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NO. 1

## BIRD MIGRATION.



The failure of the food supply has often been given as the, or one of the chief causes of bird migration; as it is argued, most birds can withstand the cold without discomfort if only the proper food is at hand to keep them in good condition. That this theory is at fault I have found by this winter's observations. November was a wet month, but much warmer than is usual for that month. December was dry and very mild. The temperature being seldom down to the freezing point, and the thermometer often reaching 60 degrees Fahr. and even higher.

The first half of January has been similar to the previous month. At no time during the Fall and winter, has the ground been covered with snow, sleet on the trees, or the thinnest sheet of ice on the streams and ponds.

The various trees, shrubs, plants and weeds have been unusually productive of seeds or berries. Yet the Field,

White-throated, and Song-parrow Cardinals, Blue Jays, Flickers and many other species did not stay any later on that account. True the

Goldfinch lingered until the last of December but in limited numbers; a solitary Robin was seen on the 10th of December, one purple Grackle on the 24th of the same month, and a

flock of fifteen as late as Jan 7th; but these are always exceptions and those mentioned seemed to be getting out of the country as rapidly as possible.

If food is the chief object of migration why then did the Song Sparrow leave us? Its favorite food is abundant and uncovered. Why did the bulk of the Flickers go south? Berries are plenty and many an old log or tree contains insects in abundance.

And the Kingfisher? The streams and ponds are open; yet the last individual as far as my observation extends, seemed to be very desirous of getting a little farther south on the 7th of December.

Yet the mild weather has had the effect of keeping our usual winter visitors further north, excepting the Slate colored Junco, Tree Sparrow, and an occasional Golden crowned Kinglet or Shorteared Owl. The abundance of food has made our resident birds shy and no longer dependent on civilization for their Winter's board. The notable exception to the above are the resident Hawks, which are easily approached. A Red Tail knocked off a fence with a club, was very fat and weighed two pounds six ounces.

Whether, if the present phenomenal weather continues; it will have the effect of hastening the Spring migrants I cannot say; but await the coming season with great interest. F. L. E.

## THE RUDD GROUSE.

(*Bonasa Umbellus*.)

This species is a common resident through the whole year, though less often seen in spring and summer than in autumn. It breeds quite commonly, but the nests are not often found. Building commenced about the first or second week in May. The nest is usually placed on the ground in a very retired position. It consists of a thick bush or bunch of brush, or perhaps, by the side of a log or rock, and is lined with leaves and feathers. The eggs are from six to thirteen in number. They vary in color from nearly pure white to dark creamy buff, and covered more or less thickly with roundish spots of drab.

They are laid from the 15th. to the 25th. of May. Almost as soon as the young are hatched they are able to run with considerable swiftness, and when alarmed, so quickly and skillfully will they hide, that it is rarely possible for a single person to capture more than one of them. The male often alights on a large log and beating his wings against his sides and the log produces a hollow mumbling sound known as drumming. The beats are, at first slow and distinct, but gradually increase in rapidity and end in a rolling beat, somewhat like the roll of a drum.

In summer these birds feed on various insects, seeds, and berries, and in winter buds of the birch and beech for a considerable part of their food. They have a peculiar habit of diving into the high snow, at night for, potatoes

from the cold, and in that position fall an easy prey to the fox. Often, however, rain comes on during the night and then the weather changes to freezing and forms crust over them which they are unable to break. Being thus imprisoned they soon die.

E. F.

Drumming is usually commenced about the first of April, sometimes earlier and is continued until October.

## THE NASHVILLE WARBLER.

(*Helminthophaga Ruficapilla*)

This beautiful little bird arrives from the South where it spends the winter, about the tenth of May, soon passing to its breeding grounds farther North.

It breeds most abundantly in the Hudson Bay County, its nest being seldom found south of the parallel of 45° North Latitude. While with us it is retiring in its habits, and is more often seen in thickets of alder and other bushes than elsewhere.

On the seventh of June 1888, I had the pleasure of finding a nest of this species. The locality was a pasture slooping toward the South and growing clumps of alder bushes. The nest was placed in the side of a small knoll, in such a manner that it was nearly covered by an overhanging bunch of grass.

I nearly stepped on the nest before the bird left it, and then for several minutes I failed to find it so closely was it concealed. It was constructed of grass leaves and a few mosses, and lined with

black horsehairs. The eggs were four in number, perfectly fresh, and of a roseate white, before the contents were removed.

They were covered with small spots of reddish brown and pale lilac. They are now in the collection of Mr. J. W. JACOBS, of Waynesburg, Pa.

*JARTRAINIAN SANDPIPER,*  
(*Bartsamia Longicaud*)

Several years ago, this was one of the most common species of birds in this locality, but during the last three or four years they have been killed in great numbers and sent to eastern markets. They have so little fear of man that they fall an easy victim to the hunter who has reduced them to about one eighth of their former number. They arrive here during April other game birds arrive about the same time, among them the Golden Plover, Wilson Snipe, Greater and Lesser Yellow-legs, Martin, and the Curlews. This is the time the hunter sallies forth with his gun and creates sad havoc among their ranks.

The law does not protect them and the prospect is that they will soon be very rare in this locality.

The nest of the Field Plover is a cup like hollow in the ground, lined with pieces of weeds, leaves, grass ect.

It is well concealed by the grass which curls over it and it is so nearly the color of its surroundings that it is not easily detected. The bird will not fly from the nest unless nearly stepped upon and then it flutters along the ground as if badly wounded. The

bird is of a grayish color, it has long legs and bill. The female is said to be larger than the male.

The eggs are four in number.

They are pyriform and measure 1.80 by 1.28 in. They are handsome eggs with an ashy yellow ground color boldly marked with chocolate and amber brown.

J. V. CRONE, Marathon, Iowa.

*LARGE SETS OF COW-  
BIRDS EGGS.*

The exact number of eggs laid by the Cowbird is unknown. One, two or three is the number usually found in one nest. During the year of 1889, I found some large sets of Cowbird's eggs.

June 17 I found a Chewink's nest which contained ten Cowbird's eggs.

The female Chewink flew off as I came near, but the nest contained no Chewink's eggs. Five of the eggs were of the same color as if laid by the same bird. Most of the eggs were small, six averaging 82x62. On June 12, I found a Woodthrush's nest containing three eggs of the Woodthrush and five of the Cowbird. The Woodthrush's and three of the Cowbird's contained embryos, while the other two Cowbirds were fresh. June 21st, I found a Woodthrush's nest which contained 7 Cowbird's eggs. The female Woodthrush was sitting on them, but there were no Woodthrush's eggs in the nest. The eggs with the exception of one, were badly incubated. Three of the eggs looked as if laid by the same bird.

E. S. P.

Ornithologist & Oologist

Edited and Published Monthly by  
H. STANTON SAWYER. Garland, Me.

Correspondence pertaining to Birds, their Nests  
and Egg' and items of interest, Solicited.

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SALUTATORY

We have often thought that the thick foliage of the pine tree state afforded ample room for the study of Ornithology and Oology. In offering this our first issue of the Maine Ornithologist and Oologist we shall endeavor to fill in a measure the need felt for such a paper.

We venture out in a meager way, but promise a larger and finer number soon.

The American Osprey published by Paul B. Haskell, Ashland, Ky. is an interesting little paper on Ornithology and Oology.

The O. & O. published by Frank B. Webster, 409 Washington St., Boston, Mass. and the Oologist by Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y. are very interesting and instructive Journals devoted to this science.

Subscribe! Subscribe!!

SUBSCRIBE!

ADVERTISE!!

We would call your attention to the advertisement on the last page of this paper. Mr. Homer is an old Taxidermist, and can furnish many rare specimens, and curiosities.

Mr. Homer has never advertised; consequently many of you have never heard of him; but, if you desire any thing in his line, he will be sure to please you, both in price, and in quality of specimens.

—With this issue we send out 2500 copies. Next month we shall send out at least as many more.

Advertisers! send in your ads early.

—We have an exchange column in this issue, it will appear in each number, and we hope it will be beneficial to our friends, and collectors.

Monson, Maine

Mr. Homer, Monson, has just received and mounted a fine specimen of the Great Grey Owl. It was taken at Abbot, Maine, and is the first and only one known to have been captured in this locality. Snowy Owls, are taken here occasionally, one at Blanchard Me. Dec. 26th '87. A fine specimen of the Mocking Bird taken at Monson Oct. 26th '84. Meadow Lark, May 10th '85. Sparrow Owl Feb. 15th '89. Banded Tree toed Woodpee Feb. 15th '89.



# PRIZE OFFER

The following prizes will be awarded to the persons sending in the largest lists of subscribers, for the "Maine Ornithologist and Geologist" Before May 1st 1897

The person sending in the largest list is entitled to \$2.50 worth of MOUNTED BIRDS; your selection from a list which I will send,

For the 2nd largest list a mounted bird worth \$1.00. For the 3rd largest list a skin of the American Coot.

For the 4th largest list a collection of 15 varieties of birds eggs. For the 5th largest list fifty data's. For the 6th largest list set of 4 Cedar wax wing.

## COLLECTORS.

Avail your selves of the above offers and thus benefit your selves, your friends, and the paper. Persons winning the prizes will have their names published in the May No. Your own subscription will count in your list, send in names as fast as you secure them, and I will give you credit.

Address.

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Most complete stock in the U. S.

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| American Creeper        | 1.00   |
| Blue Jay                | 1.25   |
| Black Snowbird on plack | 1.00   |

A few Bald Eagles Eggs at 3.50

THE ABOVE SPECIMENS WILL BE CAREFULLY PACKED, AND SENT PRE PAID TO ANY ADDRESS, ON RECEIPT OF PRICE.

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Notices inserted under this heading at the rate of five cents per line. "Breviter"

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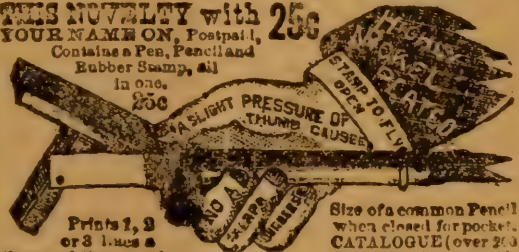
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# Maine Ornithologist & Oologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., APR., 1890.

NO. II

## NESTING OF COOPER'S HAWK.

BY C. O. TROWBRIDGE, FARMINGTON, MASS

As the habits and plumage, as also the nests and eggs, of nearly all our birds, has been laid before us on an elaborate scale by men of science, about all that remains for we lesser lights, is give our individual experiences, and they certainly have the merit of originality, therefore, my Oological friends do not expect to gain much wisdom from this article. And now let us come to order and elect Mrs. Cooper Hawk as chairman during the balance of this article, in the mean time we will leave Mr. Cooper to forage after his occasional barn yard fowl, and put the quiet farmer's family into a state of excitement. My first Cooper's nest I did not find myself, it came about in this way, on the 14th of April 1887. I had secured a set of three of the Red shouldered Hawk in this piece of wood, and on this date May 9th a friend and myself were looking after their second set, when coming to a tall pine tree with a broad scrawley looking nest in it, my friend struck the tree a smart blow with a club when instantly off darted Mrs. Cooper with rapid beating of her wings. From her rapid flight and smaller size we at once concluded it could be nothing else but a Cooper's nest. Now who was going to

climb that tree, the nest was 75 feet from the ground, as ascertained afterward by measurement, and the tree was only a little over a foot in diameter with a few small dead limbs for at least sixty feet my friend who was forty years old and rather stiff jointed, gave no sign that he would be delighted to crawl up there, and I had an idea that I would like to stay on the ground and have someone else show me how to do it, but if I wanted my first set of Cooper eggs I didn't see but should have to put on my climbing irons and hustle so putting a ball of strong cord in my pocket and buckling a small lunch basket at my back I began the ascent and between fear and huggin' the tree for dear life I reached the nest and looking in saw what? well, I saw four eggs. Now would the female lay five eggs? very likely she would, was I going up that tree again for the other egg? Well I guess not, so they were carefully lowered to the ground. A very disappointing thought struck me at this time, and that was, that no provision had been made for lowering me safely to the ground. I could have stayed up there I suppose but I wanted to find out if those eggs were fresh? so I had an object to come down, which I did thoroughly exhausted. The eggs were perfectly fresh, and of the usual greenish white shade. Right here I want to say a

word about shooting hawks, the amount of good they do in this locality in relation to their food supply far outweighs the occasional fowl that they secure. I could have shot every female Red shouldered Hawk whose nest I have found, with the exception of one, that has always been exceedingly wary, probably made so by a charge of shot during the breeding season, the Red Tails are more wary but a long shot can most always be had even at them. I have never shot but one hawk in the breeding season and that was a male Cooper's I always have a feeling of regret when I read that the writer of an article has shot any of the hawks in the breeding season. I hope the reader will pardon my digression, only let the hawks live and they will add to your oological treasures.

My second nest was found on May 8th 1888 in a white pine tree fifty five ft. up, it was easy of ascent and the nest contained five eggs with the embryo just formed, one of these eggs is the best marked of any Coopers egg in my collection, having a brown blotch on it about equal to half an inch square with other smaller ones. This nest also was the most compactly built of any that I have found, being as substantial as a Crows, this nest I had noticed several times earlier in the season while looking for Crows eggs and had always struck the tree with a stick with no response, but on this date the male attracted my attention by uttering what I would call the danger note, nervously flying about and alighting, presently the female launched from the nest, and the cause

of the danger notes were explained, the male I shot as he alighted, I had him mounted and he now adorns my side-board.

*to be continued.*

### The Least Bittern. (*Ardetta Exilis.*)

WRITTEN FOR MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND  
OOLOGIST.

This species exactly resembles a miniature Am. Bittern, except for its darker color. It is a bird of silent habits, and is not often seen or heard. It hides in the sloughs most of the time and is seldom seen flying, unless frightened by near approach, when it will rise up and alight again after flying a short distance along the slough.

I do not think that it breeds very abundantly in this locality, as I have never been able to find many nests. The best luck I have had, was June 4th 89, when I found a small colony of them breeding in a slough near here, I found five sets, 3 of 5 eggs, and 2 of 4 eggs each. The nests were mere platforms of rushes, fastened in bunches of grass and reeds over water that was about two feet deep.

I found one set of five eggs during the year 1888, and two sets, one of three and one of five eggs, respectively, during 1887. Those found in '87 were the first ever found in this locality.

The eggs of this species are three to five in number. They are of a light blue color, almost the same as those of the Yellow billed Cuckoo, they also res-

emble those of the cuckoo in size averaging a little larger perhaps. The Least Bittern is very vicious when caught and will use its strong bill to the best advantage at close quarters. Sometimes this bird will be found during the spring migration in an exhausted condition, and is thus easily caught

Let other oologists tell their experience with this bird. JOHN V. CRONE  
Marathon, Iowa.

### EARLY APPEARANCES OF THE CAT-BIRD

(*Timus Carolinensis*)

While collecting near this place on the 7th of March 1890, my brother observed a Cat-bird and succeeded in shooting it. It was in a thicket of briars and bushes on a southern hill-slope and had been feeding on the berries from the common climbing brier. It did not seem to be much inconvenienced by the weather which was zero this morning with a foot of new fallen snow on the ground. Is not this early for this species? I have seen them here the last week in Nov. I now have the skin of the bird in question in my cabinet.

While attending some traps in a marshy pond, in this place Mar. 22 I came upon a fine specimen of the American Coot which I succeeded in shooting.

The under tail coverts were a very pure white, and the bill almost entirely white, being only faintly marked, near the tips, with a light brown.

T. W. Glover, Whitman Mass

Garland, Me Mar. 28th. Recorded our first Red Shouldered Hawk.

## —Special Offers.—

In order to increase the circulation of "Maine Ornithologist and Oologist" we make the following offers, which are good one Month only.

25 cts. will be received for one yr. subscription.

\* \* \* \* \*

Those sending in 30 cts. for one years subscription, are entitled to an Exchange Notice, not to exceed 24 words, which can be taken up at any time during the year.

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Those purchasing anything from our bargain list, to the amount of \$1.00 will receive M. O. & O. one year free.

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Those purchasing eggs listed in this number to amount of \$1. 1yr. sub. free

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Those sending 20 cts additional making 45 cts in all will receive 100 nice Daters, with M. O. & O. 1 year.

Those sending 5 cents additional making 35 cents, will receive 100 printed labels for bird skins with M. O. & O. 1 yr.

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# Maine Ornithologist and Oologist

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

*Correspondance pertaining to Birds,  
their Nests, and Eggs, will be thankfully  
received.*

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Large discount on standing advertisements

GARLAND, ME. APR. 1890.

## EDITORIAL.

—All advertisements for next issue must reach us by the 20th. to insure incertion.

—Comparatively few subscriptions have been sent in for the prizes as yet. send them along, you stand a good chance. Even if you do not win a prize you are entitled to a free Exchange Notice. for every five you send in.

—We thank our friends for the articals which they have so kindly offered, some of them we shall be obliged to use in our next number, owing to want of room.

—G. F. B. Fort Collins, Colo, writes, I took several specimens of the Snow Bunting the last of Feb. they are of rare occurance here.

—If you note anything of interest pertaining to birds, their nests or eggs write it up for the Maine Ornithologist and Oologist, or send us the facts on a postcard. These short notes are very interesting and instructive to the student of birds and eggs.

—The Maine O. and O. seems to have met with approval, from the subscriptions and words of welcome that come in from all sides. We are gaining and shall try to make each number a little better than the preceding one. Help us out with your subscription

—In our next issue we shall offer a fine collection of Birds Eggs in sets, with nests, at extremely low prices. Be sure and get the next number if you want bargains. See our offer on another page.

—We would call your attention to the advertisements in this issue. Most of them represent old and reliable firms, while some are personal friends

—Those desiring any thing in the Rubber Stamp line would do well to write to Henry E. Berry, Damariscotta, Maine. whose advertisement is in this issue.

—In answering advertisements please direct your communications to the advertiser. Dont send them to us, as some have done. Also please state that you see "adv" in Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.



—Henry F Perry. Demarquette, M.  
writes, I saw a Blue-bird here on the  
23th. of March. Also saw one the 24th.

I took a fine male specimen of the  
Am. Coot the 22nd.

## PRIZE OFFER

The following prizes will be awarded  
to the person sending in the largest lists  
of subscribers for the "Maine Ornitholo-  
gist and Oologist"

*Before May 1st 1890*

The person sending in the largest  
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MOUNTED BIRDS; your selection  
from a list which I will send,

For the 2nd. largest list a mounted  
bird worth \$1.00. For the 3rd. larg-  
est list a skin of the American Coot.

For the 4th largest list a collection  
of 15 varieties of birds eggs. For the  
5th largest list fifty data's. For the  
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Collectors! avail your selves of the  
above offers, and thus benefit your  
selves, your friends, and the paper.

Persons winning the prizes will have  
their names published in the May No.

Your own subscription will count in  
your list. Send in your subscriptions  
as fast as you secure them and I will  
give you credit.

All that send in names for the prizes  
are entitled to one exchange notice of  
30 words or less, if they send in only  
one name besides their own.

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## SAWYER'S Monthly Bargain List.

### Mounted Birds.

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| American Coot.....                 | \$2. 00 |
| Broad-winged Hawk (wings spread) 2 | 00      |
| Saw whet Owl.....                  | 2 50    |
| Great Gray Owl [wings spread]..... | 16 00   |
| Prairie Horned Lark .. ..          | 1 25    |
| Lesser Redpole .....               | 1 00    |
| Lesser Redpole .. Pair .....       | 1 00    |
| Tree Sparrow .....                 | 1 00    |
| Harry Woodpecker .....             | 1 00    |

### Miscellaneous.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| A few Bald Eagle Eggs at .....                                   | \$3 50 |
| A fine pr of Cow Horns mounted<br>on polished shield, only ..... | 2 50   |
| Polished Cow Horn on plush shield ..                             | 2 50   |
| Ten varieties of Birds wings Small ..                            | 2 00   |
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| 100 Good Dates .. ..   | 25     |
| 100 printed Labels for Bird Skins ..                             | 15     |

All the above are first class. If  
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Notices of 24 words or less inserted under  
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Pliers. will give in Ex. First class  
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DAMARISCOTTA, MAINE.

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I am prepared, during the coming season, to collect skins of birds and mammals native to this part of the country, being situated in a state where there are many rare birds not found south or west of this place, except in the migratory season. The following, are prices of a few that can always be secured. Some of which I now have in stock. Leave your orders with me, and save money. SATISFACTION guaranteed. Address.

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| Vesper Sparrow,         | 15    |
| Cowbird,                | 15    |
| Bobolink                | 15    |
| Horned Lark,            | 15    |
| Blue Jay,               | 20    |
| Kingbird,               | 15    |
| Baltimore Oriole,       | 20    |
| Trail's Flycatcher,     | 30    |
| Olive Sided Flycatcher, | 40    |
| Yellow Shafted Flicker, | 25    |
| Belted Kingfisher,      | 30    |

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IT WILL EMBALM ANYTHING IN FLESH

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Samples To Try On Flesh Free

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For Rheumatism, Sprains, Aches and Pains generally.

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Directions for Use.

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ATHLETON'S AMMONIA ANODYNE has been sold and used within the last two years in every County, and in over 150 different Towns in the State of Maine. And in over 100 other towns of New England.

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☞ All specimens are strictly 1st, class and true to name.

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|-------------------|--------|---------------------|----|
| Black Tern        | \$ .10 | Phoebe Bird         | 3  |
| Least Tern        | 5      | Kingbird            | 3  |
| Artic Tern        | 8      | Blue Jay            | 4  |
| Spotted Sandpiper | 10     | Swamp Sparrow       | 8  |
| Y. Crown N.Heron  | 25     | Lark Finch          | 12 |
| Green Heron       | 8      | Grass Finch         | 3  |
| Ruffed Grouse     | 9      | White-bel'd Swallow | 6  |
| Bald Eagle        | 3.50   | Am. Redstart        | 7  |
| Broad-wing Hawk   | 90     | Md. Yellow-throat   | 10 |
| Red Shoul'd       | " 40   | Summer Yellowbird   | 3  |
| Sharp-shined      | " 75   | Bluebird            | 2  |
| Sparrow           | " 25   | Catbird             | 2  |
| Y. S. Flicker     | 4      | American, Robin     | 2  |
| Least Flycatcher  | 6      | Hermit Thrush       | 20 |
| Traill's          | " 20   | Coopers Hawk        | 30 |
| Little            | " 35   | Yellow-bl. Magpie   | 30 |

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COLLECTIONS from \$1. 00 to .50 cts. Single specimens from .25 to \$1 00 Fine sample Fossil Fern .25 cents also Brazilian Agates from 25 cents to \$1 00 Fine Rickolets from Mexico 50 cents. Triobites 25 to 20 cts. Hammer Head Sharks Eggs 25 cents each. All kinds of Natural History Specimens for sale. Will exchange for any kind of specimens in quantity, or buy for cash, if cheap.

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HENRY E. BERRY.

Danvers-otta, Maine.

# Maine Ornithologist & Zoologist.

VOL. I GARLAND, ME., MAY & JUNE, 1890. NOS. 3-4

## MY FIRST COLLECTING TRIP.

WRITTEN FOR MAINE ORNITHOLOGICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL.



My first experience in collecting occurred while attending a boarding school in the eastern part of this state, ten years ago. The first nest of the season the Great Horned Owl (*Bubo Virginianus*) was built in a lofty Elm Tree which overhung a steep ravine.

As the tree had no branches for the first thirty feet or so, it made pretty tough climbing for a novice; consequently when I had nearly reached the nest (a mere bundle of sticks with a few feathers as lining) a sudden rush and wheer-r-r as the parent bird unexpectedly flashed by almost between my face and the branch which here hung directly over the ravine, nearly caused me to lose my hold, however, I managed to cling on and was rewarded with three white nearly round eggs which I stowed away in separate pockets and safely reached the ground, thankful of escaping a fall of nearly one hundred feet.

This was in the middle of March and I found nothing more worth noting until June first, when with a schoolmate (a sort of brick, and although but thirteen years old he weighed one hundred and seventy pounds and was called "Fatty" for short) We noticed a large hole in a high clay bank, in the same ravine and not far from the oak tree,

Thinking the hole might contain a nest of some kind, Fatty after much difficulty and more puffing managed to scramble up after me to a place directly over the hole the opening of which being two or three feet down in the perpendicular bank.

I wanted Fatty to anchor himself by taking hold of some shrubs that grew near with one hand while I let myself down by clinging to his other hand and quickly inserted my hand and arm into the aperture and as quickly withdrew them, for a sharp pain in one finger followed by a clickety-clickety-click and what seemed to me a dozen pair of wings fluttering in my face startled me into such violent motion that Fatty's shrub he was clinging to, still in his fist, came down upon me and together we rolled some fifteen or twenty feet down the soft clay bank into the muddy slope at the foot, and nearly into the brook that flowed at the bottom of the ravine.

As we had barely time to change our outer garments before "roll call" did not investigate farther until after school hours, when I returned with a more athletic anchor "anchor" in the shape of a strong Day pupil and managed to get five of as pretty round pink eggs as I have seen in making a subsequent collection of over 300 species.

Of course you have identified the owner of the nest as the Hooded King.

fisher. The delicate flesh color vanished on blowing the eggs. The nests mentioned were not over forty rods from the large stone school building with one hundred and fifty pupils in attendance.

Rather unusual especially for the Owl, although I did not remark it at the time.

Faribault Co. Minn.

### Nesting of Cooper's Hawk.

By C. O. Trowbridge,  
Concluded.

My third and earliest nest was found on April 26th. 1889 with two eggs.

As I now had several sets (some bought) and as I had heard that this bird would continue to lay if the eggs were taken away, only leaving a nest egg, I determined to try the experiment, and with the following result.

I took one egg on the 29th. I found one more had been layed and I took that, on May 7th. the nest egg had disappeared.

Two eggs of this set were well marked with brown either the first or second layed egg was without markings of any kind.

The third egg layed being the best marked egg of the three. My fourth set was found on May 13th. in the same piece of woods as my first set, this nest was in a more difficult tree to climb than that and as there was nothing special to be gained by climbing it myself, I had one of my friends, an expert climber try it with the result of a clutch of four eggs.

This nest was placed the highest up of any kind of hawks that I have ever

found being eighty feet from the ground. Another nest found by my friend on May 3rd had two eggs and another on the 7th. with three eggs while another taken on the 12th. contained four eggs. A summary of the above sets and a few others that I know of positively, is as follows,

May 9th. 1889 set of 4 fresh  
" 17th. '88. " 4 incubation begun  
" 18th. " " " 5 embryos found.  
" 21st. " " " 5 incub't begun.  
Apr. 29th. 1889 " " 3 Incomplete

### The King Rail.

This species is somewhat common in this locality, but like all the Rails it keeps so well hidden that it is hard to get a fair idea of its numbers.

It will not fly unless hard pressed, always preferring to use its legs when they will serve their purpose. Its flesh is very fine, equaling that of the Prairie Hen in my estimation. Comparatively few are killed and still less are eaten here, as the bird is so little known. When this bird is forced to fly it will rise a few feet in the air and after flying a short distance with dangling legs, will drop into the grass and "taking to its heels" will soon be concealed so well some where that ten chances to one you have seen the last of it. I remember one day I was hunting ducks when one of these birds jumped up in front of me and started to fly off. I fell and it dropped, I hurriedly went to pick it up but found that it still had the use of its indestructible legs and

that they had carried it to a place of safety.

The nest of the King Rail is a platform or pile of grass, situated in the bottom of a bunch of grass. The eggs are 6 to 9 or more in number, they are of a light cream color spotted with different shades of brown and red, they measure 1.67x1.12 inches. The bird is nearly as large as a Coot. It does not swim that I have ever seen, though it can no doubt. It is of a general brownish color darkest on the back.

JOHN V. CRONE. Marathon, Iowa.

### The White-rumped Shrike.

On April 27th 1890. I took my collecting case and started to some tall hedge that was about a mile distant, in search of Shrike's eggs.

I found thirteen nests and they all had eggs in them, The least number of eggs I found in any of them was four and the greatest seven. Six eggs is generally the compliment.

The nest's were built in a fork in the hedge about eight feet from the ground, and were made of hedge sticks firmly bound together with lint, then this is neatly lined with strings, Prairie chicken feathers, and fibers of bark all twisted together so firmly that one can hardly pull it apart. The nest ranges in size from seven to twelve inches across the top, four inches deep on the outside and three inside.

The eggs are of a creamy white, with light brown spots nearly all over them

but the spots may vary, some sets I have taken have had but few spots on them, while others completely cover the ground color of the egg; I think the age of the shrike has something to do with the spots. The birds are commonly called "Mouse Hawk."

*To be continued.*

We are in receipt of a copy of a work entitled, Eggs of North American Birds, by C. J. Maynard. We cannot speak too highly of its merits, it does the Author much credit, and is invaluable to the student of birds in identifying specimens, and is finely bound.

The work throughout is thoroughly practical, and is intended to meet the wants of all. It contains ten plates, representing eighty species all accurately colored; and gives full description of all known eggs of North American Birds.

Few, if any, among American Naturalists have had the wide experience with eggs that Mr. Maynard has.

Many minute points of difference, in various closely allied species, with much other valuable information have been noted, and are recorded in this book.

Although the cost of preparing the plates has been large, the price has been placed so low as to be within the reach of all who desire it. We would respectfully call your attention to Mr. Maynard's advertisement in this issue.

I please read carefully, our inducements to subscribers on another page.

# Maine Oenithologist and Oologist

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
H. STANTON S. WYER, Garland, Me

Correspondance pertaining to Birds,  
their Nests, and Eggs, will be than fully  
received.

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Large discount on standing advertisement;

GARLAND, ME. MAY & JUN 1890.

## PUBLICATIONS REC'D.

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Wolverine Naturalist, | Apr.      |
| Oologist,             | May.      |
| Exchange,             | Apr. May. |
| Hubbard's Magazine,   | Apr.      |
| Osprey,               | Apr.      |
| Stormy Petrel,        | Apr.      |
| One Dime,             | Apr.      |
| and others.           |           |

—All articles and advertisements for next issue must reach us by the twentieth to ensure insertion.

—Sixty cents worth of first class bird skins, or Ninety cents worth of first-class birds eggs, will be received for a years subscription to this paper.

—This is the only sample copy you will receive as your name will be dropped if we do not hear from you.

We kindly ask you to examine this copy, and then subscribe. We intend to improve with each issue, and hope we can meet with your approval. Any aid you can give us will be thankfully received.

—E. E. Hammett, Cleveland, Ohio, writes; I found on the 17th of April a nest of the Northern Shrike, containing 3 fresh eggs; the nest was placed in a bush, and was made entirely of wool of a pure white, it was very pretty and I took it.

—P. R. M. Garland, Me., reports the following strange bird. "While passing through an old orchard my attention was drawn to two peculiar looking birds. They allowed me to approach quite near giving me an opportunity to observe them closely.

They were about the size of a Robin and were clear white, head jet black and one had a fire red spot on its throat about the size of a two cent piece, the other was similar, only minus the patch on the throat. When flying they looked like two little white Gulls. Can any one identify, and report through the columns of this paper.

—Central Maine, May 19th '90. The Yellow-rumped Warbler has been very plenty through the migratory season, reaching us about the 6th of May and a few individuals remaining until this date.

The white crowned Sparrow has also been quite plenty arriving about the 12th and the last one was seen the 17th.

These two species have always been very rare in the spring migration, only a few being seen each spring. A few of the former will remain with us through the incubating season, but the latter will pass farther north, and spend the incubating season in Labrador and vicinity.



## The Leach's Petrel.

(The Mother Cary's Chicken of the Northern and New England coast.) has a very wide distribution. The general color is sooty brown, darkest on the wings and tail, with the upper tail coverts white.

During the months of June and July it is found breeding in favorable places from Maine to Greenland and also in considerable numbers, on the Pacific coast. On the coast of Maine it begins to breed in communities about the second week in June.

Its favorite breeding places are those densely wooded spruce islands so common along that coast above the Kennebec, where it digs a diagonal hole generally from one to two feet deep among the roots of the trees: though these holes have been found in sand-banks, like a bank swallow's. At the bottom of this hole is placed a loose nest of dried grass and sticks, in which they deposit a single pure white egg, nearly oval in form, lightly spotted at the larger end with a circle of lilac.

The egg is extremely fragile.

These birds when being taken from the hole fight vigorously emitting the disagreeable oily fluid from their nostrils which makes their breeding places particularly noticeable, even at some distance. Their eggs average from .90 by 1.25 to 1.50 by 1.35.

About the twentieth of July 1889 while on one of the Duck islands, near Mt. Desert, where they breed abundantly, I opened six holes of the Leach's Petrel, five of which contained eggs in

an advanced stage of incubation, with the male bird sitting on them, while the sixth contained a chicken of a uniform smoky grey. When not breeding these birds are found skimming or rather running over the deep in open ocean.

F. C. H.

Concord, N. H.

### An Explanation.

Our subscribers, no doubt wondered why they did not receive a May No. we will explain matters, and we hope to your entire satisfaction.

We were detained in getting our certificate of entry at pound rates; consequently did not get the Apr. issue out until the last of the month, and did not think it best to issue a May No. so have issued May and June both in one. We shall, however, give our subscribers twelve numbers, and try to make up for our tardiness by being on time in the future.

### EXCHANGES

Notices of 24 words or less inserted under this heading for 10¢. Over 24 words, at the rate of 1-3 of a cent per word.

To exchange:— A set of 3 eggs of the Prairie Horned Lark for best offer, write quick. JOHN V. CRONE  
Marathon, Iowa.

Wanted:— Good second hand type, Long primer, Brevier and Agate, in fonts from 10 to 25 lbs. Will give in exchange Mounted birds, eggs, single or in sets.

Address,

H. STANTON SAWYER Garland Me.



# EGGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

— BY —

C. J. MAYNARD.

This a standard work on eggs by an author who has had a wider experience in North American Oology than any other living naturalist. For over thirty years Mr Maynard has been gathering the material which is embodied in this book.

The nomenclature is that of the American Ornithologist Union, and every species and sub-species of birds that occur within our limits are included, and all known eggs are described in full: dimensions, number in set, time of breeding, range during the nesting season, together with all the necessary information to ensure the ready identification of specimens.

The work is illustrated with ten colored plates of type eggs, which greatly aid in the recognition of species. This is the only complete work containing colored plates of American eggs.

Price \$2.00 bound in cloth.

Natural History Publications wishing to insert the above should write the publisher.

Address,

C. J. MAYNARD,  
NEWTONVILLE, MASS.

## SAWYER'S Monthly Bargain List.

|                    |          |            |      |
|--------------------|----------|------------|------|
| Pied-bill Grebe,   | set of 4 | \$ 30      | Nes. |
| Arctic Tern,       | set of 3 | 25         |      |
| Bob-white,         | " " 11   | 90         |      |
| Ruffed Grouse,     | " " 10   | 1 00       |      |
| Mourning Dove,     | " " 2    | 06         |      |
| Red Sh'd Hawk,     | " " 2    | 75         |      |
| Sparrow Hawk,      | " " 3    | 75         |      |
| Flicker,           | " " 7    | 18         |      |
| Annas Hum'g bird,  | " " 2    | 90 - 30c   |      |
| Kingbird,          | " " 4    | 10 - 20c   |      |
| Little Flycatcher, | " " 3    | 1 00       |      |
| Blue Jay,          | " " 4    | 16         |      |
| Am. Crow,          | " " 6    | 25         |      |
| Bobolink,          | " " 4    | 70         |      |
| Red-wing,          | " " 4    | 10         |      |
| House Finch,       | " " 4    | 25         |      |
| Grass Finch,       | " " 4    | 15         |      |
| Chipping Sparrow,  | " " 4    | 07         |      |
| Field Sparrow      | " " 3    | 0 - 06c    |      |
| Song Sparrow,      | " " 4    | 08         |      |
| Heermann's do      | " " 4    | 35         |      |
| Swamp Sparrow,     | " " 4    | 40 - 09c   |      |
| Barn Swallow,      | " " 5    | 15         |      |
| Cedar Waxwing      | " " 5    | 25 - 15c   |      |
| Red-eyed Vireo,    | " " 4    | 35 - 10c   |      |
| Northern Shrike,   | " " 6    | 1 85 - 20c |      |
| Yellow Warbler,    | " " 4    | 15 - 10c   |      |
| Catbird,           | " " 4    | 08         |      |
| Chickadee,         | " " 7    | 65         |      |
| Hermit Thrush,     | " " 3    | 70 - 30c   |      |
| Bluebird,          | " " 4    | 08         |      |
| Purple Grackle,    | " " 4    | 15         |      |
| American Robin,    | " " 4    | 08         |      |

The above eggs are in original sets with full data. Prices quoted are for the complete set: when nests are desired add the extra amount at the right.

When ordering please mention sets that can be used as substitutes. All eggs will be packed in strong boxes and if loss or damage occurs we will stand half.

Address all orders plainly to,

H. Stanton Sawyer

GARLAND, MAINE,

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| Ruddy Duck,           | " "        | .30 |
| Am. Bittern,          | " "        | .50 |
| Least Bittern,        | " "        | .10 |
| King Rail,            | " "        | .10 |
| Clapper Rail,         | " "        | .10 |
| Sora Rail,            | " "        | .06 |
| Am. Coot,             | " "        | .05 |
| Bartramian Sandpiper, | " "        | .20 |
| Kildeer,              | " "        | .10 |
| Red-tail Hawk,        | " "        | .30 |
| Great Horned Owl,     | " "        | .60 |

Address,

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## HEAD QUARTERS

*For the celebrated Macon Creek Fossils.*

COLLECTIONS from \$1.00 to .50 cts. Single specimens from .25 to \$1.00 Fine sample Fossil Fern .25 cents also Brazilian Agates from 25 cents to \$1.00 Fine Rholetts from Mexico 50 cents. Trilobites 25 to 50 cts. Hammer Head Sharks Eggs 25 cents each. All kinds of Natural History Specimens for sale. Will exchange for any kind of specimens in quantity, or buy for cash, if cheap.

**H. DAYTON HILL,**

Box 367 Morris, W.

Natural History papers of 1000 circulation insert the above 3 times, and send bill for any thing we advertise.

*In answering advertisements please mention M. O. & O.*

# Maine Ornithologist & Oologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., JULY, 1890.

NO. 5

## Faribault County, Minn.

### Letter No. 2

There are eight or ten species of Curlew and Sandpipers to be found here; Hawks are scarce; Golden Plover very plenty, saw as many as 100 flocks in one days collecting. Yellow-headed Black-bird very common and here out number the Red-wing. Some-times see as many as twenty Am. Bittern in a days tramp.

This would be a grand place for the Oologist collector were it not for the fact that the farmers take special pains to burn all grass late in spring thus distroying thousands of nests. I have found immense numbers of Prairie Hens eggs some of them cooked hard by the prairie fires. A few years more of such late fires, and there will be few of this species left in this locality once so famous as a resort for hunters and sportsmen.

A few Sand-bill Cranes are hiding in the marshes which is too low and wet for the fires to catch.

We have traveled over 100 miles across prairies and have not seen as much as one half section, of land not burnt over excepting an occasional marsh, having considerable water on it. Birds are very plenty here and on the whole it is a good collecting ground as I have ever seen, and the scenery and climate are fine.

## The White-rumped Shrike.

*Concluded.*

On the 23d. of April '90. my brother

had the luck to see one of these birds capture a mouse. While plowing in the field he plowed out a large field mouse and quick as a flash Mr. Mouse Hawk darted down and seized it by the neck and killed it by beating it with its wings and then the bird actually twisted the mouse round and broke its neck. While this was going on a Field Sparrow thought it its duty to help the mouse; but the Shrike flew in triumph to the hedge with its prey where he pceeded to make its meal.

The bird in question is about eight inches in length, with black beak firmly set which is about 3-4 of an inch long, slightly hooked at the point. Top of head and back, light slate, broad black stripes running from bill under the eye terminating behind the ear, throat, dirty white, underneath white tinged with grey. Wings black, with a white patch the shape of a diamond. Tail of medium length, rounded. Three outer tail feathers edged with white and white spots on the inner web.

This bird is quite common here; some stay over winter. Would be pleased to hear more about this bird in the Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

WILLIE A. BRYON.

New Sharon, Iowa.

## Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY

—BY—

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

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The number of eggs is generally three or four. On one occasion I found a nest contrary to the usual site, on a parallel branch of a tree, in a field in which there were a few scattered trees, it contained two eggs, one nearly fresh and the other very much advanced.

I have noticed that on all occasions when the nest contains fresh eggs, the bird will leave the vicinity for a time but if incubation has begun, she will remain near uttering a plaintive cry.

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# Maine Ornithologist & Zoologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., AUG, 1890.

NO. VI

## *Four well known representatives of the family Tyrannidae in Eastern North America.*

*Tyrannus tyrannus* (Linn.) King-bird, Beemartin.—This species is a common summer resident and are usually found in the vicinity of farm-houses where they build their nests in the fruit trees and secure the protection of the farmers who have no bees. It is a sad failing in the King-bird to catch bees because, as sure as the farmer sees him at his hive he is going to shoot him. The Kingbird is dark above, light beneath and may always be identified by the hidden spot of reddish orange on the top of its head. Sometimes they build their nests in very difficult places for the would be collector to get at.

*Myiarchus crinitus* (Linn.) Crested Flycatcher.—A large dark colored Flycatcher that sets the woods alive with his music, when he arrives from his winter home in the south.

They are a little social and will even venture up and build their nests in the boxes put up for the Purple Martins and Blue-birds. This species always nest in the cavities of trees or other natural hollows and lay very peculiar eggs. It has a liking for cast off snake skins and one or two are found in the material which make up every nest.

*Contopus virens* (Linn.), Wood Pewee.—This Flycatcher is somewhat colored like the Kingbird but is much smaller. They build their nests after the manner of the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher only it is larger. The nest is ornamented on the outside with grey lichens similar to the Blue-grey's nest.

I found four nests of this species this year all of which contained young almost ready to fly.

*Empidonax acadicus* (Gmel.), Acadian Flycatcher.—This species is about size of last named, but differs greatly in having a yellowish cast all over its body.

They generally place their nest at the end of a long beach limb and build it of moss with sometimes a few slender pieces of other material. The sets vary from two to three or four eggs each.

I have often found badly incubated sets of two eggs, while other collectors report sets of four fresh eggs.

### *Habitat.*

The habitat of the above species is about the same which is Eastern North America, North to Southern Canada, West to the Great Plains, South in winter to Central America.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK,  
Sans Souci, N. C

# Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY

—BY—

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

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before you forget it.*

In a list of random notes from F. C.  
Hinckley, Concord, N. H. We note the  
following. (space preventing our giving  
list in full) "As I was returning from  
a collecting trip on June 3rd, I saw a  
mail and female Red Cross-bill, they  
are seldom seen so far south as this."

Ed.—I once knew a pair to breed near  
here, in March.

## FRANKLINS' GULL.

This bird, to my knowledge first  
made its appearance here in the spring  
of 1889. It certainly has never been  
very numerous for one hears the oldest  
settlers making remarks about it that  
go to prove that it is not very well  
known, I saw three in the spring of  
'89. They were following a breaking  
plow, and picking up worms much after  
the manner of the Black Tern.

In the fall of '89 hundreds upon hun-  
dreds of these birds flew over and stop-  
ped with us for some time. One day my  
brother told me that they were so thick  
on a certain piece of land that was being  
plowed, that you could hardly see the  
ground. So in the after-noon I took my  
gun and went to the spot hoping to  
procure some fine specimens. When I  
reached the place I found that they had  
nearly all gone, those that were still  
there were flying quite high and nearly  
out of gunshot. After some time I suc-  
ceeded in shooting one, and with one  
that the boy who was plowing had kill-  
ed with a stone, I was obliged to content  
myself.

Not being a skilful Taxidermist I  
managed to spoil one of the skins and  
the other was not much better than  
good for nothing. This spring I observ-  
ed three on the 28th, of April, and on  
the 30th. I shot one. Will give a dis-  
cription of it as it lies before me.

It is a male, with red beak, head black,  
above and below each eye is a tiny  
patch of white, the neck, under part of  
wings, breast and tail are white with  
the exception of the top of tail and under

part of longest wing feathers which are pale blue. The back and tops of wings are blue, and the ends of the wing feathers are black tipped with white.

The feet are webbed, and the feathers on the breast are beautifully rose-tinted. I saw a couple sitting in the water on May 3rd. and think they were enjoying a swim. May 13th. I saw an Albino, it was sitting on a piece of newly broken ground, with a number of other birds, I could easily have shot it if I had had a gun. It was pure white except the wings and head which appeared to be shaded with brown. The last individuals were seen June 10th going north, they stayed so long I thought they were going to breed but I think they are all gone.

If there is any mistake as to the description of this bird will some of the readers of this paper set me right.

JOHN V. CRONE, Marathon, Iowa.

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# Maine Ornithologist & Zoologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., SEPT, 1890.

NO. VII

## *Introduction of Robert R. Scorso, Naturalist,*

This space has been kindly given to me by the editor. I shall therefore endeavor to keep it well filled each month with interesting matter to the student of Ornithology, and to have them understand that every being, which draws the breath of life forms a part of one universal family, bound together by the chain of common creaturehood.

And as being ourselves members of that living family, we should learn to view with clearer eyes, those beings which are less God-like than ourselves, and for that very reason should have our kindest and indulgent care. For we, being made in the image of God, are to them the visible representations of that Divine Being, who takes even the smallest insect under his personal protection. In this view every creature becomes more important in the history of nature in proportion as it is connected with man, then the smallest insect, is a subject deserving more attention than the most beautiful of the feathered tribe. In this view, the Eagle and Vulture are of less importance than the smallest humming-bird.

The paleogeic rocks show us that birds have originated from strange animals. The first traces in the paleogeic rocks, of anything resembling bird are

well defined foot prints, and then come organic remains and fragmentary skeletons for the most part, of strange bat like flying animals, having membranous wings and the beak of a toothed bird.

Feathers were not observable among any of the fossil records up to the discovery of an imperfect skeleton and partial cast of a strange creature named archaopteryx half bird and half reptile. Birds are the second class of vertebrated animals, and the first of oviparous vertebrated animals, including all the oviparous animals which have warm blood, to this class belong all animals, which have an internal skeleton, and are capable of true flight, except the Bats.

In the future I shall use this space for articles relating to birds their nests and eggs.

### Monstrosity of a Hermit Thrush.

While out on a collecting trip for Warblers skins last Spring, I noticed a Hermit Thrush busily engaged in eating worms in the branches of a scrub birch, and was holding them in its bill probably intending them for its mate. While watching its movements I noticed it had a very peculiar looking bill and decided to shoot it upon which I found it to exactly resemble that of the Red Cross-bill, and was decidedly hooked.

# Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

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Among the many publication that came to our desk for August, was a copy of the Wisconsin Naturalist, Vol. I No. I from Madison, Wis. We are glad to see any new venture in this science and as it is a first-class publication, we trust may have a long and successful career.

In our next issue we shall be able to quote prices for birds eggs in sets that will surprise you.

ONE YEAR FREE. Get four of your friends to subscribe for this paper at 15 cents each, and we will send it to you one year free. This includes the Moss Cards to help you in getting subscribers.

We are gaining, and feel encouraged by the way subscriptions have come in for the last month. Every little helps to make this paper more interesting, and we are glad to see them come.

For the next thirty days we will accept birds eggs at the rate of one cent a word for space in the exchange column. Exchange notice, or notices can be taken up at any time during the year. Sets preferred

We are in receipt of a box of specimens from G. W. Tuttle, Pasidona, Cal., consisting of Horned Toad, Tarantula, and Scorpion, all are mounted and boxed and show the excellency of Mr. Tuttle's work.

## From Central Maine.

While passing through an old pasture a few days ago, I was somewhat surprised and much interested to see a King-bird capture a large butterfly and devour it with as much relish as it does its favorite food, the honey bee.

It spied the butterfly from a distance of nearly fifteen rods, and darting from the fence stake on which it was perched it sailed along near the ground, caught the butterfly in true Flycatcher fashion and returned to the fence stake from which it started. Some time was spent in killing it before devouring it.

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# Maine Ornithologist & Oologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., OCT, 1890.

NO. VIII

## The Bower Birds and their bowers.

BY ROBERT R. SCORSO.

Dame nature seems to have provided man, and all the lower animals that embellish our forest with some strange habit not forgetting to give man the largest share and dividing the remainder unequally among the lower animals of the forest.

The Bower Birds also receive a full share of this acceptable gift by nature.

The Bower Birds are Australian birds of the Starling family or Sturnida, the first account of them was given by Mr. Gould, in whose work on birds of Australia was first given to the world

They are named from their strange habit of making bower-like erections, called runs. The strange part of it is, that they adorn them with gay feathers, rags, bones, seashells, or any other white or bright colored object that they may find. These bowers are not nests as some might think, but appear to be places of much resort at the breeding season in particular.

As to the use made of them by the birds is a mystery yet to be made known. The Satin Bower Bird (*Ptilonotus holosericens*) builds its bowers among the branches of some tree, and appear to repair and use it year after year.

The base consists of an extensive or rather convex platform of sticks

firmly interwoven, on the center of which the bower is built, of more flexible twigs. It is near the entrance that the shells, feathers, bones etc., employed for decoration are placed.

The Satin Bower Birds are abundant in the mountainous districts of New South Wales, and are to be found in all the woods from the mountains to the coast.

The adult male has the whole plumage of a deep glossy black. The colors of the female are grayish-green and brown, curiously mingled together.

The Spotted Bower Bird builds much larger and more avenue like than those of the Satin Bower Bird: they are placed upon the ground, and are built of twigs, and beautifully lined with tall grasses so placed that their heads nearly meet each other. They are commonly built at the base of a large tree.

The male assists the female in building and decorating them.

Another Species is the Great Bower Bird (*Chlamydare nuchalis*), much larger than either of the others, and very similar in form and plumage to the Spotted Bower Bird, it has been found on the North West coast of Australia.

It always adorns its bower with seashells, even when far away from the sea.

# Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY

—BY—

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

Entered at the Post Office at Garland, Me. as second-class mail matter.

*Correspondence and items of interest pertaining to Birds, their Nests, and Eggs, will be thankfully received.*

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The Osprey Naturalist's Directory will not be issued until Nov 20, th as Mr. Balliet finds it impossible to get it ready before that time. He is sparing no pains to make this a first class directory.

It will contain over two thousand names and will doubtless be the standard directory for the future. Names are inserted free of charge.

**SUBSCRIBE NOW ONLY 15c.**

We are informed that Mr. J. Warren Jacobs of Waynesburg, Pa. will not commence the publication of "The Owl" on Jan. first as before advertised. on account of other buisness, but will post-pone it for a month or two. All live collectors will write Mr. Jacobs to make sure of the first No. of his magazine.

Good for Maine. We have just recieved a copy of "The Bittern" a new publication published at Damariscotta Me. by Henry E. Berry, who is an ardent oologist, and his new monthly does him much credit. Success to Berry and the 'Bittern'. New ventures of this kind do much to advance the progress of Ornithology and Oology and we hope ere long that Maine with its abundance of bird life may rank with the foremost in this science.

## The Return of the Warblers.

October has come and with it the warblers from their more northern clime where they have passed the incubation season.

They are now done with domestic duties and as they journey South are a lively, happy party, filling the orchards and hedges with life and song.

Although we recognize each variety that visited us in the spring, we notice that those of a more somber plumage predominate. These are the young, and they have all the characteristics of the parent, and can be identified as well as the old birds by watching their movements from a distance.

In making their southern journey at this season of the year they all join in one large company, though each variety is generally a little apart from the other. Especialy is this the case with the Woam-eating Warbler, who seem to prefer their own company to that of their neighbors and seldom numbering over half a dozen individuals; always buisy in

MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST.

search of food, and make themselves always noticeable in their costume of olive green and yellow trimmed with buff.

This party remains with us but a few days, in this migratory season.—*Ld.*

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# Maine Ornithologist & Oologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME., NOV, 1890.

NO. IX



## NOVEMBER.

In the fall, when collecting for the season is done, and the birds which breed with us have winged their way to the 'sunny south' a pleasant means of reconciling ourselves to the long winter, is by taking a stroll to the wood-land, there to note the many migrants from the north as they tarry with us for a few days or weeks as the case may be, before following on the wake of our summer residents.

Oct. 12th resolving to take such a stroll, I started in the company of my dog in the direction of a certain damp thicket, which in summer is one of my favorite collecting grounds, and which is also in spring, fall and winter a favored retreat for migrants, residents and winter visitants. As I neared the thicket a Marsh Hawk which had been perched in a tree near by, spread his wings and flew lazily away. Soon after the dog started a rabbit and gave chase and as his barks grew fainter in the dis-

tance, I paused to listen to the bird-voices for we were now fairly in the thicket

Black-birds and Thrushes seemed to be by far the most numerous, and the metallic notes of the Purple Grackle mingled well with the cries of the Rusty Black-birds, and ever and anon, over all came the "*Kong-quer-ree, Kong-quer-ree*" of the Red-wing, which is so well described in Davie's "*Nests and Eggs*," Robins were every where, and mingled with them were a few pair of Olive-backed Thrushes, while keeping more by themselves were plenty of the Wilson's Thrush. All these were migrants from the north, for while the Purple Grackle, Red-winged Black-bird, Wilson Thrush and American Robin all breed with us yet, with the exception of the last mentioned, those breeding here had, I believe, all taken their departure ere this for the south.

While I listened to the song and clatter of these birds, there came of a sudden a single repetition of the Song-sparrows well-known ditty, that song which is so inseparately linked with the warmest weather of summer, sounding odd enough through the rather chill autumn air, but yet having in it something of promise for another year. In vain I searched the bushes for the many Warblers and Sparrows seen there only a week before, but all were gone. Cutting from a little maple sappling a fork in which was still firmly bound the beautiful structure of the American Gold-finch, I turned my way in the direction of one side of the thicket, where on higher ground grew an open woods, here a week before I had seen many

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GARLAND, ME. NOV. 1890.

birds, but now the woods seemed deserted, save for a Purple Grackle, which mounted on the highest twig of a lofty maple gave voice to some of the queerest productions that ever came from the throat of a Grackle. They were somewhat like the sounds which Crows occasionally make.

In the distance sounded the clatter of a White-breasted Nuthatch and a Flicker lighting in a tree close by gave one excited cry and flew away. As I wended my way home again through an open meadow, I received my farewell from the throat of a Grass Finch which mounting to the top of an apple tree, gave forth as cheery a song as though summer was once more with us.

B. S. BOWDISH, Phelps, N. Y.

Owing to lack of space we are unable to publish a complete list of the collection spoken of in last issue, but will publish the remainder in December issue.

## Two sets of Wild Turkey.

The eggs that I am about to describe were found by a man engaged in cutting and hauling railroad cross-ties, he found both nests unexpectedly while looking over the woods for scattered ties.

The nests were very much the same, and were situated in an open place and consisted only of a few leaves collected together.

The first were found May 21st '90 and contained nine eggs with incubation advanced. He broke one and on finding them unfit to eat gave them to another man who carried them home and placed them on his mantle for ornaments. My Cousin T A Smithwick, hearing of the find at once found this man and bargained with him for them for the ample sum of ten cents and with care succeeded in making first class specimens of them.

The set now consists of eight eggs, they are creamy white finely speckled all over with rusty-brown and lavender, with subdued shell markings they present the following average measurement, 2,53 3-8 x 1,87 1-2.

The second set consisted of eleven eggs and was found three days later incubation being advanced, these he also gave to another man who put them under a hen to be matched. My Cousin also heard of this set and obtained them and made nice specimens of them they are light creamy and are so thickly spotted with rusty brown as to obscure the ground, with a few light patches on each egg.

MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST.

The average size was somewhat larger than the preceding set. This set is also more pointed. On one egg of this set there is a plainly defined 'D'.

J. W. P. Smithwick,  
Saus Souci N. C.

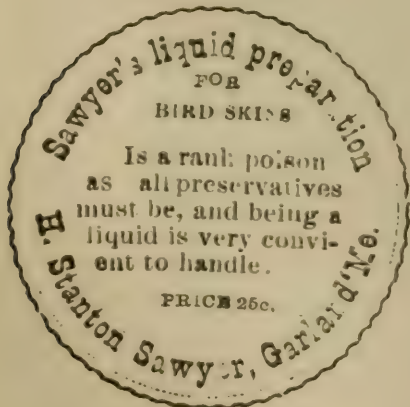
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| Black-crowned Heron   | .07    | Rusty Grackle,         | .75  | zHermit Thrush,         | .25 |
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# Spring Ornithologist & Zoologist.

VOL. I

GARLAND, ME DEC. 1890.

NO. X

## The Blue Bird.

(*LYLVIA SIALIS*.) BY ROBERT R. SCORSO.

The Blue Bird, Blue Red-breast, Blue Warbler or Blue Robin, or according to the most recent ornithological systems, *Erythaca* or *Sialis Wilsoni*: is one of the most pleasing birds of our

Union, the confidence and familiarity it displays in approaching the habitation of man, and from its general manner, is such a favorite with all

classes of people in the United States as is the Red-breast in Britain. As they are the favorites of man they are generally found near him. All the great birds dread his vicinity and keep the thickets and the darkest part of the forest; but these seldom resort to the thickest part of the woods: they keep near edges in the vicinity of cultivated fields, in the hedge row, and even in the door-yard.

Though it may be truly said, their living near man is not affection, or for society on their part, they approach the habitation of man simply because their food is to be found there

Early in the spring the Blue Bird may be seen perched upon some lofty tree fluttering its wings with great ease and grace, giving out a soft and most agreeable warble, a few days later it is seen visiting the box in the garden, the hole in the old apple or pear tree,

perhaps the old homestead of some of its ancestors, here it builds its nest, which is composed of straw lined with soft feathers. The Blue Bird lays five or six

pale-blue eggs, and has two or three broods in a season.

The male is remarkably attractive during the time he is courting the female, he floats gracefully through the air giving out a clear sweet warble, she generally utters a few low notes in return.

The upper part of the male Blue Bird are of a rich sky-blue color, the throat and breast are of a reddish chestnut, the abdomen and under tail coverts white: beak black and half an inch in length, legs black eyes darkish blue-hazel nearly black. The total length of the Blue Bird is about six inches and



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Entered at the Post Office at Garland, Me. as second-class mail matter.

To every one sending in four subscriptions at 25c. each, we will give a years subscription free.

The American Naturalist's Directory formerly "The Osprey Naturalist's Directory" which was to be published by Paul B. Haskell, has been transferred to us. It is now completed and will be sent to any address on receipt of price 15c

Received: "The Collectors' Monthly" for Dec., and note an interesting article on Botany by our friend Letson Balliet. It also contains interesting notes on "The Birds of Long Island" by W. W. Worthington.

*Continued from first page.*

a half from tip of beak to extremity of tail. The female is about the same size as the male but she is not so graceful or so beautiful in color.

It is quite common for the Farmers to provide a box for the Blue Bird's nest and in this locality it is generally taken entire possession of by English Sparrows.

Among the improvements in the M. O. & O are the illustrations that will accompany the pieces by Robert R. Scorso, the well known Naturalist of Astoria N. J. who will write each month. Mr Scorso's subject for Jan. will be "The Bird of Paradise" He will also write articles on the Mocking Bird and Humming Bird.

The Delettante, an amateur monthly of great merit, edited by S. J. Steinberg, Indianapolis, Ind., has been received.

The Delettante is one of many of its kind, published by members of the National Amateur Press Association, a society of about five hundred volunteer Journalists, Essayists, and Editors who work together for mutual benefit and the good of the cause of Amateur Journalism.

Among them are writers of good serial stories, who not only show zest for their work; but a knowledge of the questions of the day that make their productions of the highest value. . . Our Venture an amateur paper for which girls only are asked to contribute is an entertaining little sheet. And as it ventures out with commendable Maiden reserve; we feel bound to wish it the best of success. Edited monthly by Rosa B. Steinberg, 438 S. Illinois St., Indianapolis, Ind.

**Indigo Bunting.**

Until the present season (1890) I had supposed this bird to be rather rare in this vicinity never having seen many here, and it was not until July 6th. of this year that I found my first nest of this species I had ever found here.

This summer they appeared to be quite common and I found several of thier nests. July 6th. while in a small strip of woods near here I was attracted by the cries of a male and looking around soon found the nest, which was hung in the fork of a basswood bush. It was composed of dry grass, leaves, and fine bark strips, lined with small vegetable fibers. It contained two young about one-third grown and one bad egg.

The second nest was found July 11th in a thick clump of black-berry bushes in heavy woods; this was similar in material to the first but was placed in an upright fork.

The third nest was found in one of the bushes of a berry patch July 27 th. It was within one hundred and fifty feet of a house; this is I believe a rather unusual site, for as far as my knowledge goes, the Indigo usually selects dense under brush for nesting sites.

The second and third nests each contained sets of three eggs. Later in in the season I found another nest from which one side was gone, but which still contained one bad egg.

The eggs are of a plain blueish green color, some what resembling the American Goldfinch, but as a rule not so pointed. They average .74x.53

The nests were about the same size as that of the Goldfinch and with the exception of the one found July 6th. were placed in the upright forks of small trees or bushes.

The birds are about the size of the chipping sparrow, which in general color the female some what resembles the male as the name implies are bright indigo blue. The alarm note is much like that of the Field Sparrow.

Their song I have never heard.

B. S. BOWDISH.

With this issue the "MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND COLOGIST" takes a new feature, in the shape of a colored cover, and the price has been advanced to 25c. The reason we make this change is because our business is steadily increasing and we feel confident that the improvement will be appreciated by our friends. In entering this larger field we hope to accomplish more and that both subscriber and editor may receive a greater benefit, and by our united efforts help to advance the progress of ornithology and cology.

Now as we have more space at our disposal we shall be in need of more articles and items of interest and would be pleased to here from any of our friends in regard to their experience in collecting or any thing of interest relating to the science that may have come under your observation. We do not care for articles on old and worn out subjects but we want fresh notes and sketches from collectors, something that he has seen, some thing original, and it is sure to be of interest to others.

We have secured the aid of several prominent Naturalist's who will send us articles from time to time.

And we hope to furnish our readers a strictly first class paper: to enlarge also opportunity offers and to furnish information that shall be of value to the collector. And trusting our Friends will continue their favors as in the past we hope to call on you all the coming year.

**The Flycatchers of Iowa.**

The flycatchers of Iowa are represented by five or more species. Five are known to breed here, the King-bird and Phoebe-bird are the most common members of the family. The King-bird is commonly called Bee Martin from its habit of catching bees. It is a common breeder here in the latter part of May and in June. During the breeding season it often shows its pugnacious disposition in attacking Owls, Hawks and Crows.

The Crested Flycatcher is not common and as it generally stays in woodlands is hardly ever seen. Its loud harsh voice is heard as soon as it arrives in the spring. Its nest which is composed of grass, twigs and etc. is most always lined with a cast off snake skin. The eggs are laid in May or June and are very curiously colored.

The Phoebe-bird sometimes called Bridge Swallow or bridge bird from its habit of building its nest on the rafters of bridges, is one of the first arrivals in the spring and one of the last to go south in the fall. Two sets of five eggs are commonly laid here, one in April or May and one in June.

This bird, the Wood Pewee, is often mistaken for the Phoebe bird, the notes are similar. The nest is placed on a horizontal limb in an orchard or in woodland, or by the road side. The eggs usually three are laid here in June. The Arcadian Flycatcher although it breeds here is by no means common.

The nest which is commonly suspended from the forks of a bough by the


brim in the manner of Vireo's, is composed of grass, catkins, shreds of bark etc. A set of four eggs was found here in June.

The Traill's and Least flycatcher may be found in Iowa but I have never seen nor heard of them. Des Moines Io

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Very Desir- ble Speci- men The



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*H. STANTON SAWYER,*  
Garland, Maine.



# Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED MONTHLY  
—BY—

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

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*Correspondence and items of interest pertaining to Birds, their Nests, and Eggs, will be thankfully received.*

Entered at the Post office at Garland, Me. as second-class mail matter.

With this issue we shall discontinue sending out Sample Copies, with the regular issue.

Our illustrated article for February will be the Humming Birds.

The idea has been advanced by a Maine Ornithologist, of a State Association; and since giving the matter some thought it seems practicable, and we think such a society would be of interest to all who are interested in our birds.

The advantageous geographical position of our state on the eastern coast in the path of bird migration give us large opportunities for observation in the migratory season.

We also have a large and not exhausted field in the study of our Maine birds and it is probable that close observation would enable us to define the species, the habits, the song, and the latitude usually chosen for the home of the entire bird population of the state; and perchance our research might be still further rewarded by the discovery of some that have hitherto eluded classification.

We are confident that there are many who will take an interest in a movement of this kind could it be well organized, and we would be glad to hear from any one in Maine who is interested in birds and to receive their vote for first meeting place.

## Central Maine.—

### *Ornithological pencilings.*

—On Jan 2nd. a Belted Kingfisher was seen in the vicinity of a mill-pond near here: he remained several days, subsisting on fish which he caught from an open space of water in front of the dam. It seems as though his Kingfisher-ship was a little out of place.

—Mr. James Evens, of Abbot Maine, writes: "I saw a Robin here on the 15th. of December.

—Mr. Wallace Homer, Taxidermist, at Monson Me., writes: "I have a white deer which was sent to me to be mounted it is a fawn of this year; also a two year old buck, which is about one half white. Deer have been very plenty here this season." He also writes: "Have you noticed a scarcity of winter birds in your locality: I have never see so few here as there are this winter"

We have noticed the same scarcity in winter birds except in a few species, viz. Snowy Owls which have been more common than usual. We have had several fine ones.

(Continued from first page.)

Velvety plumes of a dark green color extend in a band across the forehead and chin, as far as the eyes, which are a deep yellow. The beak is of a pale lead-blue, and the feet are of a pale ash pink.

The King Bird of Paradise is only six and one half inches long.

The Twelve-wired Bird of Paradise, is about twelve inches in length, and has six wire-like feathers extending from each side of the tail: the whole body is one blaze of colors.

The Red Bird of Paradise, is fourteen inches in length, with crimson side-plumes extending several inches below the tail.

The Magnificent Bird of Paradise, has a dense mass of feathers about an inch and a half long, growing out from the nape of the neck.

The Superb Bird of Paradise which we have illustrated, is one of the rarest and most beautiful of the whole group, though it is only known to us by the dried skins shown shown by the natives. The ground color of its plumage is intense black, but the feathers on the neck are beautifully shaded with bronze, and those of the head are of a brilliant metallic green and blue; over its breast it has a shield formed of stiff narrow feathers of a blueish green color with a beautiful gloss: but the most extraordinary feature of this bird is a shield which springs from the back of the neck, similar in form to that on the breast, but much larger and of a velvety black shaded with bronze and purple. The shape etc., of these shields may be seen in the accompanying illustration.

The Long-tailed Bird of Paradise has a tail a little more than two feet long. The Golden-breasted Bird of Paradise has a bunch of long tufted feathers standing out from the back of the head. The males alone have the beautiful plumage, the female is very plain and unattractive.

Mr. A. R. Wallace, the English Naturalist, spent several years in the Malay Archipelago, and was able to find and describe eighteen species, though many more are known to exist. They are found chiefly in New Guinea and neighboring islands. In general they are more or less gregarious: and are often seen passing from one island to another, according to change of season, from the dry to the wet.

Their notes are "Wawk-wawk-wawk, wok-wok-wok," and are so shrill and loud that they can be heard at a great distance. Their mode of nesting is unknown.

The natives of Malay Archipelago and New Guinea profess never to have seen an egg or nest. They molt about February and in May come forth again in full plumage. They are very lively and active, and in confinement pert and bold. They bestow great care on their plumage, and always sit on the perches of the cage, so that no part of it may reach the floor, or get in the least degree soiled. In confinement, they are fed on insects, rice, etc. In a wild state, their food consists of fruit of the teak-tree, and also of the large butterflies which abound in their native islands.

#### WHAT OTHERS SAY.

Of the many testimonials we are constantly receiving we publish the following.

The M. C. & O. just received, the ad. was nicely put in, I received more answers from it than from both of my other ads. in other papers, and sold goods to one party alone that more than paid for the ad.—S. Pool, Squibnocket, Mass.

Sample copy of your M. C. & O. received; also price-list Stuffed Birds, Birds Skin and Birds Eggs, and can truly say that your paper is the best yet received. —O Johnson, Monrovia Ind.

A Morning Walk.

WRITTEN FOR THE M.O.&O.

I strolled one morning into one of the pleasant parks of one of our large cities, and as no weightier matter occupied my mind I fell to musing about the birds as was quite natural, as large quantities of the English Sparrow were about; and as I observed closely, were the only kind there, and I think these put me out of humor, my idea's of trees and their population being associated with the Robin, the Oriole, and the Goldfinch, and these it seemed had all been dislodged by this foreign importation that neither by plumage added any thing to pleasure of the landscape, or by song bespoke its own pleasures in the joys of the bright morning.

Birds naturally suggest either by their freedom of motion; their song; their power of flight; or steth in taking prey some characteristic of their own, which make them above all other objects a pleasing and interesting study.

Thus we observe that the beautiful morning is the native element of the Lark; and the storm, of the Stormy Petrel; and while we study the characteristics of the winged creation, we can but think of some of the marked characters that illustrate the strength of the Ego in mankind, that seems very analagous to that of the feathered tribe. Across the path stands a statue of Gen. Lafayette and in gilt letters on the base is inscribed "When I heard of American Independence my heart was enlisted" and as you look at the Bust



you will not fail to understand how the prevailing characteristics of this sympathetic Frenchman must have burned within him to make of him such a champion of the rights of a foreign people.

In the square below is the bust of Lincoln, the course black hair that stood always erect over a brow that the historian has defined as that of "One of Nature's Noblemen," and we think of him as the foremost figure in that great struggle for supremacy between the north and south, which must have deepened those lines that furrow his brow, but still they can not hide that humor that made him not only the prince of story tellers, but always and every where the master.

In the square above stands the statue of Washington and the sculptor has very aptly represented this great commander in chief mounted on his horse with hand lifted in command; and as I think of the courage, energy, patriotism, and magnanimity that have made the name of Washington the pride of the American people, another choice that is an emblem of National valor and pride is brought to mind, that king among the birds the Golden Eagle.

But as I leave the park, glad that my attention has been taken from the cheruping Sparrows, I can but wish that the birds that nest in the trees about the country homesteads and make the morning air reverberate with their glad songs, could fill these parks, and upon the stirring throng, their free glad life could surely leave its impress of beauty.



.  THE MAINE  .

# Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. I.

GORRISLAND, ME. FEB. 1891.

NO. XII

## The Mockingbird.

(*Mimus Polyglottus.*)

WRITTEN FOR THE MAINE O. & O.

This is a well known bird all over the South, but is little known in the North I suppose. What place in the South can you go without being charmed with the melodious warble of the Mockingbird.

So numerous are the songs of this bird that any one inexperienced would never know but that he was surrounded by all the birds inhabiting the country.

From morn till night he pours forth his stolen song. I have heard them in the tree tops of a Spring morning, first crowing in imitation of the barn yard fowls, then the alarm cry of a Guinea, next the shrill piercing scream of a Jay as a Hawk approaches it. This is kept up from sun till sun and occasionally a little later.

The Mockingbird is of a clear gray above; the under parts are white, with a faint brownish tinge; the wings and tail are nearly black, except the lesser wing coverts, which are like the back and are tipped with white forming two bands. It is, with all, a very graceful bird with slender bill and delicate feet.

The nest is a very unique affair, composed chiefly of sticks, lined with a thin coating of moss, horse hair, cotton and wool; and is placed in some thick bush well hidden from the eye of the traveler. It generally goes to its nest very indirectly, alighting on some distant branch and hopping to it through the leaves.

When you approach its home it becomes very uneasy, making a distressed cry which is very touching to hear.

The eggs are varied; some are of a rich bluish-green color while others are a solid even brown, without the blue ground, the latter being rare.

Mockingbirds when taken young make very interesting pets; they soon reconcile themselves to captivity and delight their owner with rare gifts the live-long day.

GEO. MIMS, N. C.

---

## Nesting of the Golden-crowned Thrush.

*Seiurus Aurocapillus.*

This bird familiarly known by the name of "Oven Bird" arrives in this locality about the middle of May; but are not very plentiful. It restricts itself mostly to low land woods, and usually nests along thick underbrush

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Entered at the Post Office at Garland, Me as second-class mail matter.

We are a little late this month owing to a delay in getting our electro from the engravers, as it did not arrive in time we shall hold Mr. Scors's article for next month.

Our new aspirant in the field to whom we gave such a hearty welcome only a few months since seems to have gotten it into his head that our state is not large enough for two twenty-five-cent papers.

We notice that our ad. in his paper reads 15c. per year although the one we sent for publication read 25c. per year. We presume our friend congratulates himself on his smartness, it could not be

ignorance as we have repeatedly called his attention to the fact.

We are continually receiving 15c. subscriptions; and since giving the matter our attention, find that said Editor is holden for the remaining ten cts. and we wonder where the laugh comes in.

We would like to hear from some of our Fla. and Cal. subscribers that would like to collect Bird Skins for us. Skins not to be put up scientifically, but simply painted with our liquid preparation and forwarded to us.

We have received an article from Stewart White, Grand Rapids, Mich. explaining a very practical method of recording bird-songs. It is by far the most ingenious device we have ever seen and will be of great value to collectors. We think it best not to publish it until April, as the birds will then be returning and it can be put into practise at once; consequently will be of more benefit to collectors.

"PRINTERS INK" is the name of a weekly journal issued in the interests of advertising by Geo. P. Rowell & Co. No. 10 Spruce St. New York.

The publisher who wants to look at his work as his advertiser sees it, and the dealer who is studying the best way to bring his goods to the notice of the public; will find in "PRINTERS INK" just the hints he wants.

We have completed arrangements with the Oswego Typewriter Co. that will enable us to give an Elgin Typewriter with a years subscription to this paper for seventy-five cents.

(Continued from first page.)

branch, close to some running brook and seldom ventures close to human habitation; but in the case of one nest found last year the site selected was a hill-side with scarcely any underbrush, and with no stream of water near, but was within one hundred yards of a dwelling. This is an exception, I find, to the general rule.

Nest building commences about the first of June, sometimes a little earlier; both birds take part in its construction which is the labor of about five days.

The site generally selected is at the base of a clump of bushes, and is carefully concealed by overhanging leaves. The typical structure is oven shaped with an opening in the side large enough to admit the bird.

The nest is composed of leaves and grasses, and lined with fine grass. The eggs are five in number, and are of a creamy-white, thickly marked with reddish-brown spots, sometimes forming a ring around the larger end.

C. A. ELY, N. J.

**The Red-eyed Vireo.**  
(*Vireo Olivaceus.*)

This most exquisite songster is one of our most common summer visitors. Arriving about the first of May, it remains with us about a month before entering upon domestic duties. Meantime he is one of the busiest little fellows in the neighborhood; and if you chance to visit the orchards and groves frequented by him, you are saluted in a most friendly

manner, and he seems to think it his duty to entertain you as long as you are in his domain: all the while uttering his half-melitative half-plaintive carol; casually hopping from spray to spray, sometimes in the rear, sometimes flying in advance but always near; and if a cessation occurs in his almost untiring lay, it is occasioned by the fly or caterpillar which he has just caught.

The nest is suspended in the form of a basket from the forked branch to which it is attached, and generally placed at the very end of some long branch within four or five feet of the ground. This rule does not always hold good however, for on one occasion I found a nest of this species at a height of over forty feet from the ground; but such exceptions are rare.

The nest itself is a marvel of neatness and is composed of rotten wood, birch bark, pine needles, and spanish moss. These are neatly and compactly woven together, and lined with strips of grapevine or cedar bark. I once found a nest composed wholly of pine needles.

The eggs are deposited about the 10th. of June and are usually three in number in this locality. (Central Maine) When fresh the eggs are of a delicate flesh-color, but this vanishes on removing their contents, and they become a clear white.

They are marked with fine dots of a reddish-brown and black.

Two broods are sometimes reared in a season. The period of incubation is about twelve days.

**The Chipping-Sparrow,**  
(*Fringilla Socialis.*)

There are at least five different kinds of sparrow that are continually confounded with this little pet of the door-yard, the field-sparrow, the yellow-winged sparrow, the white-throated sparrow, the song-sparrow, and the tree-sparrow, all of which are easily distinguishable not only by their varied size and markings but also by their habits.

An enterprising creature is the true chippy, and as friendly in demeanor as he dares to be, having a fondness for frequenting window-sills and cellar-steps, in spite of well known dangers from prowling cats and mischievous urchins with 'fresh salt.'

The chippies' nests are built in a breezy place, with an eye to lookout, and is an ingenious cradle of fine hay and roots. The male bird sings, too, and chirps it to his mate while she is doing her part in hatching out the four pure-blue eggs which are marked on the larger end with black spots. Some people may not know, that the chipping-sparrows are migratory birds and that the little fellows that have been feeding all winter on the snow with the crumbs from the table are not the same birds that feed on the gravel walk in the summer time. The winter visitants, who resemble them so much, are larger birds, measuring six and a half inches in length—one inch longer than the chipping-sparrow—and are the tree-sparrows (*Fringilla Canadensis*) who arrive in this part of the country about the time the chippies retire to the south to spend the winter.


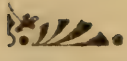
When the song and chipping-sparrows return in early April, the tree-sparrows are about leaving for their northern homes. This is a fact of which it is hard to convince some kindly friends of the birds, but which is equally susceptible of proof with the migrations of the soar-rail—whom many otherwise enlightened dwellers on creeks where they abound firmly believe to hibernate in the mud like frogs.

The distinguishing marks of the chipping-sparrow are his bright bay colored crown and crest, the very prominent black line running backward from the black bill to the hind-head through the eyes, and the pure-white line above it, and his demiautive figure, which is smaller than that of any other sparrow except the field-sparrow, who is also precisely five inches and a half long and eight inches in extent.

The field-sparrow is comparatively a shy bird and of nearly the same general color and markings, but much duller, and more inclined to clay color in tint and is wanting the deep black of the lines on the side of the head that point out the chippy.

It not unfrequently happens that the late-hatch of chippies turn out albinos or nearly pure white, which there is a theory, may be caused by the coldness of the weather at that time; for in the spring moulting they seem to regain the brown colors of the species.

It would be interesting to know if this is also the case with the other albinos among birds—robbers, crows, and black birds who are especially subject to this 'freak of Nature.'


**THE MAINE**


# Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. II

GARLAND, ME. MAR. 1891.

NO 1

## The Humming-birds,

(BY ROBERT H. SCORSO.)

The humming-birds are among the least of the feathered race, they are also the most brilliant. In power of flight they are excelled by no other bird and they are usually seen on the wing, sometimes they perch on slender twigs but never are seen to rest on the ground.

The Humming-bird family is divided into one hundred and ninety six species, one hundred of which are found in America and adjoining islands.

The variety most common to us is the Ruby-throated who arrives in this locality with early spring and stays with us as long as their are flowers sufficient to supply it with food.

As soon as the warm sun has opened the buds and petals you may see him in the garden or orchard flitting from flower to flower and is now emerald and ruby, now emerald and gold, and now a blaze of colors.

The nest is a very delicate structure and is placed on a branch in such a neat way as to resemble a bunch of

lichen of which the outer part is composed, the lining is of a cottony substance gathered from plants such as the milk weed. Two tiny pure white eggs are laid, The young while in the nest are cared for like all their big Cousins but as soon as they are able to provide for themselves they leave their parents and in the fall several brudes unite and fly southward.

The most beautiful Humming-birds are found in South America where in

some parts they swarm so thickly among the trees as to be sometimes taken at first glance for brilliant bees.

Among the most beautiful of the "tropical humanaries" are the Green-blue the Sappho-Cornet, and the Sparkling-

tailed Humming-birds; but the most curious as well as the most beautiful of the whole group is the "Lindens Helmet-crested Humming-bird."

This curious little fellow was discovered by Mr. Linden in Aug. 1842 while ascending the Sierra Nevada De Merida at a hight of from twelve to thirteen hundred feet above the level of the sea. At this altitude of extreme cold one would scarcely expect to find



THE RUBY-THROATED.

# The Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

C. W. HILLMAN, Canisteo, N. Y.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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10, 15 and 20 per cent discount on contracts of 3, 6 and 12 months.

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Entered at the Post Office at Garland, Me as second-class mail matter.

We have received letters from several of our subscribers stating that they have not received all the numbers of the MAINE O & O. Copies some times get lost through the mails which of course is beyond our control; but if you do not receive your copy after a reasonable length of time, let us know and we will cheerfully forward a duplicate.

With this issue we begin a series of notes on birds of Iowa, by Ernest S Park. The series will comprise fifty species and will be of interest as a study of the birds of that locality.

On Feb 24th. I heard my first Robin also a Bluebird on the same date. - *As. Ed.*

The "Western World" offers some inducements to subscribers that seems to sound like the big west and Chicago but they are reliable see their "Premium Offers" on cover.

We would like to hear from some of our Fla. and Cal. subscribers that would like to collect Bird Skins for us. Skins not to be put up scientifically, but simply painted with our liquid preparation and forwarded to us.

**TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.** For every new subscriber that you will send us before April 1st. we will give you an exchange notice of 30 words in the April issue which will be the largest issue of the season and an exchange notice in this would bring big returns.

We are glad to hear from our Bittern publisher at last, even in the shape of a smooth editorial. We are sorry however to find the Bittern chucking in March but when we remember that she has set since December we don't wonder at it. We were glad to be on hand in time to prevent total paralysis. But setting seems to be a characteristic trait and we object to being set on.

**STILL MORE IMPROVEMENT.** and we hope to keep improving and enlarging. This being the first volume on our second year we shall celebrate its opening with an Associate Editor. Our reasons can be named as follows: first business presses; second it is the style just now; and third Mr. Hillman would'nt take no for an answer, so we thought him just the stuff to make an editor off.

Mr. Hillman is an enthusiastic oologist and lover of birds; and we hope with his help to make our little journal so interesting and instructive that you can not possibly do without us.

(Continued From First Page.)

humming-birds. It appears to be confined to the region between the eighth and ninth degrees north latitude. Their food consists principally of minute insects.

These birds are at once known by the curious crest of feathers that adorns their head, and the long beard-like appendage on the chin. The head and neck of the adult male is black. The throat plumes are white, and a broad band of white encircles the neck. The upper part of the body, and the two central tail feathers are of a bright-green.

There is also another species of the Helmet-crested known as the Guerins Helmet-crested Hummingbird. It inhabits a still higher part of the Chumbain Andes, where it is far from being uncommon.

It is easily distinguished from the former variety by a bright green line which passes down the centre of the beard, and of which only a faint distinction is visible in the former: Their is also more white on the tail.

The Great Black Spider of South America hunts the Hummingbird as a dainty morsel, but the little hummingbird has an avenger in the Bearded South American Ant, who hunts the black spider with equally as much courage and craftiness.

The rod and gun club of Canisteo, N. Y. have purchased three hundred quail, which as soon as the weather will permit will be distributed on the farms in this vicinity. Since the arrival of the quail several have died and have been mounted by Mr Win. Burrell.—*Assoc. Ed.*

Bird Notes.

Mr. Geo. L. White, Mt Morris, N. Y writes: I wonder if any of the readers of the MAINE O. & O. have noticed that there are very few crows to be seen here this winter: I have not seen half a dozen they seem to prefer the southern states this winter, perhaps on account of the cold.

On a recent trip to Washington I noticed that there were an immense number of crows to be seen flying around the city; also noticed large flocks around Baltimore.

—W. I. C., of Norwalk, Conn., reports that birds were quite plenty in his locality this winter. Mourning Doves Song Sparrows, and Goldfinches were seen in flocks; also a few solitary individuals of Sharp-shinned and Red-shouldered Hawk. Saw several Robins January 30th.

Some of the birds of Iowa.

(BY OUR IOWA CORRESPOND'T)

Chickadee (*Parus atricapillus*).—This small bird, only about five inches long, seems utterly insensible to the rigor of our most severe winters, and is apparently never happier than when playing among the branches on the sunny side of a tree, with a sharp frosty wind singing through the branches over his head.

The Chickadee is ever gay and fearless and filled with a restless curiosity whether it be in the door-yard or miles away from human habitation; but it is in the lonely forest that one feels the cheering influence of the companionship of these little creatures most and hears with great pleasure their jolly chick-a-dee-dee.

(To be continued.)

**Bird Life in Central Maine.**

The Snow Bunting has, for some reason, been very scarce here this winter although they visited us in large flocks in November. Perhaps their scarcity is due to the extremely cold weather which we had in December, causing them to pass farther south. They have of late however, been seen in small flocks returning to their breeding grounds in the Arctic Circle.

The Great Gray Owl, so common for this species last winter (over twenty specimens being taken in this state) did not put in its appearance this year, although about fifteen specimens of its near cousin the Arctic Owl have been taken.

Banded Three-toed Woodpeckers have been quite plenty in the vicinity of Moosehead Lake.

**The American Woodcock  
in Eastern N. C.,  
(*Philohela Minou.*)**

This highly prized game-bird is a very common migrant but an exceedingly rare summer resident; indeed it is so rare that it has never been my lot to find it breeding. It has not been very long since I identified this interesting bird, and the way it happened may interest some of you. I had been trying to secure one of them for some time but had never been able to accomplish my object.

Many a time have I been out of a moonlight night trying to shoot one of this species, but got disappointed and had to come back without my booty. I had long thought that a certain kind of

birds which could be found in the fields at night was the American Woodcock, and on the 15th. of Feb. 1891 was able to verify these ideas.

On going down town one day my room mate, knowing my love for birds, saw and bought a bird of this species for me, and told me he had a surprise for me in the shape of a Snipe. When he showed it to me I at once recognized it as one of the field birds that had been the object of my moon-light expeditions and soon identified it as the American Woodcock. It had just been wing-tipped caused by its flying against a telegraph wire the night before.

A boy picked it up and realized a nickel on his find which he probably thought a rare piece of luck I thought it good luck for me at any rate.

In the fall and spring migration they are scattered all over the fields at night every few minutes they ascend to such a height as to scarcely be heard, and will then descend and alight near the spot from which they rose: at intervals during the descent they make a sound which resembles the word "spank" with the "ank" greatly prolonged.

While ascending they make a whistling noise, which I think is made by the rapid motion of their wings.

Mr. John S. Cairns says the American Woodcock is a resident of Buncombe County but is oftener heard than seen. Mr. C. Brimley states that it is a rare resident in the vicinity of Raleigh, this state. From this it will be seen that it is more plentiful in the western part of the state than in the eastern which is probably due to the greater elevation of the western part.—J.W.P.S.



# PREMIUM LIST.—SUPPLEMENT.

## THE MAINE

# Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. II

GARLAND, ME. MAR. 1891.

NO 1

### The Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

STANLON SAWYER, Garland, Me  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER  
W. HILLMAN, Canisteo, N. Y.  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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A card good for one exchange notice to be used some time during 1891, and a card good for 25 cents in any thing we advertise providing the order amounts to one dollar or over.

Postage 2 cents.

#### No. 2. Card of Sea Moss.

These cards are made of specimens collected off the shore of Mass. and are prepared by an experienced hand on bristol card-board.

Postage and packing, 3 cents.

#### No. 3 Lead Pencils.

One dozen fine, rubber tipped lead pencils, good for marking eggs.

Postage and packing, 5 cents.

#### No. 4.

#### Leopard Sharks Egg.

This desirable curiosity is from the Mediterranean Sea. The specimens we offer are choice, and we have always sold them from 20 to 25 cts., each.

Postage and packing, 7 cts.



**No 5. Confederate Money.**

We have several thousand dollars in money which can be kept without a safe. but it increases in value each year as the time it passed current with thousands of our people becomes historic.

It is however an interesting study and we offer fifty dollars in it as a premium. Postage two cents.

**No. 6 Our Variety Collection.**

Contains 1 fine Sand Dollar, 6 Porcupine Quills, 1 dozen Guinea Beans, 1 Pine Cone. This we consider our best offer. Postage and packing, 6 cts.

**No 7. Shark, Skates Egg.**

Contains 1 each of Shark, and Skate, Eggs. Postage and packing, 4 cts.

**No. 8. Starfish, Gum Bull.**

Contains 1 Starfish and 1 Sweet Gum Bull (fragrant) Postage 6 cts.

**No 9. EMBALMING**

For this premium we give our method of Embalming, in neat pamphlet form and colored cover. Any one can, after a few attempts, mount their own birds rapidly and satisfactory; and adorn their Homes at small expense. Postage 1c.

**No 10. Embalming Compound**

1 package of our 1 X L Embalming Compound. It will emb. any thing in flesh forever; and is declared by all to be the best in use. Postage & additional 35c

**No 13. Liquid Poison.**

1 bottle of Liquid Poison, for Bird skins; an indispensable article when going on a collecting trip, no bother with dry arsenic; and skins remain soft for some time and can be worked up after you reach home without dampening in the least. Postage and additional 18 cts.

The MAINE O & O. yr. and any premium in this list, 25 ct. Postage and Additional, extra.

**CURIOSITIES.**

Any of the following premiums with MAINE O. & O. one year for 25 cts.

Order by number

**No. 14** Old Sea Wood eaten by Barnacles. Neat 2x2 inch specimen.

**No. 15** Sharks tooth.

**No. 16** a fine specimen of Jasper.

**No. 17** Two specimens Chalcid fly.

**No. 18** Bleeding tooth Shell and Sand Dollar.

**No 19** Tent Shell (Usual price of shell 75 cts.) Additional 15 cts.

Postage and packing of any the above premiums 4 cts.

**BIRD SKINS.**

**No. 20** For this premium we will allow you to select any skin in our list not valued over 15c. Postage, 5 cts.

**No. 21** For 10 cts additional you may select any skin not valued over 25 cts. Postage and packing, 5 cts.

**No. 22** For 30 cts additional you may select any skin not valued over 50 cts. Postage and packing, 8 cts.

**No. 23 Tags, Data's for Bird Skins.**

This premium contains 100 tags and 100 data's for Bird Skins. (padded) Postage and packing, 15 cts.

**No. 24 STARFISH.**

For this premium we offer two fine Starfish from Martha's Vineyard, representing two varieties.

Postage and packing, 6 cts

**No 25 Vol. I. Maine O. & O.**

We will mail you a complete file of Maine O. & O. to March 91.

Postage and Additional, 10 cts.

Order Premium by number, Don't Cut list.

MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST.

**BIRDS — EGGS.**

No. 26 Contains eggs of the following species: Flicker, Kingbird, Robin, Catbird, Bluebird, Chipping and Song Sparrow. Postage and packing, 5 cts.

No. 27 Contains an egg each of the Blue Jay, American Goldfinch, Grass Finch and Yellow Warbler.

Postage and packing, 4 cts.

No. 28 Contains an egg each of Cedar Wax-wing and Baltimore Oriole.

Postage and packing, 3 cts.

No. 29 Contains an egg each of Red eyed Vireo and Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Postage and Packing, 3 cts.

No. 30 Contains an egg each of Meadow Lark, Orchard Oriole and Crow. Postage and packing, 5 cts.

No. 31 Contains an egg each of Ovenbird, Black-throated Bunting and Yellow Warbler.

Postage and packing, 3 cts.

No. 32 Contains an egg of the Sparrow Hawk. Postage and packing 3 cts.

No. 33 Contains an egg of the Burrowing Owl. Postage and packing, 3 c.

No. 34 Contains a set of one egg of the Leach Petrel.

Postage and packing, 3 cts.

No. 35 Contains a set of 6 eggs of the Flicker. Postage and packing, 5 c.

No. 36 Contains a set of five eggs of the Black-capped Chickadee

Postage, packing and additional, 30c.

No. 37 Contains a set of two eggs of the Florida Burrowing Owl.

Postage, packing and additional, 95cts.

No. 38 Contains a set of 7 of the Am. Coot.

Postage, packing and additional, 35 c.

No. 39 Contains a set of 7 of the Burrowing Owl.

Postage, packing and additional, \$1 00

No. 40 Contains a second class specimen of Broad winged or Red shouldered Hawk.

Postage and packing, 5 cts.

**No. 41 SEA CLAM SHELL**

For this premium we give a large Clam Shell artistically painted, representing bouquets of Forget-me-nots, Lillies, Red, white and Moss Rose buds etc. The shells vary in size from 8 to 5 inches We have always sold them at 50 cts Postage and additional, 30 cts

**No. 42 Horseshoe Crab**

This is a select lot, collected expressly for us by an experienced hand and are the best we have ever seen, varying in length from 7 to 12 inches; and are of a beautiful checklet-brown tinge

Postage and packing, 10 cts

**No. 43 TAXIDERMNY.**

"Last but not least." For this premium we will give any mounted bird on our list not valued over \$1 00; or if you prefer will mount any bird up to size of Robin Postage and additional in either case, 75 cts.

**NOTICE.**

Remember that every thing contained in a number goes as one premium.

Any premium in this list and the Maine C. & O. one year 25 c. Premium alone 15 c. Postage, packing and additional extra in either case.

HOW TO SEND MONEY BY MAIL.

SMALL AMOUNTS, under \$2, can be sent by mail with very little risk if properly sealed and directed.

We prefer that remittances be made to us (when possible) by money order or postal note.

|  |      |       |     |      |
|--|------|-------|-----|------|
| No. ....   | Name | Month | Day | Year |
| Set Mark   | DATE |       |     |      |
| <i>Collected by</i> .....                                      |      |       |     |      |
| <i>Locality</i> .....  |      |       |     |      |
| <i>Set</i> ..... <i>Identity</i> ..... <i>Incubation</i> ..... |      |       |     |      |
| <i>Nest</i> .....  |      |       |     |      |
| .....  |      |       |     |      |
| .....  |      |       |     |      |
| <i>Sent to</i> .....   |      |       |     |      |
| .....  |      |       |     |      |
| <i>Eggs in set</i> ..... <i>Date</i> .....                     |      |       |     |      |
| .....  |      |       |     |      |
| .....  |      |       |     |      |
| <i>No.</i> .....   |      |       |     |      |

No. .... *Set Mark* .....

Name .....

*Collected* .....

*Collector* .....

*Locality* .....

*Ident'n* .....

*Incub't'n* .....

*Nest* .....

.....

*Sent to* .....

.....

*Eggs in set* ..... *Date* .....

.....



.....

# Data Blanks

*We give a block of these data's with Maine O. & O. one year for 50 cents.*

*Blank without stub 25 cents* . . . . . *With Maine O & O one year 35 cents*

Like the above printed on fine book paper, put up in blocks of 100. We sell them for 35 cents.


**THE MAINE**


# Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. II

GARLAND, ME. APR. 1891.

NO II

## An Easy Method of Recording Bird Songs.

Until I was requested by the editor of this paper to write out my short hand method of recording bird songs I had always supposed it was a simple expedient to which every one had access.

Since it is not I will endeavor to explain as concisely and clearly as possible.

On hearing a song at once express it as well as possible by means of letters, after which place small circles for clear full notes, and dots for those of less value in such a way as will best give the relative value of the note. This can best be understood by a specious example.

Suppose it is the twelfth of May, and you are standing in a partly inundated swamp densely overshadowed by trees. In the low bushes ahead a Bay breasted Warbler appears and, balancing on a twig, utters his song. This sounds very much like the syllables *Who-ha-h-Who-o-who-who*. So far so good but on reaching home you may have forgotten whether the notes were clear, whether quick or slow, or above all the 'tune' of the song. On the spot while the performer is yet with you it is at once seen that the entire song consists of clear

whistles; three ascending, two descending in reverse order and covering the same pitch as the first three, and two ascending. Between each set there is a pause. All this is awkward and unsatisfactory and gives but a faint idea of the meaning. In short hand it would be thus;



Now if the reader, beginning rather low, will whistle the notes shown above, bearing in mind the syllables given before, he will have a very fair idea of the song of the Bay breasted Warbler.

Below are a few of the more easy examples of this method.

*Yellow Warbler.*



*White-throated Sparrow*



*Black-throated Blue Warbler.*



*Cave May Warbler.*



In the case of more complicated songs the process is more difficult, but it has always answered my purpose very well. I have used it more as a basis from which to describe the song at length after reaching home than as a permanent form.

STEWART WHITE, Grand Rapids, Mich

# The Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

H. STANTON SAWYER, Garland, Me

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

C. W. HILLMAN, Canisteo, N. Y.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.

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Several adv. and exchange notices are carried over to next month owing to lack of space.

As the names which make up our mailing list this month were obtained from various sources; many of them doubtless are incorrect; consequently we shall send no more sample copies to any one in this list. If you wish to see more of us let us hear from you.

This issue of the MAINE O. & O. has a large circulation, and should you happen to receive more than one copy or do not care for the one you do receive, you will confer two parties a great favor by handing to some bird loving friend whom you think it might interest.

Our Premium List for 1891 is mailed you with this paper. Any of our old subscribers desirous of renewing their subscriptions in connection with any of the premiums offered therein can do so.

We intend to enlarge again in the near future; and if each of our subscribers will send in one new subscriber we shall be able to give you six pages of reading instead of four. Let the subscriptions come in.

**DAVIE'S METHOD IN THE ART OF TAXIDERMISTRY.**—will, without question, be the most complete and magnificent work on the subject ever published. It will fill a long felt want and should receive the encouragement and support of every one interested in our birds. It will be royal octave in size, tastefully bound in cloth, uncut edges and gilt top.

We have had the pleasure of examining proof plates, and can truly say the plates alone are worth the price asked for the complete work to those interested or intending to learn the art of Taxidermy. All desirous of availing themselves of this book at the reduced price, (which will be advanced when published) should send to Mr. Oliver Davie, 170 North High St., Columbus, Ohio. for subscription blanks, proof plates, etc. which will be sent on request.

The work will be ready for delivery within sixty days after the 500th subscription is received, which is the number which must be obtained before the work can go to press. 350 have already been received.

# PREMIUM LIST.—SUPPLEMENT.

## THE MAINE Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. II

GARLAND, ME. MAR. 1891.

NO 1

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Some of the birds of Iowa,

BY OUR IOWA CORRESPONDENT  
(Concluded)

Our Chickadee is a very numerous species and eminently gregarious; and is fond of traveling in the company with the Nuthatches and Creepers. Almost every flock of Chickadees has a pair of Nuthatches and one or more Creepers in it, who shy into the chinks of bark, while the Chickadee's break open the bunches of dead leaves and caterpillars nests for the insects they contain. They begin to build about the middle of April, and by the middle of May the young are generally hatched.

The nest is composed of moss, hair, leaves, grass etc. and is generally placed in a deserted Woodpecker's hole, a natural cavity or a hole made by the Chickadee. The eggs are from five to eight in number, most always six. They are a creamy white, spotted with reddish-brown. Five eggs collected May 3d. 1890 measure .58x.48 .58x.47 .60x.47 .60x.48 .59x.48. Five nests found May 17th '90, contained each six young about a week old. I found two nests May 10th one of which contained seven fresh eggs and the other, four young just hatched and two eggs. The first nest was in a hole in a stump so near the ground that the nest was on a level with the ground.

Probably no bird does less harm than the Chickadee and it should be protected by every one especially the farmer, for whom it does a great deal of good, by destroying numerous insects.

White-bellied Nuthatch (*Sitta Carolinensis*) — This is one of our resident

birds, being found here all the year. They are most numerous in the Fall and winter when their queer "quack" can be heard most any day.

Early in April they begin to nest, and the nesting place is usually a natural cavity in a decayed tree.

(To be continued.)

The Yellow-breasted Chat,

WRITTEN FOR THE MAINE O. & O

This sprightly little bird is quite common here as a summer resident. They arrive about the second week in May and soon make their presence known by their noisy, yet sweet and musical chattering, which during the breeding season is heard far into the night.

The nest is composed outwardly of leaves and weed stems, and lined generally with a certain kind of fine trailing vine of previous growth.

It is placed in thickets of greenbriers, in pastures, bushes, swamps or scrubland and from two to four feet from the ground. The eggs sometimes seem rather large for so small a bird. They vary greatly in size and markings, but a typical egg is glossy white, well marked over its entire surface, but mostly at the larger end, with chestnut brown and a few faint splashes of lilac; size: .94x.70.

The usual number laid in this locality is four, and in several years of careful observance, I have found but three sets of three eggs. They sometimes raise a second brood, as I have found fresh eggs late in June.

W. I. COMSTOCK, Norwalk, Conn.

Exchange Honestly.

Much has been said on the evils of indiscriminate collecting, the lack of proper identification, incompleteness of datas etc., all of which undoubtedly deserve all the unfavorable comments which they receive. But there is another evil which, perhaps more than any of these, deserves the attention of all, the wide spread dishonesty among collectors which is fast growing in popularity.

This kind of fraud is like a two-edged sword cutting friend and foe alike. It is of course a direct loss to him who is imposed upon by the dishonest party. The truly honest collector will not prove himself an "egg hog." He will not take a set of some unknown variety of European eggs and send them out under the name of European Goose. He will not make out several datas for one set of eggs (which, perhaps, are not what he represents them to be, and were not collected where he pretended they were) and having arranged an exchange with a party for several times their value, sends him the datas, and tries to make him believe that the eggs have been sent. He will never send out a data stating eggs were collected by him in a state where he has never been.

He will not send out eggs that have been broken, perhaps in marking, and then pretend that they must have got broken in the mails.

He will not write an article for a paper the main points of which, are taken direct from "Davie" without giving th

authority one word of credit for the stolen facts.

He will not pretend to know a great deal more than he is capable of knowing. In short, he will not practise any of the dishonesty in daily use among many Oological Collectors.

If a collector can not make up his mind to be honest with his fellow collector and collect for exchange as he would for his own cabinet; to make all his datas full and correct; then he is not wanted in the Oological circle, and he finds that honesty is the best policy. It is best for us all to remember, that we will do better by ourselves, by our brother-collectors, and by the science, if we "do unto others as we would they should do unto us."—*B.S.B*

Bird Life in Central Maine.

For the past few weeks the summer residents have been returning to us in small numbers; but at the present writing Apr. 13th, the air is full of song which is a pleasant reminder of returning spring.

Among the first to put in an appearance was the red-sh'd Hawk Mar. 24 Bluebird Mar. 25th.; also Robin and Purple Finch on same date. Black Ducks the 31st. Black Snow-birds Apr. 2nd. and on the 7th. small flock of Rusty Grackles, which are always very plenty here in the spring migration, the writer having seen thousands in a single flock. (They breed in large numbers in the vicinity of Sebec Lake.) Song, Swamp and White-throated Sparrows was first seen Apr. 12th.

. . . THE MAINE . . .

# Ornithologist and Oologist.

VOL. II

GARLAND, ME. MAY, 1891.

NO 3

## The Woodpeckers of North America.

(BY ROBERT R. SCORSO.)

I shall here endeavor to describe as briefly as possible all the main features of the woodpecker kind, both in Zootomy and habit.

There are thirty-two species in North America all of which are better known by their rapping sound than by their note. Although they are by no means confined to North America but instead, are found in almost every forest in the world.

They are easily distinguished from other birds, both by their method of procuring food, and their

manner of providing a place of safty in which to rear their young.

An idea of any bird in this genus will give us a very good idea of all the rest.

The following will lead to the identity of the most of the wood-pecker kind.

Their feet are formed for gripping and their tails to lean upon while climbing, and they are seldom at rest from

their labor except when flying. Their flight is swift and of an up and down style. Their legs are short and strong, the toes stand two forward and two backward, and are armed with strong, sharp and arched claws.

Their tails are very stiff and each feather is drawn to a point at the extrem.

Their food consists chiefly of

the insects that infest the bark of old trees and they are most truly fitted by nature for providing themselves with food of this kind

Their bills are wedge shaped, sharp and strong, and divided from the skull by an elastic plate, in which the jar is lost from the brain while pecking.

The tongue is very long, round, sharp and bony at



the point, it is a little dentated on each side which enables the bird to strike, and pull insects from their cells. It is thrown out and drawn back into the bill with great force, by the aid of two cartilages, which are fastened into the end of the tongue and run along to the roots, then take a circuit behind the ears over the skull and down between

(Continued on page 3.)

# The Maine Ornithologist and Oologist.

H. STANION SAWYER, Garland, Me  
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Entered at the Post Office at Garland, Me as second-class mail matter.

We shall in the near future publish a series of lessons on collecting and preparing bird skins.

We are informed that Mr. C. W. Hillman has a large illustrated catalogue of nat. history specimens and supplies etc., in preperation. Will be out soon.

Owing to a delay in getting our engraving from the engravers our last months issue had to be gotten out without the illustration on first page, but as we have made arrangements that will enable us to have the engraving by the first day of each month. The omittance of same will not occur again.

## More About an Ornithological Assoc.

Since mentioning this fact, by request, in Jan. issue of the Maine O. & O. we have heard from quite a number of the most prominent Natural's stating their desire to form such a society and it seems that with so many ready and willing to help, that such a society could be easily formed, and carried on, and would be of great benefit to collectors in the state.

The first thing, of course, is to appoint a place for first meeting, and a plan that suggests it-self is this. Let everyone, in the slightest degree interested, drop us a postal stating their preference for first meeting place, and we will publish the result of the votes in June issue of M O & O. and the collectors of the town that has the largest number of votes will immediately talk the matter up and call a meeting for organization. In our estimation Bangor would be the best place for first meeting. Let every one vote.

**MISTAKES.**—Yes, we make them as well as other folks. Why in our premium list which we mailed only last month, we offered to give a set of Florida Burrowing Owl, worth \$800 as a premium and only 95 cts. additional. The additional was all right, it was the Owl that was wrong, which should have been Fla. Screech Owl.

By the way our little Premium List proved quite a success and we felt encouraged by the way the subscriptions came in, and especially to find that nearly all of our old subscribers renewed their subscription on receipt of it.

As the collecting season is really begun in earnest, we trust it will be an enjoyable and profitable one to all.

Profitable, of course does not mean all the eggs you can possibly take, but the amount of knowledge you can obtain, as well as a goodly supply of specimens.

We would be glad to here from any of our friends at any time, with notes of interest that may have come under their observation and that they think would be of interest to others.

## MAINE ORNITHOLOGIST AND OOLOGIST.

### Some of the birds of Iowa.

BY OUR IOWA CORRESPONDENT

(Continued)

The Nuthatch's nest is composed of feathers, leaves, bits of bark etc.

The number of eggs is usually eight, and they are of a rosy white color spotted with shades of brown, mostly at the larger end. April 5th, while resting under a large tree, my attention was attracted by a pair of Nuthatch's, which were flying to and from a hole in the top of a tree. I watched them a long while and at last concluded to go up and see how near their nest was to completion. I found the hole to be about 6 inches and the bottom covered with pieces of bark. I did not visit that woods again until May 10th., when I again climbed the tree and found eight young Nuthatches.

A nest containing seven fresh eggs was found near here April 18th. The average size of the seven was .78x.58 inches.

The Robin (*Turdus Migratorius*.)-- Although the Robin is one of our most common birds, it is a very interesting one. The American robin is an entirely distinct species of thrush from the European bird from which it is named; it is a larger and more numerous species. Robins arrive from the south as soon as the weather begins to show signs of returning spring and frequently they come among us in the January thaws, only to be driven off again with the return of colder weather.

A large flock of Robins was seen here Dec. 29th, 1890, and other flocks were seen during the latter part of January.

The first nest is usually commenced early in April, deciduous trees being at that time leafless. The nest is a bulky structure composed of leaves, twigs, roots and grass lined with mud and grass. They usually lay four sometimes five eggs and raise as many as three broods in favorable seasons.

Among the curious places where I have found nests was on the rafters of a railroad bridge. Two nests were found on one bridge, one contained two and the other four eggs. The bridge was passed over by train several times a day. The eggs are greenish-blue in color and are very rarely spotted with brown. Two eggs found April 27 '90, had a few fine spots of brown on the larger end.

The average size of two sets of four eggs collected May 2nd, '90 was 1.14 by .82 inches. The food of the Robins consists, in summer, of insects, grubs, worms, cherries and strawberries.

The number of insects destroyed by these birds more than pays for the few cherries and strawberries they eat.

A nest containing three young birds was found near here Sept. 4th. This was probably a third nest.

The robins leave for the south in flocks during October.

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(Continued from first page.)

the eyes, forming a large bow.

The spongy part of the tongue, which envelopes the cartilages is like a worm, it can be extended or contracted at pleasure. There is a broad muscle joining the cartilages to the skull-bone, which by contracting or dilating, forces the cartilages through the tongue, thus forcing the tongue forward and pierces its prey.

The woodpecker also has an intestine that somewhat differs from that of other birds. The Downy Woodpecker is as common in North America as the Green Woodpecker in Great Britain. It is about seven inches in length, black and white above, drab underneath and the male has a bright red spot at the back of the head. She like other woodpeckers, does not build a nest and line it with soft feathers, but pecks a hole in some old tree, sufficiently large for her habitation and to perform all the duties of house-keeping in bird-life, here she lays five or six pure, glossy, white eggs.

This article will be continued in our next, where it will give the number of eggs laid by each species and many other valuable hints.

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### The Hermit Thrush.

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This is one of our common summer residents, arriving from the south about the 25th. of April, and immediately betakes itself to its favorite retreat the low and shady swamps.

It is a very shy and cautious little creature, always keeping well conceal-

ed in the low shrubery, but ever making itself heard by its piercing note or mournful chirp.

The nest is a bulky affair and usually placed in low hemlock or fur trees about three feet from the ground and is generally composed of leaves, strips of bark and twigs loosely woven together and very deeply hollowed. It is always well concealed, and is easily mistaken for a bunch of leaves. The bird will not leave the nest until the bush in which it is built is disturbed, when it will drop to the ground on the opposite side and scud off in the underbrush so quietly that one must be on the alert to catch a glimpse of it.

The eggs when laid are of a greenish blue, but on blowing and placing in a cabinet they soon fade to a pale blue.

As I have said before these birds are quite plenty in this locality.

I have often found three or four sets in a tramp of two or three hours. The usual site is like the Olive-backed, a northern slope at the foot of which is generally a stream or pond.

A few years ago it was a rare occurrence that a Hermit Thrush's nest was found in shrubs, but of late, for some reason unknown to me, they have conceived the idea of building in trees, and a nest is now rarely found on the ground. Penobscot Co., Maine.

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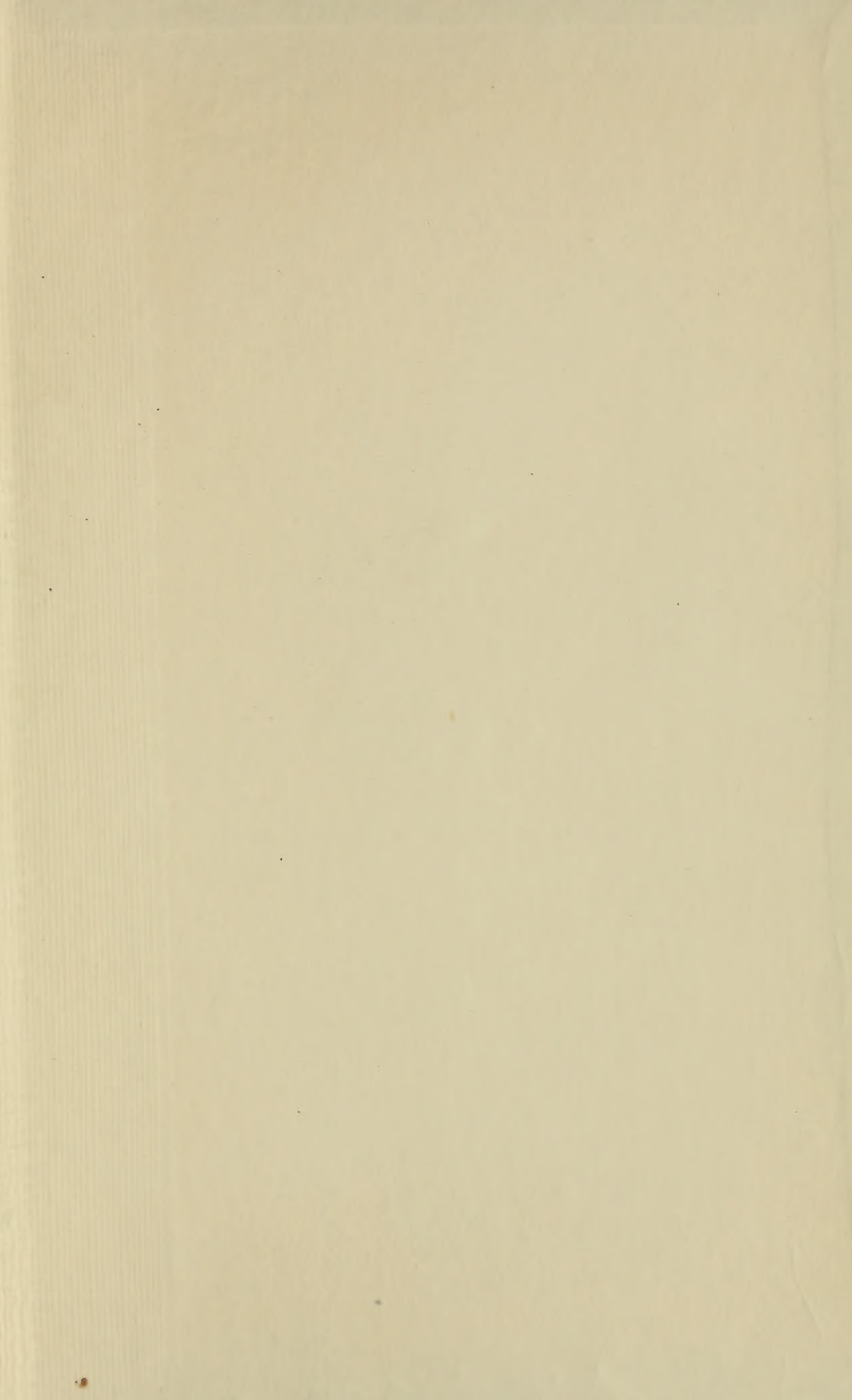




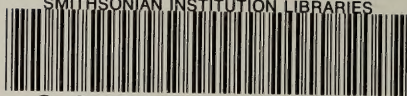








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