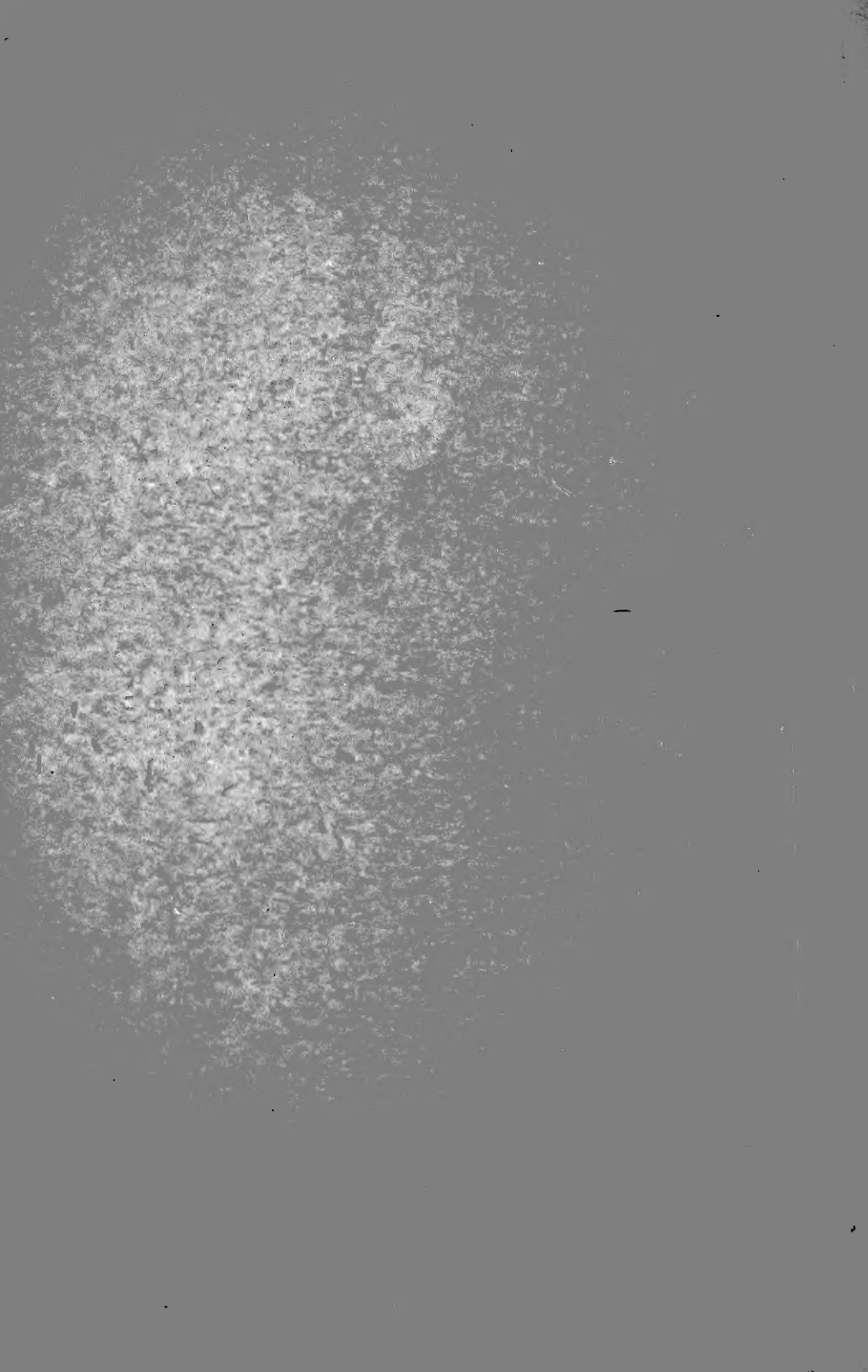
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[Plymouth Conn.]

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696
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Birds

The American Osprey.

(Plymouth
Conn.)

VOL. I

PLYMOUTH, CONN., MAY, 1885.

NO. I.

TAXIDERMY FOR BEGINNERS.

SKINNING.

Immediately after a bird is killed, the throat and nostrils should be stuffed with tow, cotton, or fine rags, and a small quantity wound round the bill, to prevent the blood from staining the plumage; but should any get on the feathers, notwithstanding this precaution, the sooner it is removed the better, which should be effected by a sponge which has been wet in water. Too much dispatch cannot be used in removing the skin, if the bird is shot in a warm climate; but, in temperate regions, the bird may be allowed to cool.

In proceeding to skin the bird, it should be laid on its back, and the feathers of the breast separated to the right and left, when a broad interval will be discovered, reaching from the top to the bottom of the breast-bone.

A sharp penknife, or scalpel, must be inserted at the point of the bone, and cut the outer skin from thence to the vent, taking care not to penetrate so deep as the flesh, or upon the inner skin which covers the intestines. The skin will then be easily separated from the flesh; in larger specimens, by the fingers, or, in smaller ones, by passing a small blunt instrument betwixt the skin and body, such as the end of the scalpel handle; with this you may reach the back.

The thighs should now be pressed inwards, as in the common method of skinning a rabbit, and the skin turned back, so far as to enable you to separate the legs from the body at the knee joint. The

skin is then pulled downwards, as low as the rump, which is cut close by the insertion of the tail, but in such a manner as not to injure the feathers. The skin is now drawn upwards the length of the wings, the bones of which must also be cut at the shoulder-joints; it is then pulled up, till all the back part of the skull is laid bare, when the vertebræ of the neck are separated from the head, and the whole body is now separated from the skin. You next proceed to remove the brain, through the opening of the skull, for which purpose it may be enlarged by cutting away the bone with a hollow chisel, or other iron instrument.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

TO PRESERVE EGGS.

To preserve the shells of eggs, first take care to clear them of their contents; get a small, fine-pointed common syringe, and inject the specimen with water until it comes out quite clean. When an egg has been partly hatched or addled, the removal of the contents generally includes that of the internal membrane or pellicle; this makes the shell weaker. When the specimens are quite clean internally, and have become dry (which will be in a day or two) take the syringe and inject them with a strong solution of isinglass (with a little sugar-candy added to prevent its cracking); blow this out again whilst warm. Then dry the egg thoroughly. This method varnishes the inside, and the first specimen on which it has been tried was a field sparrow's egg, which is to this day as bright in color and marking as a fresh specimen.

THE DOWNY WOODPECKER.

The downy woodpecker is a yearly resident of New England. He is about six inches long and is quite a handsome bird, especially the male. He is a great help to the farmer, destroying hundreds of harmful insects and worms every year. He may be seen at all times of the day running round the trunks of trees in quest of food, and he always leaves his mark in the shape of holes bored in the bark. You may have noticed them in walking through an old orchard.

The crown of the head is black and on the back of the head is a spot of scarlet; this spot is absent on the female. The back is black with a streak of downy white feathers along the center, from which it derives its name. The wings and tail are black, barred with white, the throat and belly light-gray.

They do not build a nest, but bore a hole in a rotten limb and deposit the eggs on a few chips laid on the bottom. The entrance to the hole is about $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter, which is from six to twelve inches deep and $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 inches on the inside. They lay from four to six china white eggs measuring about .75 x .62. A few of the downy feathers described above are often found on the upper edge of the entrance.

R. W. F.

BRISTOL, CONN.

WINTER NOTES.

While walking through the woods a ruffed grouse flew past me, hitting her wings against the trees in her haste to get away. Close upon her was a small owl, who, on seeing me, alighted. I started towards him and got very near the base of the tree he was in, when up flew another ruffed grouse. She had probably seen the owl and not having had time to escape

had got under some ivy bushes. The owl was rather small; face, alternate black and light gray stripes; breast light-gray and back mottled with black and light gray. The ears had slight tufts. What is it?

F. G. K.

THOMASTON, CONN.

ENGLISH SPARROW.

“*PASSER DOMESTICUS* (Linn.) Leach. European House Sparrow. The attempted naturalization of this bird has proved decidedly successful. The case is so notorious that further comment is unnecessary.”

We quote the above from Ridgeway's Nomenclature under the head of “Species Introduced with a View to Naturalization.” We should like to hear from all collectors as regards methods of exterminating the little pests. It is proved beyond doubt that they are driving away our birds from their regular nesting places and should be got rid of as soon as possible. But how? That's the question.

NOTES.

Hawks generally nest in high trees.

All herons lay light blue eggs.

The American goldfinch is sometimes called the “wild canary.”

The russet-backed thrush has a very limited distribution, being mainly found in the Pacific coast region.

If you wish to gain the greatest amount of scientific knowledge from your collection collect only in sets.

Always empty the contents of the egg through one smoothly drilled hole in the side. End blown eggs are next to worthless.

The Cooper's Hawk usually lays from two to four bluish-white eggs, spotted with pale redish-brown spots.

The American Osprey.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Ornithology and Oology.

Published by
W. G. Talmadge, Plymouth, Conn.

Terms, year year, - - - .30

GENERAL AGENTS:

F. M. Davis, 3857 Washington Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

R. W. Ford, Bristol, Conn.

H. M. DOWNS, PRINTER, RUTLAND, VT.

MAY, 1885.

EDITORIAL.

Another change has taken place in the NATURALISTS' ADVERTISER. Owing to reasons best known to ourselves we have been obliged to change the name and general style of the paper, which will hereafter labor under the name of THE AMERICAN OSPREY. We hope that our subscribers will not be displeased, in fact, we cannot see how they can be as the change improves the appearance and contents so much. We shall keep up the large circulation which the Advertiser had, and shall circulate, not only among ornithologists and oologists, but among all kinds of collectors.

We shall be glad to receive from any collector, notes or descriptions of birds, their nests, or eggs. We wish to enlarge the number of pages and make the OSPREY more interesting, and we cannot do this without the co-operation of all collectors.

We hope to be able to present a few illustrations in our next issue, but we must receive many more subscriptions to do it.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

The Young Oologist, a 32 page magazine devoted to oology. Price, \$1.00 per year. Published by F. H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.

Tidings from Nature, a 20 page magazine devoted to the advancement of science. Price, 40 cents per year. Published by H. M. Downs, Rutland, Vt.

Random Notes on Natural History, a 12 page magazine devoted to zoology, mineralogy, and botany. Price 50 cents year. Published by Southwick & Jencks, Providence, R. I.

The Young Mineralogist and Antiquarian, a large 12 page magazine, devoted to mineralogy and American antiquities. Price 75 cents per year. Published by T. H. Wise, Wheaton, Ill.

The Naturalists' Journal, a 12 page magazine devoted to natural history and the cause of the A. A. Price 50 cents per year. Published by R. T. Taylor, Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.

Monthly Et Caetera (new), an 8 page magazine devoted to natural history. Price 25 cents per year. Published by A. E. Southworth & Co., Woodstock, Ill.

Rambles in Nature (new), an 8 page magazine devoted to natural history. Price 30 cents per year. Published by R. J. Wood, 304 Jackson St., Jackson, Mich.

The Hoosier Mineralogist and Archaeologist, an 8 page magazine devoted to mineralogy and archæology. Price 25 cents per year. Published by H. F. Thompson, 17 Butler St., Indianapolis, Ind.

Besides the above we have been deluged with other periodicals for which the publishers will please accept thanks.

Advertising Rates.

One line, one insertion,	- - -	.15
One inch,	- - -	1.00
Three inches,	- - -	2.50
One column,	- - -	5.00
One page,	- - -	10.00

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Bristol, Conn.

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- 1 egg drill, either 8, 12, or 18-100 burr.

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Corresponding Directory,

To be published June 20, 1885. All dealers, collectors, and exchangers of natural history specimens stamps and coins, should send 10c. silver to A. H. Hammond, Wareham, Mass., and have their name, address and business inserted in the C. D. If you send before the 20th of next month you will receive three marine curiosities worth 25c.

YOUR Name, Address and Business on a Rubber Stamp and this paper one year for only 40 cents. Address

W. G. Talmadge,
Plymouth, Conn.

OUR PRICES.

Under this head we shall place bargains in natural history specimens and instruments as we receive them from time to time

BIRDS' EGGS.

Just received from this season's collecting 50 eggs of 282 (common crow) which we shall offer at the very low price of 5cts. each, postpaid, (regular catalogue price 10c.) sets if desired. Besides the above we have the following in stock which will be sent to any address in the U. S. for the prices named:

No.	Reg. price.	Our price.
686 Common Tern,	.10	.07
482 California Quail,	.20	.10
378 Yellow S. Flicker,	.05	.03
13 Brown Thrasher,	.05	.02
12 Catbird,	.03	.02
304 Kingbird,	.05	.02
261 R. & Buff S. Bl'kbird,	.03	.02
E. S. English Sparrow,	.02	.01
263 Meadow Lark,	.15	.08
22 Bluebird,	.04	.02
1 Wood Thrush,	.10	.06
153 Cliff Swallow,	.05	.02
154 Barn Swallow,	.05	.03
149 1/2 White-rumped Shrike,	.25	.10
63 House Wren,	.08	.05
67 L. B. Marsh Wren,	.08	.05
47 Least Tit,	.30	.15
181 Am. Goldfinch,	.08	.05
211 Chip. Sparrow,	.03	.01
274 Brewer's Blackbird,	.12	.05
244 Rose-br'sted Grosbeak,	.20	.10

MINERALS.

For minerals we have just received the following and can let dealers have them in any quantity. The price here given are for 1x1 1/2 specimens delivered prepaid to any address in the U. S.:

Talcose Schist,	.10.
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Petrified Wood,	.05.
Milky Quartz,	.05.
Hornblende, very fine,	.10.
Ogliclase,	.05.
Quartz Crystals, fine,	.05.
Phlogapite,	.05.

SHELLS.

We have a large list of shells which will be arranged and presented next month.

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A Hand Inker Excelsior Press in good condition. Chase, 2 1/2 by 3 1/2 inches.

Will be sold at a great bargain. Address this office.

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" assorted lots,	\$2 to \$3 a 100
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Moss Agates, per doz.	.15
Price list of Bird Skins sent for stamp.	

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* ENGLISH EGGS *

For sale cheap.

47 Song Thrush	10
50 Blackbird	10
75 White Throat	10
130 Linnet	12
139 Starling	15
143 Carrion Crow	20
144 Hooded Crow	20
145 Rook	15
146 Jackdaw	20
147 Magpie	15
158 Wren	15
203 Wild Duck	20
278 Lapwing	20
340 Lesser Black-backed Gull	25
341 Herring Gull	25

R. W. FORD,
Bristol, Conn.

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The five for 10c. **J. E. Jones, St. Johnsbury, Vt. N. B.**—The above catalogues free to all sending 25c. for the **Bulletin** one year,

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No Oologist or collector of Eggs, be amateur or professional, can do without this work.

It is printed in large type, on heavy, tinted paper, and bound in antique Japanese paper covers. **Price by Mail 60 cents.** Address.

W. G. TALMADGE, Plymouth, Conn.

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Birds

The American Osprey. (Plymouth Conn.)

VOL. I.

PLYMOUTH, CONN., JUNE, 1885.

NO. 2.

TAXIDERMY FOR BEGINNERS.

SKINNING.

The eyes must then be taken out, by breaking the slender bones which separate the orbits from the top of the mouth, in which you may be assisted by pressing the eyes gently inwards, so as not to break them. In skinning the neck, great care must be taken not to enlarge the opening of the ears, and not to injure the eyelids. The whole of the flesh is next to be removed from the under mandible.

Several species will not admit of the skin being thus pulled over their heads, from the smallness of their necks; some woodpeckers, ducks, etc., fall under this description; in which case a longitudinal incision is made under the throat, so as to admit of the head being turned out, which must be neatly sewed up before stuffing. The flesh from the head, wings, legs, and rump, must then be carefully removed with a knife, and the cavities of the skull filled with cotton or tow. The whole inside of the skin, head, etc., must be well rubbed arsenical soap, preserving powder, spirit of turpentine, or a solution of corrosive sublimate. When it is wished to stuff the bird, it may now be immediately done, as it will easily dry, if in a warm climate; but in low, damp countries, it will require artificial heat to do it effectually.

When the skins are merely wished preserved, the bones of the legs and wings should be wrapped round with cotton or tow, so as to supply the place of the flesh;

the skin is then inverted and hung up to dry, after using the arsenical soap as above directed; before doing which, in larger birds, a thread or small string may be drawn through the rump and passed up the inside of the neck and drawn through the bill, to prevent the head from stretching too much by its own weight. In larger specimens, where cotton or tow is not easily to be met with, well dried hay may be used.

The incision for removing the skin is frequently made under the wings. This may be done with marine birds to advantage. The penguins and divers may be skinned by making the incision in the back.

The greatest care must be taken to prevent the fat and oily matter, so common to sea birds, from getting on the feathers; pounded chalk will be found an excellent absorbent for applying to these birds.

It is of the utmost consequence to know the color of the eyes and legs of birds, and these things should be carefully noted the moment they are killed; and it should also be mentioned whether they are male or female; such a memorandum ought to be attached to the birds by a ticket. The season of the year in which the bird is killed, must also be noted.

Till practice has given facility to the operator, it will assist in keeping the feathers clean, if, as he opens the skin of the breast, he pins pieces of paper or linen cloth on the outside; but after a few trials, this will be unnecessary.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

TO REMOVE INK STAINS FROM EGGS.

Take dilute nitric acid, and carefully wipe the egg with a piece of felt dipped in the solution; or, dissolve a small quantity of oxalic acid in water and apply as above.

THE BELTED KINGFISHER.

The Common or Belted Kingfisher is familiar all over North America. He is about thirteen inches long. His back, and a belt across his breast, are blue; the under parts, and a spot before each eye, white; the tail black barred with white. The head wears a long crest. His sudden scream is shrill and harsh, quite like the sound of a watchman's rattle; one would think not well adapted to lull waves, or anything else, to rest. The kingfisher sits quietly for hours on the branch of some tree which overhangs the water, and then, with a loud scream, descends, and quickly rises again, bearing a fish in his beak. This he takes back to his perch, batters smartly against the branch, and swallows. Then he watches for another, and so keeps at work till he has eaten enough. His sight is very keen, and he finds his prey even in the turbid rapids of a waterfall. He knows, too, how to take a position which will make the best of the sunshine.

One sunny afternoon the writer was observing a kingfisher, which sat upon a naked limb of an oak, overlooking the water. For a long time the bird saw nothing, and did not move. Presently he left his perch, and flew along the margin of the lake, rather in the direction of the sun. After going a few rods, he stopped, turned his back to the sun, and for a few seconds stood balanced on his beating wings, and looked intently into the water.

Then he turned, went on a few rods further, again turned his back to the sun, repeated his careful gaze, and went on again. At the third and fourth pause, he spied a fish, and dropped upon it like an arrow. At each pause he placed himself in the air, over the water, so that the reflections from the surface would be turned away from him.

His flight consists of five or six flaps, followed by a glide. When he pauses, he seems to stand upon his feet and beat the air with his wings, as a swimmer "treads" water.

The bird occupies the same nest year after year. Audubon tried to catch one in its burrow. He first set a net over the opening, but the bird crept out between the meshes and the earth. Next he found the bird in its hole, and thrust a stick into the opening, thinking that he could blockade it until morning; but the kingfisher scratched his way round the stick, and so raised the blockade.

THE LEAST FLYCATCHER.

This bird, which is rather rare in most localities, is very common here; building usually in old orchard trees or small saplings. The eggs are four in number of a cream white when fresh and turning to a dull white when incubated. They average about .62 by .50. The nest is composed of old moss, cotton, strings and fine grass, and lined with feathers and a small quantity of horsehair. It is usually placed at the extremity of an old limb and measures about 3 by 2 inches outside and 2 by 1½ inches inside. They begin to breed here about May 15th, and raise two or three broods during the season.

R. W. F., Bristol, Conn.

The cedar waxing is sometimes called "cherry bird."

NEST AND EGGS OF COOPER'S HAWK.

A nest of this species was found by me about May 10, very late as they usually breed here in April. The nest was placed in the top of a tall chestnut tree 100 feet from the ground, and measured about 2½ by 1½ feet outside, and 9 by 3 inches inside. It was composed of good sized sticks loosely laid, with a very small and shallow hollow on top, which was lined with a few pieces of bark. The eggs were four in number, of a bluish-white, spotted and blotched with amber and red. The marking varied a great deal; one egg was not marked at all while one was thickly spotted. The set averaged 2 by 1.75.

FALCON.

THE SCARLET TANAGER. (*Pyrranga Rubra.*)

This bird is one of the most beautiful of our summer residents, arriving here in May and leaving us again in October. The male, especially, is very handsome, his body and upper parts being bright scarlet, while the tail and wings are jet black. He is about eight inches long. The female contents herself with plainer colors and is not so attractive. The nest is a very neat and tasty affair, being composed of weed stalks and strings and lined with fine stalks. One I have in my collection measures 4x2 inches outside and 3x2 inches inside. The nest is usually placed in forest trees, although I have found them in old orchards. The eggs are four in number, of a greenish blue spotted and blotched with reddish brown. They average .90x.65.

F. G. K.,
Thomaston, Conn.

The downy woodpecker is about six inches long and a yearly resident with us.

ARSENICAL SOAP.

Invented by Recœur, Apothecary, Metz.

Arsenic, in powder, 2 pounds.
Camphor, 5 ounces.
White Soap, 2 pounds.
Salt of Tartar, 12 ounces.
Powdered Lime, 4 ounces.

The soap must be cut in small and very thin slices, put into a crucible with a small quantity of water, held over a gentle fire, and frequently stirred with a wooden spatular, or piece of wood of any kind. When it is properly melted, the powdered lime and salt of tartar must then be added and thoroughly mixed. It must now be taken off the fire, the arsenic added gently and stirred. The camphor must be reduced to a powder, by beating it in a mortar with a little spirits of wine. The camphor must then be added, and the composition well mixed with a spatular while off the fire. It may be again placed on the fire, to assist in making the ingredients incorporate thoroughly, but do not use much heat as the camphor will very rapidly escape. It may now be poured into glazed earthen pots and allowed to cool, after which a piece of paper should be placed over the top and afterwards some sheep leather and then set aside for use. The composition is about the thickness of ordinary flour paste.

When it is necessary to use the soap, put as much as will answer the purpose in a dish and add to it about an equal proportion of water. This is applied to the skin or feathers with a bristle brush.

N. B.—It should be kept as close as possible and used with caution, as it is a deadly poison.

The proportions may be varied to suit the quantity to be made.

Liquid glue is always handy for the collector to have.

The American Osprey.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to Ornithology and Oology.

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GENERAL AGENTS:

F. M. Davis, 24 Fairchild St., Madison, Wis.

R. W. Ford, Bristol, Conn.

Naturalist's Publishing House, Printers, Rutland, Vt.

JUNE, 1885.

EDITORIAL.

Among the improvements this month in our little sheet, we have devoted more space to reading matter and less to advertisements, and also inserted an exchange column. To all, whether subscribers or not, we have decided to make the price of an exchange notice, not exceeding twenty-five words, 10 cents.

The Museum is the title of a large and finely printed illustrated magazine hailing from Philadelphia, Pa. It is worthy of the support of any collector and the publisher has our best wishes for its future success.

Among the new natural history papers received we note the following: Our Birds, The Ornithologist, The Western Oologist and the Pacific Science monthly.

Mr. R. W. Ford has just received a large quantity of Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow's eggs, from a noted collector in California. They are perfectly authentic specimens and we advise every collector to send as they are very rare.

NOTES.

The English Sparrow is the most prolific of all our birds.

The eggs of the Baltimore Oriole often have brown scrawls on them.

"Tip-up" is a common name by which the Spotted Sandpiper is known.

The correct name of the bird commonly known as "Shite Poke" is Green Heron.

The eggs of the Pewee are sometimes spotted with a few reddish-brown spots near the larger end.

The Whip-poor-will lays two eggs of a creamy ground color, with blotches, lines and spots of different shades of light brown and lavender.

The Fish Crow is smaller than our common crow and is a maritime bird, a habitant of the south Atlantic and Gulf coast in the southeast, and of the Pacific coast from Oregon to Alaska in the northwest regions.

PASTE FOR LABELS. — For adhesive labels dissolve $1\frac{1}{2}$ oz. common glue which has laid a day in cold water, with some sugar candy and $\frac{3}{4}$ oz. gum Arabic, in 6 oz. hot water, stirring constantly till the whole is homogeneous. If this paste is applied to labels with a brush and allowed to dry, they will then be ready for use by merely moistening with the tongue.

EXCHANGES.

Announcements of Exchanges, Wants, etc., inserted under this head at 10 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words at one-half cent per word.

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Under this head we shall place bargains in Natural History Specimens and Instruments as we receive them from time to time.

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Bank Swallow, sets or sin.,	.05	.02
Mockingbird,	.16	.07
Swamp Sparrow,	.10	.05
Least Flycatcher,	.10	.06
Blue Jay,	.08	.05
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We have now on hand some very fine specimens of Vermont Marble, three kinds Italian, Fossiliferous, and Mottled. One side is smooth, one polished and the rest rough. They are very fine and will add a great deal to the cabinet of any collector. Small specimens to show style, etc., 5 cts. each; cabinet size, 10 cts.

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This work contains accurate descriptions of the COLOR and SIZE of the EGGS and LOCATIONS of the NESTS of the LAND AND WATER BIRDS of NORTH AMERICA, together with "Notes" and Directions for Collecting Birds' Eggs and Nests.

It is intended that this work will enable collectors to **Identify Eggs white in the Field**, and will take the place of those expensive works which are usually beyond the reach of many collectors.

No Oologist or collector of Eggs, be he amateur or professional, can do without this work.

It is printed in large type, on heavy, tinted paper, and bound in antique Japanese paper covers. **Price by Mail 60 cents.** Address,

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A six month's subscription to the OSPREY, an Egg Drill, or a Brass Blow Pipe free with every order.

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Just RECEIVED direct from the collector, a large quantity of **Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow's Eggs**, and in order to close them out at once, I offer them at the very low price of 25cts. each (regular price, 75cts.). single or in sets with data. Warranted genuine.

R. W. Ford, Bristol, Conn.**BIRDS' EGGS, SKINS AND SUPPLIES**

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Specimen sheets free.
Second hand Type and material bought, sold and exchanged.

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WM. ARTHUR JONES, Rouses' Point, N. Y.

535 Central Ave.

Alameda, California

March 25, 98

My dear Doctor.

Your letter in regard to the American Botanist has been forwarded to me from my old home at P. Monte, Conn.

From '85 to '98 is quite a distance for youth and I had almost forgotten that I published such a paper. In an reference to my scrap books I find two copies, May and June 1885 with the note that publication was suspended for two reasons, lack of subscribers and lack of second class rates. (P.O.)

I also find a copy of the Naturalist's Advertiser Mar. and April '85 Vol I No 3. which I published before the esper but I have no copies of #1, and #2. In regard to exchange, they have long ago discontinued

nothing in that line. Perhaps if
you address R. H. Ford,

Bristol, Conn.

he may give you some information
as he was my former partner.

I am not now collecting specimens
but if you would like anything in
that line from the vicinity of San
Francisco let me know.

Yours Truly

H. G. Salmadger

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Aug. 1885. See p. 29



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