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FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN NATURAL HISTORY.

VOL. 3. DANIELSONVILLE, CONN., JANUARY, 1892. No. 1.

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# The Collectors' Monthly.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Ornithology, Oology and Natural History.

CHARLES H. PRINCE,

Editor and Publisher, Danielsonville, Conn.

U. S. A.

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## EDITORIALS.

We wish you all a Happy New Year.

Subscribers whose subscription expires with this number please note that your name will be crossed off our list unless renewal is received at once.

Cash in full must come in advance, it is a waste of time and postage to ask us to insert an advertisement and send bill.

Walter F. Webb, of Geneva, N. Y., whose Col. adv. you will notice elsewhere, was the first one to respond to our call for volunteers to take a column advertisement for one year. Watch for his ad. in every issue, he intends to give you great bargains, "there's room for more." If you want to make a collection or dispose of one, you must advertise,—and keep at it.

We hope the readers of the Collectors' Monthly will bear with us if they meet with a few typographical errors. We know you wouldn't say a word if you could only see a few letters and MSS. we are constantly in receipt of and try to read them. Contributors will please note this and govern themselves accordingly.

FIVE two cents stamps will get you a sample of Arthur's Home Magazine Philadelphia. Agents wanted.

To our many readers we send our best wishes for the year eighteen hundred and ninety two, with the hope that it may bring us into close, friendly and business relation, with each other. And hope that the end of the year 1892 may find you prosperous and happy, doing a profitable business with us.

We feel it our duty and pleasure to say just a word in commendation of Col. N. S. Goss great work, "History of the Birds of Kansas," perhaps there may be some one who knows nothing of Col. Goss' accomplishments, to those we would say, he was a life-long, "Naturalist," a member of the council of "Am. Ornithologist Union," a recognized authority on his chosen subject.

The authors aim has been to present to the general reader as well as to the student interested in bird life, a book containing the latest knowledge in regard to the habits etc., of our birds. It embraces 343 species, and sub. species—and the Photogravure illustrations, represents 529 mounted birds (Mr. Goss own work) in the Goss Ornithological collection and contains 693 pages.

Every collector, who is interested in bird lore, should not fail to obtain a copy at once. We can testify to its merits—we have never seen its equal, and consider it Standard authority on the birds represented—a valuable addition to any ones library, as it is printed on best paper, handsomely bound in full cloth, with gold back and sides. The Publishers who are deserving of great credit and to whom to much cannot be said in praise of the manner in which they have executed the work, have been honest and prompt in all our dealings with them. We would recommend to all Naturalists Collectors and others the Firm of Geo. W. Crane & Co., Topeka, Kansas, who are equalled by few and excelled by none as publishers and Honest men.

C. H. PRINCE.

DEAR SIR—Please find thirty cents inclosed for which renew my subscription. I find that I cannot be without the Collectors' Monthly and wish it both success and long-life.

Yours Truly,  
H. E. Miller.

We obtain patents for protection not for ornament. Send for our valuable pamphlet DuBois & DuBois, Inventive. Age Building, Washington, D. C.—Mention this paper.

The Bayo bird of India spends his night catching fire-flies, with which he plasters his nest. The bayo does not kill the fly, but simply attaches it to his nest by means of a piece of moist clay. On a dark night a bayo's nest has the appearance of an electric street lamp.

# THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

Devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Natural History.

## Nesting of the Sora Rail.

"Written for the Collectors' Monthly."

When the Sora first arrives in the spring, it may be seen quite frequently running about on the old rushes, and other vegetations of the previous year. He does not seem to greatly fear the approach of a person, but will skip about from reed to rush picking up the early bug, quite unmindful of the observer.

It is not long however, that they are so bold. As soon as they begin to think about the spring duties their appearance is less frequent and as the new growth of the marsh starts up, affording them shelter they are seldom seen. That they feel a greater responsibility resting upon themselves, after taking up the duties of the season, and thus seclude themselves the more is the only reason that can be offered for this.

They begin to build their nests about the 15th of May with us. It is composed of coarse grass and the dried material common to the marsh, forming a shallow platform.

In this locality it seems to prefer places where the marsh horse-tail grows (*Equisetum limosum*). These stalks grow up perfectly straight, and being round and hollow, afford a strong scaffolding, upon which to build. The nest is attached to the stalks, just above the water, which holds it firm, and as the stalks get up higher they are sometimes bent over the nest, forming a cover, thus making the nest more difficult to find. It also builds among other growths, usually

preferring the lightest, leaving the coarsest material to be utilized by larger birds.

The horse-tail above named may be known by the fifteen to twenty acute dark colored teeth at each joint. Later in the season, it sends out a few upright branches. The plant is common in muddy streams.

The usual compliment of eggs is from ten to fourteen. The ground color is a very dark cream, and the spots are reddish brown, intermixed with purple shell marks. Their average size is 1 : 25 x .90, but it varies greatly.

By the 20th or 22nd one may be able to find nearly a full compliment, and from this time to the 5th of June their eggs may be found nearly fresh.

I remember the first nest of this species. I was in the marsh very early one morning, and had just crossed a strip of floating bog, and was trying the opposite bog with my foot, to see if it would bear my weight, I happened to see something run behind a clump of rushes, and I began to look around for a nest. At last I looked down directly in front of me and there, not twelve inches from my foot on the opposite bog, was a set of nine eggs of the Sora.

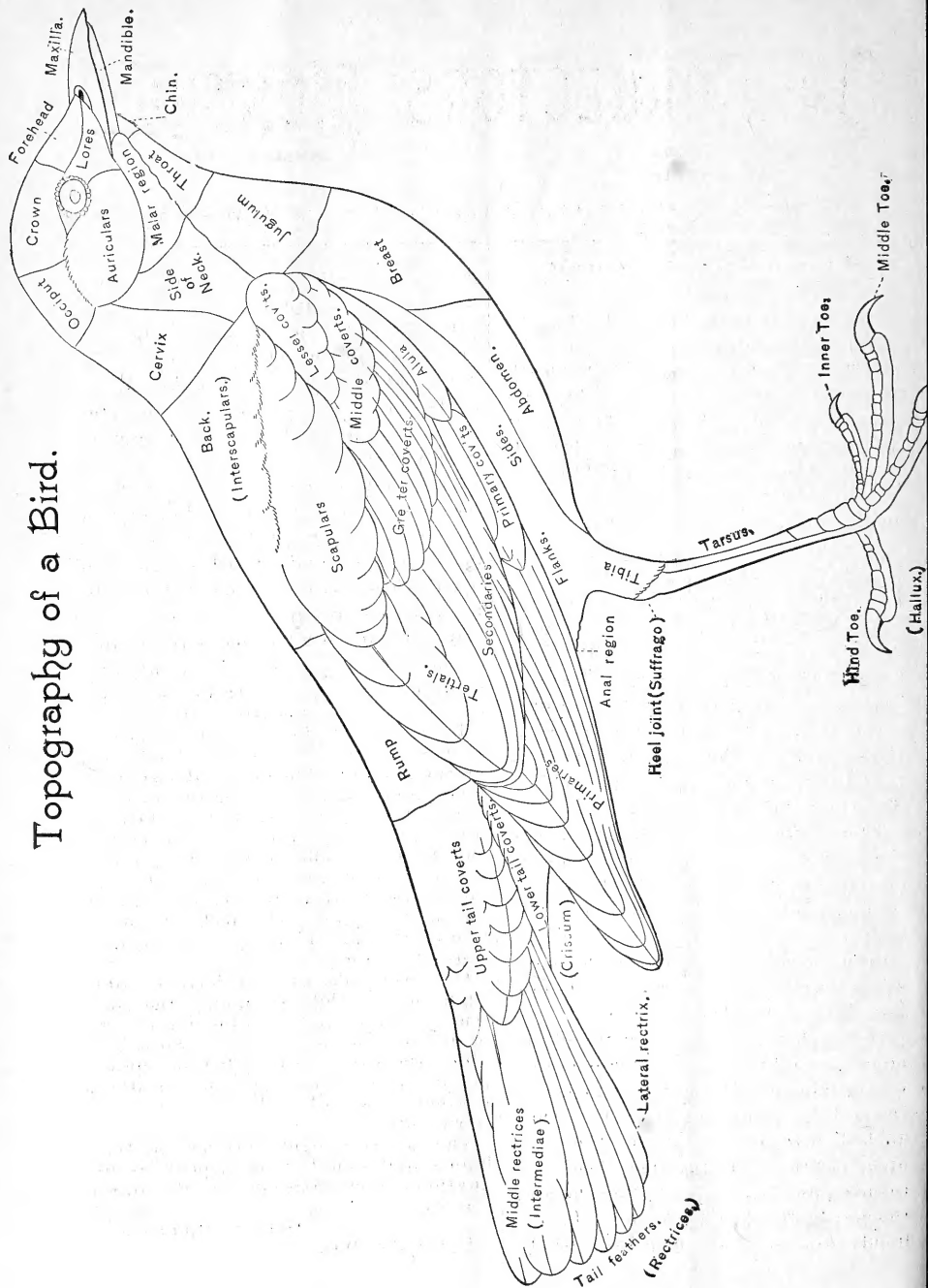
On several occasions I have heard a slight noise, while examining the contents of a nest, and upon looking closely would see the head of Mrs. Sora just above the water, a short distance away, peeking at what was going on, but down it would go when I made the first move towards it.

They are very regular in their nesting habits, and do not often surprise us by anything very unusual, as do other species.

GEO. A. MORRISON.

Fox Lake, Wis.

# Topography of a Bird.



**Notes on the Birds of Long Island.**

By W. W. WORTHINGTON.

(69) 163. *Oidemia americana*.**American Scoter, (630.)**

Black throughout. Bill with a swollen process, of an orang-red color at the base of upper mandible extending in front of nostrils. Length 23 inches.

A rather common winter resident. Sometimes found in company with the velvet and surf ducks. Called "Butter billed coot" by the gunners. Breeds from Labrador northward. Nest of grass, lined with feathers, and down from the birds breast, placed on the ground near water. Eggs six to ten, pale buffy brown, about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and are usually laid in June.

(70) 165. *Oidemia fusca*.**American Velvet Scoter, (632.)**

Black throughout, except a small crescent under the eye, and patch on the wing of pure hite.

An abundant winter resident, arriving from the North in October, and remaining until May. They congregated in large flocks, over shoals where their food of small shell-fish are abundant. To these places the gunners repair on still mornings at the break of day, with their "battery" (a small boat with just room enough for one man to conceal himself in) their decoys, and a store of ammunition. The "battery" is anchored on the most frequented part of the feeding ground, and the decoys anchored thickly around it, one gunner takes his place in the "battery," another in a small sail boat to pick up the dead birds, and "hustle" the live ones. And great is the sport. From fifty to a hundred "Coots" are often bagged to a boat in a morning's shooting. These birds breed from Labrador northward, making a nest of weeds, moss etc., lined with feathers. The

eggs are six or more, of a greenish buff, and about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

(71) 166. *Oidemia perspicillata*.**Surf Scoter, (633.)**

Plumage black, except a patch on the crown and another on the back of the neck pure white. Length 20 inches.

An abundant winter resident, but much less so than the preceding species. Called "Patch-poll Coots" by the local gunners. Very shy birds. Do not come to decoys, but if one of a pair is killed the other will frequently keep close by until both are bagged, especially in case the female is shot first. Breeds from Labrador northward, laying six or more cream colored eggs, in a nest made of weeds etc., lined with down placed on the ground near water. Eggs about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

(72) 167. *Erismatura rubida*.**Ruddy Duck, (634.)**

Above, sides and lower neck, chestnut red. Cheeks, chin, and crissum, white. Crown, nape, and tail black. Beneath grayish white. Wings with fine grayish sprinklings. Length 15 inches.

An irregular winter visitor. A large flock of these ducks remained in Coecles Harbor, Shelter Island, for several weeks, during the winter of 1884, and many of them were shot, but since then scarcely any have been seen. I found them at Sapelo Island, Ga., in the winter of 1888 and '89. They appear to be comparatively stupid, and easily secured when found. Breeds from the northern U. S. northward. Nest made of reeds etc., lined with grasses, placed on the ground near water. Eggs large for size of bird,  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and grayish white with rough surface.

NOTE:—The two following species were accidentally omitted in their proper place, and it is thought best to insert them here, and continue the list numbers without interruption.

(73) 139. *Anas carolinensis*.

**Green winged Teal. (612.)**

Head chestnut brown, Forehead and chin blackish. Broad patch from eye to back of head, and speculum, glossy green. Lower neck, sides, and parts of back, finely waved with black and white. Upper wing coverts light brown. Under tail coverts black, with a white patch at each side. Length 14 inches.

A regular migrant, arriving from the North in September, and frequenting grassy ponds and sloughs, remaining sometimes until late in November. Breeds from the northern U. S. northward. Nest made of weeds, grasses etc., lined with feathers and down, placed on the ground near water. The eggs are pale greenish buff, six or eight, and about  $1\frac{3}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches.

(74) 140. *Anas discors*.

**Blue winged Teal, (609)**

Back, sides and breast dark brown, with more or less pale edgings to feathers. Sides of head, and neck, pale brown, spotted thickly with dusky. A white crescent in front of eye. Upper wing coverts pale blue. Length 16 inches.

A rather common migrant, arriving from the North in September. Usually found in fresh water ponds, where there is a rank growth of weeds or rushes, and rather tame and easily bagged. Nests from the northern U. S. northward, laying eight to twelve pale creamy eggs about  $1\frac{1}{4}$  x 2 inches, in a nest of weeds and grasses lined with feathers and down and placed on the ground in the vicinity of water.

(75) 169. *Chen hyperborea*.

**Lesser Snow Goose. (591a.)**

Adult pure white. The wings tipped with black. Young, with the lower part of neck brown, and sides of body and upper part of wings ashy. Length 30 inches.

Of very rare occurrence in fall or spring. "October 8, 1881, a young bird was shot at Shinnecock Bay, by C. A. Lane, which he sent me" (Dutcher). "April 28th 1883, I saw a flock of ten white headed

geese, probably young of *chen hyperborea* (Helme). Nests on the ground in Arctic countries. Eggs creamy white and about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  x  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Nest made of sticks and grass, lined with down.

**Some of the Sea Birds of  
Maine**

(Written for the Collectors' Monthly.)

Having seen an article in the last number of the Collectors' Monthly from a Maine collector, in which was expressed a desire for something about the collecting of Maine water bird's eggs, I thought I would write, having had some experience in that line.

On June 8th 1891, I left home for some of the Islands of Penobscot Bay, off the coast of Knox County, and arrived there the tenth. The first Island visited was quite a high rocky one, on which American Herring Gulls were found in great numbers. As the Island was approached they arose in a vast cloud, and the noise of their wings and cries was almost deafening. There must have been thousands of them. On landing a great many nests were found, but the larger part of them were empty, only about one in a dozen containing eggs, and the most of them contained only one or two, very few nests were found containing 3 eggs.

The nests were usually placed on the ground in a slight depression or on a flat rock, but sometimes in the top of a stump and on rare occasions in a small tree, from ten to twenty feet from the ground. They were constructed of grass and weed stalks, leaves and twigs and lined with fine grass and sometimes a few feathers. The eggs varied in color from light olivaceous drab to dark greenish brown and measured from 1:80 x 2:65 inches by 2:05 x 2:90. They were marked with spots of brown of different



shades, and pale blue. All the eggs were fresh, and for this reason and the fact that the majority of the nests contained only one or two eggs, I think the breeding season had just commenced and that most of the sets were incomplete. One peculiarity that I noted was that in a number of nests the eggs were completely covered with grass and could only be found by feeling in the nest. Having accidentally discovered an egg covered in this manner I afterward found several more. I have never seen anything about this in any ornithological work, and would like to hear from others on the subject. Also a few Leach's Petrels were found breeding on this island, but on another island near by they were much more abundant. On some parts of the island the ground was literally honey-combed by their burrows. These burrows were usually from one to four feet in length, and from three to twelve below the surface of the ground, generally curving downward toward the extremity. The nest consisted of a little fine grass placed in the extremity of the burrow which was somewhat enlarged. In some cases however there was no sign of a nest, the single egg being laid on the bare dirt. The eggs were pure white with a ring near the larger end, of pale pinkish spots, and omitted a very nauseous odor. Whenever an egg was found one of the birds was found also, but sometimes a bird was found where there was no egg. Only about half of the nests contained eggs, and I am inclined to think that I was early for this species as well as the preceding. The eggs measured from .80 x 1:24 to 1.00 x 1:36 inches. There were large flocks of Arctic Terns around this island also, but only a few nests were found. They were placed in the grass near a flat rock or bare patch and were merely a little hollow lined with a little

dry grass. The eggs were two or three in number and measured from 1:05 x 1:25 to 1:25 x 1:80 inches. Their color varied from a greenish to a brownish drab, spotted with different shades of brown and blue, usually thickest near the larger end of the egg. One nest of the Black Guillemot was found, containing one egg. This egg was fresh and of an ashy white color marked with spots and blotches of brown and black, thickest near the larger end. Also a nest of Seaside Finch was found containing four fresh eggs, and several nests of Spotted Sandpiper.

ELMER G. BENNETT.

### **My Experience with the American Redstart.**

I was much interested in the article on American Redstart in Sept. No. of Collectors' Monthly by G. A. M. and will send some of my observations in hope that they will interest a few at least. They have become quite plenty since 1888, in this vicinity and I think throughout Monroe Co. In 1889 I found but 2 nests, in 1890 I took 10 complete sets, about 20 singles and left many more. The present year I only took 2 sets and about 6 singles, but saw a great many more nests. They arrive here about May 1st, to 13th, do not commence building their nest before 15th at the earliest and many not before June 5th. The earliest nest I ever found was on May 29th of the present year consisting of 2 eggs of Redstarts and 2 of Cowbirds. About June 10th they will be in possession of full sets in nearly every case.

Many of the nests here are placed from 4 to 7 feet from the ground in the vertical crotches of small bushes, though I have found them scarce 3 feet from the ground I found one 15 feet from ground in top

of small beech where 3 branches started out to make the top. They are invariably composed of fine fibers from dead weeds, lined with fine dead grasses, and often fastened to the limb with webs. I have never found any hair or feathers in the lining as G. A. M. speaks of. Nests are usually 2 inches by 3 inches, though varying some especially in depth. The eggs are invariably 4 if bird is not molested by the Cowbird, but this enemy often reduces the set to two of its own and 2 of Redstarts, and I have found 3 eggs of Cowbird and 1 of Redstart. I never knew the Redstart to set on more than 4 eggs of any kind. The eggs look much like the Yellow Warblers at first glance, but are decidedly different when compared closely. The ground color is light cream instead of bluish as in Yellow Warbler and spots are more of a brown than Warblers. Now G. A. M. speaks of their nests and eggs disappearing after he had visited them. With me they almost always leave the nest if they see me investigating it, but have left many and I never knew the nest to be removed except where directly traceable to small boys and in very few times were eggs molested. They have generally been left to take care of themselves. The bird will often leave if a Cowbird leaves an egg before she commences to lay. I have known of one bird building 3 nests in the near vicinity of each other, but she did not use one nest to make the next.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

### A Special Offer.

(1.) "Our Birds in Their Haunts," is not merely a book about birds, but a complete treatise on the birds properly belonging to Eastern North America; sufficiently full in respect to their life

history, with environment and habitat, to be consecutively readable, and clear enough in inscription to answer as a hand-book for identification.

(2.) As it is written from observation which are the results of extensive travel, it contains no small amount of information not found in any other work covering the same field, especially in reference to the habitats of the land birds and the habits of the water birds on the great bodies of fresh water in the interior.

(3.) It makes oology a specialty. Nothing in the science of birds has been more charmingly interesting to the author, than the location, material and structure of their nests, and the size, form and color of the eggs.

(4.) Readableness, that is, a philosophical and lucid presentation of the facts of nature, and a poetic coloring of incidents in its relations to season and scenery, has been a special study in making the book. In other words, while endeavoring to be true to nature, the pleasure of the reader has been particularly consulted.

The new edition now about to be issued, will be in the same style as the former, and will retail at \$2.50; but all orders—orders *bona fide* simply,—coming in before Feb. 15, 1892, will get the book at \$1.60, including postage. The work, in 624 pages, is bound in cloth, the paper and typography the very best, 25 illustrations and of convenient size—small octavo. All persons not satisfied with the book can return it promptly and get their money back.

Signed by the author,

J. H. LANGILLE,

Kensington, Md., or Box 63, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C.

REV. J. H. LANGILLE.—Dear Sir:

The copy of "Our Birds in their Haunts" you sent me some days since, was duly received and has been examined with pleasure and deep interest. Considered as a popular work its plan

seems to have been happily conceived, while each page bears evidence of the writer's intense love of nature and his ability not only to observe intelligently, but to express felicitously the aspects of nature and the varied traits of bird-life that comes under review. It is evidently the work of not only an enthusiastic bird-lover and field naturalist, but of a writer who is fully competent for the pleasant task he has undertaken. As a popular exposition of the life-histories of the birds of Eastern North America, "Our Birds in their Haunts" will doubtless meet with the cordial welcome it so well deserves; while its freshness and originality make the work a valuable contribution to the literature of North American ornithology. Thanking you most heartily for the pleasure its perusal has afforded me, I remain

Sincerely yours,

J. A. ALLEN,

President of the Ornithologist Union, Editor of the "Auk," Cambridge, Mass.

(Written for the Collectors' Monthly.)

### The Wild Turkey.

As I have never noticed anything in our journals about this grand bird, I will write a few notes on this great game bird. Twenty-five years ago wild turkeys were perhaps more plentiful here than domestic turkeys are to-day, but those glorious days are now a thing of the past, and the time is not far distant, when the wild turkey will be extinct. It is a hard matter to find them, and still harder to kill one. I killed two males last spring (March 7th and May 5th '91) and on Nov. 27th I killed a female. *Coues's Key* says that the two males are of the Mexican form and that the female was an Eastern Turkey. I am perhaps the first to learn that we have both kinds in this part of Texas. They make their nest on the ground, sometimes under a shrub or bush, and lay from 8 to 18 creamy, white eggs, freckled all over with redish brown. Will some one tell me where the wild turkeys are plentiful?

KIT ATKINSON.

Dime Box, Texas.

(For the Collectors' Monthly.)

### The Black Billed Cuckoo.

(*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*.)

How many times have we, while

stretched out under the spreading branches of some ancient haw tree, heard the deep guttural kow-kow-kow of our cuckoo. And whenever the peculiar notes of this bird is heard above the sylvan chorus, the mind reverts to the times when through the thick foliage of the underbrush we first caught a glimpse of our friend. There he sits on some twig looking at us askance out of his fiery eyes, and then with a laughing crow he flies off.

There are few birds that, for graceful shape and movements, can compare with the cuckoo; his graceful brown coat bespeaks the polished gentleman. I well remember the time when I caught sight of my first cuckoo's nest. Carefully approaching the nest, I saw the bird sitting. How its eyes seemed to dilate with terror, as, keeping my eyes fixed on the bird, I cautiously approached it. I had often heard of the power with which snakes are commonly supposed to be endowed,—that of charming birds—and this reminded me forcibly of it. However, I suppose that these actions were due merely to the bird's wishing to be unnoticed, and knowing perhaps, that her blue eggs would attract more notice than her own dark form, she had sat close. Notwithstanding her close sitting habits, what a touchy bird she is. Rise her off the nest, even to take a peep at her sky-colored eggs, and the next day she has already started a new home in some bush.

Then the nest. What a flimsy, airy seat it is. How the drafts, when it blows, must strike on the breast of the mother, threatening neuralgia, cold in the head, and numerous other ills which are caused by drafts. Sometimes the eggs may be seen through the interstices of the sticks which form the bottom.

The eggs of this species are as I have before intimated, blue, or rather, bluish

green, and often show what seems to be a mixture of coloring matter, the blue being in streaks and at other times there are rough spots on the shell. Altogether it is not of so pure a blue as the robin's, and it also lacks the polish of the eggs of the latter species.

The principal European congener of this species is *Cuculus caurus*, or the European cuckoo. This bird, while in family resemblance, it comes nearest to our own cuckoo; yet in its habits it is very like our cowbird *Molothrus ater*. Rev. J. G. Wood in his delightful book on Natural History says: "The cuckoo, spring's harbinger, has in all ages obtained for itself a name at once pleasing and disreputable; pleasing because its well-known notes are a sign that the cold winter is gone, and disreputable because it usurps the nests of other birds." W. H. McNAIRN.

Toronto, Ont.

### American Museum of Natural History.

#### LECTURES TO MEMBERS.

Prof. Albert S. Bickmore will deliver the following lectures in the Spring Course of 1892 to the Members of the Museum, on Wednesday evenings at eight p. m.:

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY.—Jan. 6th, "The Great Basin and its Canons. Jan. 13th, California and the Yosemite Valley.

ZOOLOGY AND GEOGRAPHY.—Jan. 20th, Food Fishes from Fresh Waters. Jan. 27th, Food Fishes from the Sea.

These subjects will be illustrated with new stereopticon views specially prepared for these lectures. Those on Fishes will include accounts of Prof. Bickmore's travels, particularly in Canada and Labrador. Each member will receive four tickets available for his family and friends to the present course, and to a like series of lectures next autumn.

Members pay \$10 annually, or \$100 at one time. MORRIS K. JESUP,  
President.

## Rare and Beautiful Sets at Popular Prices.

I have lately received the entire 1891 collecting of my man in the Bahamas, which include a very fine series of the first seven varieties in the list below. The balance of the species named are part of a SUPERB COLLECTION I am breaking into and the balance will be listed from time to time. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

### No Exchanges.

	No. in set	per egg
Audubon's Shearwater	1	\$.95
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Booby Gannet	1 and 2	1.00
American White Pelican	2 and 3	.25
St. Domingo Grebe	4 and 5	.30
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Texas Sparrow	4	.25
Chachalaca	3 and 4	.30
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Fosters Tern	2 and 3	.11
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Aleutian Tern	2 and 3	1.50
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Siberian Gull	2 and 3	1.00
Western Gull	2 and 3	.20
Great-black back Gull	2 and 3	.35
White-winged Gull	2 and 3	1.10
Glaucus-winged Gull	2 and 3	1.25
Black-tailed Godwit	3 and 4	.40
Lapwing	3	.12
Black oyster-catcher	3	1.10
Amer. "	3	.55
Sage Cock	7	.35
Gambels Quail	9	.20
Sooty Grouse	8	1.25
Bald Eagle	1 and 2	3.50
Ferruginous Rough-leg	2 and 3	1.20
Amer. Rough-legged Hawk	3 and 4	1.50
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Texas Cardinal	4	.35
St. Lucas Cardinal	4	.75
Tule Wren	5 and 6	.12

Can furnish singles of any of the above varieties. On all orders less than \$5.00 postage will be charged. Address all communications PLAINLY, to

**Walter F. Webb,**  
Geneva, N. Y.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

30 words, 20 cts.; 1-2 cent per extra word.

This column is open to all having Exchanges or Wants. Offers for cash debarred. A strictly Exchange and Want Column. No notice inserted for less than twenty cents. CASH must accompany all notices.

### WANTED.

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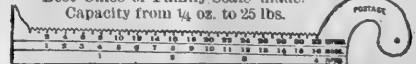
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# The Collectors' Monthly.

FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN NATURAL HISTORY.

VOL. 3. DANIELSONVILLE, CONN., FEBRUARY, 1892. No. 2.

## Special Bargains for February.

As the collecting season has now opened up in some parts of the U. S., I shall close out all of my eggs at prices that must demand attention. I do not, however, expect to enter into competition with those parties that gather up eggs promiscuously without regard to quality or identity. All sets are strictly as represented.

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Am. Scaup Duck	9	.45
Old Squaw	5	.30
Am. Elder	5	.20
Ruddy Duck	9	.30
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Yellow-crowa Night Heron	3	.20
King Rail	12	.10
Eup. Coot	7 to 11	.12
Black-tail Godwit	4	.40
Least Tern	3	.05
Cardinal	3	.05
Sennetts Thrasher	4	.15
Noddy Tern	1	.25
Sooty Tern	1	.15
Cabots Tern	2 and 3	.30
Boat-tailed Grackle	3 and 4	.05
Great-tail "	3	.15
Wood Thrush	4	.04
Blue Grosbeak	4	.15
Mockingbird	4	.03
Painted Bunting	4	.05
Ark. Goldfinch	3 and 4	.06
Bicolor Blackbird	4	.08
Lazuli Bunting	3	.10
Texas Sparrow	4	.25
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Subscribers whose subscription expires with this number please note that your name will be crossed off our list unless renewal is received at once.

Cash in full must come in advance, it is a waste of time and postage to ask us to insert an advertisement and send bill.

We beg leave to differ from the Auk of Jan. '92, in regard to the date of the death of Col. N. S. Goss, who was one of the Council of American Ornithological Union. He died March 10, 1891, instead of June 8, 1891, as the Auk stated.

We obtain patents for protection not for ornament. Send for our valuable pamphlet DuBois & DuBois, Inventive Age Building, Washington, D. C. Mention this paper.

An Index here signifies this number of Collectors Monthly is sent to you as a sample copy and as an invitation to subscribe. Unless you do so another will not be sent. Please examine it carefully, and take note of the very liberal premium offered, for a short time only, to new subscribers. Avail yourself of the opportunity and begin your subscription with the new year.

There are ways in which our readers can help us immensely, not only by leading others to subscribe, but by also sending us brief notes of their experience in the field and woods to the edification of other readers and to the great benefit of the paper.

Some neighbor or friend would be glad to subscribe for this journal if you would but show it to them, and suggest you were going to send subscription in a day or two, and would like to send theirs at the same time.

A few words as to our advertisements. This is a subject upon which we feel constrained to speak at this time, when looking back over the past numbers of the closing year, and that is the clean and trustworthy nature of our advertisements. As our readers are aware, it has not been our custom to sound the praises of Collectors' Monthly in their ears or to be continually telling of its excellence, but rather to let the paper speak for itself; and this modest lack of self-praise or self-assertion may have had its disadvantages in these days of competitive horn-blowing and push. We fear, however, that our readers, and especially advertisers, do not always give us the credit we deserve and expect for the clean advertising pages we present and for the exclusion of the large amount of advertising we yearly refuse, apparently not too questionable, however, to be admitted to the pages of other journals which go into the country homes. This exclusiveness involves much pecuniary loss, of course, for we refuse advertising every month that we do not think worthy of space in our columns, and could readily secure many pages of such business if we would insert it. But we have stood unselfishly by our subscribers' interest in this matter and we want them to realize that we are willing to—and really do—make great pecuniary sacrifices to keep the Collectors' Monthly a perfectly safe journal for admittance to the Ornithologist's home and for the reading of all its subscribers.

How to make a live paper: Every one contribute at least one valuable idea from his experience each year.

There is at least 25,000 persons interested in Natural History, who should be readers of such a paper as this—only 30 cts. a year.

The Arthur Publishing Co. have made a happy hit in their new cover. The January number comes out in an entirely new and very becoming dress. All lovers of that popular work, "On Both Sides," will be glad to know Miss Frances Courtenay Baylor is a contributor for 1892.

Take advantage of Walter F. Webb's prices NOW, if you want to secure bargains.

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# THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

Devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Natural History.

## Biography of Col. N. S. Goss.

Colonel N. S. Goss, the ornithologist and naturalist, was born in Lancaster, N. H., June 8, 1826, the youngest of four children, two sisters and a brother, Capt. B. F. Goss, of Pewaukee, Wis. His parents were of old Puritan stock. While N. S. Goss was yet in his teens his father lost his property and removed to Pewaukee, Wis. Thus, in a new country, and without ample means for a collegiate education, Mr. Goss began his life's work, with only a common district school and academy to assist him in his pursuit of the natural sciences. From childhood he had a deep love and admiration for birds and made them a study. He worked through the day, and studied during the evenings; and at idle times during the day, even, whenever there was a lull for a few minutes, he was at his books. Thus our Kansas Audubon, naturalist, scientist and taxidermist, began his education.

He entered business for himself, and at the age of twenty-eight, he married Miss Emma F. Brown, of Pewaukee. He moved to Waverly, Ia., with a view of entering into the banking business. While looking about him and making arrangements for the location of his business, his young companion was taken from him. Death had robbed him of his bride of only two years. Overcome by the loss of his beloved wife, the place no longer seemed like home to him, and in the spring of 1857, in a buggy, accompanied by a friend, he sought a home in

Kansas, not knowing or caring where it might be. After following the Neosho river for some distance, they selected the spot where Neosho Falls now stands as their new home. Only two or three families were along the river for miles. A town was laid off and Colonel Goss became its first postmaster. In 1858 a grist mill was established and Colonel Goss sold flour and meal to the Indians, receiving in return for the same, Indian ponies, buffalo robes and some money.

A public spirited man, and a leader, he has been rightly called "The Father of Neosho Valley." He selected the grounds for the first county fairs and had them so attractively arranged that they were favorably spoken of by the press of other counties. During these years he was searching for birds along the streams and prairies of Kansas.

He was elected and commissioned major in 1860, and lieutenant-colonel in 1863 of the Sixteenth Kansas militia cavalry; was in active service during the "fourteen days' call" and the Price raid; and, being familiar with the Indian territory, acted on several occasions as a scout for U. S. soldiers stationed at Humboldt.

He was appointed register of the land office at Humboldt in 1867 and in 1869 resigned to become land attorney for the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway, with headquarters at Neosho Falls. It was through his exertions that the road built through the Neosho Valley, and at a meeting of the stockholders of the road, held at Emporia, May 16, 1866. Colonel

Goss was elected president. He was also land attorney of the Santa Fe at one time.

Established at "The Falls" once more, he found ample time for his favorite study, and his collection of birds began to grow rapidly and attract attention throughout the state and abroad. He had made himself comfortable in this world's goods, and in 1881 he donated his collection to the state, without any remuneration, but upon the conditions that it be known as the "Goss Ornithological Collection," and that he be the custodian during his lifetime. The offer was accepted and a room was set apart for it in the capitol building by the legislature and also one for his own use. His rooms were beautifully arranged and were visited continually by large numbers of people. All lovers of his favorite science were cordially welcomed, and his kind and genial manners endeared him to all. In the fall of 1881 he took up his residence in Topeka.

He has made frequent trips to various localities in North America and Central America, along the coasts and among the islands of the Gulf of California, among the everglades of Florida, along the northwest coast and the coast of Labrador, among the Rockies, the Sierra Nevadas, the Great Lakes and the rivers, searching almost every part of the continent for birds, and giving to the state by his labors, a collection of North American birds which rivals or exceeds any private collection in the union.

In 1883 he compiled and published a catalogue of the birds of Kansas, a neatly printed pamphlet of thirty-four pages, based upon observations in the field and knowledge gathered during a residence of over twenty-six years in Kansas. The catalogue embraces 49 families and 320 species and sub-species. In 1886 he revised the catalogue, increasing the species to 335.

In October, 1883, he was elected a member of the American Ornithological Union, an organization established in New York, with a membership of fifty, and composed of the distinguished ornithologists of this country. This compliment was unsought and was even without his knowledge.

The value of his collection has been estimated at \$100,000 by competent judges.

Colonel Goss left Topeka on a short visit with his nephew, Mr. Charles W. Waterman. He was in good health and particularly good spirits, because he had just completed his life's work and attained his one ambition, the publication of his beautiful work, "History of the Birds of Kansas." It had been in preparation for over a year and Colonel Goss had, with characteristic energy and singleness of purpose, devoted himself almost night and day to its completion. So hard did he labor upon it, that his friends, more than once, admonished him that he should not work so hard, but he persevered and proudly witnessed the completion of the work. What a grand monument it is to the memory of a man! And what a grand thing it is that he was spared to complete it and have the satisfaction of feeling that he had achieved his one ambition.

Colonel Goss was one of the most widely known men in Kansas. To those who knew him best, he will be remembered especially for his rare social qualities, his kind-heartedness, his high-mindedness, and his warm friendship. In every sense he was a man whom to know was to admire, respect and love. His character was without blemish, and his integrity unimpeachable. He hadn't an enemy in the world, and few men ever had more friends.

He had but just completed his beauti-

ful book, "History of the Birds of Kansas," when he was suddenly summoned away. He died March 10, 1891 at the town of Neosho Falls, (which he founded) of heart disease. His remains were taken to Topeka and laid in state in the Senate Chamber, at which place the obsequies took place March 12. It was the first funeral ever held there. He was buried in the beautiful cemetery of Topeka beside the remains of his wife, upon the little plot he prepared for them years ago.

Kansas wept as she realized that one of her truest champions had bowed his head and laid aside the mantle of life forever.—*State Journal*.

[Written for Collectors' Monthly.]

**Pileated Woodpecker.**  
(*Ceophoeus pileatus*. 405.)

Scarlet crest and malar striped, black patch around and back of eye to the occiput, a white stripe from nasal fossa, passing back over the lores between the eye and malar region, covering the lower ariculars and down on sides of neck. Throat also white, jugulum and body dull black. Wings white and black upper mandible and tip of lower horn blue, balance of lower white. Tail black. The spear tip on the tongue about three-eighths of an inch long, with seven spines. Total length of tongue nine inches. Length 18 inches, bill two inches, extent 28 inches. Female like male with exception that nuchal part of crest only scarlet and *no* scarlet malar stripe.

While out collecting Christmas eve, my bird dog flushed a pair of these birds among some fallen timber, down a hollow in a heavy wooded district. I winged the male by a fortunate long shot, and succeeded in getting him after quite a struggle, with plenty of noise made both by dog and bird, for he kept my pointer completely at bay with his heavy bill

and sharp claws. He was a beauty. I have his skin now before me mounted. I found a nest of these same birds last May, but it was inaccessible, being in a great oak, overhanging a precipitous bluff. I lay in ambush three days, watching this nest and also a hawk's near by, in hopes of securing a specimen, but failed. If I found the female on the nest she would peep at me, uttering those peculiar notes, warning her companion; and should I find her a way, they would not return, no matter how well hidden I was or how long I remained.

Last October I visited these same woods hunting quail, and came upon five of these birds extremely wary. I presumed it was the two old birds and three of their young. In flying from one piece of woods to another, they all went together, seeming to be led principally by one bird, all generally alighting on the same tree, and if in sight, they immediately hid behind the trunk and limbs of the tree very dexterously, and at my approach would leave noiselessly, and often unseen, but on alighting would raise that loud, clucking cackle peculiar to them.

This specie is our representative of the Great Black Woodpecker of Europe, —*Picus Matrus*—which was supposed by the ancient Romans to be the direct descendant of *Picus* the augur and soothsayer, of which it is fabled in Roman Mythology, that *Picus* was a great soothsayer and prophet, beloved by Circe, who seeing that her affections were not requited and that *Picus* loved Romona, she transformed him into a peckerwood, a bird he used in his art, which still retained the prophetic powers formerly possessed by him.

J. A. B.

[Written for Collectors' Monthly.]

**The Varied Thrush.**  
*Hesperocichla Naevia*. (Gmel.)

This handsome representative of the

thrush family, known under the various names of Oregon Robin, French Robin, California Robin, Winter Robin and Varied Robin, is a common winter visitor to most parts of the United States, lying west of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains, as far south as San Francisco, and occasionally straggling to the Colorado Valley. How far East its normal habits extends, does not appear to be well known, especially in its northern portion. Dr. Cooper found it common on the Cœur d'Alene mountains in September. It has been met with on the Mackenzie river. There are several instances of its straying to the Atlantic coast, specimens having been taken at Ipswich, Mass., Hoboken, N. J., and Islip, Long Island, Dec. 21, 1889. I received a fine male from Port Jefferson, Long Island, that had been caught in a rabbit trap.

They are rather a timid bird, seldom coming around houses, preferring the solitude of the evergreen forests, where their low whistle often gives notice of their presence, when they would otherwise pass undetected. They are said to sometimes sing very sweetly, but I have never been able to hear any song from them.

By the latter part of March, most of these birds have left winter retreats for their summer homes, a few remaining to breed in the evergreens along the coast, in the vicinity of the Columbia river, and from there northward through western Washington. They breed in limited numbers. It is quite probable that some linger and breed in the mountains for a considerable distance south of Washington, but their principle breeding grounds are north of the United States. In many parts of Alaska and British Columbia it is a common summer visitor.

Mr. W. H. Dall, who was the first to describe the nest and eggs of this bird,

found it breeding on the Nulato, May 22d. The nest was built in the midst of a large bunch of rubbish in a clump of willow about two feet from the ground and close to the river bank. Eggs bluish, speckled with brown. May 5, 1885, I was fortunate enough to find a nest of this bird containing three fresh eggs. The locality was at the head of a small swamp, about one mile north of Fort Camby, Washington. The nest was built about eight feet from the ground, on a horizontal branch of a large spruce tree. It was composed of weed-stalks, leaves and moss, lined with moss. The cavity was not more than one inch deep. The eggs are of a pale greenish blue, much paler than those of the common robin, sparingly sprinkled over the whole egg, with small spots and dots of redish brown. There are also some shell markings of a lavender shade. They measure 1.23 x .88; 1.20 x .87; 1.16 x .87 inches.

A. H. HELME.

Lockport, N. Y., Nov. 28, 1891.

MR. C. H. PRINCE, Dear Sir:—

I am much interested in birds, although I do not pretend to be much of an Ornithologist.

I have a collection of between 300 and 400 mounted specimens, mostly secured in this vicinity, also their nests and eggs, some of which are rare in the eastern U. S., for instance, *Dendroica caerulea*, (see the Auk, Oct., 1888.) of which species I took the nest and eggs in 1888 near this city, one of which I sent to the Smithsonian Collection, Washington, D. C., it being the first nest and eggs of this species the museum had ever received. Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, the curator, wrote me, asking if they were to understand that I donated them to the museum. They could not believe it, as they had never yet received the nest and eggs of this

specie. I wrote him that that was just the reason I wished to donate them to the museum. The past season I also received the nest and eggs of *Geothlypis Philadelphia*, (see the Auk, Oct., 1891.) which is the first record for western New York.

I have been very busy of late and have given very little time to birds, especially to write about them, but during the winter I may be able to send you short notes.

Respectfully yours,

J. L. DAVISON.

Philadelphia, Dec. 12, 1891.

KIND SIR:—Enclosed please find postal note, in payment for the COLLECTORS' MONTHLY for 1892. The COLLECTORS' MONTHLY is a welcome visitor to my home.

Yours respectfully,

PHILIP LAURENT.

Fox Lake, Wis., Jan. 7, 1892.

MR. C. H. PRINCE, Dear Sir:—

The copy of Hornaday's "Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting," ordered of you, was received O. K. To say that it is a fine work is expressing it mildly. The facts found within its covers, expressed in such a plain, every day way, are just what the amateur taxidermist and collector needs, in order to accomplish the best results in his work. The best thing about the book is, that there is nothing said without a purpose, nothing put on, everything means business. To those whose experience is more extended, it gives many a pointer, valuable in doing fine work.

Yours truly:

GEO. A. MORRISON.

MR. EDITOR:—I notice in the last MONTHLY, that Mr. Short takes some exceptions to some facts given in my article on the Redstart, which appeared some

time ago in your paper, in regard to feathers used in construction of the nest, etc.

In those notes I gave my experience. In his article in the last number, he gave his.

This is the only way we can ever hope to become thoroughly versed in bird lore, by interchanging our actual observations, and enlarging our ideas, that each may be benefitted by others experience.

Yours truly,

G. A. M.

Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 28, 1891.

MR. C. H. PRINCE, Dear Sir:—

Some weeks ago I arranged an exchange with J. W. P. Smithwick of Sans Souci, N. C., and as he sent me two fraudulent sets of eggs, I send you herewith an account of same, hoping you will make mention of same in your paper, THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

This fellow has tried to defraud others, and I think it about time he was showed up in his true colors. He offered me sets of Swallow-tailed Kite  $\frac{1}{2}$ , and Yellow-throat Wablers  $\frac{1}{4}$ , amounting to \$30. In return I sent \$23 worth (that is, sent my eggs first) and was to send him the balance, (\$7) on receipt of his eggs. When his eggs arrived I found that the Swallow-tailed Kite (not a spot on them) were nothing but Marsh Hawk's, and when I looked at them I found, with the aid of a magnifying glass, that the number 430 (rid'g for Marsh Hawk) had been erased and the A. O. U. No. 327 substituted. Data read: "Collected by G. M. P. for E. M. Haight, Riverside, Cal."

The set  $\frac{1}{4}$  Yellow-throat Wablers, I found were nothing but American Redstarts, as the number 128 is quite plain even to the naked eye on two of the eggs. This set was accompanied by data filled

out by Smithwick as collected by him in his own county. I wrote him a *plain* letter and demanded my eggs, which he returned, yet said not a word about his sets except asking me to return the same, which I have not done as yet. If you say so, I will forward the eggs to you with data, and you can see for yourself. Mr. Walter F. Webb, Geneva, N. Y., has seen both these sets, and if you want any additional proof of Smithwick's crookedness, I guess he can give you a little.

I hope you will give this matter your attention and publish an account of the same in your January number if possible, and let other collectors be on the lookout for this fraud. Awaiting an early reply, I am

Yours very truly,  
W. L. MORSE.

Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., Jan. 15, '92.

EDITOR COLLECTORS' MONTHLY:—I enclose 30 cents in stamps for renewed subscription. And subscription is the most sincere form of flattery.

Very truly,  
FRED MATHER.

While out on Cold Spring Harbor, north shore of Long Island, on the night of Jan. 13, seven Night Herons flew over my boat. They were near enough to count against the sky, rainy and overcast as it was, but could only be identified by their "quack." The date struck me as an unusual one for these birds to be here, though the winter has been a warm one and the harbor and many ponds have not been frozen over to date.

FRED MATHER.

[Written for Collectors' Monthly.]

### St. Clair Flats.

Having learned through Mr. W. H. Collins of Detroit, that St. Clair Flats was a breeding ground of the water birds, I went

there the last days of May, in 1882, and remained till the first week in July. Taking a Port Huron boat at Detroit, I went to the Star Island House on the Flats. Then I hired a row-boat, loaded my tent and utensils and rowed to Dickenson Island, about six miles north, and set up my tent. Here was a farm fronting on a fine channel, and affording the conveniences of fresh bread and excellent milk.

This island contained a good deal of wood-land, and in a tall tree, in full view of the tent, was a White-headed Eagle's nest, the young nearly full grown and standing erect in the nest. Land birds abounded here, but the main territory of interest was the Flats, spread out in every direction, thousands of acres, covered with the sedges of the previous year, and looking like a vast grain-field ready for the harvest. I soon discovered that there was such a labyrinth of channels, intersecting the sedges in all directions, that one unacquainted with the connections would soon find himself in trouble. So I secured a guide for a few days, till I got the lay of the ground, and learned the relations of the main channel. He was a marvel for keen sight, and the management of a boat.

The first object of interest was the nest of the Red-head duck. The nests were fairly numerous, and the eggs were fresh. The tracts of sedges standing in the water, afforded the convenience of tying the nest just over the water, and in the clumsy basket style, but quite thoroughly built of the sedge grass and leaves of the cat-tail, and near a channel. When the eggs were first laid, there was very little if any down in the nest, but as incubation proceeded there was a moderate lining added. The eggs, generally 9-10, but in one case 15, some 2.45 x 1.75, was nearly oval or oblong-oval, smooth and firm, and of a light brown tinge, sometimes slightly clouded, not often tinged

with green. When rubbed with a moist cloth, they take on a fine polish,

Next in numbers were the Dusky ducks and the Mallards. Their nests were every way similar; placed on the ground among the sedges, or on knolls bestudded with alder, or on an old muskrat house, or on the hollow side of a stranded log, but rarely tied to the sedges, after the manner of the Red Head. There was not much down in the nest of the Mallard, but more in that of the Dusky duck, and the eggs of the latter were not nearly so greenish tinted, in fact, they were sometimes quite brownish.

The nest of the Ruddy duck was not uncommon to the sedges or marsh grass on the water, the dried green grasses circularly laid, the nest sometimes being somewhat bulky, but more frequently very slight, sometimes scarcely more than a matting together of the tops of the marsh grass and sedges. I found one nest on the hollow side of a floating log. It was a scanty matting of dried grasses and rushes. The eggs, 6-10, are large for the bird, slightly ovate, the rough shell nearly white.

All night long the guttural rattle of the King Rail might be heard; and its elegant nest, tied to the thick marsh grass, and gracefully canopied by the overhanging tops, was not uncommon. The 10 or 11 eggs, 1.62 x 1.20, are rich, roseate cream, sparingly, but sharply speckled and spotted with reddish brown and lilac.

The little Porzana is frequently heard, and its fine nest quite common.

About the middle of the afternoon one was sure to hear the stak-driving notes of the Bittern. They would continue on into the night, and could be heard again early in the morning. The nest was common, placed somewhat like that of the Ruddy duck, and containing 4 to 5 plain dark-colored eggs, about 1.95 x 1.39.

The young are a curiosity.

The Black Tern was simply abundant, breeding in the most careless manner, laying its eggs on compacted floating debris or slabs, the wet bits of rushes simply laid in a circle.

One Loon's nest, with its two large eggs, was found on the top of an old muskrat house. This bird was quite common.

The Common or Thick-billed Grebe's nest was very common indeed,—a sort of pier built up in water a foot or eighteen inches deep, the material, wet rushes and sedges, so loosely laid that they would sway back and forth with the motion of the water, and the top extending about four inches above the surface, always wet and the eggs partially covered. These were much soiled, but when cleaned, were of a clouded greenish white, surface rough, 1.25 x .87, 6 to 8 in number.

Coots and Gallinules were about as abundant as hens in a farmer's barn yard. The nests of the former were to be found almost every where, those of the latter, out towards the lake. The nests were raft-like, floating on the water, but anchored among the sedges, generally with a sort of platform on one side for the bird to get off and on. The eggs of the Coot, 9-12 or some 14, about 1.95x1.29, are tinged with brown and finely speckled with dark brown or black. The Gallinules' eggs are smaller, with a dark ground, and more strongly marked.

Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Bobolinks and Red-winged Blackbirds were abundant.

From these brief and imperfect notes, you will see that the Flats are a rare place for the oologist.

J. H. LANGILLE.

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## Notes on the Birds of Long Island.

By W. W. WORTHINGTON.

[All articles by Mr. Worthington are original and written expressly for the Collectors' Monthly.—Ed.]

(76) *171a Anser albifrons gambeli*.

### Am. White-fronted Goose. 592a.

Upper parts and sides bluish gray. Upper tail coverts, forehead and under parts white, latter blotched anteriorly with black. Upper wing coverts and tail tipped with white. Bill and feet red. Iris hazel. Length  $28\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Probably occurs as a rare straggler during the migrations. I have never met with it alive. Breeds in the Arctic regions. Nest placed on the ground in the vicinity of water, and made of grasses, lined with feathers and down. Eggs four to seven, about  $3\frac{1}{4} \times 2$  inches, yellowish green, with darker ground tints.

(77) *172 Bernicla canadensis*.

### Canada Goose. 594.

Above brown, with paler edgings. Beneath much lighter, becoming gray on the belly and white on the under tail coverts. Upper tail coverts also white. Bill, head and feet black. A white patch on side of the head back of the eye. Length 35 inches.

Abundant during the migrations, arriving from their winter quarters, bound north, as soon as winter is fairly broken up, their appearance being taken as a sure sign that spring is at hand. They breed in Arctic countries and also in the territories of some of the western states, nesting on the ground or in trees, sometimes using abandoned nests of other birds for the foundation of their own, repairing it with sticks and lining it with down from their breast. The eggs are three to five in number, pale greenish yellow and about  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The young are hatched and tenderly nourished until full-fledged and grown, gradually gathered into flocks. Then, along the eastern coast in November when

The sun shines bright on hill and vale,  
The air is pure, the sky is clear;  
The wild geese swiftly southward sail,  
For the broad Chesapeake they steer.

True Instinct 'tis that marks their course;  
They ne'er get lost, though sometimes  
stray,  
As, with their "honking," loud and hoarse,  
In V-shaped flocks they wend their way  
To a more genial southern clime,  
Far from their northern breeding-grounds,  
On the shores of Hudson Bay.

They usually stop in the bays of Long Island, affording excellent shooting over decoys, among which are most always two or three of their living brethren, winged-tipped and captured in some previous migration, and used as the best possible means of luring them to destruction.

(78) *172a Bernicla canadensis hutchinsi*.

### Hutchins' Goose 594a.

Similar to the preceding in coloration and markings, but smaller in size.

Of rare occurrence during the migration. Although I have no data to prove it, I distinctly remember of my uncle, Mr. E. G. Raynor, having wing-broken a goose and had it alive for several weeks, which could have been of no other than the present specie. It was scarcely larger than a brant—an exact miniature of the Canada Goose.

Breeds in Alaska, and the Arctic regions. Nesting habits similar to the preceding. Eggs white; four or five in number, and measure about  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 2$  in.

On May 3, '91, in company with Mr. J. Brown of San Marcos, late of Giddings, started out for a day's collecting. After we had proceeded a short distance we came to a dense bottom. We heard the sharp notes of a Fla. R. S. Hawk and after some trouble found it. It was situated in an ash tree about 45 ft. from the ground. We took from this nest two beautifully blotched specimens. They measured  $1.96 \times 1.75$  and  $1.97 \times 1.83$ .

A little further we found in a fine oak tree, a nest containing 3 eggs, one a dark brown and the other two a light brown color. We were attracted by hearing a Broad-winged Hawk calling, some ways off. We hastened there and found her nest about 56 ft. up, containing two dull white eggs.

Would like to hear from some one else on this species.

Yours truly,  
G. W. ERWIN.



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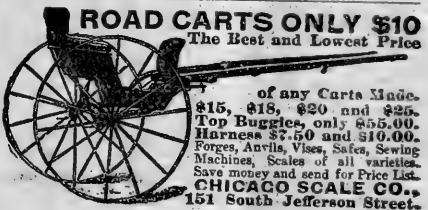
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VOL. 3. DANIELSONVILLE, CONN., MARCH, 1892.

No. 3.

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The February number of "Outing" is before us, containing the first of a series of articles on the Connecticut National Guard, with fine illustrations of the Governor and Staff, Captain Fowler and one gun Battery A, Camp Sports and In the Earth Works. The March number will contain "The American Turf," illustrated by H. Stull; "The St. Bernard Kennels," by James Watson; "Jumping," by Malcolm W. Ford, and "Leopard Hunting in Ceylon."

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There is a matter that some of our subscribers have seemingly forgotten entirely. Some of them have made many promises, but have never kept them. To us it is a very important matter. It is necessary in our business. We are very modest and don't like to speak about it.

Proposed extension. Among our many subscribers, there are a large number who are interested in Entomology, and to such we would say that our next issue (April No.) will contain a new department and that, for those who are interested in Entomology. We wish to say, that the success of our efforts will depend wholly upon the interest you take in this department in securing for us new subscribers, and for the advancement of Entomology, by way of interesting MSS, together with advertisements for our columns. We have given this subject careful consideration before entering into the duties which will of necessity devolve upon us. To Ornithologists and Oologists, we will say: the same interest will still continue as heretofore with your department, with an addition of Entomology, which makes it still more interesting; Ornithology, Oology and Entomology being nearly allied sciences, especially from an economic point of view, thus collectors and students of one will find it the most natural thing in the world to be a collector and student of the other. The localities which yield the finest skins and the most desirable "clutches," are the very ones sought out and carefully scoured by the Entomologist. Now to every one whose hand this paper falls into we ask and expect a liberal support. Whether we "Sink or Swim, Live or Die, Survive or Perish" we are at your mercy.

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# THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

Devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Natural History.

## Bell's Vireo in Kansas.

[Written For the Collectors' Monthly.]

This fussy, fidgety, little bunch of olive-grey feathers returns from the South to Kansas about the tenth of May, after which time his bright nervous cherrupy song is well nigh the only clue one has to the songster's presence. Like all the small fry among our avifauna, the Bell's Vireo is never still, and he is seldom silent. His worm hunting song has a hopeful ring, and his manifest industry merits a rich reward. His home in Eastern Kansas, is almost wholly among the osage hedges, (I have found but two nests in the orchards) beneath the very lowest branches of the osage, well on toward the tops. In the main the work of nesting is begun about the twentieth of May. The work for a wonder is very leisurely done, two weeks hardly sufficing for its construction. The nest is saddled to a horizontal crotch. Spider-webs, bark-strippings, grasses, and tiny cocoons make up the exterior, next is added in many normal nests, a layer of bark-strips from the often exposed roots of the osage; the bright yellow of which presents a very striking sight in partly completed nests. The whole fabric is finished with a snug lining of fine grasses, to which is added in rare cases, a few horse hairs.

When to be readily found, paper is used. I recall one exquisite nest, now in England, that was largely made of bits of paper evidently made to-order by mice. The tiny white bangles clustered thickly

about the well rounded cups, betraying its owner, at last, as ostentatious beauty often does. In structure the nests vary, some are shabby genteel, while the majority are delicately rounded and daintly finished; for the little workers would seem rapidly to attain perfection. I have found a few nests that seemed to have broken away, repeatedly from the branch on one side and had then been clumsily "tugged" on again: One nest found, in 1890, had a rag-tag and bob-tail foundation that swayed down ten inches below the nest. As perfect a nest as I ever found was made almost entirely of grasses. It was perfectly rounded and and deeply cupped, and lined very thickly with the fine yellow stems of the fox-tail. This was in its finish the work of a *male* bird, the female having been unfortunately shot.

The cupping is hemispherical in general, but a few nests are very deeply cupped. In such, one sees when they are occupied, but a bit of gray-tail: a point of horny beak, and two keen Black beads of eyes. The locus of the nest is very uniform. It being almost always beneath the lower branches, this fact gives a near by uniform height from the ground of about twenty inches. But very often the distance is from thirty to forty, and in one extreme case, the nest was *five feet* from the ground, although there were lower branches.

The normal date when sets are to be found completed is about June eight. In 1891, the nesting was from seven to ten days later, for no apparent reason.

But the nesting time is remarkably uniform. Out of nine nests examined on June second 1890, six had the full complement of four, and all but one set were fresh. At a point seventy-five miles farther West, June 10 and 11, in twenty nests, two sets of two, three sets of three and six sets of four were fresh; in three sets of three and four sets of four incubation was begun, while in one set of four and one of three only was incubation far advanced (the nest containing the latter set was deeply hidden beneath a dense branch that almost trailed the ground, and yet it is the only nest out of about sixty which contained an egg of the cow hunting.)

The normal egg of Bell's Vireo is I should say a miniature of that of the Red-eyes Vireo, but relatively more elongate. The length is quite uniform. In most eggs the spots are small and diffuse, and nearer the larger end. An occasional egg is unspotted, One deserted nest contained two such, and another three.

Among my treasures is a set of four fresh eggs taken with their deep bulky nests, June 18, 1891. These are crystal white, and very uniformly *blotched* with cinnamon-red. While the spots on many eggs are brown these are the only *red* ones I have ever found, and the spots are moreover unusually large.

Bell's Vireo is an arrant scold. One walks at leisure along the hedges, and is positively *startled* to hear a short monotonous and fretful note, shortly and quickly and incessantly repeated. This continues until the intruder has disappeared. When it is heard, the nest though often unfinished, will be found always not over forty feet away.

Having never had the ill-fortune to spend in Kansas the fiery months of July and August, I know nothing of this Vireo's after-math of young. By mid September the Vireo's are gone.

P. B. PEABODY.

### Nesting of the King and Virginia Rails,

[Written For the Collectors' Monthly.]

The general observer would characterize these two species, by saying that both of them were larger, darker, and had longer bills and toes, in proportion to their size, than the Sora. This would be true but there are other characteristics, peculiar to these birds, that the student comes to learn as he is brought in contact with them.

We must confine ourselves to the nesting habits however.

Both species begin to build their nests about the middle of May, and many incomplete sets may be found, for nearly a month later. The nests are somewhat more bulky, and have a thicker mat of reeds etc., on the bottom, than those of the Sora. Indeed, I have seen nests of the King Rails, that were from six to eight inches thick at the bottom.

The eggs of both are much more delicately marked, than those of the Sora. Those of the King rail measure about 1.65 x 1.20. The ground color is a dull white or cream, with a slight tinge of lead color, being thinly spotted with reddish brown, and with lilac shell markings.

The eggs of the Virginia, are much smaller about 1.24 x .91, but are marked exactly like those of the former. I know of no egg in which the lilac shell markings, show off to such advantage as those of the above species.

The spots are more numerous about the larger end. From eight to twelve eggs, is the usual complement.

My experience with the Virginia, as my note books show, has been that they do not lay regularly every day, while the Sora does her work promptly every day. Whether this is true in other localities or not I cannot say.

Of the two, I think the King rail more retiring. The Virginia may be seen flying over the tops of the rushes, with legs dangling, when suddenly it disappears.

During the latter part of the season, these birds, together with others of their nature venture out to the edge of the reeds quite frequently, probably because they are obliged to do so in order to get the insects, which the low stage of water affords them.

Yours truly,

GEO. A. MORRISON.

### The Black Pewee.

[For the Collectors' Monthly.]

The Black Pewee (*Sayornis nigricans*) resembles *Junco hyemalis* in general color, and his eastern brother *Sayornis phoebe* in habit. In this locality, (San Bernardino, Co., Calif.) he is very abundant.

A pair can be found near every farm house or bridge over running water. He is not at all shy, and will sit perched on a limb within a few feet of you. There is a dead tree near the window of the room where I am at work every day, and at almost any time I can see Mr. or Mrs. Pewee perched on one of the limbs, keeping a sharp lookout for any insect that happens to pass, when they see one they dart after it, and seldom come back to the limb with out it. They begin nesting about the 1st of April and lay two and sometimes three sets in a season.

Their nest is like that of *Sayornis phoebe*. The eggs are from three to five in number, usually pure white, but often spotted with brown. The eggs are about 77 x 57 in size. They generally lay in the same nest, all the sets of a season and if the nest is not destroyed, they will occupy it the next year.

ED. WALL.

San Bernardino, Cal.

### Notes on the Birds of Long Island.

BY W. W. WORTHINGTON.

[All articles by Mr. Worthington are original and written expressly for the Collectors' Monthly. —ED.]

(79) 173. *Branta bernicla*.

#### Brant. (595.)

Above bluish-brown, with pale edgings to the feathers. Head and neck and upper breast black. A few white spots on the sides of the neck. Under part gray, fading into white on the abdomen and tail coverts. Rump, tip of wings, bill and feet black. Length 23 inches.

A regular spring and autumn migrant, sometimes remaining throughout the winter. Much sought after, and soon become very shy and difficult to approach. Breeds in the arctic regions, nesting on the ground near water. Nest of sea weed, feathers and down. Eggs four to six, grayish white, and measure about 3 x 2 inches.

(80) 174. *Branta nigricans*.

#### Black Brant. (596.)

Very similar to the preceding, but larger, and has no white on the lower eye lid. Length 29 inches.

Recorded as a rare straggler to the east coast of U. S. and possibly occurs as an accidental visitor to Long Island. Breeds in the far north. Nest made of weeds etc., lined with down. Eggs five to seven, of a grayish white, and about  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

(81) 175. *Branta leucopsis*.

#### Barnacle Goose. (597.)

Throat, cheeks, and forehead white. Crown, lower neck, rump, tail, bill and feet black. Wings bluish gray. Beneath bluish white. Length 28 inches.

Possibly occurs as a rare straggler from Europe, where it breeds in the far northern parts. Nests on the ground. Eggs whitish, and about  $3\frac{1}{4} \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(82) 180. *Olor columbianus*.

**Whistling Swan. (588.)**

Pure white. Bill black, with an orange spot in front of eye. Legs black. Length 55 inches.

Of rather rare occurrence during the migrations, but captured occasionally within our limits. Breeds in the arctic regions, nesting on the marshes close to the water. Nest made of grasses, weeds and moss. Eggs two to five, dull brownish white, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  x  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(83) 184. *Guara alba*.

**White Ibis. (501.)**

Head bare to the eyes. Plumage pure white. Tips of wings black, glossed with green. Length 25 inches.

A rare straggler from the south. In southern Georgia, where this species is common I have always found them shy and difficult birds to secure. I never found them breeding, but a few of them was almost invariably found living in the vicinity of the heronries of the Snowy, Louisiana and Little Blue Herons, and keeping them company as they circled around overhead while their homes were being investigated. Breeds on the Gulf coast of Florida and southward, nesting in communities, among the reedy islands along the Coast. Nest made of reeds. Eggs three to five pale grayish blue marked with different shades of brown, and about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(84) 186. *Plegadis autumnalis*.

**Glossy Ibis. (503.)**

Crown and back, metallic green. Rest of plumage chestnut-brown. Bill blackish. Length  $20\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

A rare straggler from south. Has been taken several times in New England. Nests among reeds, in swampy places. Eggs two or three, greenish blue, and  $2$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(85) 188. *Tantalus loculator*.

**Wood Ibis. (500.)**

Head and neck bare of feathers. Plumage white. Primaries and tail glossy greenish black. Length 45 inches

A rare straggler from south. Breeds in dense cypress swamps in the interior of Florida, in the tallest trees. Nest made of sticks and twigs lined with moss. Eggs two or three in number, the shells covered with a whitish chalky deposit, sometimes spotted with pale brown, and about  $2\frac{3}{4}$  x  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches.

(86) 190. *Botaurus lentiginosus*.

**American Bittern. (497.)**

Above mottled with dark brown yellowish, and ashy on wings. Beneath streaked with brown yellowish and whitish on the breast. Throat white, with a central brownish line. A black patch on each side of neck. Length 27 inches.

At the east end a rather uncommon migrant- Most common in the autumn. Frequents ponds which are grown full of rushes, and retired places along creeks. When wounded and approached they erect the feathers of the neck and head, which causes them to look quite formidable. "One taken in December 1882" (Helme). Breeds inland and northward, nesting on the ground in thick marshes, making its nest of grasses and other vegetable matter. Lays four or five eggs, of a dark drab color, and about  $2$  x  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(87) 191. *Botaurus exilis*.

**Least Bittern. (498.)**

Crown and back greenish black. Back of neck, sides of head and parts of wings bright reddish brown. Sides of neck and large patch on wing brownish yellow. Beneath brownish white. Length 13 inches.

A rare summer visitor, of very retiring habits, and not apt to be seen unless diligently searched for, in overgrown marshes and swampy open tracts. Mr. Knöess has found it breeding in the vicinity of Riverhead, and it probably breeds



in the marshes along the South side. It nests in its natural haunts mentioned above placing its nest on the ground or near it. The nest is made of weeds or rushes, and is not a very artistic affair. The eggs are four or five, pale bluish white, and about  $1\frac{1}{4} \times .9$  of an inch.

Waynesburg, Pa., Feb. 6, 1892.

MR. C. H. PRINCE,—Dear Sir:

Noted Mr. W. L. Morse's letter to you in last Collectors Monthly regarding J. W. P. Smithwick using the names of other collectors on fictitious datas. And notice among others the name of E. M. Haight, Riverside, Cal., which prompts me to write this:

Mr. Edward M. Haight died at the home of his parents in Riverside, Cal., May 8th, 1891.

The Riverside Press in speaking of Mr. Haight says, "He was born in Mound City, Kans., and was 28 years, 5 months and 4 days old, at the time of his death. With his parents he came to Riverside over fifteen years ago and has lived here ever since, attending the public schools, and later pursuing his chosen vocation of taxidermist and botanist. He was of a retiring, unassuming disposition, and devotedly attached to ornithological pursuits. Honest in all his dealings, pleasant to his friends, his loss will be greatly felt here where he has grown up from boy to man. His decease was not entirely unexpected as he had been suffering with that dread disease consumption for some time, and to which he finally succumbed."

Very truly,

J. WARREN JACOBS.

### Spotted Sandpiper.

*Actitis macularia.*

On May 2, 1891, while walking along the shore of a small brook, I flushed a

Spotted Sandpiper from a clump of grass. Going forward I discovered a slight cup shaped hollow containing three blades of grass. I returned in just a week. It was some time before I found the nest as I had not marked it accurately.

After looking about for a while I was rewarded with a set of four pyriform eggs. They had a ground color of buff (which fades slightly after being blown) spotted and blotched with dark brown and amber. Average size .93x1.31 inches.

This is one of our commonest summer residents. Large numbers of them are killed annually by sportsmen who are after bigger game but becoming discouraged use a macularia as a target.

A. FARMER.

Granville, N. Y., Feb. 1, 1892.

CHAS. H. PRINCE, ESQ.,—Dear Sir:

I enclose 30 cents to renew subscription to "The Collectors Monthly," for 1892. Your paper has steadily improved and shall be glad to see and read it as soon as issued. I start in a few days for a several months collecting trip, going to several points in California and finishing the season along the Mexican Border of Arizona or New Mexico. But wherever I go will have your little magazine follow me and shall read it as I have before in some very lonesome places. I wish you success.

Yours very truly,

F. T. PEMBER.

### SUCCESS.

The following has been written expressly for the benefit of the readers of the Collectors Monthly, with the hope that some may find a few valuable hints and timely suggestions.—[Ed.]

The theme is as old as the human race, yet though volumes have been written upon the subject, it is still new to each successive generation, and assuming, as it does, new phases with the ceaseless changes in society, it must indeed, be in-

exhaustible. To the mass of men, and especially to those who are about embarking on the voyage of active life, no theme can be of deeper interest than this. Never before in the history of the world was competition in every calling so fierce as now; never did success demand for its attainment such a union of physical and intellectual qualities as it does at the present time. Carlyle truly says, "The race of life has become intense; the runners are treading upon each others heels; *Woe* to him who stops to tie his shoe-strings." Nearly every profession is overstocked, and the only chance of success is for the man of single ability to climb to a lofty position over the heads of a hundred others. It was Webster, having been asked if one could succeed in law when there were so many lawyers in almost every town, who replied, "There's always room at the top."

To succeed in life, one should always make the most of their leisure, for the moment once passed is gone forever. The time spent by many in idle fancy, would, if concentrated upon a single line of study, make them masters of almost any one branch of the sciences. Hugh Miller found time while pursuing his trade as a stone mason, not only to read, but to write cultivating his style till he became one of the most brilliant writers of the day. Franklin stole his hours of study from his meals and sleep, and for years, with inflexible resolution, strove to save for his own instruction every minute that could be won.

Again, if one would be successful in life, they should do their work well, for it is good work that is *always* in demand. Said Charles Dickens, "Whatever I have tried to do in my life, I have tried with all my might to do well. What I have devoted myself to, I have devoted myself to completely." Longfellow has defined

the talent of success as nothing more than doing what you can do well, without a thought of fame. And so it is with every calling in life, if a person would succeed, he must devote the whole stream of his activity, towards the accomplishment of some desired end.

There is a very foolish idea advanced by some, that mere intensity of desire, can give intensity of power. As well might the tortoise hope by intense striving to run as fast as the grey hound, or the monkey to acquire the strength of the elephant. Dryden says that, "What the child admired, the youth endeavored, and the man acquired."

All experience shows that it is the nature of genius to labor, and it has been said that *ninty per-cent* of what men call genius, is a talent for hard work. Facility of every kind comes by labor. Nothing is easy that was not difficult at first. The way to learn a lesson is to read the same dozen pages over and over till you know every word in them. Well has the poet said, that,

"The noblest undertakings

Mens wisdom hath conceived.

By oft repeated effort

Hath been patiently achieved.

A humorous person once thought that the reason why Nature is so perfect in her art and gets up such inconceivable fine sunsets, is that she has learned how at last, by dint of doing the same thing so very often. — The Spartan youth who complained to his mother that his sword was too short, was told to add a step to it, and so must scant capacity be increased by redoubled diligence and a more earnest determination.

Again, it is quite true, that some of the most successful and influential men of the present time owe their success chiefly to luck and circumstance. A high spirited and popular leader lately illustrated the matter thus, "When I look around upon

my competitors and consider my own qualifications, the wonder to me is, how I ever got the place I now occupy, I can only account for it by comparing the forensic career to one of the street crossing in our great thoroughfares. You arrive, just when it is clear, and get across at once; another finds it blocked up, is kept waiting, and arrive too late, though he be the better pedestrian of the two." So powerfully does fortune appear to sway the destinies of men, that some of the most sagacious of men seem to have been inclined to regard luck as the first element of worldly success. "Life is to short says a shrewd thinker, for us to waste; its moments in deploring bad luck we must go after success since it will not come to us, and we have no time to spare. In spite of the struggles for success, it must be confessed, that it does not always yield the happiness desired; it may be said, and the poet has aptly expressed it, that

The lovely toy so fiercely sought,  
Hath lost its charms by being caught.

But whatever the case may be, it is quite certain, that if happiness is not found in success, it surely is not found in failure. Again, while success is necessary to happiness it must be remembered that it is purely relative term, or in other words, there are many degrees of success, among which the highest are neither attainable by all, nor essential to felicity. A man may be a very successful lawyer, though he should fail of becoming Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court; a successful physician, though far inferior in skill to the greatest; or a successful merchant though he may never accumulate a tenth part of the wealth of a Stewart, a Girard or an Astor. If you wish to succeed, says a distinguished writer, you must do as you would to get in through a crowd to a gate all are

equally anxious to reach. Hold your ground and push hard. To stand still is to give up all hope. Give your energies to the highest employment of which your nature is capable; be alive; be patient; work hard; watch for opportunities; be rigidly honest; hope for the best; and if you fail to reach the goal of your wishes, which is possible in spite of the utmost efforts, you will die with the conscience of having done your best, which is after all the truest success to which man can aspire.

### Feathered Assassins.

HOW THE "ROAD RUNNERS" OF ARIZONA KILL THEIR ENEMIES.

The "road runners" are a species of garrulous, long-billed, long-legged birds of Eastern Arizona. They derive their name from their habit of running for hours along the trail, fearless and confident, before riders. They are in deadly enmity with rattlesnakes which rob their nests, and have formed a simple plan for the killing of their enemies. They find a rattlesnake enjoying his siesta; no hard matter, as he sleeps most of his time. On discovering him, the feathered assassins become very silent. They go about with hushed and cautious steps. With bitter zeal they begin the collection of pieces of cactus.

These are furnished abundantly with thorns keener than steel needles. They make a small but complete corral around the dreaming reptile. He is absolutely fenced in with cacti to a height of two or three inches. This feat a fact, the road runners throw off disguise and secrecy. They charge about outside the fence clamorous and flapping their wings. The rattlesnake awakes. They revile and scoff at him, and no doubt tell him of outrage done on eggs of ancestral road runners. Irritated and possibly somewhat dismayed, the serpent attempts to make off. He gets to the cactus barrier and assays to cross it. The conspirators outside redouble their yells and wing-flapping. They get around in his front and storm him with insults and epithet.

As he attempts to cross, the spines, sharper than he thought, wound his

throat, which on the under side is quite tender. He draws back, his temper beginning to rouse under the wounds of cacti and racket of the birds. He tries to get out one, two, three, four times. Each painful failure sees his rage increase. His eyes become flame, his head flattens, and dirty spots of dingy white occur on his body. At last, foiled and wild with rage, he strikes his poison-flowing fangs into himself. Soon after he dies, while the fiendish road-runndrs shout their satisfaction. They remain until the rattlesnake is quite dead, and then depart arm in arm as it were talking it over in a light exultant way.

### Anhinga.

Snake Bird is a name commonly given to it by the English in North America on account of its long slender neck, its body being under water its neck has the appearance of a snake rising erect out of the water as its swims. By some called the Darter its habits resemble Comorants, but neck, more slender and bill sharply pointed.

The Snake bird frequents large rivers or back waters and may be seen resting motionless on some dead branch or snag, whence it plunges beneath the surface, in pursuit of fish, showing little more than its slender head and neck.

The nest is almost always in trees or bushes overhanging the waters edge made of sticks roots and moss, in which are laid 4 eggs and there is a very distinguishable difference between the species of the New World and the Old, but in all the species the Neck, affords, the most remarkable and unique feature.

### Description of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Barnstable Co.. Mass.

#### 364. American Osprey, (425.)

*Pantion haliaetus carolinensis.*

This bird is quite a common resident, here. I have observed several lately. I have never found a nest hereabouts, but there is every reason to believe that it does breed near here.

The nest is generally placed in trees, but they have been found *on the ground*, and are *often* placed in tall shrubs. The usual number of eggs is three, sometimes not more than two. The eggs present a wonderful variation in shape, size and markings. The ground color is generally a yellowish white, spotted and streaked more or less thickly with dark brown and amber. The size varies from 2.04x1.64 to 2.55x1.85. The average size however is 2.40x1.73.

#### 366. American Long-eared Owl.

*Asio Wilsonianus, (395.)*

This nocturnal bird is a resident of temperate North America at large: Its nocturnal habits prevent its being observed frequently, even when it is most common. It feeds chiefly upon mice, etc. The nest is placed in various positions, such as hollow trees, stumps, old crows nests, crevices in rocks, etc.

The same nest is used for many years. The eggs are from three to seven in number and measure about 1.62x1.40.

#### 367. Short-eared Owl.

*Asio accipitrinus. (396.)*

This common owl is found all over N. A. in larger or smaller numbers, as it is found around marshes and thickets it gets the name of "Marsh Owl." It is not as nocturnal in its habits as some of the other members of its family. It of course hunts its food at nights, but it also is seen on dark or cloudy days scaling over the meadows and marshes in pursuit of field moles, mice and other small rodents. The nest is made on the ground and is generally placed beside a log. The eggs range from three to seven in number, but the usual number is five. They measure about 1.52x1.20 and are a dirty white in color.

C. C. PURDUM.

**EXCHANGES AND WANTS.**

80 words, 20 cts.; 1-2 cent per extra word.

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Shelter Island Heights, N. Y.

**Taxidermist!**

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Set of 2 eggs American Osprey, postpaid, 75c.  
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BY N. S. GOSS.

**This valuable addition to the Literature of Kansas is now ready for Sale.**

It is unnecessary for us to say to old residents of Kansas anything in regard to Col. Goss or his accomplishments. But to others we will say, that he was a lifelong Naturalist; an enthusiastic in his chosen study of Ornithology; a member of the Council of the American Ornithological Union, and a recognized authority on his chosen subject. The book is handsomely bound in full cloth, with gold embossed back and sides. There are 693 pages, besides the photogravure illustrations of 529 birds. Price, \$7.50; delivered on receipt of price. Reduced prices for quantities. On account of the death of Col. Goss, all communications and orders should be mailed to

**GEO. W. CRANE & CO.,**

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See W. L. Morse's Adv. Last Page of Cover.

# The Collectors' Monthly.

A Monthly Journal for Collectors, Only 30 Cents a Year.

VOL. 3. DANIELSONVILLE, CONN., APRIL, 1892. No. 4.

## FLEAS.

I have well mounted, perfect specimens of

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All above skins are guaranteed first-class in every respect,

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# The Collectors' Monthly.

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to the Study of Ornithology, Oology and Entomology.

PROGRESSIVE, RELIABLE, PRACTICAL, SCIENTIFIC

CHARLES H. PRINCE,

Editor and Publisher,

Danielsonville, Conn., U. S. A.

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In reply to the many enquiries which we have received concerning the color, markings and measurements of *Sterna anathetus* (Bridled Tern), we give the following: Ground—Cream color with fine markings of reddish brown and lilacs, principally distributed over the larger end. Measurements: (millimeters) 47X<sub>35</sub> (1.85X1.37 inches) 48X<sub>34</sub> (1.88X1.33) 47X<sub>34</sub> (1.85X1.33), 48X<sub>34</sub> (1.88X1.33).

Thursday morning, March 10th, dawned as beautiful as any spring morning, and as I was walking across the fields I saw the first Robin and Blue birds of the year. Their, clear, sweet notes which heralded the approach of spring, were quite refreshing. I think the date is one of the earliest recorded for this part of New England.

"The first wild bird that drinks the dew,  
From violets of the spring,  
Has music in his song, and in  
The fluttering of his wing."

The ARTHUR'S HOME MAGAZINE will delight the hearts of its thousands of lady readers by the detachable coupon that comes with their Fashion Supplement. Any subscriber can fill it out, return to their office, and receive a glove-fitting pattern without cost. This is only one of the many thoughtful attentions shown to subscribers.

We want the correct addresses of 1000 entomologists at once who are actively engaged in this science. We ask every one who reads this to kindly contribute at least a few. So we may place a sample copy of the same in their hands for inspection.

Our next issue is to be the finest ever yet issued. It will contain bright sparkling illustrated articles on entomology, together with interesting items upon various subjects in bird life. If you are not already a subscriber you should subscribe NOW for we intend making the May No. worth the price of a years subscription.

### A REQUEST TO OUR FRIENDS.

Our friends—among whom we trust are all the readers of the Collectors' Monthly—have it in their power to do us very substantial service by recommending this paper to their friends and neighbors who are not already subscribers. The Collectors' Monthly aims at benefiting all who receive it; its article are original and practical; its tone is pure; its advertising pages are clean. The price is so low that there are none too poor to subscribe. We desire to place it in the hands of every person throughout the country interested in Natural History, and we ask our friends to assist us in this endeavor. Please do it now. Be sure that your friends include the Collectors' Monthly in their lists. If you will kindly send us the names and addresses of those you think ought to have the paper. We will gladly send them specimen copies without charge.

**FIVE** two cents stamps will get you a sample of Arthur's Home Magazine Philadelphia. Agents wanted.



# THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

Devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Entomology.

We are anxious to get everyone more interested in entomology, and as a means to gain that end we present all our readers this month with,

## A Swarm of Bees.

B patient, B prayerful, B humble, B mild,  
B wise as a Solon, B meek as a child;  
B studious, B thoughtful, B loving, B kind;  
B sure you make matters subservient to mind.  
B cautious, B prudent, B trustful, B true,  
B courteous to all men, B friendly with few.  
B temperate in argument, pleasure, and wine,  
B careful of conduct, of money, of time.  
B careful, B grateful, B hopeful, B firm,  
B peaceful, benevolent, willing to learn;  
B courageous, B gentle, B liberal, B just,  
B aspiring, B humble, because thou art dust;  
B patient, circumspect, sound in the faith.  
B active, devoted; B faithful 'till death.  
B honest, B holy, transparent and pure;  
B dependent, B Christ-like, and you'll B secure.

## ENTOMOLOGY.

Perhaps, as this new department of our paper is opened up, a word of explanation will not be out of place. Entomology is fast coming to be recognized as one of the most interesting of the natural sciences. It always has been so thought of among a "select few," but now it is drawing the attention of the masses. For diversity of habits, beauty of form and coloration, strange and interesting life-histories, and wonderfully complicated anatomical structures, it is equalled by no other class of the Animal Kingdom. The number of species is immense while the number of individuals undoubtedly exceeds that of any other natural division of living beings, animal or plant.

The number of entomological collectors

is now very large and is rapidly increasing. The great abundance of, and the easy access to material, together with the simplicity and cheapness of apparatus, has drawn the attention of all lovers of nature to the collection and study of insects. Among our subscribers are many entomological collectors and many who wish to become such. To these, and to any who, after looking the subject over find themselves thoroughly interested, and to all entomologists of America, is this department dedicated. We solicit your support.

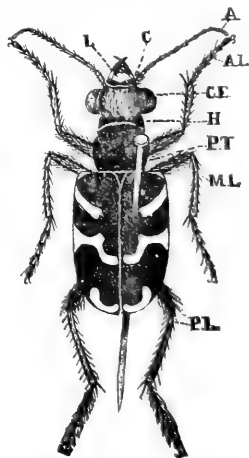


Fig. 1. A Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela vulgaris*)  
A antenna, C clypeus, L labrum, AL anterior leg, ML middle leg, PL posterior leg, CE compound eye, H head.

## Insects.

What they are.

Insects belong to that division of the Animal Kingdom which also in-

cludes lobsters, crabs, millipedes, spiders, scorpions, etc. They may be distinguished from these by the one fact that all full grown insects (See Fig. 1,) have six legs. This is why they are called Hexapoda—six-legged. The spiders have eight legs and the millipedes many, so they would not come in the class Insecta.

Insects also have many other striking characteristics. The body (See Fig. 1) is divided into three distinct parts, head, thorax, and abdomen. On the head are a pair of jointed antennae or feelers, compound eyes, and often simple eyes or ocelli. The thorax bears the three pairs of legs and the wings. The wings are usually four in number, but often there are only two and sometimes even none,

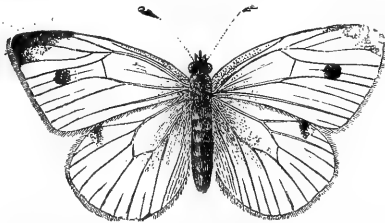


Fig. 11. Common Cabbage Butterfly.  
(*Pieris rapae*.)

A close examination of—for instance—a grasshopper, will reveal all of the different parts very readily. In the handling of insects they soon become familiar.

### The Different Kinds of Insects.

Having fixed in the mind the characteristics of an insect, the next thing will be to learn to distinguish the different orders—ants, beetles, butterflies, and moths, flies, etc. This may seem a very easy matter, but it is often difficult requiring a very close examination of the specimen. However, after a little careful study and some practice the collector will be able to readily place almost any insect he may run across. The scientific names of the orders can be learned with very

little trouble. Insects are roughly divided into seven orders. These, with their distinguishing characteristics (applying only to adults), are as follows:—

I. *Hymenoptera*, which includes bees, ants, wasps, ichneumon-flies, sawflies, etc. Hymenoptera have a complete metamorphosis—that is, after hatching from the eggs they appear like a worm and are called larvae. The larva, after completing its growth, changes to a pupa from which the perfect insect or imago, emerges. The insects after this never grow any more. A metamorphosis is a change and the change here is complete. Insects of this order also have two pairs of membranous wings, which have few veins. Their mouth parts are fitted for both sucking and biting.

II. *Coleoptera*, which includes the beetles (See Fig. 1). Beetles have a complete metamorphosis, mouth parts fitted for biting, and four wings but the first pair is stiff and horny. The second pair are folded under the first when the insect is at rest.

III. *Lepidoptera*, which includes butterflies (See Fig. 2) and moths. Lepidoptera have a complete metamorphosis, mouth parts fitted for sucking or sipping, and four membranous wings which are literally “shingled” all over with very minute scales. These readily rub off, as a fine powder, when the finger touches the surface of the wing.

IV. *Diptera*, includes flies, which have complete metamorphosis and only two wings. Some flies closely resemble wasps but examine the wings and there will be no room for doubt.

V. *Neuroptera*, includes dragon-flies, devil's darning needles, may-flies, caddis-flies, termites or white ants, etc. Neuroptera have a complete metamorphosis, biting mouth parts, and four membranous wings which have many veins (i. e.—

net-veined) and which are almost alike.

VI. *Hemiptera*, includes plant-lice, leaf-hoppers, bed-bugs, stink-bugs, chinch-bugs, squash-bugs, and all true bugs. Bugs have an incomplete metamorphosis, that is, the change is incomplete. One could tell at a glance that a young bug (called a nymph) just out of the egg was a bug, it looks like the adult. The mouth parts are fitted for piercing and sucking. Both pairs of wings may be alike or the first pair may be partly leathery or horny, something like beetles, for which some of them are often mistaken.

the collector is—shall I collect in all orders or take up only one at a time? If collecting is done in all, it will of a necessity not be thorough in any one. Where so many are dealt with, confusion will arise, and the collector's knowledge of entomology will consist merely of a "jumble" of facts. Then there are different methods of mounting in almost every order. If each is dabbled in, it is very likely the collector will never be expert in any. It is far more advisable to take up one order at a time, becoming tolerably familiar with the different forms and their habits, becoming an adept in mounting

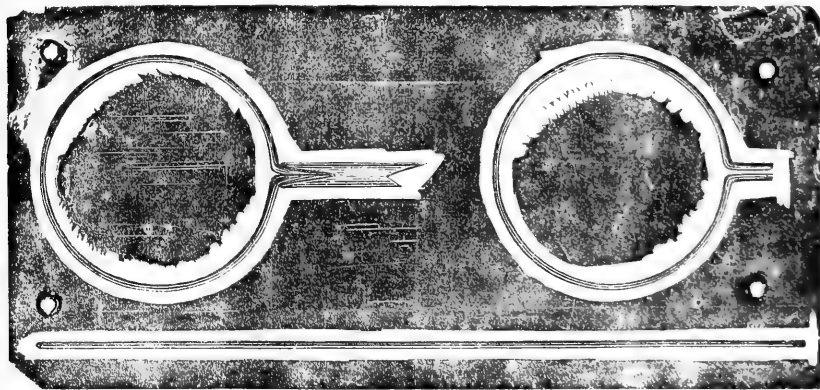


Fig. III. Parts of a net.

VII. *Orthoptera*, includes grasshoppers, locusts, crickets, cockroaches and earwigs. The metamorphosis is incomplete (young called nymphs) and the mouth parts are fitted for biting. The first pair of wings are thicker than the second and like parchment. The second pair is thin and membranous, and when at rest, folded a number of times, lengthwise, along the back.

#### What to Collect.

The question which first comes up to

them, and by thorough and systematic collecting to bring together a valuable collection, one to be proud of.

For number of species (there are probably over ten thousand in the U. S.,) interesting forms, and diversity of habits, undoubtedly no order equals Coleoptera. There are probably more collectors in this order than any other. Lepidoptera are also interesting to collect and they make a fine show when well mounted, but they are very difficult to mount and a really

fine collection of Lepidoptera is a very rare thing. If we begin on something easier and work at that with patience and perseverance for a time, we will be ready for something more difficult by and by. Consequently, for a time we shall confine ourselves to the study and collecting of beetles.

### Apparatus for Collecting Beetles.

The apparatus needed is extremely simple and may be prepared almost without cost, especially if the collector be blessed with a little ingenuity. The essentials are cyanide bottles, nets, pins, tweezers, and cases.

firmly set and the bottle dried out, fit in a tight cork and it is ready for use. The length of time necessary to kill the beetles can soon be determined. Some die easily while others hold to life very tenaciously. Fine tweezers may be obtained from dealers for from twenty five to seventy five cents. Passable tweezers may be made from heavy brass wire, a piece of which is bent double and the ends filed down to the requisite shape. Several sizes will be found useful.

A stout water net for dredging ponds and pools is a very necessary article in collecting water beetles. The ring should be of three-sixteenths iron wire and about

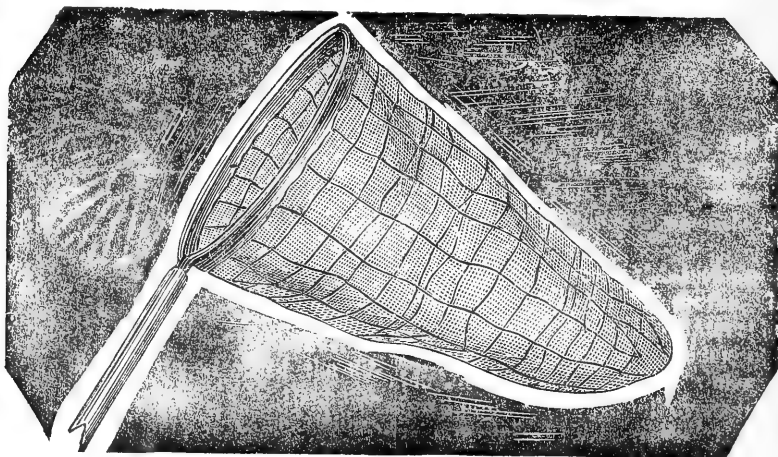


Fig. IV. Butterfly net. For beetles use cheese cloth instead of netting.

A durable and convenient cyanide bottles can be made from any medium sized, wide mouthed bottle—for instance—a vaseline bottle. Place in the bottle about half a dozen pieces of cyanide of potassium of the size of peas. Then pour over them enough plaster of paris mixed with water (to about the consistency of thick cream) to just cover them. After the plaster has

one foot in diameter (See Fig. 3). The net may be made of cheese cloth—one foot deep and tapering to a point. It will be found a good plan to first cover the ring with stout cloth and sew the cheese cloth to that. The whole may then be mounted in a stout handle—a broom stick answers the purpose very well. Another net for dry collecting (See Fig. 4) may be

made in the same way except that the net part should be between two and three feet deep.

Only the best German made insect pins should be used. The "Klaeger" is a good brand. They cost ten cents per hundred and are sold in packages of five hundred. For very large beetles No. 4 are used; for middle sized, No. 3; for beetles down to about one-eighth of an inch wide—No. 2. All beetles too small for No. 2 should be mounted on triangular slips of thin bristol board, which are placed on No. 3 pins. These triangular slips should be uniform in size and carefully cut the most common and convenient size being one-third of an inch in length, and the base about one-sixteenth of an inch, or a little less, broad. The point should not be too fine nor yet too blunt, nor the bristol board too thick. It is too much work to measure them out. After a little practice, by using strips of bristol board one-third of an inch wide, and a sharp knife or pair of scissors, the work can be done "by eye" quite rapidly and accurately.

Cases may be obtained ranging in price from \$1.00 to nothing. The latter would undoubtedly be more acceptable to the beginner. A cabinet of almost any kind is an unnecessary and costly thing. It will be some time before the collection becomes bulky enough to need one. If the boxes are properly made, and tight, they can be neatly piled on a shelf, on the floor, or any where. Probably the most convenient size for the cases is nine by thirteen inches, and two inches deep inside. They should be made very tight, with close fitting covers, which may be hinged, or not. A good cabinet maker or carpenter should make such cases of pine, very cheap. Neat little cases may be made of common cigar boxes with tight fitting covers. Only those with even,

tight fitting covers, should be used. The paper should all be cleaned off and the box sand papered and varnished. Good pith may be obtained by splitting large corn stalks once in two, and trimming off the hard outside. The pieces may then be glued or tacked close together over the bottom of the box. Sheets of cork three and one-half by about twelve inches one-eighth of an inch thick can be obtained for five or six cents a sheet. The cork or pith should be neatly covered with thin, clean, smooth, white paper, which may be fastened by glue around the edges.

### How to Mount Beetles,

#### PINNING.

All beetles should be pinned (See Fig. 1) through the right elytron (wing-cover) on a central line and about one-third of the distance back from the front end of the wing-cover. The beetle should be exactly square on the pin. When the pin is perpendicular, one side of the beetle should be just as high as the other, and the anterior end as high as the posterior. All specimens should be at exactly the same height on the pins. Perfect uniformity means everything in the collection. They are at the correct height when the back of the insect is one-third of the pins length from the head of the pin. A small pill-box of just the right depth will enable us to run the specimen up to the proper height. Antennae and legs may be placed in a natural position by means of the tweezers.

### Mounting Minute Beetles.

Small beetles are mounted on the triangular slips. These are pinned through the broadest part near the base and run up to the same height as the backs of pinned specimens. The pill-box scheme will enable this to be done quite rapidly. The slips should stand out from the pin exactly at right angles. To mount a beetle on one, hold the pin in

the left hand by the lower end,—the slip pointing towards the left. Now place on the tip of the slip a small amount of glue LePage's Liquid Glue answers the purpose very well. There should be such a small amount of the glue that it will not be observable after the insect is mounted. While the pin is thus held, place the beetle across the glued end, so that the head will be directed away from the operator, and the back be uppermost. If lying on either side it should be the right side, bringing the back towards the pin. Don't be satisfied until the insect is perfectly square on the slip. Nothing reflects more discredit on a collector than a collection in which the specimens are pinned at all heights on the pins and in all directions on the slips. Don't mount mutilated specimens or allow them in the collection. It might be allowed, were the specimens very rare, but not otherwise. A little care bestowed on each specimen as it is mounted, will make the whole a "thing of beauty."

### **Where And How to Collect Beetles.**

The old rule for collecting so often repeated is "look everywhere." This is rather indefinite, but still is the best general rule that can be given. The number and variety of specimens obtained will not depend so much on the extent of territory passed over, as the manner in which it is done. The eye should be trained that nothing however minute or obscure could escape its notice, and then, "look everywhere." Experience will soon show us the best collecting grounds. Many beetles will be found under loose objects lying on the ground, such as logs, boards, stones, leaves, bones excrement, dead animals, etc. Picking over the debris cast up by storms and freshets often proves very remunerative. Many nice things live or hibernate under the

bark of trees and logs. Beating bushes and trees over a sheet, or an umbrella (turned upside down), should also be frequently tried. Sweeping the open mouth of the deep net quite forcibly through grass, weeds, and low herbage, will often secure large quantities of material. Many water-beetles can be obtained by dredging ponds and pools, especially along a muddy bottom and among water weeds. The different kinds of fungi which grow on the sides of trees and logs, harbor many species of beetles. Collecting about all kinds of flowers should be persevered in as long as there are any in bloom. The collector often strikes a veritable "bonanza" about street, electric or gas lamps, water beetles, especially, sometimes being found in countless numbers. They may be taken from the lamp globes, or picked up on the ground underneath. In collecting, "perseverance" is the watchword. A dozen places may be examined and not a thing found, while the next one will be alive with beetles.

### **Labeling.**

Every pin should bear a label, yet the labels should be just as small and few in number as possible. Locality labels for any state can be purchased ready printed. This and a number referring to the "Accession Catalogue" is all that is necessary. Some collectors do not use the accession catalogue, but specimens with data are worth a great deal more than those without. The accession catalogue contains simply the number and gives the exact location, and particular circumstances under which the specimen was taken. If a large number of specimens were found in the same place they would all go under the same accession number. The labels should be made as small as possible, neatly cut, and run well up on the pin.

### Where to Obtain Supplies.

An old and reliable dealer, and one who keeps all entomological supplies on hand, is John Akhurst, 78 Ashland Place, Brooklyn, N. Y. Others are Blake and Co., Philadelphia, and M. Abbot Frazar, Boston. Their catalogues should be sent for.

### Where to Get Specimens Identified.

Specimens will be identified for collectors, by sending them accompanied by return postage, to C. F. Baker, Fort Collins, Colo. All specimens should be numbered, and duplicate specimens of the same species in the collection should be correspondingly numbered. Where there are many duplicates, two specimens of each species should be sent, then one set can be returned. If only one specimen of the species is possessed, it should be so stated in particular. Mr. Baker reserves the right to retain any specimens he may desire, the remainder will be returned. Generally, the specimens kept will be very few in number. In any case a complete list of the names will be returned.

### Sending Insects by Mail.

Insects can only be sent with safety by the most careful packing. They should be sent in a wooden box. A piece of cork is securely fastened to the bottom and the pins are sunk very firmly into it. This box, with a great plenty of excelsior or cotton around it should be packed inside of another box or else wrapped in stout wrapping paper, If it is carefully done, and according to "Hoyle," the specimens will travel without injury.

What has been given above is a mere rough outline, intended only as a "starter." All of the various points raised will be taken up again during the future, and discussed more in detail. It is earnestly hoped that all who take up this most interesting of all collecting,

will go into it in a whole-souled, business-like manner, and by careful observation and study, make really valuable additions to scientific knowledge in this line. The science is comparatively new and there is a vast field for original research. Any interesting observation will be gladly printed in this paper. Also any question in connection with this subject sent to Ye Editor, will receive careful attention and answers appear in these columns.

CHRYSIS.

### Georgia Bay as a Collecting Ground.

(Written for the Collectors' Monthly.)

In 1881, I spent the month of June on Georgia Bay. I planned my trip without any knowledge whatever of the locality. I wanted observation of the breeding of the water birds, and I thought I might find it there. Taking a boat at Collingwood, I went directly to Little Current, on Manatoulin Island where I set up my tent, making excursions in various directions in a new boat. The Islands are innumerable, and range in size from those comprising thousands of acres, down to mere rocky shoals. At first I was much disappointed, for in most of those parts, bird life is not at all abundant. The only land bird which for some time called my attention with interest, was the white throated Sparrow. Its song was heard in every direction, and, of course, it bred quite commonly. Crows bred very commonly every where, and made their nests low down in the black spruces.

The Dusky Duck was occasionally seen, and bred sparingly. This was the only duck proper on the Island in the northern part of the bay. The shores are too rocky and abrupt, and the waters too lacking in vegetable growths, to afford feeding grounds. The Merganser (*Mergus*

*merganser*), was quite common. I saw the females almost every day. The little Sand piper (spotted) was quite common, making a very neat nest along the shore. I also found one nest of the Bittern (*Botaurus minor*), on high ground in a little grove of the young aspen.

My most interesting item in nidification of land birds coming to notice was the nest of the Nashville Warbler (*Helminthophilla ruficapilla*). "Scrambling along the edge of a marsh, where the thickly strewn windfalls of cedar make my way exceedingly difficult, as I stumble and nearly fall, striking the muzzle of my gun on the fallen timber; a Nashville Warbler flutters over a pile of rubbish with that peculiar tremor of the wings which every oologist well understands. Knowing that this is a ground builder, I make diligent search for the nest throughout many square feet around but all in vain. Mean while the bird lingers in the bushes in the immediate vicinity, uttering the soft whistling *tsip*, quite peculiar to itself." The best way to find a nest thus eluding the first effort, is to hide away in the vicinity, and await the return of the bird; after two such efforts I found the nest *under* the dry grasses of the year previous, trailing thickly along the ground, at the root of a bush. It was "a frail shallow little affair, of fine dried grasses, lined with bright red stems of pedicels of moss-capsules, and a black vegetable production, looking as if plucked from a man's beard—perhaps old moss-pedicels blackened from the weather; evidently no animal product, from the manner in which it burns when held in a flame. This slight structure is tucked away in a thick bunch of *hypnum* mosses, so that I took up the moss as a part of the nest. The five eggs, well on in incubation, about .62 x .50, are clear white, sparsely specked and spotted all over with

light red and reddish-brown, the markings thickening into blotches at the large end. (The passages in quotation are from "Our Birds in their Haunts").

This species was very common in the locality, and I became quite familiar with its song; and a bird's song, is to me, one of the most charming items in the study of ornithology. Fortunately this one is easily reported. It is a composition; for the first part is as nearly as possible like that of the Black-and-white Creeping Warbler, and the latter part is like that of the Chipping Sparrow.

Passing to the main-land in the north, to a Hudson's Bay trading post, called La Cloch, and thence up into the La Clouch Mountains, I found the bird-life more varied. Here as elsewhere about the bay, I was surprised to find the Wood Thrush common. In the East, it is rare already in southern Maine. Here was also the Olive-backed Thrush. The Brown Thrush I found common throughout this region. I had expected to hear the divine song of the Hermit Thrush in this high latitude—almost up to Lake Superior, but in this I was disappointed.

In the La Cloche Mountains, I found the Warblers abundant. The Black-throated Blue Warbler, the Yellow-rump or Myrtle Bird, the Yellow-backed Blue, the Black-and-yellow *D. maculata*—and the Chestnut sided. Here I found the nest of the Black-throated Green Warbler, June 17th, containing four young partly fledged. It was in a small hemlock tree some twenty feet from the ground, a few feet from the trunk, and where the limb divided into several small boughs. The foundation was of fine dry twigs of hemlock and shreds of bark of the white birch, then bits of weeds and fine grass, dried rootlets inter mixed with *usnea*—a common article in this locality—fine grass, some feathers and a little horse-hair,

In my next article, I shall describe my interesting experience with the water birds, on the Western Island of this same Bay.

J. H. LANGILLE.



**EXCHANGES AND WANTS.**

30 words, 20 cts.; 1-2 cent per extra word.

This column is open to all having Exchanges or Wants. Offers for cash debarred. A strictly Exchange and Want Column. No notice inserted for less than twenty cents. CASH must accompany all notices.

Amoskeag, N. H., Feb. 19, '92.

Mr. C. H. Prince,

DEAR SIR:—You are making a great hit with your paper. It is improving steadily. Everyone is speaking highly of it. Yours Respectfully,  
A. M. FARMER

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Humming birds, any species, in large or small quantities, in fine birds, in full plumage, first-class and well mounted—For which I will give good advertising space in this paper. Address,  
C. H. PRINCE.

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COLLECTORS!—45 fine specimens of woods with full data to exchange for eggs in sets, and skins with data, or Indian relics,  
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A fine first-class mounted

**Scarlet Tanager,**

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The following sets are first-class in every respect and as represented. These are a part of my private collection, the balance of which will be listed each month. Collector's wishing to secure these bargains will do well to order early as I have very few duplicate sets.

	No. eggs in set	per egg
Pintail, ———	9	.25
Redhead, ———	10	.10
American Eider,	6	.15
Roseate Spoonbill,	4	.50
Limpkin,	4	.75
Black Oystercatcher,	3	1.00
Poor-will,	2	1.50
Lutescent Warbler,	n-5	.50
Parula Warbler,	n-4	.20
Prothonatary Warbler,	5	.25
Least Vireo,	n-4	.75
Sharpe's Seedeater,	n-3	.65
Grey-headed Junco,	4	1.50
Hepatic Tanager,	3	1.00
St. Lucas Robin,	4	.50
Oregon Ruffed Grouse,	12	.50
Chachalaca, ———	4	.30
St. Lucas Cactus Wren,	5	.50
Loon,	1	.75
Inca Dove,	2	.40
Gila Woodpecker,	4	.50
Audubon's Oriole,	4	1.00
Lesser Scaup Duck, ———	7	.40
Red-throated Loon,	1	.50
Long-billed Water-thrush,	n-5	.40
Sharp-tailed Finch, ———	n-5	.30
Yellow Legs,	3	1.00
Fla. Red-shouldered Hawk,	2	.75
Swainson's Hawk,	2	.50
W. Red-tail Hawk,	2 & 2	.30
Sage Thrasher,	4	.35
Nuttall's Woodpecker,	4	.75
Baird's do	4	.50
White-headed do	4	1.25
Sooty Grouse,	5	1.00
Gadwell,	8	.30
Baldpate, ———	8	.45
Passenger Pigeon,	2	1.00
White-crowned Pigeon,	2	.75
Chestnut-collared Longspur,	4	.35
Bewick's Wren,	7	.25
Mt. Song Sparrow,	5	.30
Mountain Chickadee, ———	3	1.50
Wilson's Phalarope,	3	.75
Great-horned Owl,	2	.75
Northern Shrike,	6	.35
Am. Flamingo,	1	.50
Cinnamon Teal,	12	.20
Lark Bunting, ———	4	.25

Any of the above eggs will be sent postpaid upon receipt of price. The first person sending in a \$25.00 order can choose eggs to the amount of \$30.00 from above list.

**W. L. MORSE,**

No. 6 Onondaga Co. Savings Bk., Syracuse, N. Y.

(Discontinued with this number.)

# THE COLLECTORS' MONTHLY.

Devoted to Ornithology, Oology and Entomology. No 5

## A Bug-Collector's Outing.

We were to spend the day in the hills—collecting. Naturally enough, I was considerably excited over the prospect. I at once proceeded to “load up” for “big game.” The number of pill-boxes and pill-bottles that I stored away in my pockets was something astonishing. I filled the bottles each about half full of alcohol and pasted a little label on the outside for data. The boxes I intended for pupæ, bunches of eggs, larvæ, and all “sich like;” the bottles were to be filled with the unlucky inhabitants of rifled ants’ nests, and with various other insects. It was too early for butterflies and moths, so the nets were left behind. After providing myself with several cyanide bottles and a pair of tweezers—for picking up the “wee ones”—I was ready to embark.

A pleasant drive over the intervening prairie country brought us to the hills, and we drove up a canyon (which the sun shone down into, bright and warm,) for some distance. The ends of the “hog’s back” rose up steep and rocky on either hand. A spring bubbled up on one side, and on the other was an irrigation reservoir with a little stream running from it. I first turned my attention to the spring. I found that numerous unlucky little beetles, attracted by the reflection from the water (or perhaps they were thirsty after their winter nap), had fallen in. I rescued them from the “drink,” but only to commit them to the cyanide bottle—“out of the frying-pan into the fire.” Run-

ing swiftly over the muddy spot bordering the spring, I found numerous little *Bembidii*—many of which were new and interesting to me. Hopping about very lively among the grass and over the mud, were found numerous specimens of a curious Heteropteron (*Hemiptera*). A small, very agile, coal-black leaf-hopper (*Jassidæ Hemiptera*) was also found, but it was difficult to capture them.

I now went up onto the roadway and began to turn over stones lying along it. Here I began to collect in real earnest. Every stone covered a treasure—some a perfect museum of insects. Leaf-beetles, lady-birds, ground-beetles, snout-beetles, tenebrionids, spiders and myriapods, were one and all hustled out of their snug winter quarters and into the cyanide bottle, or vial. Pupa and larvæ were picked up carefully and deposited in pill-boxes, to be taken home and reared. The spiders were placed in vials provided with a liquid which I had prepared before starting, by mixing three parts of alcohol, one of water, one of acetic acid, and one of glycerine. The acetic acid counteracts the shriveling effects of the alcohol and prevents bleaching to a certain extent. Where I found a certain kind of larvæ quite numerous, I placed specimens of it in the above mixture. Where only a few of a kind were found, they were saved for rearing.

On the opposite side of the canyon, under some stones lying by the edge of the stream—half in the water—I found large numbers of water bugs and beetles. Nu-

erous specimens of *Hydrophilus*, *Agabus*, and a large Hydrobatid water-bug were secured here. Gathered in a cluster, under one large stone, were found about twenty specimens of a curious beetle of the family *Parnidae*. I also made other such finds of water beetles on the under sides of some sticks and boards floating in the reservoir. In taking these out of the water I reached down carefully—without jarring them—got a good firm hold, and then threw them high and dry on shore. Scramble as much as they would, I got all the beetles before they could reach the water again.

The spoils were rich, and I grew very much excited as the chase progressed—dropping over one stone after another, and crouching beside each on my knees, to "peer with bated breath" into the exposed cavity. Surely, any one not initiated might have supposed me "gone daft," or a crazy prospector. But the hours fled rapidly by, and the time for returning soon came. I could hardly pull myself away, but even as it was, I had enough material to keep me busy mounting, labeling, etc., for some time

C. F. BAKER.

Ft. Collins, Col., April 16, 1892.

### Tiger Beetles.

Favorites among collectors and literally "tigers" among insects, these beetles (family *Cicindelidae*) are the most highly developed of all Coleoptera. Exceedingly agile, they (with some exceptions) revel in the hottest sunshine, sporting about over sandy spots (especially those bordering water) and dry roadways, which are exposed to the heat of the sun. Ocean beaches, and the shores of rivers and lakes, sometimes swarm with them. One species,—*Cicindela 6-guttata*,—has been taken under the bark

of decaying logs, and is also frequently found along shady roads through deep woods. Tiger beetles are difficult to see, and still more difficult to capture. When disturbed, they jump into the air—fly to varying distances in almost a direct line—and then alight as abruptly as they started.

There are sixty-nine species of this family listed as being found in America north of Mexico: These are included in four genera. *Amblychile* has one species (quite rare) *cylindriciformis*—a curious, large, dark, wingless form found in Kansas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The next one—*Omus*—has eleven species, all found on the Pacific slope. The species of this and the last genus are nocturnal in habits. *Tetracha* has two species, both found in the Gulf States, one—*carolina*—occurring as far north as the Middle States. They are larger than the ordinary tiger beetle and have prominent eyes. In one species—*virginica*—the whole dorsal surface is deep green, while in the other—*carolina*—there are two large light spots at the ends of the elytra. Dimmock says that *T. virginica* is most active during twilight. Of the fifty-six species of the genus *Cicindela*, some are found in every State of the Union.



Fig. 5. Wing covers of tiger beetles. A.—*C. repanda*. B.—*C. 12-guttata*. C.—*C. hirticollis*. D.—*C. 6 guttata*. E.—*C. purpurea*. (somewhat enlarged.)

These beetles, in color, are of varying shades of black, green, or white (or a combination of these), often with a purplish reflection, and many are marked with light spots of varying size, shape, and position. Some are of a clear color throughout, that is, dorsally. The aver-

age size in length is a little more than half an inch.

In the last number of the "Monthly," figure 1 represents *C. vulgaris*, a very common species in the Northern States. It is about five-eighths of an inch in length. The ground color is black or bronze-black, and the markings are dirty white. *C. repanda* (see figure 5—A) is about seven-sixteenths of an inch long, lighter colored than *C. vulgaris*, and the shoulder bars are curled instead of straight. *C. 12-guttata* (see figure 5—B) is a variety of *C. repanda* with the markings partly obliterated. *C. hirticollis* (see figure 5—C) is very similar to *C. repanda*, but is larger, darker, and the markings are heavier and continuous at the outside edges of the elytra. *C. 6-guttata* (see figure 5—D) is a beautiful, slender, delicate species about half an inch long, brilliant metallic green in color, with four or five white dots on the posterior half of each elytron. *C. purpurea* (see figure 5—E) is nearly five-eighths of an inch long—in color, of a beautiful purple, or greenish purple, edged with green, and with three white spots on each elytron. The color of the spots on all these species varies from white to a yellowish white.

It is quite a knack to capture these lively fellows. Watch one as it flies up, keeping the eye on it, and then after it alights, steal carefully up, holding the net near the ground. When within easy reaching distance, carry the net near to the beetle; then, by a quick movement, bring it down over your quarry. However, quite often you will find only a "dull, empty void" under the net—where the beetle should be. They often escape.

Besides being very interesting, these beetles make a fine appearance in the collection, and are, consequently, much sought after.

### Some Illustrations.

It is very much easier to understand any point from a simple illustration than from a lengthy description.

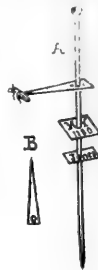


Fig. VI. Beetle on Slip.

Figure 6—A represents a small beetle mounted on a slip. The body of the beetle should always be at right angles to the pin and parallel to the plane of the slip. Immediately under the slip on the pin is a small label, bearing the name of the State and the accession number, which in this case happens to be 1180. In the columns of the accession catalogue it might appear like this:—

No.	Locality.	Date.	Collector.	Sp'e'c'nd's of capture.
1180	Podunk, N. Y.	4-21-98.	John Jones.	Under bark of b'ch log.

Under the locality label is another small label with the name of the collector. Any collector into whose hands this specimen might fall, would know to whose accession catalogue to refer for the data regarding it. Figure 6—B represents a mounting slip—exact size.

Figure 7 may afford the collector some pointers as regards cases, and arranging insects in them. The cut is intended to represent a case well fitted for the working collector, both as regards size and shape.

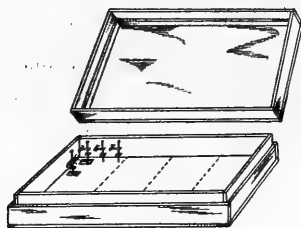


Fig. VII. Insect case.

Each side piece of box and cover is composed of one piece of wood, as are also top and bottom. The wood should be well seasoned (pine will do), and the joints and top and bottom should fit evenly, and be securely and tightly fastened. The dotted lines represent lines drawn on the paper in the bottom of the box, dividing the space into four or five columns. The insects are arranged in rows in these columns—the label for each species being at the extreme left hand side of each column. These boxes are nine and three-fourths by thirteen and three-fourths, and two and one-half inches deep—out side measurement. Inside they are twelve and seven-eighths by eight and three-fourths, and two inches deep. They should not cost more than fifty cents each, at the very most—if made of pine.

### Some Books for the Collector.

As the collection begins to grow in size, one of the first books that it will become necessary for the collector to get, is *Hen shaw's List of Coleoptera*. This is a numbered check-list of the Coleoptera of America, north of Mexico. It costs \$1.25, and has two supplements costing twenty-five cents each—all of which may be obtained of Geo. B. Cresson, P. O. Box 248, Philadelphia, Penn. This book is almost indispensable in exchanging, while, by means of the numbers, the work of arranging the collection is very much lessened. Following on, familiarity with

the more common species, will come a desire to obtain definite and exact knowledge regarding the special characteristics of each family and genus, and the manner in which they are separated. This can be attained through careful study, aided by *Leconte and Horn's Classification of the Coleoptera of North America*, which may also be obtained from the above dealer. Price, \$2.50 per copy.

A little work on general entomology which covers the whole subject in a general way, and which also contains much information useful to the collector, is *Packard's Entomology for Beginners*. This may be obtained for \$1.50 from A. E. Foote, 4116 Elm Avenue, Philadelphia, Penn. A much more complete work is *Packard's Guide to the Study of Insects*, and it costs a great deal more. It may be obtained of the last named dealer. Price, \$4.50. CHRYSID.

### About Collecting Near Carrion.

About collecting near carrion, Mr. E. V. Beales (in "The Colorado Sun") says:—

"It may be news for the young collector to know that a dead cow, horse, or mule, is a regular gold mine for the collector, especially for the coleopterist, and I have also noticed that many of our most beautiful butterflies are captured around the dead carcass.

"There are a few suggestions which I wish to make in regard to collecting in the neighborhood of dead animals. Always approach them on the windward side; be sure and put on an old pair of gloves; never handle with your fingers any insect taken in the immediate neighborhood, but use your forceps for putting them into the cyanide bottle, and be careful not to allow a fly or any other insect to settle upon you.

"While the dead cow offers a rich field for collecting, it will be better to shun it altogether, unless you observe the above precautions."

There is such a thing as being too cautious, but if the collector wishes to be on the *safe side*, it will be well to keep the above suggestions in mind.

### Notes on the Birds of Long Island.

By W. W. WORTHINGTON.

[All articles by Mr. Worthington are original and written expressly for the Collectors' Monthly. —ED.]

(88) 194. *Ardea herodias*.

#### Great Blue Heron, (487.)

Large. Above bluish ash color. Head black, with a white patch on forehead. Tibia, and edge of wings rufous. Under parts widely striped with black and white. Neck brown, with a central line of white from the throat, containing streaks of rufous and black. Iris yellow. Length 42 inches.

A common Spring and Fall migrant, occasionally remaining to breed, in restricted localities. I am quite certain a pair bred on Shelter Island last season (1891). "Sometimes seen in summer. None breed in this vicinity" (Helme). I visited a heronry of this species in Southeastern Georgia on March 27th 1890, where perhaps thirty pairs were breeding. The nests were placed in the topmost branches of mammoth pines, from 50 to 75 or more feet up, and practically inaccessible. At this early date the young were nearly or quite full grown, and one was shot by being mistaken for an adult. The eggs must have been deposited in February. The old birds showed great solicitude, and would alight directly over my head, being then however a good gun shot from the ground. Nest a flat platform of sticks. Eggs four or five, pale blue, and about  $2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(89) 196. *Ardea egretta*.

#### American Egret, (489.)

Pure white. Back with long thread like plumes, extending far beyond the end of the tail. Bill yellow except at the tip. Feet black. Length 30 inches.

A rare straggler from the South. I saw an individual of this species on Gardiners Island in the summer of 1884, which was exceedingly wary, not allowing me to approach by the most careful "sneaking" even within rifle range. I formed a much closer acquaintance with the species during the first days of May 1888, visiting a very large colony, then breeding in a large swamp in McIntosh Co., Georgia. As I approached the nesting site, after penetrating the labyrinth, close in the rear of my negro guide, the birds rose in a white cloud, with an almost deafening clamor, then settling gracefully on the top branches of the tallest trees, with their elegant plumes waving in the breeze, forming a picture never to be forgotten. The nests—slightly hollowed platforms of sticks and twigs, were placed well up, in the tallest trees. I was too late for the eggs, as the thickly scattered fragments of pale blue shells showed that the nests contained young, to which was added the concluding evidence of the ceaseless clamor of the young themselves. When I fired a shot the birds would rise with a great squaking, and circle high over the tops of the trees, being joined by large numbers of other species of the same family which nested somewhat by themselves in other parts of the swamp, then if all remained quite, they would separate, and settle in the vicinity of their various homes. The eggs of this species are pale blue, and about  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

(90) 197. *Ardea candidissima*.

#### Snowy Heron, (490.)

Pure white. Head with a long flowing crest. Back with long recurved filamentous plumes. Length 25 inches.

The beautiful Snowy Herons are rather rare summer visitors to Long Island, and may rarely breed. I have never met with them at the East end. "I saw one at Mount Sinai Harbor April 16th 1879, and shot one, from a flock of 18 or 20, on Aug. 4th of the same year" (Helme). In the swamp mentioned under the preceding species, there were more Snowy Herons breeding than any other species. A few were nesting in the branches of low bushes and briars under the trees occupied by the American Egrets, but the bulk of them were breeding almost entirely by themselves, in a thick fringe of low bushes around an open pond. Here their nests of sticks literally covered the bushes, in some cases being within a foot of each other, and about all from three to eight feet from the water. They contained from three to five pale blue eggs, about  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, all far advanced in incubation.

(91) 199. *Ardea tricolor ruficollis*.

**Louisiana Heron, (492.)**

Above dull blue, becoming chestnut on the neck. Throat brownish cream. Under parts white. Breast and crown with lanceolate, and back with long filamentous plumes. Length 25 inches.

Possibly a rare straggler to Long Island from the South. Recorded from New Jersey. I have found this species breeding in Southeastern Georgia on several occasions, but in each case only a few pairs, near a much larger number of other species, and the nests were placed at an intermediate distance in elevation, between the green and snowy herons, and American Egrets, but this rule may not apply in all cases, but only where the trees and bushes occupied afford the proper conditions. Eggs three to five, pale bluish green, and about  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  in.

(92) 200. *Ardea cœrulea*.

**Little Blue Heron, (493.)**

Slaty blue. Head and neck purplish. Legs black. Bill bluish. Length 22 inches.

Occurs as a rare straggler in late summer or autumn, in the young plumage (white, except the bluish tips of the wings) I received a specimen on Aug. 16, 1881, from a gunner, who said he saw two, this one was a female. "I saw an adult at Mount Sinai, in company with the Snowy Herons above mentioned" (Helme). In the McIntosh Co., Georgia, heronry was a colony of about 50 pairs of the present species, which nested entirely by themselves, in a very secluded part of the swamp, half a mile or more from any other species, in low bushes in a small pond. Nest slightly hollowed platforms of sticks. Eggs three to five, pale greenish blue, and about  $1\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  in.

**Demoralized Birds.**

(For the Collectors' Monthly.)

Some of the birds in this part of the country have been completely demoralized by the recent snow storm.

A friend of mine was coming up town in a horse car last Friday morning, when the driver stopped his horses, got out of the car and began cutting with his whip at a Wilsons Snipe which was sitting in a tree over the pavement. A few other Snipes have been seen in the outer section of the city.

Another party reports having seen a Wood-cock in the business center of the city, and the crows have been roosting on the chimneys of the houses.

WM. H. FISHER.

Baltimore, Md. March 7, '92.

Springville, N. Y., March, 6th 1892.

MR. C. H. PRINCE, DEAR SIR:

Collectors' Monthly received this noon. Continue to send same. Your little journal is an excellent paper and would not be without it.

Yours respectfully,

DR. A. G. PRILL.



### The Western Meadow Lark.

One of Kansas most loved birds is the Yellow-breasted Meadow Lark, subject of my sketch. He is loved by all. Youth and age alike, and though the school-boy often throws a rock at him; it is done more in play than from enmity. It is needless to give time when he arrives for he stays with us in the winter months, and on sunshiny winter mornings, here in Southern Kansas, you can see him around the barnyard or granary or in fact any place likely to supply him with food. His good spirits and happy ways brings him before the notice of all, for he will perch himself on some neighboring fence, post and sound those short yet musical notes of song for which he is noted.

Swift of wing, though very tame and hardly capable of fright at approaching man, he is without a peer among Southern Kansas feathered friends. I confess his nesting and the date thereof are confusing subjects of narration. I have been compelled to almost believe he nests from the last of April until September 1st, by appearances, but the sets I have taken would not bear me out in this statement, for they are by reference to my note-book confined to June and July. In searches through meadows for what I might find I have flushed no less than *thirty* birds which I was confident had nests, springing up not over eight or ten paces from me. Though marking the supposed place as I thought, I would be totally unable to find them, though I have hunted for something over one hundred and fifty nests the past year, I have been unable to secure but about seventeen sets. Their methods of nesting are far from what one would expect from this friendly, naught-fearing bird, in one thing—nesting—they are sly.

They select a meadow where a portion of the prairie grass of the previous year's growth has not been burnt off, and, of course, tufts of this old grass, stuck up here and there, surrounded by the recent growth of green. They pick out, as a suitable nesting place, one of these tufts of old grass, and burrowing back directly under the tufts, then hollowing out to a depth of five or six inches an *im*-promptu nest, they fill this cavity up to a certain depth with blades of old prairie grass, and have a new suitable for their wants. I have never observed, nor do I think anything but the grass enters into the composition of the nest. At the close of the past season I invented (?) a scheme to secure their eggs and successfully locate their nests. For the brief season which remained for trial, it worked very fair, though nothing but partly incubated sets were found. My scheme was to cut a bunch of straight switches, say one-half inch in diameter and about three feet long. Have one end sharpened, and on the other end a small piece of red flannel. Now wait till dusk of day and traverse some meadow. At this time, when darkness is falling, the Lark will not rise until you nearly step on him. One flushes!—at your feet the place! Stick down a stick and pass on. Go around the next morning and gather them up.

This may seem arduous to my brother collectors, travelling at random over a meadow in this way, but when I tell you that in this section of the State you are quite likely to leave twenty or thirty flags on a very few acres, you will see how numerous they are, and how well a person might succeed with this ruse.

I am going to try this plan again this season, and if it is productive of success I will tell you later.

ROY F. GREENE,  
Arkansas City, Kansas.

[For the Collector's Monthly.]

### The Long-billed Marsh Wren.

(725.) *Cistothorus paustris*.

The little bird is one of the most interesting little fellows I ever met. It has a very sweet little song, but its cry of alarm is sharp, and hard to describe. While walking through the marsh you will occasionally see their bright eyes watching your every movement.

This wren has a peculiar fashion of building more nests than it can use. Many times I have observed as many as five or six nests, all built apparently by the same birds, yet only one nest was used by them. This nest building habit, some observers claim is a mere pastime. They infer that the bird builds these extra nests for fun, but it seems to me more plausible to believe that they build them in order to better conceal their real nest.

Their nest externally resembles a mouse nest, being a mere ball of grasses, attached to and woven in with stronger reeds which support it. They are usually about 3 ft. above water. The bird enters its nest through a small aperture in the side usually below the center; so as to be invisible to a person looking at the nest from above.

The usual complement of eggs is 6 or 7, but nests have been found containing 9 eggs. They vary greatly in coloration, some being a very dark brown all over, others having a very dark ring around the larger end, and spotted more thinly over the rest of the surface with a lighter shade of brown, while still others are white spotted evenly with reddish brown. Their average size is .65x.45 in.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,  
Aberdeen, So. Dakota.

### Eggs to Exchange.

We have just received a large consignment of eggs from the British Isles, and are constantly receiving and exchanging eggs. If at any time you have any desirable sets to exchange send list, stating wants, etc., and we will do as well by you if not better than any other party, as we have a large stock to select from.

Address,

CHARLES H. PRINCE.  
Danielsonville, Conn.

### A Snow White Swallow.

Ornithologists in Paris are much interested in the discovery of a rare bird in the shape of a snow white swallow. This novel specimen of the feathered tribe came to life lately in a nest which was built by the parent under the eaves of a glass roof covering a court in the extensive manufactory of a tradesman residing in the district, of Grenelle. The white bird was born with two black specimens, one of which flew away as soon as it was fledged, whereupon the tradesman, in order to keep the other two, transformed the glass roofed court into a temporary aviary. Photographs have been taken of the snow white swallow, and will be sent to the leading naturalists of the city, one of whom went to Grenelle in order to study the feathered curiosity. This gentleman was, however, too late to see the bird alive. It perished probably because too much care was taken of it, or through fright at the numbers of people who came to stare at it as a natural curiosity. The dead bird will now be stuffed and sent to the museum at the Botanical Gardens, where there is already a white magpie, which still lives and hops about among its companions, from which it only differs in color.—Paris Letter.







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