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THE OOLOGIST

FOR THE

STUDENT OF BIRDS

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS

VOLUME XXIX

ALBION, N. Y., and LACON, ILL.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXIX. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 15, 1912.

WHOLE No. 294

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc. inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

TAKE NOTICE.

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Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 293 your subscription expires with this issue. 281 your subscription expired with December issue 1910. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office, at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED.—Live American Wild Swan. One male Trumpeter and one male Whistling. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

RAPTORES.—Following choicely mounted specimens for exchange: 332, 334, 360, 368, 371, 372. Eggs in sets desired. ERNET NORMAN, Doe Lake, Ontario, Canada. (*1)

Anyone having a few good skins of foreign birds to exchange. Will give A 1 specimens from Illinois and California. Full data. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Illinois. (*1)

WANTED.—A few good skins of the Aleutian Tern (*Sterna aleutica*) Thayer Museum, Lancaster, Mass.

WANTED.—A No. 1 male snowy and West Horned Owl skin, Western Fox, Black, etc. Squirrel skin. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghan, Pa. (1)

WANTED.—A few good skins of the Dakota Song Sparrow, (*Melospiza melodia juddi*) THAYER MUSEUM, Lancaster, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—Whistling Swans, Cackling Geese, Mallards, Green Wing Teals, Baldpates skins, also others, want smaller skins. STANLEY G. JEWETT, 502 Bidwell Ave., Portland, Oregon. (*1)

FOR SALE.—Fine mounted specimen of red fox, albino opossum, squirrels, hawks, Owls, etc. Send for lists. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ills. (1)

WANTED.—Lists of good bird skins and Bailey's book of western birds. Some good skins for exchange. C. L. PHILLIPS, 5 West Weir St., Taunton, Mass. (1)

FOR SALE.—First class mounted birds at reasonable price. Am overstocked. Particularly on waterfowl. KARL W. KANMANN, Taxidermist, 2457 Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Ill. (6-11)

Birds and mammals mounted. Groups prepared for Museums. Skin making, rug making. All kinds of fish work. C. S. WINCH, Parkview Ave., Bangor, Maine. (1)

WANTED.—Skins, eared (*Sciurus Aberti*), black, raffels, all kinds squirrels, artic horned owl (*Articus*), hummers, golden, Silver pheasants, black grouse. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghan, Pa. (1)

Fine mounted game birds, some foreign, sacrificed at bargain prices owing to cramped quarters. Enclose stamp quickly for list. A. RUSSELL SMITH, Elm Ave., Edge Hill, Montgomery Co., Pa. (1)

WANTED.—All N. A. birds eggs also skins of hawks and owls. Those who have magazines for sale send price. Taxidermists who deal in supplies write. GUS KROSSA, Leduc Alta, Can. (1)

Wisconsin bird and mammal skins to exchange for beetles from Southern California, Arizona and New Mexico. Easy to collect, instructions and material furnished. W. E. SNYDER, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

BIRDS, Continued.

Send me ten first class skins of small birds, from nest of Missouri River, or from other countries and receive equal number from Illinois or Costa Rica, with full data. Also want sets of eggs, with nests preferred. Send list. H. K. COALE, Highland Park, Ills. (*)

THE CELEBRATED HUNGARIAN AND ENGLISH PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS, capercaillies, black game, wild turkeys, quails, rabbits, deer, etc. for stock purposes. Fancy pheasants, peafowl, swans, cranes, storks, ornamental geese and ducks, foxes, squirrels, ferrets, and all kinds of birds and animals. WENZ & MACKENSEN, Dept. H, Pheasantry & Game Park, Yardley, Pa.

WANTED.—First class skins of Murrelets, Gulls, Shearwaters, Rails, Shore Birds, Grouse, Hawks, Owls, particularly Snowy and Great Gray, and certain small land birds. Offer representative Southern California species, also fine sets of personally taken Heermann's Gulls and Blue-footed Boobies. All reliable collectors send lists. PINGREY I. OSBURN, Pasadena, Calif.

EGGS

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Nos. 128, 298d, 624, 674 761a and 364. R. P. SHARPLES, Westchester, Pa. (1)

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets of 339 and others for many common kinds that I desire. C. G. HART, Box 47, East Berlin, Conn. (1)

FOR EXCHANGE.—Singles, 1, 132, 360, 77, 495, 613, 412, and many others, for eggs of equal value. Send list. Write now. GUS KROSSA, Leduc Alta, Can. (1)

Nests with and without sets wanted. Can use many common varieties; have you any reptile eggs? J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Penns. (11-11)

I have sets of No. 320, 350 and 486 to exchange for Ridgway's Manual of North American Birds. Must be in good condition. STOKLEY LIGON, Pecos, Texas. (1)

TO EXCHANGE.—A number of sets, a few with nests of the more abundant small bird's breeding in south Texas. Wanted recent volumes of *Vuk*. Also earlier numbers of *Condor*. AUSTIN PAUL SMITH, Box 141, Brownsville, Tex. [*1]

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, North American and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. Dr. T. W. RICHARDS U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

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1912

The New Year is with us THE OÖLOGIST wishes all its friends a happy and prosperous New Year.

For the coming year we will not make you any promises. All we will say we will do our best to deserve as many good things said of our 1912 magazine as of that for 1911.

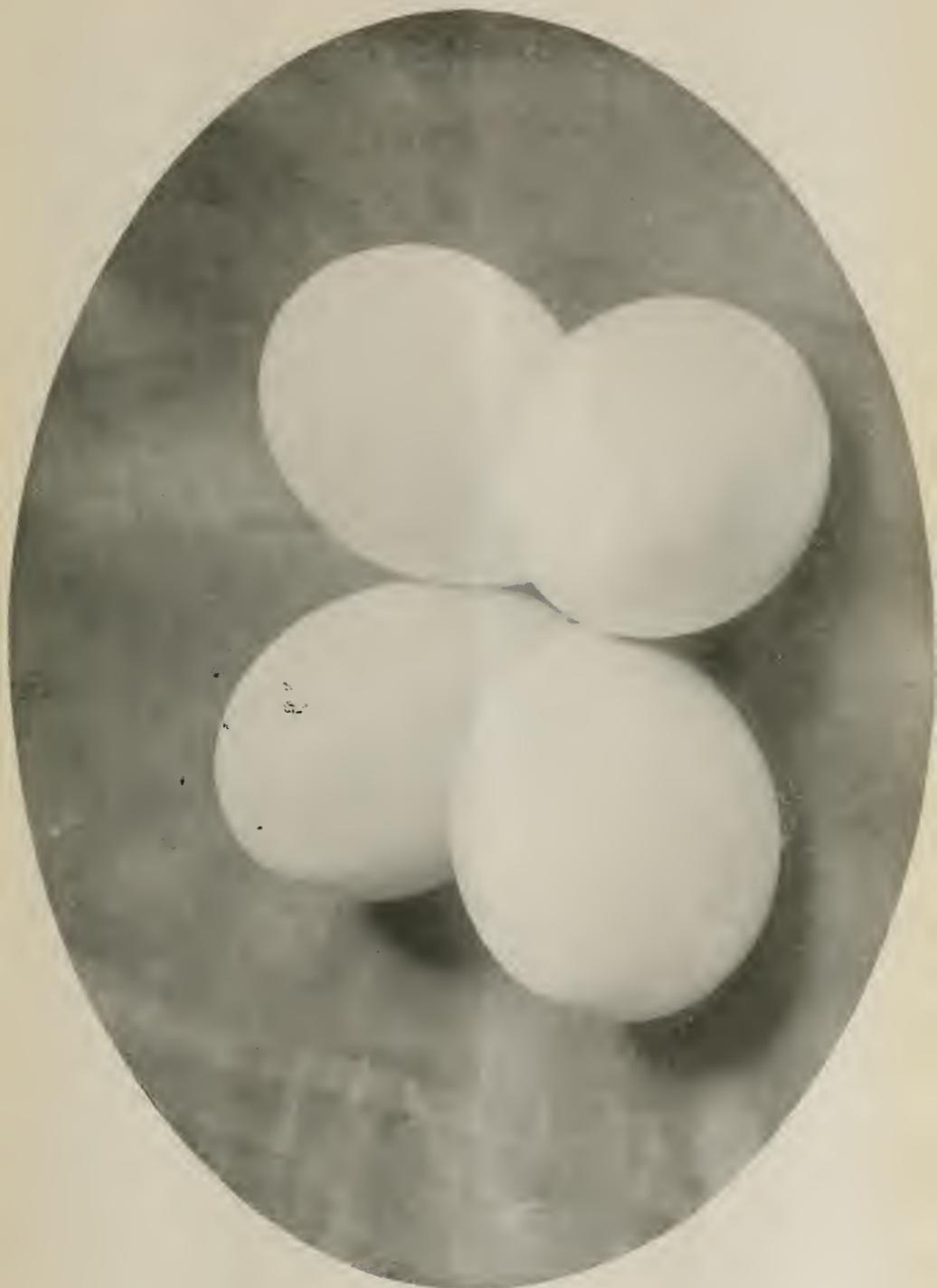
Whatever is added above the eight pages of reading matter and one illustration for each issue will be merely a gratuity offered by the present editor.

We will expect all our subscribers to pay up—at once, as money is needed to keep the magazine up to its present standard. If we devote our time and assume the responsibilities you should at least pay up promptly. All the money received goes back into the magazine. It is a labor of Love with us, not a commercial enterprise. Help us extend the subscription list and you help yourself just that much.

R. M. BARNES.



Drawer of Bald Eagle's Eggs in Collection of E. J. Darlington
—Photo by Mr. Darlington.



Set of Four Eggs of the Bald Eagle, Taken by E. J. Darlington
—Photo by Mr. Darlington.

Bald Eagles.

My experience with the Bald Eagles this year (1911) was unusual.

I expected one set at least from Maryland as the birds were seen and nest located, and why the eggs were not taken is more than I can answer now.

My young man in Delaware reported early in February that his Eagle tree had been cut down by a farmer, so I did not expect anything from there.

I had given up all hopes of getting any this year, as it seemed there was always something in the way of getting Eagle eggs, when my young man from Delaware turned up at my house on the 11th of March, with four eggs.

When he opened the box and lifted the lid, I saw he had four eggs. "Well," I said, "two sets of two." "No," he said, "they all four came out of one nest."

The expression on my face must have been a study, as I was aware that a set of four was very unusual, and the set was exceedingly rare.

He said he thought the nest had been deserted, but some one saw the birds there, and told him about it, and he found the nest was rebuilt.

It was a very large affair about five feet wide by four feet high, and so large he had to make a hole in the side in order to take the eggs out.

They were taken March 9th, a little late as a usual thing, but I found them fresh and blew them with small holes. They are large eggs measuring as follows: 3.00 x 2.20; 2.95 x 2.31; 2.89 x 2.22; 2.87 x 2.22.

If any one has another set of four I should like to hear from him.

Last year (1910) I failed to report any collections of the Bald Eagle eggs because I had nothing to report, and the prospects this year looked bad un-

til last night, when a boy came to my house with four eggs.

He said they were taken on the 9th inst. from a maple tree forty feet up in Delaware. I saw he had four eggs, and asked him where he got the other set. "They all came out of the one nest" he said. "What!" says I. "a set of four?" "Yes," he said, "a set of four."

I never heard of a set of four of the Bald Eagle before, and think it must be unique.

The eggs are large in size, measuring 3.00 x 2.20, 2.95 x 2.30, 2.89 x 2.22, 2.87 x 2.22.

They were fresh and I blew them with very small holes. They are of a uniform shape, pointed like a pear. Would like to hear from any one who knows of another set of four.

E. J. Darlington,
Wilmington, Del.

A Rarity.

George F. Guelf took November 23d, near Hamlin, N. Y., on Lake Erie, a young male Barrow's Goldeye, an exceedingly rare bird for Western New York. On dissection it was found to have taken no food since leaving salt water; the contents of the stomach were finely ground up, but contained unmistakable evidence of salt water crustacea.

A Partly Albino Redwing.

On June 3, 1909, at Pompton Junction, N. J., in a small swamp adjacent to Pompton Lake, a partly albino Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*) was found by the writer.

This bird's plumage was wholly normal with the exception of the feathers of the lower back and rump which were a glistening white. This bird was in company with a number of others of the same species which were nesting in this vicinity.

Louis S. Kohler,
Bloomfield, N. J.

A Cat-Man.

The fellow who signs as Wm. C. Herman, M. D., in the December number of *Nature and Culture*, relieves himself to the extent of a page upon the subject of collecting birds eggs, and especially in an attack upon THE OOLOGIST.

Who this unknown, unheard of featherless biped may be we haven't the least idea on earth. We never heard of him, and we doubt if any of our readers know of his existence. His article properly follows one relating to The Cat, and in which the cat is lauded and the declaration made that it never does disturb the birds.

Included within this growl is a snarl aimed at our friend, Frank M. Chapman and the National Audubon Societies, so we are not without good company in the condemnation of this little would-be regulator of the Universe.

Were it not for the statement that "the sole mission" (of the Oologist) "is to encourage the plundering of birds nests to secure eggs to be sold to pseudo scientific collectors," we would pay no attention whatever to this little squeak.

That statement is untrue, and the man that made it is a liar. Since taking hold of THE OOLOGIST, we have refused and declined to publish any advertisements for the sale of American birds eggs, and have endeavored to do all that we could to encourage legitimate scientific collecting. The Editor of THE OOLOGIST never sold a bird's egg in his life and never will.

An investigation into Wm. C. Herman, M. D.'s past might disclose some very readable matter. The writer has done and is probably now doing more towards the legitimate protection of our feathered friends every day in the year than has this unknown during his entire life.

Who and what and where this lover of cats is, is unknown and uninteresting to us.—Editor.

House Wrens.

One spring a House Wren appeared at our place and saluted us with a song, he kept singing most of his time as all House Wrens do, after he had been with us a week or ten days inspecting every nook about the place he began to build a nest in an old teapot I had put upon an out building, he worked and sang all day long, until he had the nest completed, at least he had worked diligently for a week or more, then he took a slight rest, and seemed to be waiting for his mate to appear, but whether she was an up-to-date female and ran away with some one else or whether she met her death on the journey north, I can't say, but she never came, but bless you did Mr. Wren waste any tears, not he, he sang and hunted insects day in and day out, occasionally going to the nest and going in, always busy the whole summer long and in the autumn he departed as if nothing had happened.

George W. H. Vos Burgh.

Zion City, Illinois.

Egg Exchange.

During 1911 the Editor made exchanges of Eggs or Skins with twenty-nine collectors, an average of about one exchange every ten days. Our exchange list began in January with approximately 1200 specimens. This, by January 1, 1912 is reduced to less than 50 eggs in 15 sets. This surely demonstrates that THE OOLOGIST is the best egg advertising medium in America.

This large volume of exchanges were carried on without misunderstanding and with mutual satisfaction on both sides, proving that this can

be done if fair dealing is the rule adopted, by all concerned.

As we close our exchange books for 1911 we find one small box of eggs lost in the mails still to be accounted for, containing \$4.15 worth of specimens, which we will have to make good unless it turns up in time. And the only one account against us still unsettled. This is for \$4.30. A fairly good account for the forever past 1911. The following is a list of our 1911 satisfied friends:

G. A. Abbott, Chicago, Ills.
 Lyle S. Baer, Streator, Ills.
 G. R. Barlow, S. Killingley, Can.
 Edward S. Coombs, Boston, Mass.
 E. J. Darlington, Wilmington, Del.
 E. J. Dietrick, Camby, Oregon.
 Clyde Hansmann, Cuddleback, N. Y.
 D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Ga.
 Thos. H. Jackson, West Chester, Pa.
 Eugene Kiethley, St. Michaels, Md.
 Jno. B. Litsey, Fort. Worth, Texas.
 Guy Love, Oberlin, Kansas.
 Wm. McLaren, Linwood, Scotland.
 R. L. Moore, Vernon, Texas.
 E. S. Norman, Doe Lake, Ontario.
 Troup D. Perry, Savannah, Ga.
 Wm. Plank, Decatur, Ark.
 Dr. T. W. Richards, Washington, D.C.
 C. S. Sharp, Escondido, Calif.
 Alfred C. Shelton, Petaluma, Calif.
 D. I. Shepardson, Los Angeles, Calif.
 E. H. Short, Rochester, N. Y.
 G. K. Snyder, Los Angeles, Calif.
 W. S. Strong, San Jose, Calif.
 A. O. Treganza, Salt Lake City, Utah.
 Alex Walker, Armour, South Dakota.
 Wards Natural Science Institute,
 Rochester, N. Y.
 H. Warren, Toronto, Canada.
 Arthur T. Wayne, Mt. Pleasant, S.
 Carolina.

House Wren.

Nest built in old pair of pants which were hanging in saplings and eight feet outside of the railroad right of way, a half mile from city of Marshfield, Wisconsin.

The top of the nest was four and one-half feet from the ground. The six eggs were placed ten inches down in the pant leg in nest composed of

twigs; lined with fine roots and feathers.

The nest was found and photographed sometime in the latter part of the month of May, 1910.

J. F. Stierle.

Marshfield, Wis.

Additional Notes on the Summer Residents of Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

To "complete" my list of summer residents in this county (cf Oologist, October, 1910, page 116) I have the following additional data to record, some of which I overlooked when I compiled my paper, and others I did not use in my original contribution because the records in it were based chiefly upon personal observations, but in the present list I have mostly used information of other reliable observers.

214—Sora; rare and formerly. It bred until quite recently on the Tinicum Island marshes in Delaware County, just across the Philadelphia County line, and may still breed there sparingly.

273—Killdeer; I found a nest on May 13, 1910, at Bustleton, in which young had been raised, and during the spring and summer of 1911 several pair bred in northeastern Philadelphia County, but I failed to find any nest.

289—Bobwhite; Mr. C. J. Hunt found it "nesting in 1902 along the Montgomery Pike in Philadelphia County, and a nest with six eggs was found in the same spot July 21, 1901."

325—Turkey Vulture. A nest with eggs, I have been informed, was found in the spring of 1910 along the wooded rocky ridges of the Wissahicken Creek, at Chestnut Hill, in Fairmont Park.

337—Red Tailed Hawk; Mr. R. C. Harlow records a pair nesting in the spring of 1905 above Fox Chase along



• House Wren's Nest in Old Trousers

—Photo by J. F. Stierle.

the Pennypack Creek; the nest held young.

365—Barn Owl; I observed by first Barn Owl in this county on March 3d, 1910, at Frankford, and, in June of that year, at the same locality a man captured a fledgling in a hollow willow tree along Frankford Creek, which he generously offered to sell to me for only \$8.50 and he seemed awfully put out when I refused his liberal offer. Like many other ignorant people, he seemed to think the bird was very valuable on account of its facial resemblance to our simian ancestors, and called it monkey-faced Owl, its common appellation; another name by which it is sometimes called by these ignoramuses is "Moon Owl" or Moon-faced Owl." The Barn Owl is undoubtedly increasing in the vicinity of Philadelphia. On my birthday, March 18, 1911, I collected a set of four fresh Barn Owl's eggs (a most welcome birthday gift) in Delaware County just across the Philadelphia County line and I still entertain hopes of securing a set in this county. The Barn Owl, I learned too late, until quite recently bred in the garret of the Alexander Henry Public School building, in Frankford, and were only driven away when alterations to the building necessitated the closing of their way of entrance into the dwelling. However, the Barn Owl has been found nesting in the southern part of this county, by J. Harris Reed.

393—Hairy Woodpecker; I examined three half grown young in a nest on May 17, 1911, at Holmesburg, and know where young were raised during the season at Frankford, Fox Chase and Bustleton. This Woodpecker is beyond doubt increasing in this vicinity, where it was once very rare, as it is now frequently seen on most trips a field.

420—Nighthawk; In Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" fifth edition, page 286, we learn that "a set of eggs in the cabinet of J. Parker Norris was taken from the gravel roof of a four-story building in the center of Philadelphia."

494—Bobolink; A male was observed on June 17, 1910 at Hohnesburg, in an upland field, but my efforts to locate its nest were vain.

587—Towhee; On May 24, 1911, I collected a nest and four fresh eggs at Rockledge, Montgomery County, just across the Philadelphia county line. I will yet succeed in finding a nest of this bird, in this county, where it is rare.

659—Worm-eating Warbler; There is a nest in situ and set of eggs in the Delaware Valley Ornithological collection that were collected on June 11, 1893, at Roxborough, by Mark L. C. Wilde.

676—Louisiana Water Thrush; Several nests were found by the late Harry K. Jamison, along the Wissahickon Creek, in Fairmont Park.

677—Kentucky Warbler. I found my first nest in the county on June 14, 1911, at Bustleton; it held four young almost full fledged.

731. Tufted Titmouse. Mr. R. C. Harlow found a nest at Oak Lane, on May 24, 1906, containing seven eggs and one young bird.

756. Veery. I have a hazy recollection of having read somewhere of a nest with eggs being found at Germantown many (?) years ago, but cannot recall where I read it. Certainly a rare record, if true.

I have heard of a set of Little Black Rail's eggs having been taken many years ago, on the marshes above League Island, in South Philadelphia, which is said to be in the collection of a Florida ornithologist, but cannot verify it.

The late Mr. Gentry collected a set of five Acadian Owl's eggs in the early '80's in Chew's Woods, Germantown, but I have always doubted the authenticity of this record, because no ornithologists have since found this bird nesting in the Carolinian zone in Pennsylvania. It is, I believe, a bird distinctly of the Alleghanian or transition fauna.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Swan Note.

At Senachwine Lake, eleven miles North of Lacon, on a hunting preserve owned by the Swan Gun Club, the last of October, Frank Wood, one of the hunters employed by said Swan Lake Gun Club, killed two adult female Whistling Swan, weighing 16½ and 17½ pounds, respectively. They are perfect beautiful specimens, and are now in the hands of Edward B. Mattern, a taxidermist at Henry, for mounting.

This variety of Swan is now more common along the Illinois River than the Trumpeter Swan, though in years gone by, the Trumpeter Swan was by far the more numerous. Both varieties may be described at this time as exceedingly scarce.

These two birds are the only Swan known to us as having been killed on this river anywhere in our neighborhood at any time within the last ten years.

The killing of swan of all varieties should be prohibited by law. The Wood duck, the Woodcock and Swan are rapidly fading into extinction, and an effort should be made to preserve these splendid birds.—Editor.

Our Plunder.

Thinking the readers of THE OOLOGIST might be interested in our accumulations of things Ornithological and Oological, we will say; that

on January 1st, 1912, we were the proud possessor of an Ornithological Library composed of 400 bound volumes of books on birds, ninety-five per cent. of which related to North American birds. Also 150 bound volumes of American Bird Magazine and about 40 complete and partially complete but unbound volumes of other American bird magazines. Also approximately 250 pamphlets and separates relating to North American birds and about 100 U. S. Government publications relating to our birds.

Our collection of North American birds eggs on this date represented 836 species, sub-species and geographical races, 235 of which were in completed series.

On the same day our pens contained 11 of the 14 species of Geese, represented in the A. O. U. List, besides 17 species of the ducks and both the Native American Swan, in all 171 birds.

More Yellow Heads.

It seems that the Yellow-headed Blackbird has visited various parts of Wisconsin for the first time in a number of years. The same is also true of this locality. In fact I can find no record of their ever having visited this immediate vicinity before, but am told that about fifteen years ago, a number of them were seen in the marshes at Rice Lake, twelve miles north of here.

During the spring and summer of 1911, a small colony made their home in the rushes, bordering a pond, near the city pumping station.

C. W. Pelton.

Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Bobolink Nest.

While out for a walk one afternoon last spring, I flushed a female Bobolink from her nest of five eggs.

Thinking the set was not complete,

I left it and returned two days later. As the nest still contained but five eggs, I took them.

Lifting the nest from the ground, for the purpose of getting measurements, what was my surprise to find two more eggs, lying in the hollow from which the nest had been removed.

Two eggs were partly imbedded in the dirt, but after washing, were found to be, in shape and marking, exactly the same as those in the nest.

Chas. W. Pelton.

Marshfield, Wisconsin.

Merely a Protest Against Nature Faking.

The nature faker is still in the land! Like the English Sparrow, he is always with us, and like this avian pest, he is a abomination to society (human).

I have just read a remarkable nature fake. A writer in a boy and girl magazine, a paper supposed to be published for their edification and education, tells how a boy robbed an eagle's nest down in Texas. The boy scaled a vine-covered cliff some two hundred feet in height, unaided, with a bag slung over his shoulder, to the eyry. Finding two young birds in the nest he put them AND THE NEST into his basket (wherever he got the basket the article didn't say) and starts to descend to the anxious waiting naturalist below, who had offered him the exorbitant price of \$200.00 for eggs or young. The boy is attacked in his descent by the enraged birds, one of which the professor shoots, which the boy seizes as it presumably falls by him, and using it as a weapon he defends himself against the other bird, which continued to attack him, although it had a broken wing, until it is laid low by a well directed shot by the excited naturalist on the ground. Then the boy descends in safety and

claims his just reward. Can you beat it?

The greatest nature fake I have ever read, rivaling any newspaper stories of robins nesting on the axle of a moving box car, etc. Is it any wonder that nature faking is so prevalent, when magazines that ought to know better, print such lies. I also read of the Kingfisher nesting in a small cottony-lined nest on the bough of a sycamore tree, high up and out over the water of a stream. This was also in a boy and girl magazine, but in this instance the ignorant writer confused the nesting habits of the Kingfisher with those of a Kingbird, in all probability, but it was nevertheless a raw nature fake. Other instances are too numerous to mention.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Piping Plover in Pennsylvania.

In the western part of this state this pretty little plover is only found along the shores of Lake Erie.

Even there it is not at all common at the present time, although formerly it is said to have been quite common, and quite a colony used to nest on the wide outside beach of the "Peninsula" near Erie, Pennsylvania, at the present site of the "Fog Station." Of recent years I have found this plover to be rather scarce there and for several years only a single pair have nested there. This past season, while there early in June I spent some time watching this pair of birds.

I had some difficulty locating the nest as the birds were very wild and the female would run away before I was close enough to get a very good idea of where she started from. After approaching from different directions I got a very good idea as to what part of the beach was the nesting site. After staying away awhile I crept up

behind the nearest sand hill and then hurried out to this particular locality. As soon as I saw her running on the sand I hurried to the spot and there within 10 feet of where I first saw her moving off, was the nest. It was merely a hollow in the sand on the high beach. Small flat stones lay scattered about and the pale colored eggs matched very well with the surroundings.

As far as I am able to find out this is the only place at present anywhere in this state where this plovers nest has been found in recent years.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

"Campbellites."

Our friend, E. W. Campbell, writes us that he has recently purchased nine acres of land (two or three of which is water), fed by springs with some timber on it, and that he purposes engaging in the raising of live native wild fowl. We can assure him that nothing that he can do will give him more pleasure as a bird lover. To see our man walk out in the pasture on a crisp fall morning with a basket of corn and surround himself immediately with all manner of wild ducks, geese and swan, some of which eat out of his hand, and others gather around his feet is a sight worth going miles to see. We trust our friend will have the success that his effort deserves.

He also furnishes the following notes which will be of interest to all readers.

November 5th, Reuben Driesbaugh shot a pure white albino gray squirrel at Wyalmsing, Wyoming County, Pa., with not a colored hair on it. Campbell has mounted it.

November 18th, John Curtis shot at Harvey's lake, Luzerne County, Pa.,

A. O. U. No. 212, Virginia Rail, (*Rallus virginianus*), male, which is the latest date that they have been known to be in that territory.

On November 21st, J. E. Lamb shot one A. O. U. No. 221, American Coot (*Fulica americana*) at Lake Sheridan, Wyoming County, Pa.

Books Received.

Home Life of the Osprey, by Clinton G. Abbott, B. A.

Witherby & Company, 326 High Holborn, W. C. London, announce an addition to "The Bird Lovers' Home Life Series" under the foregoing title. It is a beautiful little volume of 54 pages, accompanied by 32 mounted photographs, is pleasingly written and fully delineates the home life of this well known bird.

There is no more interesting series of bird books that come to our table than the Home Life series. It is published at 6s. net and may be obtained of the Forest & Stream Publishing Company by American patrons. The photos are among the best that we have seen, and of themselves are worth more than the price of the book.

This same enterprising firm likewise announce the publication in the near future of a complete work on the "Birds of Colorado."

Personal.

The well known Oologist, O. A. Treganza of Salt Lake City, has recently had a ten weeks tussel with typhoid fever. He is now on the road to recovery we are glad to say. Few collectors stand higher among the egg men.

The *Wilson Bulletin*, double number 76-77 is just at hand and is made up entirely of Frank L. Burns' monograph on the Broad-winged Hawk. We can truthfully say this is one of the best things that has come to our

desk during the year of 1911. Mr. Burns is to be congratulated upon the general splendid character of his paper.

Donald J. Nicholson of Kissinnee, Florida, asks to insert the following: "I am to start for a long trip to the Everglades of Florida, January 4th, to be absent until sometime in June. Preparations for this expedition, coupled with business affairs has permitted me scarcely any time to properly attend to my correspondence as I should like to have been able to do, and therefore I am forced to leave many letters unanswered to my regret. My apology is extended to all involved."

We are pleased to note that H. C. Higgins, of Uxbridge, Massachusetts, formerly of Cincinnatus, New York, one of the real old guard, has just been appointed one of the three members of the Massachusetts permanent State Committee on Birds, the committee this year being reduced from five to three. The other members are Charles H. Rice, of Lominster, and Mrs. E. O. Marshall, of New Salem. We have no doubt that Mr. Higgins will be a useful, valuable member.

Early Nesting of the Bluebird.

The earliest nesting of the bluebird I have on record is March 14th, 1911. When a nest was found containing four fresh eggs. This is very early even this far south, as the earliest I ever noted before was on March 23, 1909. When I found a nest containing five fresh eggs.

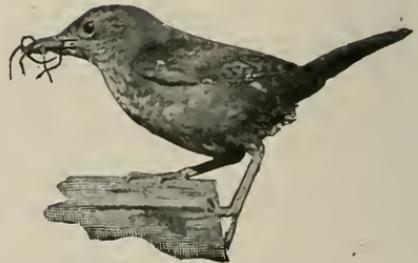
The latest nesting of this bird was on July 25, 1910, when a nest was found containing two half grown birds.

Wm. Plank,
Decatur, Arkansas.

Another Double Shelled Egg.

San Diego, Aug. 7.—Kojack,, a resident of San Diego, owns a Plymouth Rock hen which laid a double egg to-day which weighed one-half pound. The prodigy is one of the strangest ever seen here. The outer shell was broken, showing that in addition to containing a complete yolk and white it also contained another egg with a hard shell formation and a perfect white as well as a yolk. The egg was broken in the rooms of the chamber of commerce.

We are glad to advise our readers that Oscar E. Baynard has recovered his health and is back in Florida. And we hope to be able to soon give our readers some very interesting notes written by Mr. Baynard.



You have certainly made a decided improvement in the magazine, and I want to be counted as one to help you keep up the good work. It must be appreciated by all the old-timers, as well as by all ornithologists and oologists interested to have an up to date magazine published for their own special benefit.

H. G. Higbee, Dec. 18, 1910.

Miller T. Mercer, Dec. 17, 1910.

The Christmas number of THE OOLOGIST at hand, for which you certainly are to be congratulated.

Charles A. Hewlett, Dec. 17, 1910.

I have taken THE OOLOGIST now for over 20 years and think it is vastly improved during the past year.

R. B. Simpson, Dec. 20, 1910.

It's getting better every day and I wish you luck.

A. H. Keeney, Dec. 23, 1910.

I have taken THE OOLOGIST for 11 years now and would not be without it at double the price. It has shown a market improvement since it has passed into your hands.

Lucius H. Paul, Dec. 29, 1910.

THE OOLOGIST is surely taking a great brace.

C. J. Pennock, Dec. 30, 1910.

I certainly enjoy the little journal.

Dr. E. S. Schmidt, Dec. 31, 1910.

The exchange and "for sale" columns in the last issue covered as much space as the whole OOLOGIST covered several years ago. "That's going some."

Wm. G. Pitcairn, Jan. 2, 1911.

THE OOLOGIST certainly has improved and I am glad to see the good work go on."

J. F. Taylor, Jan. 3, 1911.

I am pleased to note that it is improving.

W. G. Savage, Jan. 6, 1911.

I would not be without it.

C. S. Winch, Jan. 22, 1911.

I have taken this publication ever since it appeared a small leaflet over 30 years ago and feel that I could not be happy without it.

Mrs. Ella A. Wiswall, Jan. 7, 1911

READ WHAT THE BIRD MEN SAY WE ARE DOING TO "THE OOLOGIST."

I congratulate you upon turning out such a good magazine for the money.

Frank S. Daggett, Nov. 26, 1910.

I must congratulate you to your success in improving The OOLOGIST. I would not like to be without it a single month.

E. J. Dietrick, Nov. 27, 1910.

You are certainly greatly improving our little paper, and I wish you every success in your efforts.

J. H. Bowles, Dec. 4, 1910.

I like THE OOLOGIST very much.

Margaret R. Gest.

It's getting better all the time.

B. R. Bales, Dec. 6, 1910.

THE OOLOGIST seems to be better than ever as an advertising medium. I received live answers in reply to my advertisement of scientific shells and the duplicate sets of bird eggs, and as I disposed of both please do not run my "ad" again.

C. F. Stone, Dec. 7, 1910.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the splendid magazine which you have edited this year.

R. J. Longstreet, Dec. 12, 1910.

I am a subscriber of your paper, and think it is a dandy.

R. Ross Riley, Dec. 12, 1910.

Hoping to see the 1911 OOLOGIST grow as well as did the 1910 issue, I remain,

Wm. G. Pitcairn, Dec. 15, 1910.

Your current number is quite newsy and much improved in appearance.

H. S. Hathaway, Dec. 16, 1910.

I have looked forward to the middle of each month the past year with a lot of pleasure, as there has always been something of real, true interest in every issue.

THE OOLOGIST I think is getting so much more interesting. It is nice to see the photographs of the different oologists and naturalists with whom we correspond.

Edward S. Coombs, Dec. 25, 1910.

I congratulate you on the long life and improvement of the OOLOGIST. It evolves like that fabled bird, the Phoenix, out of its own ashes. May it be perennially thus.

E. W. Vickers, July 24, 1911.

The last issue of the OOLOGIST has just been received, and looks to me like the best issued that I can remember of having seen. Mr. James B. Dixon's paper is a good one, both in subject and observations.

Pingree I. Osburn, Aug. 17, 1911.

I wish to complement you upon the steady improvement THE OOLOGIST has shown since you took hold of it.

D. I. Shepardson, Aug. 18, 1911.

You and your paper should get a vote of thanks from all of us who have been long in the mill for your active and successful efforts.

T. W. Richards, Nov. 1, 1911.

THE OOLOGIST is very interesting. Miss Constance M. Vickers,

Nov. 14, 1911.

It is excellent since you assumed it. I look forward with delight to its coming every month.

D. E. Olson, Nov. 14, 1911.

I can see a marked improvement in the magazine over what it was a year ago. F. C. Willard, Nov. 19, 1911.

I was one of Lattin's old subscribers way back in 1888 and 89, and like a good many of the boys, dropped out. Am pleased to see that you have improved THE OOLOGIST since it has been in your hands. May the good work go on.

W. Linfred Dunbar, Nov. 22, 1911.

Enclosed you will find money order for 50c for renewal subscription of the OOLOGIST.

We are more than pleased with THE OOLOGIST and found it a great help in collecting birds eggs, for we would not be without it. For it is a magazine that every egg collector and taxidermist should subscribe for.

We subscribe for other magazines, also, but we find THE OOLOGIST the best among them all.

Every one who studies nature will find joy and comfort in the OOLOGIST long after the subscription price is forgotten. We wish the OOLOGIST success.

Parhmann Bros,

Taxidermists,

Nov. 21, 1911.

Collectors, Naturalists

Do you want a nice mounted bird to adorn the top or your cabinet or to hang in your den? If so, then send your specimens to me where they will be properly mounted by an expert Bird Taxidermist, one who has spent years in the field and knows how a bird should look. I am going to make some special prices to collectors and students, so send on your specimen, or address

R. F. MULLEN,

Taxidermist Studio

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A Magazine of Western Ornithology

Edited by J. GRINNELL.

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VOL. XIII, 1911,

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Margaret R. Gest.

It's getting better all the time.

B. R. Bales, Dec. 6, 1910.

THE OOLOGIST seems to be better than ever as an advertising medium. I received live answers in reply to my advertisement of scientific shells and the duplicate sets of bird eggs, and as I disposed of both please do not run my "ad" again.

C. F. Stone, Dec. 7, 1910.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the splendid magazine which you have edited this year.

R. J. Longstreet, Dec. 12, 1910.

I am a subscriber of your paper, and think it is a dandy.

R. Ross Riley, Dec. 12, 1910.

Your current number is quite newsy and much improved in appearance.

H. S. Hathaway, Dec. 16, 1910.

THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y. FEB. 15, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 295

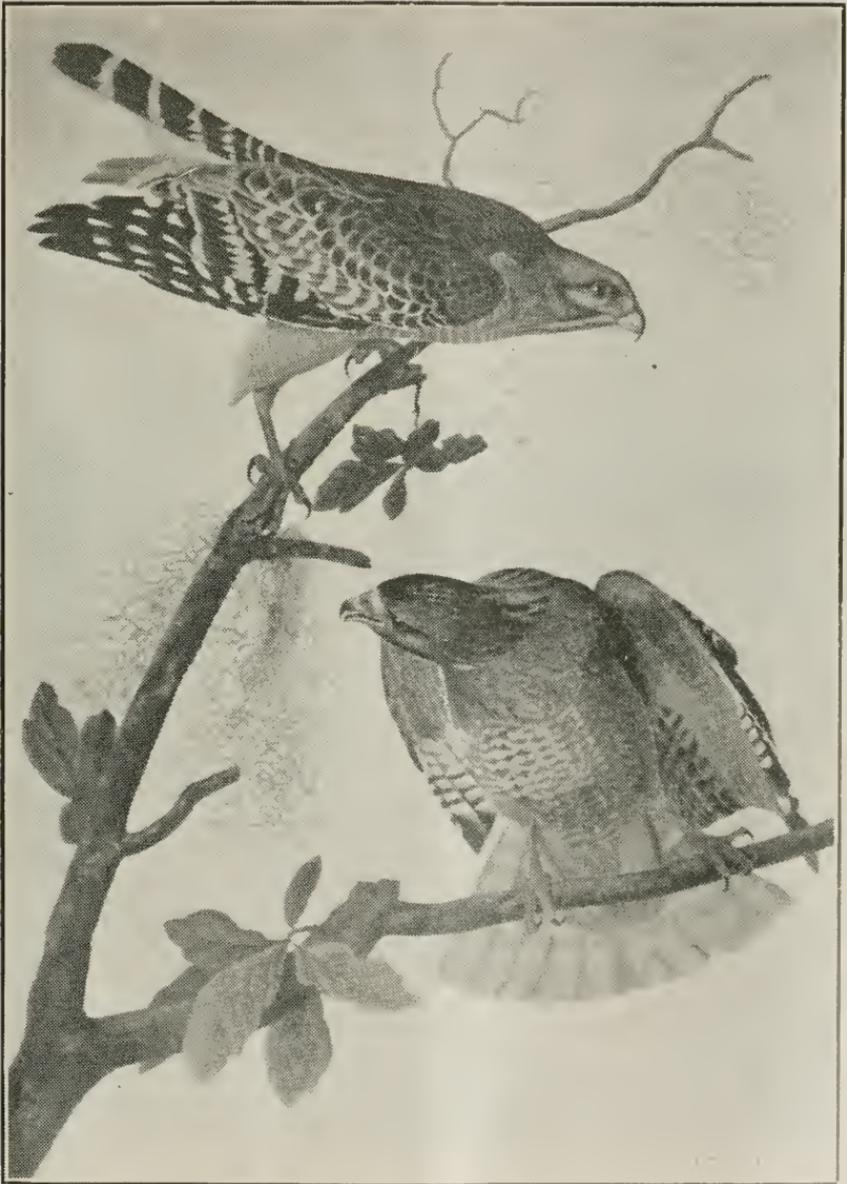
Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Illinois.

February.

The month of storms and rough weather. The month the almanacs picture with the boy skating over ice bulletined with a danger signal, though the ice in the Illinois river here at Lacon is now two feet thick.

This month as the rigors of this unusually severe winter draws to a close we devote most of the space of THE OÖLOGIST to the Raptores. Now is the time the Eagle looks up a new nesting cite or repairs the last year's home. The woods resound with the "Whoo hoo hoo hoo-o" of *Bubo virginianus*. Owl's eggs are ripe!

By the time this, the best issue of THE OÖLOGIST we think, ever mailed reaches you, Ye Editor hopes to be on the way to southern California for a Month's rest and recreation. Ingersoll wrote us last year if we would come he would show us one of "his" Golden Eagle nests, and permit us to gather the fruit. Maybe he will be as good this year, and if so we will tell you all about the, to us, new experience of collecting a set of these prizes.



Red-shouldered Hawks.
From drawing by Audubon.

The Red-shouldered Hawk.

In this neighborhood the red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) is very common. It is the second largest hawk and prefers lowland in the vicinity of creeks and swamps rather than the highland, which is more frequented by the red-tailed hawk.

The picture is taken from Audubon's great work in possession of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences. The original was painted in London, Eng., in 1837, 74 years ago. It has in this long time not lost any of its originality.

The breeding range of the red-shouldered hawk extends through Eastern North America from Maine to Florida, and westward to the borders of the great plains. The hawk arrives here from the southern parts of the United States in the middle of March and, if possible, occupies its nesting place of former years. The selected trees are birch, ash maple and beech, and quite often elms. The nests generally measure from 18 to 24 inches in diameter and five inches in depth. They are placed in a crotch of a tree or against the trunk on limbs growing out from it, at an average height of about 50 feet, 60 feet being the highest. The nest is composed of sticks and dry twigs and is lined with birchbark, strips of the inner bark of various trees and hemlock twigs, the latter invariably indicating that it is occupied. The farmers go gunning for these hawks on account of their occasionally capturing a young chicken. If they only knew that this hawk destroys principally mice, moles squirrels and young rabbits!

I have seen one with quite a large snake in its talons fly past me. So, you see, they well repay the farmers for an occasional theft of a young chicken. In examining 102 stomachs,

61 contained mice, one poultry and the rest various mammals, reptiles and insects.

When they arrive in this locality and have repaired their old nests, they start to lay the eggs, which number mostly three or four—very seldom two eggs. I have a set of five eggs in my collection. In southern localities they hardly ever lay more than three eggs. The ground color of the eggs varies from a dull white to a pale yellowish, or a pale bluish white, and they are smeared, blotched and spotted with different shades of reddish brown, fawn color, buff and pearl gray. In some eggs the markings are few, but large and bold, in others finer, of smaller size and more profuse. Unspotted eggs are very rare. The average size is 2.15 by 1.75 inches.

An accompanying picture shows a hard climb to the nest on an elm tree 60 feet up to get the camera in position to take a picture of the nest containing three beautifully colored eggs. When the females are disturbed they fly from the nest and circle overhead or perch on a high limb of another tree near at hand and protest in loud screams against the intrusion, but never have I found them to attack the climber. These pictures were taken near Lein's Creek, in rear of Chippawa, Canada.

In May the young birds emerge from the eggs and look like balls of yellowish down, but after a week's time the quills begin to grow, giving the young a darker appearance. Now both of the parents go out on foraging trips. We have seen them come almost to a standstill 40 to 50 feet over the nest and drop with unerring aim a mole amidst the hungry, fighting young.

If the first set of eggs is taken they



Home of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

invariably lay another, but in number a smaller set.

The time has now approached to go in the woods to study the feathered tribes.

Ottomar Reinecke.

We are under obligations to our friend Reinecke for the use of the beautiful plates that illustrate the foregoing article.

Editor.

Death of Birds by Ants.

Death of young birds caused by ants. Have any of the THE OOLOGIST readers noted any such occurrences? I have found young birds dead whose death had been caused by ants. I will give one instance from my note book. While walking east of town on June 12, 1911, I came onto a young western meadowlark which appeared to be dying. I therefore investigated and I was much surprised to find many of the common hill ants on the unfortunate creature. All over the body were sores at which the ants were feasting. The tortures that the bird had endured must have been great indeed. I picked the young meadowlark up which was at that time lingering between life and death, brushed the ants off and carried it to a place less populated by ants. I then went back to search for more victims. In this I was somewhat successful as I found one more on the verge of dying, this one was also covered with ants. I removed this to the place where the other had been placed and continued my search. I found one more but its life had already passed away not to suffer from the ants which was tearing and gnawing on its body. The skin of the bird had been penetrated as a result. I could not find any more than, than these three birds; but undoubtedly two

more were somewhere nearby as the usual family is five. This was indeed an ill-flated family. The parent bird was seen around all the time.

I went back the next morning but much to my sorrow found the two birds dead. The ground here is covered with ants and it is not to be wondered that the young birds on the ground, unable to fly, were attacked.

In my note book I have notes of two other such occurrences as the above. And I would like to know if anyone else has noted similar cases.

Henry Hestness.

Rockford, Wash.

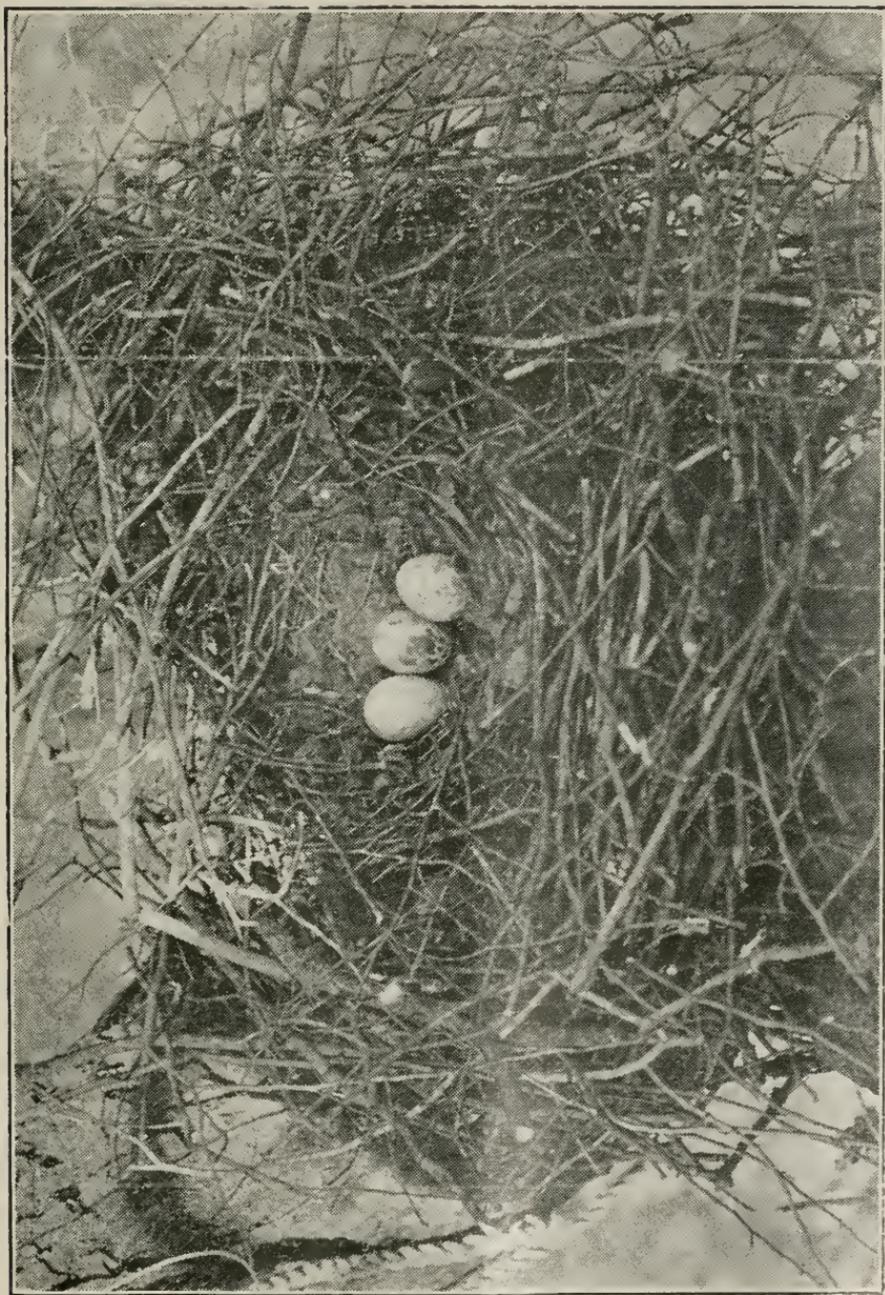
The Great Horned Owl.

Being greatly interested in the Great Horned Owl, and its nesting habits, I wished very much to procure a set of eggs for my collection.

Year after year I tramped through the woods in the vicinity of our town, but aside from a nest which had contained two heavily incubated eggs that had been thrown out by Crows, after a young farmer had shot the mother from her home in a large Red-tailed Hawk's nest, and two other nests containing young, which were found while hunting for nests of the Redtail, it seemed as though luck was against me.

Having each year increased my desire for a set, by the time February of 1910 arrived, I decided to search carefully all the woods which might be suitable for a pair of owls to make their home.

Two days were spent by long tramps to the north of town without success. On returning home from the second day's trip, while slowly making my way along a road near town, I met a farmer who resided several miles to the west. I hailed him and asked if he knew of an Owl's nest in his vicinity, and was



Nest and Eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk—From a Photo.

surprised when he told me where I might find one.

It was now evening, so I wandered home with much hope of procuring a set of eggs on the following day.

I was astir at daybreak, and after a light lunch, took my camera and collecting box, and with a light heart, set out.

The morning was still and cloudless, and really very beautiful as the ground was covered with snow which sparkled in the early sunlight.

After considerable time I reached the woods, which covered a low ridge that ran down towards a valley which contained a small creek. I spent some time in examining some old Crow's nests, and then went out the ridge, and by looking through an open space in the trees, could see a large nest high up in a tall, straight, white oak tree not far above the lower edge of the wood. By standing on a large stump I could see the ear tufts of an owl, and had found the nest.

A great amount of pounding on the tree failed to scare the owl off, and she sat closely until the climber was within twelve feet of the nest. Then she sailed off through the woods, and was seen no more.

On reaching the nest, it was found to contain three eggs which proved to be slightly incubated.

The edge of the nest was covered with snow, and on the inside there was a rim of ice, caused by the bird's body melting the snow.

I was much pleased with the fine set, and after taking several exposures of the nest in situation, tramped back to town.

Although I hunted carefully in other sections of the county, no more nests were found that year.

In the spring of 1911 four nests were located and a set of two collect-

ed from each. These nests were all in white oak trees, and ranged from 80 to 95 feet above the ground.

It is becoming difficult to secure sets of the Great Horned Owl in this section, since the Owls are becoming scarce, owing to the farmers who trap and shoot them.

Again early one morning in Feb. 1911, while passing along the ridge about two miles from town, I noticed a large nest in the top of a small tree in a triangular shaped wood near the mouth of a small ravine, at the base of the ridge.

By using my field glass I could plainly see the head of a Great Horned Owl upon the nest, so I hurried toward the wood, and the Owl flew from the nest as I entered, also the male flew from the lower extremity of the wood and they both sailed away to a large wood on the opposite hill.

The nest was about 80 feet from the ground and as I had no climbers with which to reach it, I hurried to town and soon returned with climbers, kodak and two common Hen's eggs.

Upon reaching the nest I was pleased to find two fresh eggs, which I took, and in their place put the two Hen's eggs and after making several exposures of the nest and tree I made my way to town.

In five days I returned and found the Owl peacefully sitting on the Hen's eggs. She flew off when I started up the tree, and lit in a large oak tree nearby.

After another week I returned to the wood and she was still staying with the eggs. This time she seemed to be very much attached to them and left the nest only when I was part way up the tree.

About the 9th of March while passing the wood, I found her still sitting

there, but I was unable to visit the nest again so do not know how long she remained with the eggs.

S. S. Dickey.

A Letter.

We publish the following without having asked our friend Treganza about it. But it is the kind of communications we like to get and shows the kind of material from which the real naturalist is made, not the simple collector or the pure commercialist, but one who follows it for the love of the thing.

Many thanks for your kind offer of last spring, I enclose a note or two, if you care to publish them you are welcome. THE OOLOGIST for December to hand some time ago. It is fine, I look forward always to the coming number with pleasure.

In my previous letter I took occasion to write some of my likes and dislikes, and then to you I dropped out of sight, not so to the birds though.

Generally speaking it has been a successful season with me, yet to many collectors my work or rather its results would be looked upon in the light of a day's jaunt, while to me the time lengthened into days, weeks and even months of hard work, but full of pleasure and interest.

I am jollied by the question, What pleasure do you have in tramping day after day, wet or dry, sunshine or shadow, after a few birds we all know? How can we answer such questions. I find that the people do not understand the question they ask, always. They—the people—look on all work in the compensation. I had almost said commercialism, as they often add to the previous question. How much do you make a year out

of it? Money, none is my reply. Yet the one who follows it surely has longer life and more of it than he who labors for dollars and what they will buy.

This question often comes to my mind. Why is it so few who have means would add years of life to enjoy, take no interest in nature's field of labor, Friend Barnes, Is it lack of education along the line of Natural History?

Here I am near 70 years old, and 12 to 20 miles a day from April 1st to Sept 1st is my daily walk; and looking forward hoping I may learn more about our birds.

I would have earlier sent you some notes, but Sept 7th I received word that my son, A O Treganza, was sick of typhoid in its worst form, so my field work came to an end for this year.

While convalescing (that is my son) we sent you a small exchange.

Then maybe some who appreciate their own collecting more than ever, out I have never met but few. If the notes I send are satisfactory you let me know and I shall try to help you in your work, and I have not seen a report from Utah, I shall be in the field again in sixty days so shall try to get something to report on the Nutcracker, I find but little in print that meets my experience with this bird although quite intimate for forty forty years, from Colorado to California and back.

Edward Treganza.

The Western Horned Owl in Western Kansas.

The Western Horned Owl, while not a common bird here, is occasionally met with in suitable localities. They are to be looked for along the timber fringed streams and are seldom seen far from the limestone

ledges, which are common along the south bank of the streams in this part of the state. In holes and fissures in these ledges they usually nest.

March 25, 1909, Mr. Guy Love and I were out looking for a Golden Eagle's nest, we had had no success and late in the afternoon Mr. Love proposed that we should give up the search and on our way home stopped at a ledge of rocks where we had been told a Western Horned Owl had nested the previous year. After a great deal of climbing and looking into many holes and crevices, we at last located a nest containing one egg. The nest was in a crevice in the face of a cliff about forty feet up. The crevice was parallel to the base and perhaps ten inches wide, about five feet below the nest there was a narrow ledge, after climbing to this we could just see the egg. It was lying in a depression nearly round and fourteen inches in diameter by seven inches deep, and contained no lining. From all appearances and the amount of debris, bones and etc., lying near the nest, this site had been used for many generations and by constant use the depression had been worn in the solid rock. Neither of us touched the egg or put our hands in the crevice, hoping to secure a complete set later. During our stay at the nest we did not see either of the birds.

April 8, we returned to the place but to our disappointment the nest had been deserted. After a short consultation we decided that the female would probably make another nest in the vicinity. A careful search was begun and resulted in flushing a female from a nest containing two eggs. This nest was about half a mile from the first and situated in a very open place, being on a ledge not over eight feet up. The eggs

were in a depression about two inches deep hollowed out of the sand on the ledge. We supposed this to be the same bird that had made the other nest, so we did not climb to the nest but viewed it from the top of the cliff above the ledge, hoping that another egg might be laid if the nest was not disturbed.

Two days later I returned to this nest alone, counting on at least a set of two, but I was disappointed again. One egg was pipped and in the place of the other lay a little white ball, he had evidently not been out of the shell more than two hours though he seemed quite lively. Near the nest lay the pieces of the shell and parts of a young rabbit. While I was at the nest both of the parent birds flew to the rocks above the nest where they sat snapping their bills and occasionally flapping their wings. After watching them for a few minutes I withdrew and left the family in peace. This evidently was not the same pair that had owned the first nest, but nothing could be found of the birds or of a nest.

During the winter of 1909-10 I noticed that a male Western Horned Owl had taken up his home in a large hole in a clay bank which was usually used in the summer by Barn Owls.

March 24, 1910, I visited the place hoping that the male had secured a mate and would stay for the summer. When I reached the bank I whistled and an owl stuck her head out of the hole. Just in front of the bank was a cottonwood tree and by climbing this I was able to see into the hole, which was about ten feet from the bottom of the bank; as I started to climb the tree the owl left the nest and a few minutes later I was able to see into the nest which contained four eggs. By securing the stump of

a small tree and leaning it again the bank I was able to get to the nest. My data reads: Nest in hole in bank, ten feet up, hole two feet deep, eggs in slight depression, no lining, incubation advanced. This was the first set of this species I had ever collected and I certainly was proud of the find.

April 9, 1910, Mr. Love and I visited the site of the two nests found in 1909. From the place where the nest had been deserted, we flushed a female and he secured his first set of Western Horneds. The three half incubated eggs were lying in the nest, which contained no lining, these eggs looked very much like the single that had been there the previous year.

April 24, just one month after securing the set of four, I was near the bank again and was going to look in the hole to see if the usual pair of Barn Owls had returned, imagine my surprise when I flushed a female Western Horned and found a set of two eggs. The nest was just the same as that containing four, but the eggs were not quite so large, incubation was quite advanced.

I believe both of these sets were laid by the same female, but her actions certainly were not the same as the female of nest number one in 1909, who deserted her nest and egg. So I am at a loss to know which is the rule and which is the exception. Who can tell me?

March 15, 1911, I was hunting near the same bank, and was greeted with another surprise. Just for curiosity I climbed the tree to look into the hole and there was another Horned Owl, she did not leave the nest until I had secured a pole and climbed almost to the nest. The hole smelled very strongly of skunk, and the four half incubated eggs were smaller

than either of the previous sets. While at the nest the female flew to the tree near and sat snapping her mandibles. My note book reads: "Nest of 375A in clay bank, nest hole ten feet up and three feet deep, lined with a few feathers. This is the third set from the nest."

This concludes my experiences with the Western Horned Owls here. Next spring I will try to secure a photo of the nesting sites I have told about, and will try to tell more about their habits.

Ray Wolfe.

Oberlin, Kan.

Winter Bird Life at Mosquito Inlet, Fla.

I passed two weeks in the last of December at Coronado, a small village, situated about three miles south of the Mosquito Inlet. I spent much of my time about this inlet and its adjacent waters. Extending northward is the Halifax river, and southward the Indian River, both separated from the ocean by a long, narrow elevation, varying from four hundred yards to a mile in width. This island formation is densely covered with palmetto scrub with occasional stretches of pine, cedar and oak forests. Coronado is located in one of these wooded districts. The river between this island and the mainland is no where under a mile in width, and at mosquito lagoon, about forty miles south, it broadens out into what resembles a large lake. The main channel near Mosquito Inlet is about one hundred rods wide. The remaining area is a vast salt marsh, through which there wind multitudes of creeks. At low tides long and broad sandbars, large mudflats and extensive oyster banks are uncovered.

I found this district to be most populous in bird life, both of aquatic and land varieties. On any day I could see from twenty-five to fifty species, some of which would be represented by hundreds of individuals. Starting on the ocean beach, half a mile across the island, and walking up the inlet, one may see half a dozen Herring gulls, perhaps thirty Bonaparte gulls, riding on the edge of the surf, and a dozen or two Laughing gulls. Above the breakers are scores of darting Caspian and Royal terns, while the smaller Forster and common terns are plentiful. An occasional Loon may be seen floating just beyond the breakers. Flocks of ten, twenty or thirty Brown Pelicans fly past, while here and there a dozen or two are hovering above a school of Menhaden, or mullet, as one after another they plunge clumsily downward, head first, to engulf as many unfortunate fishes as they can in their great pouches. On the beach, rising in flocks before you, are Ruddy Turnstones, Semi-Palmated Sandpipers, Semi-Palmated Plover and Sanderlings and now and then a Black Bellied Plover. Ospreys are rare. A Bald Eagle is no unusual sight. Nearly every walk on the beach brings one to view.

Rounding the point of the inlet, if the tide is ebbing, the bars are seen covered with Pelicans, Terns and large flocks of Black Skimmers. Soaring above the reeds are a couple of graceful Marsh hawks. A flock of Fish crows flap noisily by. Great Blue, Little Blue and Louisiana Herons walk about in the shallow waters. A few stately American Egrets are to be seen, their yellowish bills, white plumage and black legs shining in the sunlight. You may see a Green Heron on a stump and perhaps a Black Crowned Night Heron perch-

ed alone in a tree by the bank. The marshes resound, at times, with the noisy clatter of Clapper rails. A King fisher rattles overhead. A swift flock of Mallards or Scaup ducks may go fleeting past. Seaside sparrows skulk in the tall reeds and Marsh wrens flit to and fro among them. A Florida Cormorant is seen sitting on a beacon post in the channel of the river. A few Killdeer are heard from an adjacent mud flat. Spotted sandpipers teeter up and down the beach. A few Wood Ibis are escribed, soaring high above the river.

At our back among the woods, beset with thick underbrush, are found Blue gray, Gnat catchers, Vireos, Brown Thrashers, Cat birds, Mockers and Wrens, Cardinals, Florida Jays and perhaps a Blue Jay, Ground doves, Shrikes, a few Warblers, noticeably Myrtles, Phoebes, Woodpeckers of several varieties, one or two species of the Hawk tribe, quantities of Towhees, an occasional Thrush and now and then a flock of Robins.

The birds named above are the ones most frequently seen. There are rarer species of course seen now and then. I know of no place in Florida where a few days in the winter months may be so enjoyable passed in bird pursuits as at Coronado and Mosquito Inlet.

R. J. Longstreet.

Deland, Fla.

The Kennicott Screech Owl in Washington.

In the spring of 1909, while walking along the banks of Wilson Creek, Kittitas County, Washington, I discovered my first Kenicott. It was April 25, a fine warm day, and the willows and brush along the creek was swarming with warblers, song sparrows and Chickadees.

I noticed a cavity in a dwarfed cottonwood near the ground so I looked in, Mrs. Kennicott was there and under her were several little Owlets, little balls of downy cotton, with their eyes unopened. I passed on and did not molest them for what was the use. I told a rancher of my find, he said, "why didn't you kill the whole family?" Now what satisfaction would there be in destroying and where would I receive any benefit, also I believe the rancher receives little harm, if any, and more or less good, from the Kennicott Screech Owl, though they do destroy the song birds.

The spring following I decided to go earlier and so on April 9, with my climbers, saw, etc., I again visited this locality. I looked into several suspicious looking holes that looked good, but nothing doing, until I reached the same old tree of the year before. Sure enough Mrs. Kennicott was at home, standing on my tip toes and poking gently with a stick I roused Mrs. Kennicott from her slumbers. She didn't appear in a hurry to depart and snapped at my gloved hand as I tried to pry her loose. With my saw I enlarged the opening, she paying little attention to the noise and the sawdust. As I reached in she scrambled up to the hollow above her head, exposing five pure white eggs, a nice addition to my collection. It took considerable poking to bring her down from above, but I finally succeeded and I held her up by the wings to inspect her beauty. Despite the rancher's argument to kill 'em all, I let her go. But her nest showed the awful havoc she had played with other members of the feathered tribe. Bunches of feathers under the eggs of larks, flickers and other songsters showed only to well some of the habits of the Kennicottii.

Of course these feathers had been accumulating for several years, as no doubt this particular tree had been the nesting site of numerous broods of Owlets. Bones of frogs and mice were there in abundance, also a very Owly smell.

On April 11th, I found the second set of four eggs in a dead cottonwood stub, twelve feet up, nest about the same cavity only deeper, but plenty of bones and feathers. Old lady at home as usual and winked and blinked, and uttered a shrill cry as I held her up for inspection.

On April 14th, while walking along a small creek I found my third set of four. I noticed a cavity about sixty feet up, in a cottonwood and decided to look in, though I had climbed some other hard climbs, with no success and was getting weary. The sixty feet seemed one hundred, but on arriving at my destination, and poking a stick into the two foot cavity, I was rewarded. Mrs. Kennicott came to the opening and right into my hands and after inspection was duly let go. The four eggs were dirty, evidently a fifth having been broken, but fresh, as were the preceding two sets. But the stench was overpowering so taking my clutch, I hastily descended.

I moved away from that vicinity shortly afterward and as there are no trees in this neighborhood have had no more opportunities to visit Mrs. Kennicott. However, we have a number of desert birds, and will endeavor to write on them later.

F. R. Decker.

Prosser, Wash.

SHORT BIRD NOTES

From Port Hope, Ontario.

I thought some of the readers of THE OOLOGIST would be interested about the birds around Port Hope.

Last winter there were several flocks of Evening Grosbeaks around our vicinity, this bird is very rare here indeed, and is seldom seen. The following are dates that I saw them on last year:

They arrived here on December 28, 1910, and on that date I saw one on February 18, 1911 I saw one more, March 18th, 6 female birds and on April 19, I saw a flock of male and female. I have not seen any since the last date.

On January 6, of this year, there was a very heavy snow fall and the mercury dropped to 32 below zero, and I saw a flicker, he seemed to be in fairly good condition, but it is a mystery to me why he is here with us at this time of the year.

I attend the school here and we are getting up a Nature Study Club of which I have the honor of being the president. About once a week we hold meetings, and I discuss birds with the rest of the pupils for about an hour. I have been persuading them to put out food for the birds and also to protect them and I think that I will succeed in the end.

Norman Hamilton.

A Wood Thrush's Nest.

A pair of wood thrushes built their nest in a tall cherry tree by our house in Tarrytown, N. J., last spring. These thrushes seemed to be the happiest pair of birds in the country. The male thrush was always pouring forth its beautiful song. When I first observed the nest, May 20, it was practically finished. The nest was placed in a crotch a little more than half way up the tree. It was made mostly of fine twigs, straw, tissue paper, string and was lined with grapevine twigs. It closely resembled a robin's nest. I saw the

first blue egg in the nest May 22. Three eggs which were all they had were laid three days later. All of the eggs were hatched by June 6. Among the things that the old birds fed the young were small worms. The last young bird left the nest on June 18.

Max Irwin Carruth.

Late Nesting of the Bob-White.

On August 6, 1906, I found a Bob-white's nest, 30 feet from the door and 2 feet from a well used path. The nest contained four eggs of the parent bird and two eggs of the domestic hen. The hen's eggs were removed and Mrs. Bob completed her clutch of 9 eggs Aug. 11, incubation commenced the 12th and was completed Sept. 6th. Incubation was retarded owing to the frequency of the parent bird being disturbed. All of the eggs hatched, the young Bobs ran away from their mother and hid at my approach, not more than 30 minutes after they had hatched. These youngsters survived the winter, it being a mild winter, very little snow and plenty of warm days.

Guy Love.

Oberlin, Kan.

Partially Albino European House Sparrow.

Rayford A. Mann collected a male English Sparrow in Stoneham, Mass., December 21, which was a perfect albino excepting the three outer wing feathers—primaries.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher (*Muscivora Forficata*) in New Brunswick.

Rayford A. Mann reports that while visiting in New Brunswick in the fall of 1911, a gentleman there exhibited to him a male Scissor-tailed Flycatcher that he had shot in a field near Clarendon, New Brunswick, during the summer of 1911 and had

mounted. It is surely unusual to find this species in that territory.

Albino Catbird's Eggs.

Roscoe I. Giles, of Marlborough, Mass., together with his father who is a taxidermist, collected this past season at their home a set of four eggs of the Catbird, which are pure white. This is certainly a rare find. We have never known of this species laying albino eggs before.

Kingfisher, (*Ceryle Alcyon*.)

In my daily walks along the Brandywine to the office during the summer I noticed four or five Kingfishers diving in the water.

At first I paid little attention to them, as I knew that was the usual way for them to feed. One day I saw that their actions were unusual, so I watched them a long while. The old birds were teaching the young the "modus operandi" of catching fish.

One of the old birds would dive from a high limb into the water and fly back again as an example for the young. Then a young Kingfisher would plunge in, come up about a foot above the water and repeat the performance several times, until he was so tired out he could hardly reach a low limb.

The young birds were kept at this for many days, no doubt adding to their knowledge as time passed.

No doubt the young birds considered this great sport to dive into the water as they repeated the performance several times while I was passing along. More practical knowledge would come to them later and then they could look out for themselves.

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Del.

Books Received.

Home Life of the Osprey:

This is one of the best if not the best of the series so far published delineating the home life of certain birds, and is a companion book to *The Home Life of the Golden Eagle* and *The Home Life of the Spoonbill*. The present volume by Clinton G. Abbott is entertainingly written, mechanically well prepared and contains thirty-two full page photographic plates, artistically mounted and is without doubt one of the very best books on the subject ever published.

It is not only valuable from a scientific standpoint, but likewise from the booklovers' standpoint, as well as that of the everyday nature lover.

The American distributors of this work are Brentano's, 229 Fifth Ave., New York City, and the price is \$2.00.

New England Trees in Winter, Bulletin 69, Storr's Agricultural Experiment Station, Storrs, Connecticut.

One of the very best forestry publications that has come to our desk in a long time, and many of them come, is the above publication by our friends, A. F. Blakesly and C. B. Jarvis. It is a review of the common timber of the New England states, lavishly illustrated by high-class half-tones and apparently thoroughly scientific. A better key to the trees of any locality we have seldom, if ever, seen.

Bird Stories from Burroughs. This little volume is composed of excerpts of sketches of bird life taken from the works of John Burroughs with numerous illustrations by Lewis Agassiz Fuertes, some of them in colors. It is a well written, typical Burroughs' book, containing stories relating to such birds as the Bluebird, Robin, Flicker, Cowbird, Chipping Sparrow, Brown Thrush, House Wren.

etc., the common everyday birds around the home.

Burroughs' writing needs no commendation; it is in a rank by itself. This is published by Houghton, Mifflin Company, 4 Park Street, Boston, Mass., at the price of 80c net.

Martin Houses.

The mail brings the annual spring publication by the Jacobs Bird House Company of Waynesburg, Pa., entitled "The American Bird House Journal for 1912."

This is a guide for bird lovers in attracting the Purple Martin and other house nesting birds by supplying bird houses and nesting boxes for them. The price is 25c, which it is well worth to any persons interested in such matters, being brim full of information on this subject and profusely illustrated by first-class illustrations.

The True Story of a Starling.

It was on a beautiful afternoon in May that we found him. All winter we had watched with amused interest a pair of starlings that spent most of the time in strutting solemnly side by side on the lawn at our English garden. Then when early in the spring they built their nest under the eaves of the house, we felt that their bond of friendship was more strongly cemented; but little we knew that one of the nestlings was to be our pet and constant companion through the long summer.

Poor little odd creature, when we picked him up from the stone walk we thought that with his enormous mouth and prominent black eyes he looked more like a frog than anything else. Not a feather had he, and we wondered that the soft little body had survived the fall of more than twenty feet. Our first idea was to get him back to his nest, but this

we found impossible as it was inaccessible. However, a young carpenter, who was working about the house, came to our aid and after managing to drive a nail into the wall, fairly near the nest, he hung on it the basket into which we had placed the baby starling. We hoped that the parent birds, who were occupied as usual in supplying the endless amount of food evidently required by young starlings, would come to feed him as well. But in this we were doomed to disappointment, for after eyeing the basket with great distrust, for sometime they reached their nest by making a wide detour, never heeding the plaintive cries of their child. As we continued watching, we saw him scramble to the top of the basket cling there for a moment, then fall again with a sickening thud at our feet. "Poor little creature," I said, "if he is not killed this time, I am going to take care of him." No sooner said than done and in a minute or two he was comfortably resting in a soft artificial nest, the children all looking on with eager interest. The first thing was to feed him. Not knowing what starlings like best to eat I, at a venture, prepared some bread and milk. To my relief he took it at once with avidity, and from that time on my only trouble with his food was to see that he had enough.

Strange to say he was not in the least hurt by either fall, and flourished from the first. He never showed the slightest fear and unlike most birds loved to be handled and petted. When he was very little he would always go happily to sleep when I held him in one hand and covered him with the other.

He grew apace and at the end of a week was fully feathered. With

his soft, brownish gray plumage and bright eyes he had become a very pretty little bird. At first he was rather troublesome at night for at the first peep of dawn he began to demand food vociferously; and as it is bright daylight shortly after three on May mornings in the south of England his first meal was a fairly early one. However as I was taking care of my little niece who began life a month or two before the startling it was simple enough to feed both babies at the same time. He soon began to scramble out of his basket and make attempts at flying; and in ten days he was quite secure on his wings.

Then the question arose as to what was to be done with him. We could not bear to keep a wild bird in captivity, but would he be able to fend for himself if we set him free? Suddenly the thought came to me—why not try to train him to fly about outside but return to the house to be fed? How delightful if this could be accomplished. At any rate it would do no harm to try, and I began at once.

The first time I took him into the garden I tied a long thread to one leg, and he took short flights at the end of it. This fretted him, however, and the next day after walking about with him for awhile I very tremblingly let him go. But to my relief after flying about nearby for awhile he came to me of his own accord. The next day he flew out of my window towards evening, and when darkness came on and he did not return, I feared I would never see him again. Early the next morning, however, to my great delight, I was awakened by his loud clear call, and in he flew, as pleased to come home as we were to have him.

After this he went and came at

his own will, free as the wind and unconfined. Soon he always stayed out at nights, choosing a particularly tall horse chestnut tree near the house for his sleeping quarters. But all day long he would be in and out of the house just as he fancied. Often he would appear at the breakfast table, his coming always heralded by the same loud call, but after he knocked over and smashed a beautiful Chelsea cup, his presence in the dining room was rather discouraged.

He liked the kitchen best, however, for he knew he would always find his saucer of bread and milk. Varied as his diet became, including almost everything from flies and spiders to fruitcake and bananas, he always remained faithful to his first food. In the kitchen also was his favorite singing perch. There he would sit and sing by the hour, his song growing sweeter and clearer as the summer advanced. Everyday he became more intelligent and interesting. He loved to play with the trinkets on my dressing table, and to walk about the floor carrying pieces of paper almost as big as himself. Once when I was sewing he seized my thimble and bore it off in triumph. I hurried after him and after leading me a pretty chase through the garden he finally dropped it at my feet. He had many roguish tricks, and was especially fond of playing with the children, biting their fingers, and with raised crest and ruffled feathers, pretending to fight with them. And when the baby lay kicking on her rug in the sunshine he always made frantic dives at the little pink toes, but he was careful never to hurt her in the least, and seemed to know he must be gentle.

At first he seldom left the garden, but later on I often saw him flying far over the fields, and sometimes

he would appear dripping wet from a bath in the river some distance away. But he never left the garden for long, for whenever I went to call him almost immediately I would see him flying towards me eager to alight on my shoulder. Then the difficulty was to get rid of him. For if I tossed him off he would at once return, often half a dozen times in succession. It was this pertinacity that gave him his name Boomerang.

His baby plumage soon gave place to the glossy black head, like silk velvet, and the iridescent green and purple tints of the adult starling. A strong, vivid, handsome creature he was, absolutely fearless and friendly, a constant pleasure to us all.

And so the summer passed and with October came the time for my return to America. "Will you not take Boomerang with you?" my friends asked me. But never could I have consented to condemn that bold bright spirit to a life of captivity, however gilded might be the bars of his prison. So I left him—and who knows but that when I return to my English home I may be greeted by the clear, loud whistle, followed by the familiar flight to my shoulder, and thus meet my starling again.

(Christine S. Norris.
New York, N. Y.

PERSONAL.
New Editors.

Whitmer Stone of the Academy of Natural Science, Philadelphia, one of the best known naturalists in America, has recently been elected Editor of *The Auk*. A better selection would be hard to find, and we have no doubt *The Auk* will maintain its present rank as an ornithological publication under his administration.

Robert T. Moore of Haddenfield, New Jersey, has been selected as Editor of *The Cassinia*, published by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club, and we extend to him the hand of fellowship as he enters the field of journalism.

To South America.

The well known naturalists, Paul G. Howes of Stamford, Connecticut, and Frank M. Chapman of the American Museum of Natural History, are arranging a three months ornithological trip into the wilds of Equador for the purpose of gathering material for life groups for the Museum.

Fire!

It is with sorrow that we are compelled to chronicle the fact that the home of our old friend, C. L. Rawson, (J. N. W.) at Putnam, Connecticut, "The Quail Trap" has recently burned. With it went complete files of *The Oologist*, *Auk*, *Nuttall Bulletin*, *Bird Lore*, *O. & O.*, *Western Ornithologist*, *Hoosier Naturalist*, *Maine Ornithologist*, and of most of the other amateur ephemeral bird publications; besides his ornithological library of about two thousand volumes, and a thousand mounted birds; also what was probably the best collection of mounted animal skins in New England.

What really hurt J. N. W. the worst was the loss of eight hundred pages of manuscript, for many years in preparation, for his intended work on "The Birds of Connecticut," practically ready for the printer.

We extend our sympathy to our old friend in his misfortune. This should be a warning to all possessing really valuable collections or libraries to build therefor, a non-burnable building of some character.

Raptors of Central Alberta.

Within the last five years I have observed the following Hawks and owls in central Alberta.

Circus hudsonius, Marsh Hawk. Quite common in the more open lands and especially where the land is low and marshy.

Accipiter velox, Sharp-shinned Hawk. I have not seen but one of these birds in Central Alberta in five years; the one specimen seen was in Edmonton in May, 1907.

Astur atricapillus atricapillus, Goshawk. This bird is quite common, especially in the deeply wooded portions of the country. In the spring of 1907, while traveling about forty miles northwest of Edmonton I found where one of these birds and the Hawk Owl (*Surnia ulula caparoch*) had engaged in deadly combat. On getting out of the sleigh and examining more closely, I found the snow trodden down and bloody, while feathers were lying in every direction. The Hawk Owl was dead in the claws of the Goshawk and the completely severed head of the Goshawk lay a few inches away from its body. Examination showed that the claws of the Goshawk had reached and penetrated the heart of the Hawk Owl.

Buteo borealis calurus, Western Red-tail. Quite common in the more open portions, where they nest the same as the Eastern form.

Buteo swainsoni, Swainson's Hawk. Numerous in certain parts only where they nest the same as in all parts of the country.

Buteo platypterus, Broad-winged Hawk. Quite common, usually nesting at a low elevation. The most of the nests I have located were in birch trees and would average about 25 feet.

Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis, Rough-legged Hawk. Very common. It can generally be seen slowly flying over the fields in quest of gophers and other small rodents.

Aquila chrysaetos, Golden Eagle. More common formerly than now. Great numbers of them suffer, because they are of the hawk tribe, and need killing because they are a hawk; at

least that is what the average uninformed person thinks.

Haliaeetus leucocephalus, Bald Eagle. Not so common as the above; great numbers of them are killed for the same reason as stated above.

Falco rusticolus rusticolus, Gray Gyr Falcon. These birds may be considered as casual visitors, as but one has been seen in five years.

Falco columbarius richardsoni, Richardson's Pigeon Hawk. I see a pair each year but they are not at all common. I have authentic reports of them being quite numerous in the southern part of the province.

Falco sparverius sparverius, Sparrow Hawk. Quite common, especially in the more open country; not so numerous in the deep woodlands.

Asio flammeus, Short-eared Owl. Fairly common now, more so than in 1909.

Scotiaptex nebulosa nebulosa, Great Gray Owl. Fairly common in certain localities. I once saw a King-bird (*Tyrannus tyrannus*) ride three or four hundred yards on the back of one of these hawks.

Cryptoglaux funerea richardsoni, Richardson's Owl. Fairly common only. I picked one up in a dazed condition in front of my house this winter. I took him into the house and he died shortly, from the intense cold, I presume; as it was 40 below zero.

Cryptoglaux acadica acadica, Saw-whet Owl. I have seen but very few of these birds in this country.

Bubo virginianus pallescens, Western Horned Owl. Fairly common, especially in the deep woods where it lives largely on rabbits, game birds, etc.

Nyctea nycteam Snowy Owl. Very common during the winter and occasionally a pair nests with us.

Surnia ulula caparoch, Hawk Owl. These birds are quite numerous during the very cold winters, and occasionally one nests with us.

Speotyto cunicularia hypogaea, Burrowing Owl. I saw a single specimen of this species about 200 miles south of here, but have never recorded them in this locality.

S. S. S. Stansell.

Alberta, Canada.

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1912

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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXIX. No. 3. ALBION, N. Y., MAR. 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 296

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc. inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 295 your subscription expires with this issue. 293 your subscription expired with December issue 1910. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office, at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED.—Live American Wild Swan. One male Trumpeter and one male Whistling. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Mounted birds' skins and eggs in set and singles. Want American and foreign birds' skins. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 811 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Mich. (*1)

WANTED.—First class skins of Murrelets, Gulls, Shearwaters, Rails, Shore Birds, Grouse, Hawks, Owls, particularly Snowy and Great Gray, and certain small land birds. Offer representative Southern California species, also fine sets of personally taken Heermann's Gulls and Blue-footed Boobies. All reliable collectors send lists. PINGREY I. OSBURN, Pasadena, Calif.

THE CELEBRATED HUNGARIAN AND ENGLISH PARTRIDGES AND PHEASANTS, capercaillies, black game, wild turkeys, quails, rabbits, deer, etc. for stock purposes. Fancy pheasants, peafowl, swans, cranes, storks, ornamental geese and ducks, foxes, squirrels, ferrets, and all kinds of birds and animals. WENZ & MACKENSEN, Dept. H, Pheasantry & Game Park, Yardley, Pa.

EGGS

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

Nests with and without sets wanted. Can use many common varieties; have you any reptile eggs? J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Penns. (11-11)

EGGS FOR EXCHANGE.—A few sets each of the following to exchange for other sets: Nos. 49, 120c, 122, 127, 294a, 360a. Send full list. J. S. APPLETON, Sini, Ventura Co., Cal.

TO EXCHANGE—Sets with data, North American and Foreign. Can use many common kinds of both. Dr. T. W. RICHARDS U. S. Navy, 1911 N. St., N. W., Washington D. C.

WANTED.—A pair of Woodcock skins, pair Flamingo, Roseate Spoonbill, Scarlet Ibis, all Nuthatches, all Jays, all Owls, all Partridge, all Cranes, and all Petrel. Will collect choice northern California material. C. I. CLAY, Eureka, California. (*1)

EGGS, Continued.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Birds' skins from North for species of other localities. Send your list of material and name your desiderata. RAYMOND SPELLUM, Viroqua, Wisconsin. (*1)

FOR EXCHANGE.—First class clutches, personally taken. 12.44, 129, 287, 329, 333, 342, 360, 365, 373, 375, 378, 381. I want 334, 345, 347a, 348, 346, 367, 368. Will give good exchange. Send list and get mine. G. W. STEVENS, Aixa, Oklahoma. (*1)

EXCHANGE.—A fine series of ten of the Pallas Murre from Cape Hope, Alaska. I want 188, 332, 343, 348, 362, 364 and many others. D. E. BROWN, 6044 1st Ave., No. W. Sta. F. Seattle, Wash.

Collector personally taken specimens only (has permit) would locate in situ one or two sets Barred and Great Horned Owl. Within about hundred miles of Chicago, Ills. E. R. FORB, 4816 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Ills. (*1)

Old, as well as new, oological friends are requested to submit lists of wants from Southern Texas. Great care in preparation of specimens and extra full data always. Eggs of edible Diamond-backed Terrapin for propagating purposes. E. F. POPE, Port Bolivar, Texas. (19)

FOR EXCHANGE.—One set each Richardson's Merlin, Mexican Goshawk, Saw-whet Owl, Masked Quail, White-throated Swift, Fork-tailed Flycatcher, Mexican Creeper. Many more equally desirable for satisfactory exchange. MINNIE ENGEL, No. 8400 Brookline Ave., Cleveland, Ohio. (*2-12)

WANTED.—Full and finely prepared clutches of A. O. U. Nos. 261, 274, 277a, 277, 281. Offer perfect fine sets of equal value or better as 139, 141, 142, 172, 480, 492, 562, 665, etc. Will give in exchange first class sets of eggs as 53, 225, 226, 480, etc. for A 1 nests of the following A. O. U. Nos. 444, 446, 449, 452, 456, 459, 471, 474, 474b, 474c, 477, 481, 482, 483, 494, 598, 598c, 598d, 598f, 599, 591, 591c, 593, 595, 595a, 598, 511, 511a, 511b, 513, 513a, 547, 549, 552, 554, 578, 581c, 581d, 581e, 581L, 581m, 584, 588, 588b, 591, 591b, 591c, 592, 593, 593c, 597a, 617, 620, 622b, 703a, 705, 706, 707, 707a, 708, 710a, 593c, 597a, 617, 620, 622b, 703a, 705, 706, 707, 707a, 708, 710a, 717b, 746, 755, 756. A. O. TREGANZA, 614, East 6th St. South, Salt Lake City, Utah.

WANTED.—First class sets of birds' eggs, many of the common species in exchange. For sets of same quality. 4 x 5 Ray camera, miscellaneous books and magazines. C. B. VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ills. (*1)

BOOKS

WANTED.—The (Utica, N. Y.) Oologist Vol. I complete. For this I will pay \$5.00. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

We will buy or exchange good books pertaining to birds or natural history subjects SHERWOOD'S, Inc., 48-50 Maiden Lane New York.

I desire to purchase magazines and books on oology and ornithology. GEORGE SETH GUION, Napoleonville, La. [1-12]

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MISCELLANEOUS

WANTED.—Five reptiles of all kinds from your locality. B. S. TAUBENHAUS, 137 St. and Amsterdam Ave., New York, N. Y. *1)

WANTED.—Cash offered for collecting pistol and field glasses. Both must be A-1 and bargains. Describe fully, make, cost, etc. All Iowa Natural History publications wanted. J. L. SLOANAKER, Newton, Iowa. (*1)

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FOR SALE.—One Myer System, Cloas Flute, II keys, low pitch in case. Used three months. Will sell at very reasonable price. Will send on approval. L. V. MEDICUS, 3002 Chestnut St., Kansas City, Mo.

IMPORTED COCOONS.—Atlas, Mylitta, Roylei, Selene, Trifen-estrata and other Indian pupae for Regalis, Versicolora and other desirable native pupae and eggs. JAMES L. MITCHELL, Indiana Trust Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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READ WHAT THE BIRD MEN SAY WE ARE DOING TO "THE OOLOGIST."

I congratulate you upon turning out such a good magazine for the money.
Frank S. Daggett, Nov. 26, 1910.

I must congratulate you to your success in improving The OOLOGIST. I would not like to be without it a single month.

E. J. Dietrick, Nov. 27, 1910.

You are certainly greatly improving our little paper, and I wish you every success in your efforts.

J. H. Bowles, Dec. 4, 1910.

I like THE OOLOGIST very much.

Margaret R. Gest.

It's getting better all the time.

B. R. Bales, Dec. 6, 1910.

BOOKS

WANTED AT ONCE.—We will give \$5 for Volume IX of the Ornithologist and Oologist, covering the period from March 1, 1884 to March 1, 1885. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—Books on birds. Will pay a reasonable cash price for those that I desire. State title and author, condition, etc. CHAS. F. CARR, (Personal), New London, Wis.

EXCHANGE.—A five volume encyclopedia of living animals of the world. Also fine minerals, for first class skins of owls for mounting. S. V. WHARRAM, Geneva, Ohio.

I will give \$1.00 for No. 6 of Vol. 5 of THE OOLOGIST in the original covers and in good condition. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

WANTED.—The March, April and June Nos. of the "Ornithologist and Oologist", Vol. 17, 1892. Will pay one dollar for the three Nos. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Penn.

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

Wilson and Bonaparte, American Ornithology 3 vols. with atlas of 103 plates. (uncolored). Scarce, \$27.50. Other bird books. SHERWOOD'S, Inc. 48-50, Maiden Lane, New York.

WANTED.—Audubon's Birds of America. First subscription, 8 vo. ed. Phila. & N. York, 1840-44. Five dollars (\$5.00) per part will be paid for numbers 10 and 80. FRANKLIN BOOKSHOP, 920 Walnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE.—In perfect condition, "The North American Birds" by Henry Nehrling. German text, cloth bound, gilt edge, 668 pages and 36 plates, showing 137 species in natural color. Original price \$15. Sells for \$7 ERICH DIETRICH, Canby, Oregon.

BIRD MAGAZINES.—I have about 500 old bird magazines for exchange, including complete volumes of Auk, Condor, Nidologist, Osprey, Oregon Naturalist, and odd numbers of all of these. W. LEE CHAMBERS, 1226 11th St., Santa Monica, Cal.

BIRD-LORE AND OOLOGIST WANTED.—I will give highest market values, cash or exchange, for Bird-Lore Vol. 1, Nos. 2, 4, and 6, with index; Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2; and Vol. 7, No. 1; or bound volumes of Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 7. Send your list of oologist previous to No. 222. CHAS. A. HEWLETT, Woodmere, N. Y.

WANTED FOR CASH.—Vol. 6 O, & O; No. 6-7-8-9; Vol. 5; No. 9 Vol. 26 of Oologist; Vol. 1 Nos. 3-5-6; Vol. 2 No. 1-5-6, Vol. 3 Nos. 3-4-5-6; Vol. 4 Nos. 3-5-6 of Bird Lore; any volume of Auk except 12-13; any volume of Aud. Birds of Am. small edition. Vol. 1 Condor (Ball. Cooper Club) also volumes 5 to 11 inc. of Bird Lore; any volumes of Birds, Birds and Nature. All volumes of American Bird Magazine. Must all be clean and good, containing all plates. Send me your prices. GEORGE N. H. VOS BURGH, Columbus, Wis., R.F.D.

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WANTED.—Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America, Part I. Quote best cash price. W. C. LEVEY, 53 Waverly St., Brookline, Mass. (*)

WANTED. Clean copies of North American Faunas Nos. 7-14-20-23-27-28-31. Can offer many Oregon Naturalists, Nidologist, Oologist, some books and skins. STANLEY G. JEWETT, 528 Bidwell Ave., Portland, Oregon. (*1)

I can offer desirable eggs, skins, publications, or cash for many numbers of amateur papers devoted wholly or in part to birds. Lists exchanged. F. L. BURNS, Brywyn, Pa. (*1)

FOR SALE.—Anks. Vols. 19 to 27 inclusive except No. 3 of Vol. 21. Bird Lore Vol. 21. Fine condition. Lot for \$11.00 postpaid. E. E. PERRY, 610 Baylor St., Austin, Texas. (*1)

WANTED AT ONCE.—The Code of Nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists Union, dated 1892. Also the Code of Nomenclature adopted by the American Ornithologists' Union, revised edition, 1908. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

PUBLICATIONS WANTED FOR CASH.—American Ornithology, No. 10 Vol. 4; Museum Vol. 1; Bird Lore Nos. 3-4-5-6 Vol. 7, Nos. 5-6 Vol. 9; Condor March 1904; Single numbers or volumes. Mineral Collector, Archaeologist, Nidologist, Condor, Hays Auk, Warbler, Osprey, Wilson Bulletin, Petrel and others to exchange. W. G. VESEY, 120 High St., Painesville, Ohio. (**)

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WHOLE NO. 296

Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Illinois.

MARCH

March, the first of the spring months is here. In the southern part of the country, spring is well advanced. In the central part, rough weather will prevail. In the northern part, snow and ice still lingers.

To the oologist and ornithologist this is one of the most interesting months of the year. Many of the larger birds of prey will begin or are engaged in housekeeping this month, and tramps through the leafless timber and over the frosted hills in search of their homes is full of pleasure.

Vast multitudes of wild fowl will wing their way north over the United States. Many, many of them will be killed on the way, for March is a great month for the wild fowl gunner, in spite of the fact that spring shooting is wrong in both principle and practice, and should be abolished absolutely throughout the United States.

We trust that those of our readers who engage in hunting will be sportsmen and not butchers. That they will be satisfied with moderate bags and not attempt to "get the limit" or make a record. If you will be careful to catch and take home with you all of your wounded birds, particularly those that are wing tipped, and pinion them with care, you will find much of interest in their ways during the coming summer; and last but not least, you will find that most of the wild fowl after having been kept in confinement for a short while, if properly pinioned, will be of considerable money value. The pleasure of keeping such birds in confinement and the great amount of knowledge and information which can be and is derived from studying them under such conditions more than amply repays all of the effort and expense connected therewith.

R. M. BARNES.



View of Penguin and Cormorant breeding grounds,
on Colonial Islands, Cape Colony, Africa.

African Penguin Eggs and Gano

By E. W. Foster.

Some one has said that as goes London,—in the matter of food,—so the world goes; and latterly England, in addition to staid old London, has taken to the egg of the penguin,—to supplant the more popular hen-fruit on her tables. Not that England prefers penguin eggs to the egg of the chicken, Oh no! but prices are considerably cheaper,—seeing as there are sections of Cape Colony where one can get all the eggs he desires, for only the picking up.

Long, long time this section has been renowned for its guano. But now it is realized that it is more profitable, yet to gather the eggs of the birds which create this humus.

The islands belonging to Cape Colony and distributed along its coast, as well as along the coast of German

South West Africa, if needs be recalled, are barren and rocky. They bear little vegetation, and are merely rocks where human life can only be supported by provisions from the mainland.

These islands, however, which are divided into two groups known as the Colonial Islands on the coast of the Colony, and the Ichaboe Islands on the coast of German South West Africa, are a valuable asset to South Africa, inasmuch as they produce large quantities of guano, penguin eggs, and a considerable number of seal skins, as well as some seal oil.

The birds producing the guano are the penguin, malagas, and the duiker of cormorant. These live in myriads on the islands, as shown in the accompanying photographs.

The collecting and sale of the guano is controlled entirely by the Govern-



Seal Colony, same Islands

ment Agricultural Department, and the exportation of it beyond the limits of South Africa is prohibited. About 7,000 tons are collected per annum, and brought to Cape Town where the Government Depot is located. From here it is supplied direct to the farmers throughout the country, who are charged about \$30.00 per ton when it would be possible to obtain \$20.00 per ton more by selling to private contractors or exporting it to England. The quality is said to be exceptionally high in comparison with that produced in other parts of the world, the average being: Nitrogen, 11.30%; Lime, 10.93%; Potash, 1.97%; Phosphoric Oxide, Water Sol., 3.67%; Phos-

phoric Oxide, Citrate Sol., 9.08%; total, 10.52%; Sand, 27.05%; Fineness, 1 mm 91.65.

In addition to the guano produced by the islands mentioned, South Africa imported foreign guano in the year 1909 to the value of \$12,049; artificial manures to the value of \$142,423; and phosphates to the value of \$179,204. Only 3,000 lbs. of artificial manures valued at \$9 came from the United States, 180 lbs. of the guano valued at \$5 and none of the phosphates. Inasmuch as the United States exports over a million tons of fertilizers annually, it is surprising that none of it comes to South Africa where the demand should create a comparatively high price.



Birds on the breeding grounds, same Island

The farmers in South Africa are given a great advantage by the government in being supplied guano at about three fifths of its value, but the quantity which the government is able to supply from its insular possessions is so small, as the importations from other sources evidence, that there is a good field for other lines of fertilizers. The farmers too are in many instances using guano where other fertilizers are needed, and could be supplied at much lower cost to them. With the advent of more modern and scientific methods of agriculture, there will be increased demands for fertilizers and our American exporters of them should make a greater effort to introduce their goods.

Penguin eggs forms another interesting export. The quantity of penguin eggs collected annually from the islands amounts to about 600,000. These are sold by contract to a Cape

Town firm, Messrs. Miller and Traut, at 21 cents per dozen. The demand for these eggs in South Africa is not increasing, but rather the reverse, as hens' eggs become more plentiful and consequently cheaper. They cannot be said to take the place of fowls' eggs except in cases where the fishy taste of their yolk is disguised in cooking, or with certain people who do not object to it. An effort was made to introduce their use into England in 1908, and with considerable success, as shown by the following extracts from the London Daily Mirror of May 5th and 7th, 1908:

"Penguin's eggs, the very latest breakfast food for jaded appetites, have come to London to stay.

"As already announced in the 'Daily Mirror' 4,800 penguin's eggs have been exported from South Africa to England, through the agency of the Cape Trades Commissioner, in or-



Another view of same breeding grounds

der to introduce the new dainty to Britishers.

"Yesterday the 'Daily Mirror' obtained two dozen penguin's eggs from the Cape Trades Commissioner's office at 98 Victoria Street, S. W., and after having them cooked in the approved fashion, they were submitted to various food experts and hotel managers for their opinion.

"The task of boiling the eggs was taken over by the chef of the new Piccadilly Hotel, which opens to the public tomorrow. Penguin's eggs have to be boiled exactly twenty minutes, and the chief cook carried out his contract to the second.

"After allowing the eggs to cool—they have to be eaten cold—a visit was paid to the Savoy Hotel, and one of the chiefs of the restaurant, a famous judge of table delicacies, was given an egg for his opinion.

"He cracked the white shell carefully, and peeled a portion of it, revealing a clear, greenish, transparent 'white' which looked just like jelly. Asking for a spoon he ate a considerable portion of the egg.

" 'It smells and tastes just like a plover's egg,' he said. 'The 'white' is also similar in color and substance to a plover's egg, although, perhaps, not so delicate.'

"The yolk of the penguin's egg is the only part which is at all fishy in flavour, and in any case it is so slight as to be scarcely noticeable.

"Novelties in food always attract a certain class of public, and I think there would be a successful future for the penguin's egg. It may almost rival the plover's egg, only the latter looks more appetising, and is slightly more delicate in flavour."

A medical man said the penguin's



A few birds same Islands

egg contained a remarkable percentage of phosphorous, and was therefore a splendid tonic for brain fag and nervous debility.

So great has been the demand that no penguin's eggs are obtainable in London now, except two cases which are to arrive at Billingsgate Market this morning.

The Cape Trades Commissioner is cabling immediately to South Africa for further shipments, which will be about three weeks en route.

Mr. Charles Stuber, ex-larder chef of Claridge's writes to the "Daily Mirror" to say that he has made several experiments with the "white" of the penguin's egg and has found it excellent in many forms of cookery.

Mr. Stuber says that the penguin's egg is a great success scrambled on toast, or used up in a sauce for cold fish. He also found it a valuable asset to other dishes.

Mrs. Edmund Gilbert writes from Maidenhead to say that, as a South African, the proper way to eat a penguin's egg is to cut it in half (after it is boiled), mash it up with a fork on a hot plate, and add butter, salt and pepper.

Zybysco, the well known wrestling champion, is the latest convert to the penguin's egg. His manager writes to say that Zybysco has just eaten six of them with great relish."

It is stated that since the above articles appeared there has been a falling off in the demand for penguin's eggs in London owing to some unexplainable reason, and that few are now shipped to that market.

These eggs are considered a great delicacy by some, and it is thought that if they were better known in other parts of the world, their popularity would increase. They are retailed here at 42 cents per dozen, and are



Just a few more, same Islands

from two to three times the size of the ordinary hen's egg.

The contractors state that about 100,000 more could be collected per annum if a market could be found for them. The export price charged by the contractors is \$2.43 to \$2.67 per hundred, and they are willing to ship a small sample lot to any produce merchant in the United States, who will pay the transportation charges in order to test them in the American market. The season for collecting the eggs is from January to June.

During the year 1909, seal skins to the number of 3,362 were taken from the islands, and the average price received in London, England, was \$5.16 each. Very few licenses are now issued to private persons by the Government—last year only four—and the sealing industry was carried on by the Department of Agriculture. A license of \$24.33 for a boat of 20 tons

or under and \$121.66 for boats over 20 tons, is charged private seal fishermen per annum, and in addition a royalty of 24 cents each on skin secured. In the past, some very profitable sealing has been done, but latterly the seals have been too scarce to make the industry profitable for private individuals to risk paying the license and fitting out craft for sealing. The number of seals, known as *Arctocephalus Pusillus*, is now increasing and under strict Government protection the industry will doubtless thrive. 1159 seal skins were taken by private individuals during the year 1909 under licenses issued by the Government, and \$291.75 was paid on these to the Government as royalty.

The amount of seal oil procured during 1909 was 1,550 gallons, which was disposed of at 61 cents per gallon. This product has not brought as high prices since whaling syndicates have



The birds and their Guardians on the same Islands.

been operating on the coast of South Africa, by whom large quantities of whale oil have been placed on this market.

The Quail Trap.

Norwich, Conn.

The Quail Trap, Mch. 8, 1911.

The extended visit of the evening grosbeak to Taftville this winter is the most notable event in the bird annals of eastern Connecticut for many years. Its stay is of no economic value, nor does it give more than a shade of light on the mystery of migration. But that so rare and showy bird, unknown here for a generation, so far from its natural habitat, should appear in a large company, make so long a stay in one place, and be so perfectly at home with its new environment and food, is remarkable. Other birds migrate yearly from north to south, but this erratic bird every

twenty-five years leaves his home in the northwest wilderness and makes an eastern tour straight across the continent. Doesn't find its way back with the same unerring certainty as the migrants south and north?

Let us look up a few authorities in my working library. Audubon and the pioneer ornithologist did not see the evening grosbeak. In the copy of Wilson on my desk no mention is made of it. Bonaparte alone knew and described it. Morrison's *Birds of Connecticut* has no Connecticut records, though, no doubt now, the eminent author would find a lot of local material. In Samuel's *Our Northern and Eastern Birds* no mention is made. A single foot-note in Stearn and Coues' *New England Bird Life* says, "it may later struggle into New England." Maynard's *Birds of Eastern North America* says, rare to New England in winter. "Nest and eggs

unknown." Coues' Key to North American Birds. Not mentioned in Coues' Birds of the Colorado Valley. Coues' Birds of the Northwest says: "Not procured by either of the expeditions." The scientists did not quite kill the grosbeak with Latin names. *Fringilla vespertina*, *Coccothraustes vespertina*, *Hesperphona vespertina*, *Hesperphona vespertina* var. *montana*, *Coccothraustes bonapartii*, and *Laxia bonapartii*.

No plates of nest and eggs of evening grosbeak are figured in any of my twenty American oologists—Brewer, Benhire, Capen, Davis', Maynard, Ingersoll, Reid or Gentry; or in the pretentious English or German bird books before me. Walter Raine of Toronto, who has a stupendous collection, and collectors all over the world, says in *Bird Nesting in Northwest Canada*: "Eggs of the evening grosbeak are almost unknown in collections and are therefore very valuable." Merrill was the first to see it nesting in an inaccessible Oregon pine. The first nest and eggs on record were taken by John Swinburne in a thickly wooded canyon fifteen miles west of Springville. Apache county, Arizona, June 5, 1884, the second was found May 10, 1886, by E. H. Fisk in Yolo county, California. I have never seen an egg and know of none held by any of my exchange correspondents today. Eggs of rose-breasted, blue and black-headed grosbeaks I find are common with collectors, but pine grosbeak's eggs are also rare because they breed late in February in icy surroundings. Both rosy-breast and pine make fine cage birds, sing well and breed in confinement. But the evening bird does not thrive in captivity and its song is not attractive.

The best popular description of the evening grosbeak is in Frank Chapman's Handbook of North American the morrow."

Birds. Ridgway has the best scientific description, and the best handy colored plate is in the last edition of Reed's Land Birds East of the Rockies. But far and away ahead of the big-wig bird doctors, in interest and records and incidents of the great eastern flights, in winter of 1889 and 1890, by Amos W. Cutler, in Vol. IX, pages 238 of the Auk, and in the Auk, Vol. X, page 155. In that migration—if it could be so called—there were half a dozen Connecticut records. I saw only pines at Norwich that season but when hunting snowy owls around the Winthrop woods on Fort Hill and Bushy Point, Groton, for two days, I followed a bunch of evenings feeding on the swamp and sugar maples, false bittersweet and rotten apple seeds. There were about forty birds and only six good males. I shot none, but in that great flight many specimens were taken for American and foreign cabinets. My own birds have data as late as April 1, 1890, in New York. It is a long mark forward in the public attitude towards birds that few will now be welcomed with a charge of No. 11 shot.

Audubon's glowing account of first meeting a rosy grosbeak in full song is familiar and often quoted. But listen to this flowery description of the dress of the evening grosbeak by Dr. Elliot Coues: "A bird of distinguished appearance, whose very name suggests the far-away land of the dipping sun, and the tuneful romance which the wild bird throws around the fading light of day; clothed in striking color contrasts of black, white and gold, he seems to represent the allegory of diurnal transmutation; for his sable pinions close around the brightness of his vesture, as night encompasses the golden hues of sunset, while the clear white space enfolded in these tints foretells the dawn of

It is a far cry from the pines of Oregon and Washington to the elms and maples of Norwich. But drawn from the far-away forests by an irresistible impulse, a band of these beautiful birds have been making a long visit in town, apparently pleased with their surroundings. This company was first reported by teamsters as a "flock of 60 unknown birds feeding on sugar maple trees" near Hatchet pond in Worcester county, the source of the Quinebaug, early in December. From there they went six miles due east to Southbridge, Mass., where my correspondents and many others saw them at work on the maple trees, but busiest on the mountain ash trees. Then next we find them in two divisions—one of twenty birds six miles southeast at the Potter homestead—in the English Neighborhood, North Woodstock, Conn. This place is surrounded by maples and was found most suitable for a rest of a week. Mrs. Potter paid much attention to the new arrivals and on the 20th of December was certain that they were evening grosbeaks. Miss Sarah Potter and Miss Mary Potter, school teachers, were home on the 23d, 24th and 25th of Dec., and with powerful glasses confirmed Mrs. Potter's opinion. It was an excellent object lesson to these teachers and their pupils may get a grain of knowledge birdwise from it. Again, two miles to the southeast, I had a glimpse of a few of them on Mrs. Back's mountain ash, and of the same scouts or others picking the few berries on the two mountain ash trees in front of the public hall at Village Corners.

One body of twenty, straggling in groups through the village, directly east, came in a bunch for a short stay to the Morse barn, where they were easily identified, and to the John May farm, East Woodstock, where Mrs.

May made hospitable attempts to feed the handsome strangers. A division was seen by the Lindermans and Johnsons near the Putnam turnpike, six miles south, and, still moving south along the river valley toward Lisbon, a detachment seen by R. F. D. men and farmers en route reached Tattville, at the mouth of the Quinebaug, forty miles from Woodstock about Feb. 12th, where later the two divisions came together. In this pleasant place they appear to find things much to their liking, act as if settled for a long stay, are not a bit wild or shy, are the wonder and admiration of many people, and are under the special surveillance of F. J. Werking, principal of the Wequonnoc school. I quote from one of Mr. Werking's late letters: "I am interested in birds and I am trying to make others interested in them, too. The grosbeaks are still with us. They came February 13th. Perhaps I should have said the advance guard came on that date, for the numbers have increased until now we have forty-eight, eleven of them adult males. We are certainly having the treat of our lives. I wish you might see them too." Mr. Werking will reply to all inquiries about plumage, favorite trees, food, play, song, and time of departure. The pupils of the Woodstock and Wequonnoc schools should be well up on grosbeak lore. They will welcome the rosy breast about May day, the piney next winter, or the winter after next, and, possibly some thirty years from now, once again be on intimate terms with the grosbeak, to which we bid a long good by—*Hesperophona vespertina*, the bird of a generation. C.L.R.

The Editor's address while in California is 149 N. Cahuenga Ave., Hollywood Sta., Los Angeles. Nothing but personal letters should be sent there. Business is barred.

The Hooded Merganser.

(*Lopbodytes cacullatus*)

"Hello! Come over; here are your birds eggs."

March 15th, 1886 the writer with Frank Lester and William T. Shaw, were "camped" six miles below Lacon, Illinois on the Illinois River, whither we had gone to stay a couple of weeks and shoot ducks, multitudes of which swarmed along the river in those days. We say "camped". In truth we had a large cabin boat that was made fast to some great trees along the river bank. The river was at flood and extended across the overflowed bottoms to the West for a full mile and to the East twice as far.

This day, a typical March day, clear, bright, cool and very windy. The morning's shooting being done, I pulled up my wooden decoys about 9:00 a. m. and started to row my hunting skiff to the cabin boat. The river was extremely rough and here about a thousand feet wide with an occasional cake of floating ice going down stream. The overflowed bottoms consisted of a succession of open spaces and densely timbered tracts containing trees and brush of all sizes from huge elms, sycamores and cottonwoods six or seven feet through and a hundred feet high, down to that pest to the duck hunter, "Buck Brush" or Button Bush, more properly speaking. Occasionally a long, narrow strip of land would be seen sticking up through the high water. Along the river these strips of land or "hog backs" as they are called, were quite frequent immediately adjacent to the stream proper.

As I passed from the timber of the bottoms I noticed a couple of fellows chopping at an old dead snag on one of these exposed pieces of land nearly opposite our cabin boat, and on the

east side of the river. Having nothing better to do, I rowed up to where they were, landed, strolled up to them and inquired their purpose in cutting the snag. "Coons" was the answer. They turned out to be a couple of fur hunters cutting the hollow trees for coon and mink which were common there in those days.

To digress a moment I may say I have known mink in these bottoms to be taken from the hollow limb of a tree over sixty feet above the ground.

I asked the older of the two—a typical bronzed grizzly "river rat"—if in their cutting they ever found any eggs in the trees. "Sure" was the reply. "The last tree we cut had three of 'em in; they are right down there now." Only a hundred yards or so down the bank lay the tree he pointed to and I got there with exceeding quickness. There were two old last year's addled eggs of the Wood Duck and one broken egg of the Hooded Merganser, likewise a last season's egg. Both had evidently been buried in the saw dust like debris at the bottom of the cavity of the now split open limb of the fallen tree. I was surprised and disappointed at the same time. My only thought in asking the fur chasers about eggs was the possibility of Owl's eggs and was surprised to learn that Ducks' eggs would last through the winter in these hollow trees.

I returned to the choppers and arranged that in case any more eggs were found I was to be notified—for a reward. They were then engaged in cutting a huge soft maple snag, dead and almost limbless, some three feet or more through standing very close to the river's bank which here was quite steep. It was between the river proper and a clearing of several acres in extent on the "hog back" of land.

I got into my skiff and pulled across the river for the cabin boat. Scarcely had I arrived, ere the snag fell with a loud crash and the sentence which opens this article was shouted across to me after much difficulty. To again pull across to where my new found friends were was the work of only a few minutes. The old dead tree had fallen with tremendous force, being protected by but two or three broken limbs. One of these had split open by the force of the fall and there lay exposed to view, eleven of the rare eggs of the Hooded Merganser, five of which were broken and six intact; all of last season's laying. The old bird had evidently lost her life after laying the full clutch.

These six eggs gave me one of the very hardest undertakings at egg blowing that I ever had. The contents had partially dried and caked; but finally they were saved in fine shape and today occupy a place in my cabinet. I shall never part with these, my first eggs of this species.

In later years I found another nest of this species over fifty feet up in the dead limb of a tall living Cottonwood tree standing right on the bank of the same river two miles north of Lacon; but could not reach it because of the frailty of the limb. Still another nest I took some years later.

The Hooded Merganser is a generally distributed member of the duck tribe throughout most of North America. Nowhere very plentiful, yet not rare in most localities. The male is a splendidly garbed creature with the beautiful crest from which the species gets its misnomer of "Hooded" Merganser. They frequent usually the clearer fresh water streams and live principally on fish. The flesh is not a table delicacy by any means.

The nest which is merely the down from the bird's breast, is placed in the

hollow of a tree near the water at varying heights from the ground from eight to sixty feet. In this the female lays from seven to twelve nearly spherical, glossy, china white eggs with one of the thickest and certainly the hardest shells known to me amongst the ducks. These eggs are not plentiful in collections and are much sought after by collectors.

The movements of the bird are exceedingly quick. Some of the authorities say its flight exceeds that of all the other ducks in speed. The birds are shy in the wild state; yet take readily to semi-domestication. One male in Garfield Park Lagoon, Chicago, last spring seemed almost as tame as any of the tame ducks there.

The second nest of this species, I ever discovered that I was able to get to was in a natural cavity in a Soft Maple tree thirty-nine feet above ground. A limb about ten inches in diameter had broken off about six feet from the trunk of the tree. The inner portion of the limb had rotted out, having just an outer shell of live bark and wood not over an inch and a half thick. The opening was to the east. The tree stood in the midst of the swamp on the edge of the small creek that winds through the Heronry south of Lacon, seven miles. It was about two feet thick and covered with growing grape vines. The timber is very open there, no underbrush, all big trees and very swampy.

It was within seventy-five feet of a large sycamore tree containing seven nests of the Great Blue Heron. As we passed through the west side of the Heronry, I noticed some species of duck flying rapidly through the air as though she had just left this tree. She was less than a hundred feet from the tree when I first saw her and going like a streak, directly away from the tree. I now do not believe

she came off the nest, as the eggs were not warm, but I do believe she was sitting on a limb of the tree amid the foliage, and that our presence alarmed her, and she left. She made no outcry or noise whatever, and I saw no more of her. As she passed from sight, two more ducks jumped up out of the near by creek and flew off. O did not see what species they were. After some examination of the tree I discovered the round knothole in the broken end of this hollow limb. To climb that tree did not take long, and I soon peered all expectancy into that hole. There in the bottom of a four foot cavity, on a bed of rotted wood, feathers and down from the old duck, lay eleven yellowish colored eggs that I at first took to be wood Duck eggs.

The stench from the nest was simply terrible, as I afterwards found, from some broken eggs in there. The tree was formerly a double one with a fork about six feet from the ground, but one of the trunks had long since been cut or blew over, leaving the stump all rotten and the half of the tree containing the nest standing, a gnarled, sprout covered specimen, some thirty odd feet high. The limb containing the nest left the tree on the east side, the side away from the creek and next the Heronry; and grew at an angle of near fifty degrees from the tree, had been broken off, and the end sort of curled in, having an opening seven inches across.

This limb had a number of small live branches growing from it. Directly at the nest this limb was nine inches in diameter and it was four and a half feet long. In the bottom of the cavity I could see but eleven eggs. There were twelve in fact there. I took them to be Wood Duck's eggs because of their yellowish color. On

cutting into the nest I found it was composed of grass, chips, rotten wood and down. The down was arranged with the grass in a sort of a circle around the eggs, the down lay on top of the grass. The eggs rested on the bits of rotten wood. There was no effort at nest building under the eggs, and I think the circle of down and grass was put there to keep the eggs from coming in contact with the sides of the nest or cavity where they might chill.

There were an even dozen eggs in the nest, one evidently an old last year's Wood Duck's egg, was broken and had been for some time; hence the awful smell in the nest. Each of the two holes in this broken egg were over a half inch in diameter and most of the contents of the egg had run out into the nest and with the mud from the old bird's feet had discolored all the eggs, so they were almost exactly the color of the eggs of the Wood Duck, and I took them home still supposing they were of this species. The broken egg I threw out and the other eleven I lowered carefully to the ground in my basket.

Right under the tree I found another broken Wood Duck's egg and still another about a hundred yards east of there on the ground. Both old last year's eggs, and both broken. Whether they had laid there since the spring preceding or had been tossed out of the nest by the Merganser, this season, I of course don't know, but I incline to the latter theory, because where I found them, the river overflows fully ten feet deep each spring, and would certainly have floated them off or covered them up with mud if they had been there when the river came up this spring. On blowing the eleven eggs which I took home with me, I found one of them to be

very rotten and caked, and all cracked up as though it had been frozen at some time. This was also a Wood Duck's egg. The other ten eggs were perfectly fresh and were Hooded Merganser's eggs! A splendid set, though they required much careful scraping with a knife to remove the yellowish dirty deposit about as thick as tissue paper, all over the eggs, acquired in their filthy home. The two eggs found on the ground and the two rotten ones in the nest all broken, were old last year's Wood Duck's eggs and had lain in this nest over winter, I believe. I think the two large holes in the broken one in the nest were made by the bill of the Merganser in an endeavor to throw it out of the nest.

I can now remember of having seen a duck of some species in the vicinity of this tree whenever I have visited this Heronry for several years before taking these eggs. The tree was near three quarters of a mile from the Illinois River and within three hundred yards of the main line of the A. T. & St. Fe. R. R. track where trains are passing every few moments. Each of this set are marked "131 1-10-4-29-94."

The Hooded Merganser is a common bird with us along this river during migrations. It usually arrives with the first of the ducks the last of February or first part of March as soon as the ice breaks up.

It comes in flocks of from ten to fifty individuals, travels low and in a bunch without any regard for order, and with great rapidity, usually following the main channel of the river. Is not an easy bird to decoy and a very hard one to kill. They will carry off a lot of shot. Occasionally a stray pair of birds remain to breed but this is very rare, and when they do, usually select a very tall, usually dead cottonwood tree standing right on the

banks of the river. In the fall they are among the last of the ducks to come and only go on south as the river freezes up. They frequent mostly the larger of the bays and the river proper, seldom going into the smaller creeks or sloughs. This nest was near a creek at the head of a large bayou, nearly a mile long and a half mile wide.

One other egg of this species aside from those described in this article has been taken in Marshall County, Illinois, to my knowledge from the ovary of a bird which was shot by a hunter about twenty years ago. Aside from the nestings described in this article, I know of no other nests ever having been discovered in the county, and have deemed the taking of the eggs of this species in this vicinity of sufficient ornithological importance to make the foregoing extended publication in reference thereto.

R. M. Barnes.

A Friday's Hunt.

A great many people consider Friday an unlucky day. I was never superstitious and I find that several of my red-letter days happened on a Friday.

In May, 1905 I spent the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th with a friend who was then a member of the Life Saving Crew at Erie, Pa., on Lake Erie.

As the station is on the "Peninsula" at the entrance to Erie Bay, I was right on the spot all the time.

On the 17th about the only thing of interest was large numbers of Wilson's Terns. The 18th was no better and it began to look like a tame trip. That night it rained and Friday was stormy and windy. I first looked along the outside beach away but as there seemed to be nothing but large numbers of Spotted Sandpip-

ers and a few Killdeer I turned inland to the ponds, swamps and woods. From a large bunch of cat-tails I flushed and shot a Least Bittern and at the report a belated Coot got up.

Amongst a lot of willows and low stuff I saw a flycatcher that did not look just right. I gathered it in and found I had an Acadian. At Warren I never met with it.

About the ponds the turtles were abundant and I frequently flushed Least Bitterns, of which I shot one more. I flushed several Americans, also Long billed Marsh Wrens were abundant and along a slough I secured a Short billed, the first I ever saw and the second record from this region.

Eagles were soaring around at all times but near the station only gray ones were seen. I had noticed a couple adults about the ponds so I made my way to the outside beach above the light-house. I looked about and soon found a large dead tree which, judging from the amount of sign about I concluded to be a favorite perch of eagles. Concealing myself in range I took it easy and watched the breakers rolling in. Hadn't been there over half an hour until I saw an old baldy coming my way just over the edge of the surf. He swung in to the tree but when about to alight started on. I saluted him with my "Parker" and down he came with a slam onto the beach. It was a fine adult male with pure white head, neck and tail and measured 6 feet 9 inches in extent, and made a fine specimen.

I had a good load so started back down the beach to the station four miles away. Besides the Killdeer and Tip-ups I saw several small flocks of Semip. Plover and some good sized wader flying that I failed to recognize. There were several flocks of Titlarks

on the beach which surprised me as I thought it late for them.

When I arrived at the station by the middle of the afternoon a stiff wind was blowing and numbers of Terns and several Herring Gulls were flying about. On a sandy point on the open lake I saw a large flock of Terns so strolled over that way. Under cover I got up within 100 yards and took a look. Just to one side of the terns I saw a pair of large waders and only one look was necessary to recognize a pair of Black-bellied Plover in full dress. I sized up the situation and saw one chance. I got down and crawled, then wriggled along over the sand to a piece of drift. It was slow, hard work, but I finally reached the drift and there at long range, was my game. The male collapsed at the first shot and as the female started off I jumped up and dropped her with the second barrel. They were in faultless breeding dress and the male is surely a handsome bird.

I felt well repaid for my trip by their capture as it is the only spring record for this region or for western Pennsylvania, so far as I can find out.

So what had started out as a rather uneventful trip wound up on Friday as quite a successful one.

R. B. Simpson,
Warren, Pennsylvania.

Some Ducks and a Hawk.

The morning of February 1st, 1899, the thermometer registered 8 degrees below zero. There was a foot of snow on the ground and the river was frozen tight except along the islands. It was cloudy out but no wind so I started early for my old stamping grounds down the river.

The Rough-legged Hawk is scarce here and is only found on the islands and open flats and never away from

the river. These islands swarm with meadow mice and these form the hawks principal food.

I had noticed several about and as there is no hemlock or cover on the island it is impossible to stalk them as they are wary.

A few days before while down that way I had shot a couple of nice black mallards so I took their skins along with a couple of small steel traps.

I crossed on the ice to the head of the largest island and made two sets for hawks with the two skins.

Then I started down along the open water. There was a heavy fog raising from the water, caused by the zero weather, and I couldn't see a duck very well at any distance. The fog didn't help to make it any warmer either. I first came upon a bunch of seven American Mergansers and as they disappeared into the fog I brought down a female at long range.

The ice at these open places freezes thick right out to the water's edge and a person can walk right out to the edge and pick a dead duck out by hand as it floats in. I flushed several more flocks along this island but couldn't see them in time because of the fog.

I went over a long eddy on the ice to the flats and islands known as "Grass Flats",—my usual rendezvous.

By this time the fog lifted, and crawling through the deep snow to a drift I cleaned up three Black Mallards that were feeding in a small spring hole.

A Northern Shrike flew past and from its bill dangled a small bird of some kind.

In the main opening near the upper end I saw about 40 Mergansers. I crawled up behind a big tree. Two handsome drakes with beautiful salmon-colored underparts, fed down

within range and I got both. At the otter den at the end of the bayou I found an abundance of otter trails and along the edge of the ice found numerous fish heads. I concluded to take down a couple of big traps on my next trip. In the lower end of the opening around a bend, I saw two drake mallards, also a bunch each of whistlers and Mergansers. I crawled up and bagged both mallards, fine old green heads in full plumage. Walking out to get them I broke through a little air hole or spearing hole and plunked down into about two and a half feet of icy water. I got my ducks though, but in the zero temperature my clothes froze stiff in a minute. I got a move on and hustled as fast as I could back into a dense hemlock swamp that is close to the river at this point. Under the wide spreading roots of a partly uprooted and fallen hemlock I found a bare place, and with dry dead hemlock and pine limbs I soon had a rousing fire going. I had to spend a couple hours there before I got dried enough to start out again. When I entered the swamp I started an old horned owl and while thawing out I saw a few chickadees and kinglets and occasional flock of Grosbeaks, but bird life was rather scarce.

After getting well dried I returned to the river. About 40 Mergansers and a bunch of golden-eyes were feeding. Another long crawl through the snow and up behind some drift and I was in easy range of the entire flock of Mergansers and could easily have potted half a dozen. The Golden eyes looked good to me so I waited until I was nearly frozen, then I got my chance and smashed them twice, getting three handsome drakes. A fourth weakened after rising and soon fell on the ice and I took him in also. A wind had sprang up and a fine snow

was falling. It was bitter cold and I felt half frozen. I strung my game and found I had a good load so I made fast time up to the big island.

In one of the traps I had set I saw a large bird flapping about and found a nice Rough leg. Also saw another in the black plumage but it was too wild to allow an approach. A sparrow hawk, and two northern shrikes were about but I didn't bother them. A regular blizzard was setting in so I crossed to the mainland and was lucky enough to get a sleigh ride home with my day's catch.

R. B. Simpson,
Warren, Pennsylvania.

A Day on the Peninsula.

The first week of this past June, I spent on a visit at Erie, Pa., and had intended to spend several days looking about the lake shore in hopes of seeing something new and getting a few photos.

The weather was very unfavorable as it rained nearly every day and was very cold and raw besides. The third was the only nice day and I improved it by spending all day on the "Peninsula." When I started early it looked so bad that I left the camera behind—a fact I afterwards regretted.

I went out the breakwater at the Soldier's Home, and got set across at the Life Saving Station. I explored the region of several ponds of an acre or so each, and then spent about four hours wading about the shores of two of the larger ponds. After this I spent some time on the wide outside beach on the open lake, and finally went entirely around on the outside to Waldameer, where I got an electric car back to the city.

For wading about the shores of the large ponds, I used an old pair of shoes and trousers as the bottom is

mighty uncertain. As the temperature did not get above fifty and a cold northwest wind prevailed, it was anything but pleasant wading.

I had a large basket for turtles which were numerous on the drift in the cat-tails and wild rice. They were stupid because of the chilly weather and only went a few feet after tumbling in. I caught all I could possibly carry, getting five or six varieties.

The commonest bird about the ponds was the Long-billed Marsh Wren. They were singing everywhere and many nests were scattered about. These nests were mostly decoys, but during the first hour, I examined four that were occupied. Three contained six eggs each and the other, five.

There were a few Least Bitterns about, and at one of the smaller ponds was a small colony. It was evidently too early for nests though. Red-winged Blackbirds were nesting plentifully. Some already had young, but the majority had eggs, while some had just begun nest building.

As I passed around the head of one of the smaller ponds, through a sort of meadow of long grass and scattered low bushes, a Marsh Hawk appeared and I soon decided by its actions that there was a nest nearby. A half hour's search and I found it amongst some low brush and long grass. As I never found a nest of this hawk before I was somewhat interested. The nest, a mass of old grass, contained four newly hatched young, and one addled egg, which latter, I took. I did not see any rails, although at least two species breed here. A great many common land birds were about, and I saw nests of Maryland Yellow-throat, Oriole, Robin, Catbird, Song Sparrow, etc.

There was also an Eagle or two in sight most of the time, and at one

time, six were flying about at once. Swallows were abundant, and at one point along the outside, quite a colony of Bank Swallows were nesting in the deep woods, at Waldameer at the head of the "Peninsula," I saw and heard many birds; among them, Hooded Warblers, Tanagers, Wilson's Thrush, Acadian Flycatchers. I found a Redstart's nest; also a nest of Wilson's Thrush containing four eggs.

Along the outside beach, I was treated to a big surprise. The weather had been so cold this spring that it has held the birds back greatly while performing their migrations, and I found quite a number of ducks still about. Those that I got close enough to to recognize, were all Lesser Scaup. Several Herring Gulls were also about. I was greatly surprised to find plenty of shore birds. Semipalmated Sandpipers were common and one flock contained fully forty. There was a very few Semi-palmated Plover also. I crawled up very close to a flock of ten Turnstone in full dress. There were some Dunlin too. One flock of twenty and a few single ones. One fine fellow with red back and black belly walked up to within twenty feet of me. Dunlins and Turnstones in full dress are very rare here; especially Turnstones; and I was greatly surprised to see them.

There was a couple of pair of pretty Piping Plover, and they were undoubtedly nesting; but after a long siege of watching, I concluded they were not yet incubating. Spotted Sandpipers were plentiful and had just begun nesting in grassy spots among the sand-hills. I also saw several shore birds that I failed to identify as they were too wild to permit of a close approach.

I intended to go back and explore the ponds more thoroughly, but rainy weather prevented.

R. B. Simpson,
Warren, Pennsylvania.

ROBINS MAY BE GROSBEAKS St. Paul Naturalist Gives Possible Explanation of Reports of Spring Harbingers.

The "robins which several people say they have seen in Minnesota the last couple of weeks probably are Evening Grosbeaks driven south by the severe cold according to Prof. D. Lange of St. Paul, who is one of the best posted men on the bird subject in the Twin Cities.

"The Evening Grosbeak is often seen here during cold weather," said Prof. Lange. "The robins would not stay here in this weather, and it is not probable that any one has seen a real robin lately. Occasionally during a mild winter, when there is not much snow, a few may stay, but that is not likely this year.

"It is most likely that the birds they have seen were the Grosbeak, although the difference is great enough so that at close range a person would hardly mistake them. The adult male of the evening Grosbeak in full plumage is black, white and yellow. The forehead is yellow, the crown black, the underside and side yellow, the wing and tail black, the rump dull yellow and there are some white touches on the wings. With them are many females and the young of last season, and these are duller, so that to the casual observer they might be mistaken for robins.

"The Evening Grosbeak, which inhabits the Hudson bay country and farther north, is an erratic bird and is seen here only every three or four years or so. They are never seen farther south than Chicago. They are fond of box elder seed, and when a flock of them finds a box elder grove they may stay there a week or two until the seed is all eaten. They cut it with their bills,

eat the kernel and drop the shell on the snow, so that when you find shells of box elder seeds you may be sure there have been Grosbeaks around. They nest far north and not over two or three nests have ever been found."

A news dispatch from Hancock, Mich., says that Canadian Grosbeaks driven south by the intense cold, have swarmed into the copper country for the second time in thirty years. It was stated that the birds resemble robins and were thought by many to be robins until they were identified by hunters.—*Minneapolis Journal* July 10, 1912.

The Whistling Swan.

We have just read an interesting article by our old friend, Ottomar Reinecke, published in the *Buffalo Express* relative to this bird, and in which is published certain information which should be in the possession of ornithologists generally.

It is well known that one of the main northern migration routes of this bird wintering on the Atlantic coast, is up the coast into Chesapeake Bay, then overland to the great lakes, then to Hudson Bay, and so on to the Arctic where it breeds.

A very large proportion of these birds pass over the Niagara River, the broad expanse of which just above the Falls offers an alluring, though exceedingly dangerous resting place for the tired and hungry birds after their long flight from the Chesapeake Bay over the Allegheny Mountains; and which, to their damage, is much used by them.

Mr. Reinecke published a schedule of the birds known to have been killed or injured by going over these falls, together with the dates thereof for a number of years past. This is interesting and valuable and is as follows:

"Our notes are but recent. About March 16, 1906, sixteen of these swan went over the Horseshoe Falls and were so maimed that they were easily captured. March 20, 1907 about thirty specimens met the same fate. March 15, 1908, a great many went over the Falls; about 120 were taken. I saw 42 of these birds lie in three rows. Bought five fine specimens. The taxidermist mounted them and they are now in the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, the finest group in existence.

In November on their migration to the South, four specimens were taken. In December several went over the Falls.

March 28, 1909, ten swan went over the Falls; nine were killed, and one was taken alive. March 20, 1910, J. Savage took a picture of 28 swan above the Falls, have no record of any being killed.

March 23, 1911, from the best records obtained at the Falls, about 22 swan went over the Falls and were finally secured. Some of them were shipped to Mr. Saunders of London, Ontario, for scientific purposes. On April 11th, a large flock was seen on its migration to its Northern breeding grounds."

Editor.

The Wild Goose in Spring Near Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Wild Goose is not infrequently observed in the vicinity of Philadelphia, in late spring, occurring here however, generally during or just after severe storms, but these birds are invariably seen on the wing and mostly flying in a northerly direction. It is rarely, indeed, that any of these wary birds are seen resting here, but two such occurrences have taken place to my knowledge.

On April 16, 1903, at Sandiford, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, my brother George observed a flock

of twenty-six (26) Wild Geese resting in a rye field on a farm and feeding on the tender green plants. They only took wing upon the approach of gunners and wearily wended their way northward.

While crossing the Delaware River, on April 24, 1910, in a power boat, with a friend and my brother George, we frightened two Wild Geese from the rough water off the mouth of the Pensauken Creek and opposite Bridesburg, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. They flew down the river.

Replacing the tank with gasoline at Bridesburg, we ran across the river to Delair, New Jersey, and down along the dyke that extends a mile out into the stream at this point; as we rounded the end of the dyke and gasolined into the cove we almost ran down a flock of fourteen (14) Wild Geese that were resting on the water. The birds reluctantly took wing at our approach and flew about individually for a short time, until three launches had left the cove, when they assembled together again, and, now joined by an additional bunch of six birds, the flock alighted upon the water again. The bunch of six birds that joined the larger block came from Richmond, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, a mile across the river, where they were seen resting, by friends, upon the open water in a marsh; their rest there however, was of short duration, for pedestrians soon drove them away.

The birds all appeared weary and seemed to want to rest, hence their astonishing fearlessness of us and other crafts, which they permitted to approach within thirty feet, and when disturbed by a nearer approach, they flew about and circled overhead and well within gunshot range. It being Sunday they could not be molested by gunners. These birds occurred here after a severe storm.

Richard F. Miller.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Winter Birds.

Editor of The Tribune:

After reading in recent issues articles on "robins" and Evening Grosbeaks, I am inclined to believe that the "robins" were mistaken for Bohemian waxwings (*ampelis garrulus*) or pine Grosbeaks (*penicola enucleator*). The general color of the pine Grosbeak is carmine-red, and the general color of the Bohemian waxwing is brownish-ash with a faint shade of reddish, especially anteriorly. The Bohemian waxwing and the pine Grosbeak are winter visitants in this vicinity. The Evening Grosbeak (*cocothraustes vesperina*) is occasionally a winter visitant in Hennepin county, but the anterior part of the body is a dark yellowish-olive, so I cannot conceive how it could be mistaken for a robin.—Minneapolis Tribune Jan. 30, 1912.

J. F. Jenkins.

Birds Left Behind in Migration in Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania.

Wounded individuals of migratory birds are frequently left behind in the migrations. Some of these birds are unable to fly, and others, while able to make short flights, are incapable of performing the extended flight necessary to carry them to their winter home. Several records of such birds have recently come to the writer's notice and they are given for what they are worth.

On December 11, 1909, at Richmond, in a frozen cat-tail marsh a boy caught a wounded Coot, but before I could go and see the bird he had killed and eaten it. It had a broken wing which prevented it from migrating, as a matter of course.

On December 12, 1909, in another frozen cat-tail marsh at this locality,

while hunting muskrat, John Gosner captured a crippled Sora and flushed up a King Rail. He kept the Rail several days in captivity and then released it. It was only able to fly a few feet, although its wings appeared uninjured. It was not afterward seen and was undoubtedly shot by a gunner. This was also the probable fate of the King Rail, which was capable of rather extended flight, as it was not afterward observed, although searched for diligently.

On December 17, 1910, in the above marsh, George Pedrich, while hunting for muskrats, found a frozen Florida Gallinule, a bird not quite full grown. It was sitting on the ice beside a muskrat house, in a natural life-like attitude of a bird asleep with its head turned over on its back, and it was undoubtedly frozen to death during the severe weather that occurred at that time. It was a wounded individual left behind in the migrations, just like the others.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Robins Are Plentiful.

Nobody will be able in the coming spring to claim the credit of having seen the first robin of the season in this vicinity. At the present time there are no less than fifty of the birds around the Soldiers' home grounds. The birds for some unaccountable reason failed to migrate this winter and are spending the winter at the home. They are sure of kind treatment and plenty of food for the old soldiers and widows are noted for their kindness to birds and dumb animals and take great interest in the squirrels and feathered pets on the home grounds.—Lafayette, Ind., Daily Courier, Feb. 1, 1912.

I can supplement the above with a

record of a flock of about 25 robins flying toward the south on the morning of January 16th, when the thermometer stood perhaps 10 degrees below zero.

A. D. DuBois.

W. Lafayette, Ind.

We have had Robins, Blue-birds and Bewick Wrens here all winter but have not seen any the last three days now, as it has been very cold and snow is on the ground. I saw the last Bluebird January 1st, and the last Bewick wren on same date. Saw one Robin January 1-3-6-9, although thermometer registered 25 below on the 9th, the robin was apparently in good spirits, flying from one tree top to another. I am watching to see if it will return again.

C. B. Vandercook.

Odin, Ills.

Robins have been with us at Lacon, Ill., in limited numbers all winter, though the mercury reached twenty degrees below three times.—Editor.

A Rare Occurrence.

To ascertain the cause of the regular disappearance of chickens, D. A. Schreiner, who resides a few miles north of this place, set a steel trap and in the morning found a large golden Eagle as captive. The bird was held by one claw and fought desperately when approached. From tip to tip it measured over seven feet and stood 32 inches in height. It being captured alive, I understand that it was sold to the Eagle Lodge of Tiffin, Ohio, at a large figure, they intending to use it as a mascot if it keeps alive. This is a very unusual thing for the state of Ohio and around here, for instance it being observed but once within 25 years.

R. Lozier.

Attica, Ohio.

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BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

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In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

Nests with and without sets wanted. Can use many common varieties; have you any reptile eggs? J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Penns. (11-11)

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Collector personally taken specimens only (has permit) would locate in situ one or two sets Barred and Great Horned Owl. Within about hundred miles of Chicago, Ills. E. R. FORD, 4816 N. Winchester Ave., Chicago, Ills. (*8)

Old, as well as new, oological friends are requested to submit lists of wants from Southern Texas. Great care in preparation of specimens and extra full data always. Eggs of edible Diamond-backed Terrapin for propagating purposes. E. F. POPE, Port Bolivar, Texas. (19)

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Evening Grosbeaks in New York

—Photo by Ottomar Reinecke

Evening Grosbeaks.

Reappearance After Twenty-one Years Absence.

Having occasionally seen Notes in the OOLOGIST, the last in the February Number of 1912, I wish to contribute this article and the illustrations of the Grosbeak to The Oologist.

Some time ago the "Rochester Herald" announced that several specimens of the Evening Grosbeak had been seen in Summer Park and also in Highland and Seneca Parks at Rochester. This item recalled to me the following:

In the latter part of December, 1889, Dave Trenton and Dr. Bergtold (the first died years ago and the latter now lives in Denver, Nebraska) shot an evening Grosbeak in Deleware Park. This was brought to my attention. I at once got in communication with friends near Ridgeway, across the river and gave them a description of the bird. Within a week I received about thirty of these rare birds, males and females. I mounted them. Several I gave to the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences where they can be seen now. One pair is in the National Museum of Sweden and fourteen are left in my collection.

Looking over Audubon's great work, now in possession of the Buffalo Society of Natural Science, through the generosity and kindness of Dr. Roswell Park, I found a life sized picture of the Evening Grosbeak. In order to have his life work finished and published, our great naturalist in the early '30's. went to Europe and obtained subscriptions there for financial support. The life-sized pictures of the birds are contained in five or six large volumes. You can imagine the size, as it contained the Wild Turkeys as well as the Warblers and Hummers.

At one time Audubon was supposed to be dead, but after an absence of three years he returned from the southern uninhabited regions with a complete knowledge of its bird life. He had pictures and descriptions of Warblers which for a long time were considered imaginary, and also five plants. All the plants have been found and five of the Warblers. This is the work of the greatest ornithologist known. Even in his time the Evening Grosbeak was very incomplete.

Their natural haunts are in the extreme north west of the Rocky Mountains, north of Saskatchewan. The color of the Evening Grosbeak is a dull yellowish, shading into a brownish on the head, with a bright and yellow forehead, and superciliary line, black wings and tail and white inner secondaries and greater coverts. They are the size of a robin. Their casual occurrence in the East is due to the heavy snowfall, followed by excessive cold, which deprives them of the necessary food, and so they travel east.

When I heard of their appearance I informed the naturalist in Ridgeway, Ontario, Mr. A. H. Kilman, and received from him the following: "About the time you write to me that the Evening Grosbeaks were seen in Rochester I observed two of them in the maples of my yard. The next day I visited a grove near here, where I had seen them years ago, and found a flock of about twenty. They fed mostly on the hanging keys of some Ash leaved maples. There were many full plumaged males in the flock, and they presented a charming sight flying in the sunlight. As I had in my collection all I cared for, I shot and mounted only one fine specimen."

S. J. Wallace, and Walter Raine, of Toronto, Ontario, saw several Gros-

beaks. Harry Williams, proprietor of the Lafayette Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ontario, also has two finely mounted specimens, which were shot twenty-one years ago. Those interested can see them in the collection of the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences, or in mine.

Ottomar Reinecke.

Buffalo, N. Y.

An Abnormal Towhee's Egg.

On June 18, 1911 while making ornithological observations on Crow Hill, Montclair Heights, N. J., I found a nest of the Towhee (*Pipilio erythrophthalmus*) on the ground underneath a clump of laurels containing four eggs well incubated. Three of these eggs were normal in size, shape and appearance, while the fourth was devoid of all markings but retained the pinkish-white ground color of the others. In addition to being clear of markings, it was considerably larger than the others as will be seen by the following measurements taken by the writer on that date: .90 x .72; .92 x .74; .88 x .71 and 1.01 x .78.

On the 9th of July I again visited this nest for the purpose of placing bands on the nestlings, but found that it had apparently been pillaged by some animal as many feathers and pieces of bones were strewn about and the nest was torn apart.

Two other nests within one hundred feet of this, which contained nestlings on the 18th of June, were found deserted as was expected. About these were no evidences of raids by cats or other animals as was the case in the first instance.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.,

Dec. 18, 1911.

Notes on the White-breasted Nuthatch

The Nuthatch, although by no means a rare bird, is seldom seen except by those who are acquainted with its haunts, on account of its shy and retiring habits. It greatly resembles the Brown Creeper and the Black and White Warbler, although its call is a great contrast to those two birds. Its call as represented by Reed is a nasal yank, yank, and a repeated ya, ya, all in one tone; and it often mystifies one as to the concealment of the bird itself.

On November 24, 1911, I was attracted by the queer call of a White-breasted Nuthatch, which came as I thought from a nearby tree, but on coming nearer, I was surprised to hear the call repeated in another direction. At last, however, I saw him as he flirted around the trunk of a large tree, pecking the bark as he jumped, and sending a shower of chips flying to the ground. Remaining quite still I was rewarded by seeing it reappear around the trunk, uttering its queer call again. As I watched I saw it grasp firmly with its strong claws, and swinging its whole body upon its feet it would peck away at the bark, with the full weight and sway of its body. In my desire to obtain a better view, it became frightened, and falling away from the trunk it darted over the snow to another tree. I started to follow, but it soon flew again and I lost sight of it.

I would like to mention that I recently received the egg of the Sennett Nighthawk. Mr. C. McKnight of Regina, Canada, found two of these rare eggs on the Plains of Saskatchewan, one of which was accidentally broken, the other I now have in my collection.

Paul G. Burgess.



Gila Woodpecker

—Photo by Earl R. Forrest

Photographing Wild Birds in Southern Arizona.

Earle R. Forrest

During the fall of 1903 I was located near Oracle, Pinal County, Arizona. There is scarcely any town there, the place merely consisting of a store, a post office, and two hotels, while a number of ranchmen live in the vicinity. It is situated forty miles north of Tucson and on the western spur of the Santa Catalina range. The mountains in the vicinity of Oracle are covered with a thick growth of scrub oaks, and the deserts close by have large thickets of cholla and prickly pear cactii.

Bird life is very abundant, considering the scarcity of food and the dry climate where water is only obtainable at long distances.

I was located on a sheep ranch about two miles north of the store.

It was about one-half mile to my nearest neighbor, who was an easterner in search of health. He had taken up a mining claim, fenced it, built a comfortable house upon it, and made other improvements which made the place very attractive for that lonely, desolate country. This claim was situated right among the scrub oaks, and birds, which were always looking for a few crumbs or a drink, were rather abundant. Finding that they were not molested they soon became quite tame, and large numbers came every morning to drink from a pan of water that my friend had placed for them.

This gave him an idea. He cut the side out of a large syrup can, made a wooden frame to hold it, and nailed it on top of a fence post about fifty feet from the house. This he filled daily



House Finches

—Photo by Earl R. Forrest

with water, and soon great numbers of birds came there to drink.

I immediately became interested and spent much time at my friend's house, where I identified the following species which came there to this fountain:

Melanerpes uropygialis. Gila Woodpecker.

Aphelocoma sieberii arizonae. Arizona Jay.

Carpodacus mexicanus frontalis. House Finch.

Mimus polyglottos leucopterus. Western Mockingbird.

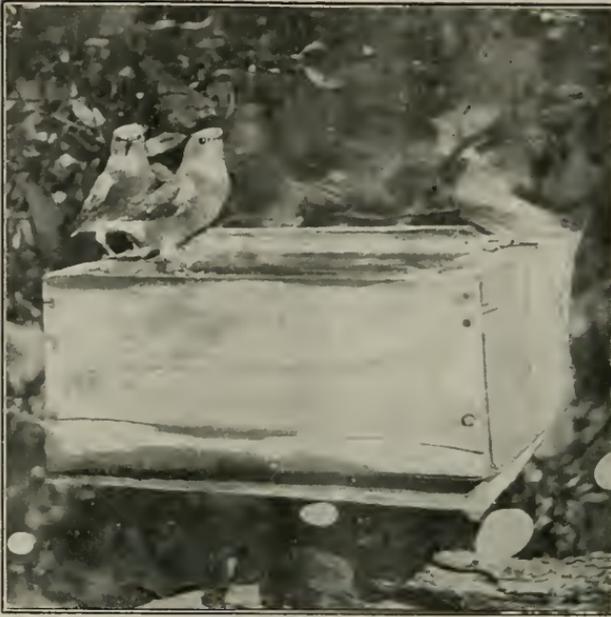
Sialia mexicana occidentalis. Western Bluebird.

Sialia arctica. Mountain Bluebird.

Other species were observed in the locality, but they were too shy to venture so near to the house.

We watched them closely and they all seemed to have a certain time for coming. The bluebirds of both varieties generally arrived a little after

dawn, and as time passed and the fame of the fountain spread in the bird world their numbers greatly increased. They always made such a fuss and commotion that it was impossible to sleep after their arrival. After the bluebirds had quenched their thirst somewhat, and there would only be a few stragglers left, the House Finches would appear and drive these away. In this connection I noticed that no two species would drink at the same time, except when there were only three or four of each kind. The bluebirds always kept the House Finches away when there was any number of the former, and so the latter would not come until the former had practically retired. When the most of the finches had departed and the place was pretty quiet one or two Arizona Jays would appear. These birds generally came singly or in



Western Blue Birds

—Photo by Earl R. Forrest

pairs, and never were there more than three or four drinking at one time, although during the busy hours there would be several sitting in the trees awaiting their turn. Then with a great chatter and fuss a Gila Woodpecker would swoop down and take complete possession. At first the jays were shy when the woodpecker arrived, for the latter seemed so bold and dashing, but the jays soon became used to this and stood up for their rights.

All morning there would be a few bluebirds or finches about, but whenever a jay or woodpecker would make its appearance the smaller birds would hastily retreat.

The afternoons were generally quiet, and hardly any birds would be about. At this time a Western Mockingbird would sometimes appear. This species was very shy, however, and things had to be pretty quiet or they

would not come near. These observations were made from November 29th, 1903 to December 20th, 1903, after which I left the locality. If I had been able to visit the place in the spring I have no doubt but that many more species would have been recorded, but by that time I was in the northern part of the territory.

Both my friend and myself were interested in photography, and so we decided to try to obtain some pictures of our feathered friends. We both owned cameras of the long focus, cycle style, and 4 by 5 inches in size, fitted with ordinary symmetrical lenses, which had a speed of F. 8. Of course all work must be instantaneous, but the light is stronger and more intense in the southwest than in the east, and so we were able to obtain pretty good results.

The fountain was too high for an



Arizona Jays

—Photo by Earl R. Forrest

ordinary tripod, and so we obtained two large boxes at the store, which we fastened securely together. These we placed about five feet from the fountain, putting some rocks in the bottom for ballast. We made some holes in the top, and at the proper angle and distance, in which we placed pegs to hold a camera in position.

We focussed the machine on the front part of the mountain, tied a long string to the finger release so that we could operate it from the house, and waited for the arrival of the birds. However, not one would venture near the place. The strange looking affair so close was too much for them. Patiently we waited for two days without any success, and then we moved the camera. After this it was only a day or two until the birds commenced to return, and they were soon there in as great num-

bers as ever. After they seemed to have lost their fear for the boxes we placed a focussing cloth on top which they seemed a little shy of for about half a day, but they soon became used to this too. However, we did not try the camera again for about a week, and to our surprise the birds did not fear it nearly as much as we had expected, the finches paying very little attention to it at all.

Soon we were running a regular bird photograph gallery, and we secured a number of choice negatives. Our little friends became very tame, but they never got over their fear of the noisy shutter. When the string was pulled the spring would make a sharp click and like a flash every bird would fly away; but they did not go far, for in a few minutes they would return.

,Our greatest trouble was with the

focus, for at such close range every fraction of an inch counted. If the camera was set for the front edge of the fountain then any birds that happened to be on the back edge would be blurred in the negative, and the same was true if the machine was set for the back. To remedy this we made a high back from which it was impossible to drink, and a top that only left a strip of water about two inches wide exposed at the back. This latter was movable, and it was only in place when we wished to take a picture.

We now moved the camera closer and secured some excellent photographs, some of the best of which accompany this article. This is the only work of that kind that I have ever done. Shortly afterwards I left that part of Arizona, and, while I have quite frequently been in the arid regions of the west since then, I have never had the time to construct such a fountain nor to devote to the other work in connection with it. At one time after I returned east, I tried this plan, but did not have much success, for the birds can secure water almost any place here.

Punctured Cow-birds Eggs.

"I have yet to see a punctured Cowbird's egg," writes the late Major Charles Bendire, in his *Life Histories of North American Birds*, remarking on punctured eggs in nests containing eggs of this parasite.

During the many years I have studied the birds I have found but one or two punctured Cow-birds eggs and the circumstances of one of the discoveries I herewith record.

On May 22, 1901, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, I found a two-thirds built nest of the Indigo Bunting situated about three feet up in a clump of blackberry

bushes, along a path in the edge of the woods and well hidden by the foliage. On the morning of May 28th, this nest contained two eggs of *Passerina*, but on looking in the nest at dusk I was surprised to see but one egg, which I collected and concluded that somebody had taken the other. The egg was fresh.

Three days later, May 31st, I again visited the nest. It then held a Cowbird's egg, which had a hole as big as a pea in the side, and underneath the nest on the ground below, were fragments of an Indigo-Bunting's egg. The Lazybird's egg was perfectly fresh with the contents intact, the puncture being uppermost, which indicated that it had been freshly broken as no ants had yet commenced eating it.

Did the Cowbird lay her egg in the empty nest? Or did the Indigo bird lay another egg after I had removed the one from her nest? It is a rare occurrence, in my experience, for this bird to lay in her nest after it had been despoiled of part of her set, and just as rare is it for the Lazybird to lay in a deserted nest, but was the nest deserted? Perhaps the fragments of the Indigo bird's egg was the remains of a third egg subsequently laid by Mrs. *Passerina*, which the Cowbird ejected when she deposited her unwelcome egg. It certainly would be interesting to know. The nest was deserted on May 31, for a certainty as no Indigo bird's were observed about it.

This is not the first and only instance to come under my observation of finding punctured Cowbird's eggs in nests, but it is the only occurrence I have ever seen of *Molothrus* laying in a seemingly deserted nest, for I believe the broken Indigo bird's egg was one of the eggs the nest held when examined on May 28th, which had in

some mysterious manner been thrown from the nest. The circumstance however, is not of any importance. What I want to impress upon the minds of Ornithologists is the rarity of punctured Cowbird's eggs, as noticed by Bendire. I do not know how the puncture was made.

On May 31, 1901, when I found this punctured egg. I discovered a Wood Thrush's nest close by in the woods not fifty feet from the indigobird's nest, which held three eggs of *Holochila* and one Cowbird's; the lazy-bird's egg was the exact counterpart of the egg I found in the Linnet's nest, there being no differences in coloration, shape, and size and I have no doubt but that the same female laid both of the eggs.

On May 19, 1899, at Gloucester, Camden County, New Jersey, I found a Brown Thrasher's nest, situated about three feet up in a clump of bushes in a woods, containing a freshly broken Cowbird's egg. It was destroyed by the enraged Thrasher, beyond a doubt, as I saw the bird fly from the nest and, immediately examining it I found the smashed egg.

If any other ornithologists have found punctured Cowbird's eggs I should like to hear of them.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Penn.

How to Attract the Birds.

The spring birds will soon be here, and now is the time to prepare for them. But the question is, "how can I attract the birds?" One of the best ways, I think, is to build a number of bird-houses and place them in the trees about the yard. Of course there are a great many birds that do not nest in houses, but in nests. The martin, bluebird and the house-wren are three or the foremost birds that

nest in houses. For martins, houses with several compartments, so that several families can live in them are best, because they like to live in colonies. The opening in a wren house should be about the size of a silver quarter, so that the bothersome English sparrows cannot enter. Besides houses made from wood, tin cans, flower pots with the drain holes enlarged, and gourds make attractive houses. It is best to put the houses up during the last part of the winter, so that by spring they will not look so new. Birds like to nest in houses that have been weathered before it is time to build in them.

Another way to attract the birds is to place several shallow metal or earthen dishes filled with water about the yard for the birds to bathe in. A bright metal dish is not so good as a rusty one. An earthen dish is best.

Now, you are prepared for your feathered friends, and they will repay you for your labor by giving you many hours of pleasure by watching them.

Max Irwin Carruth.

Tarrytown, N. Y.

Purple Grackle.

(*Quiscalus quiscula.*)

A friend of mine who lives in the city here, tells me that the purple Grackle congregates on his English walnut trees in the spring and peck holes in the walnuts before the nuts harden in order to extract the acid.

The object in doing this, he says, is for the purpose of killing the lice that secrete themselves among their feathers.

The birds after extracting the juice apply the poison among their feathers and in that manner relieve themselves of the obnoxious pests.

The reasoning of the purple grackle is remarkable and illustrates in a marked degree the unusual intelligence of the birds.

My friend says the "blackbirds" destroy many walnuts every year in this way.

E. J. Darlington.

Wilmington, Delaware.

List of Birds Found Breeding in the Titanic

Mountains and foothills around Boulder on the line of the Salt Lake Route to the coast, 98 miles south of Salt Lake. Altitude about 6000 feet at Boulder, highest point above Dry Lake 9 miles N. E. of Boulder 9000 feet, and a field full of variety for the collectors. Notwithstanding its arid surface of three by nine miles having but one spring of water.

Its lower zone a bunch of hills varying from 50 to 250 feet, more or less covered by stunted cedars and pinon pines, intervening ground covered by a fairly good growth of sage brush, peopled by coyotes and jack rabbits.

Then we come to an intermediate zone of gentle slope to the foot of mountains proper, which are quite abrupt, and in many places covered on the south and west faces with cedar, mahogany and pinons. On the north face we find spruce, fir and a few hemlock, while at the upper end of the canons we find little park-like mesas with aspens.

I have given this description so that my notes may be more fully understood, and shall segregate the birds in zones, as it is more convenient for me, at least.

Western Raven: Several pairs seen each day; rarely at nest: lower zone.

Red-tailed Hawk: Quite common: five nests seen: lower zone; upper zone in flight only.

Sparrow Hawk: Common in upper zone, but found in suitable locations in each zone.

Night Hawk: Scarce; lower zone only.

Sharp-shinned Hawk: Upper zone; several pairs.

Pinon Jay: Common in colonies: lower zone.

Clark's Nutcracker: Large colonies; common above 7500; not seen below upper zone.

Rock Wrens: Number breeding in crack along arroyo, near western line, lower zone.

Western Bluebird: Any old place: middle and lower zones not common; nests in old cedars and cracks in rocks; upper zone.

Mountain Bluebird: Any old place. Middle and lower zones not common. Nests in old cedars and cracks in rocks. Upper zone.

Say's Phoebe: Tunnels and bridges favorite places for nesting; lower zone.

Woodhouse Jay: Not common; one pair in each ravine; middle zone, upper part.

Black Crested Jay: One pair each of six years; upper zone.

Crested Titmouse: Generally found in all zones.

Mountain Chickadee: Mostly in upper zone; rare in others.

Great Horned Owl: Lower zone; scarce.

Pigmy Owl: Several pairs in upper zones.

Famulated Screech Owl: Several pairs in upper zones.

Rocky Mountain Screech Owl: Few located; heard constantly at night.

Western Short-eared Owl: Every wooded canon had a pair.

Western Robin: In all zones; many breeding at 8000 feet.

Western Meadowlark: Two nests with young; lower zone.

Mourning Dove: Hundreds come to drink at spring; lower zone; no grain fields within five miles.

Brewer's Sparrow: Mostly in lower zone, but always in sage brush.

Western Chipping Sparrow: All zones; quite common.

Spurred Towhee: All zones along dry water course.

Sage Grouse: Pinegrowth of upper in heavy sage growth.

Sage Grouse: Pinegrowth of upper zone; two species.

Pine Siskin: Upper zone in conifers; common.

Western House Wren: Upper zone; many seen in favorable breeding places.

Red-shafted Flicker: Common.

Brewer's Blackbird: One flock seen often, and located at spring five miles N. W.; lower zone.

San Diego Redwing: Several pairs located at spring five miles N. W.; lower zone.

Barn Swallows: Four pairs in barn of rancher at the spring.

Bank Swallows: In deep arroyo with clay banks, near western limit, lower zone.

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher: In lower and middle zones in cedars and mahogany.

Western Winter Wren: Upper zone.

Arkansas Kingbird: Lower zone, near the spring in arroyo.

Couch's Kingbird: Lower zone with the other kingbird.

Bullock's Oriole: Lower zone; two pairs breeding.

Three Flycatchers, but not sure of species, as I do not take life until all other resources are exhausted.

Edward Tregauza.

Salt Lake City, Utah.

Accidental Death of Two Birds.

Mr. P. G. Howes' interesting pictures in the November Oologist brings to mind two similar incidents which occurred during the spring and summer of 1910 at Bloomfield, N. J. On the second of May, while searching for the home of a song sparrow in a blackberry tangle, I came upon the mutilated body of a female robin which had become entangled in this clump of bushes through the medium of a heavy cord which it was carrying in its bill to a half-completed nest in a cherry tree just above. Apparently the cord had been twined about its legs and in flying through the bushes the cord also became fastened to the stalks of the same, thus

throwing the bird with great force against the ground below and in doing so dislocated its neck. Upon closer inspection, I found that the bones of the neck had been broken entirely apart.

Later, on June 7th, the dead body of a flicker was found firmly wedged in a cavity in an apple tree which it was excavating. The bird had gone in head first and for some unknown reason had tried to turn about and in doing so placed itself in such a position as to be unable to extricate itself. In its death struggles the bird had twisted its body much out of shape and had broken several of its principal bones. The sternum and upper leg bones were fractured in several places. The wing feathers had been broken off and were buried in the soft wood surrounding the body. When found the bird had apparently been dead but a few hours, as the blood stains were quite fresh.

In addition to these a starling, which was reared in my bird house during the past season, was found impaled upon the long thorns of the honey locusts just opposite from my home. Just how this happened will never be known, but the thorn was driven completely through the bird's body, near the breast. It might possibly have been the work of a shrike but personally think it was purely accidental as there were no marks upon the bird's body other than that caused by the adjacent thorn.

Louis S. Kohler.

Almost Another Ant Tragedy.

In the February issue of the Oologist, Mr. Henry Hestness, of Rockford, Washington, speaks of finding a meadowlark's nest with a young one in it almost dead with ants with which the nest was affected. A case some-

what like this came under my observation on August 4, 1911.

While visiting a friend a few miles north of here we found, in a dry swamp in the woods an indigo bunting's nest. It was placed in a small elderberry bush about nine inches from the ground, and contained three fresh eggs. The male was singing from the top of a dead oak nearby and we flushed the female from the nest. We collected the nest and eggs, and on the way home my friend, who was carrying the nest, complained of ants on his arm, but we thought little of it. When we arrived home we set the nest on the book case while blowing the eggs. Upon our return we found small black ants pouring from it. On my friend's house is a large tin drain about two feet wide; here we put the nest and set fire to it. The ants came out of the nest in swarms and each carried an egg. The only way I could account for this is, that there was a herd of plant lice on this bush and they were making their home in the nest.

Colin C. Sanborn
Highland Park, Ills.

The last two or three days the crows have been flying east by the hundreds. On March 11th, 12th and 13th, of last year, they flew in the same direction. I have been wondering if you or any of the readers of the Oologist could tell me why they do this every year.

Norman Haultain.
Port Hope, Ontario.

In volume 28, number 11, of the Oologist, there is an article (page 176) by Mr. Lyon, of Illinois, on ground doves breeding in confinement. In this article, he makes the statement that he saw "four eggs in the nest."

I have watched ground doves for ten years, and in that time have investigated scores of nests, but never have I found four, or even three eggs. Without exception, two only, is the number. Perhaps it is a typographical error. Or, perhaps, in confinement, the doves would lay four eggs. Anyhow I would like to hear from others on this point, and particularly Mr. Lyon, himself, through this paper.

R. J. Longstreet.
De Land, Florida.

Goldfinches.

In this locality, the Goldfinches have for years built their nests almost exclusively in young maple trees.

One Sunday last July, during the height of the nesting season for this bird, I went for a walk through a grove which has always been a favorite breeding place. I was much surprised to find but a single nest of the species. The birds seemed to be just as numerous as heretofore and I could not account for the scarcity of nests.

On the following Sunday, accompanied by a friend, we made another thorough investigation of the grove, but the result was the same as before. Passing on to a clearing, a short distance beyond, the mystery was soon solved.

This clearing, from which the timber had been cut a few years previously, was overgrown with bushes of various kinds, and a new growth of oak and bass-wood.

Here the "Wild Canaries" had taken up their residence, and many nests were found, mostly in the young growth of oak.

In the maples, the nests were usually from eight to twelve feet up, while here they were from three to six feet.

Chas. W. Pelton.
Marshfield, Wisconsin.

E. W. Campbell, of Pittston, Pennsylvania, advises us that February 12, a flock of Holboell's Grebe (*Colymbus holboelli*) was seen on the Susquehanna River at Pittston, and that Ollis Delrick killed four of them, one of which Campbell is mounting. This is indeed a rare find for that locality.

E. T. Pember is now doing the Mediterranean ports and Egypt. We have no doubt that he will see many birds that will interest him

A rumor reaches us that our friend Thomas H. Jackson is in the wilds of Florida, presumably with Oscar E. Baynard. Hope he will send us notes describing his success in searching for the eggs of the swallow-tailed kite and ivory-billed woodpecker.

E. W. Campbell, of Pittston, Penn., reports a flock of 533 pine siskin (*spinus pinus*), 25 or 30, on February 29th. He also reports a large flock of 528 redpoll linnet (*acantaxis linaria*) perhaps greater redpoll, there on the 22nd. Robins, bluebirds and wild geese were at Pittston at that time.

The editor's trip to California was unavoidably delayed until March 5d, on which day he started.

Books Received.

Birds of Arkansas, U. S., Department of Agriculture, Biological Survey Bulletin No. 38, by Arthur H. Howell.

This is a review of 255 species and sub-species accredited to the state of Arkansas. Of this list, 67 are considered permanent residents, 75 summer residents, 60 winter residents, 69 transients, and 19 accidental visitors. It is a well written and prepared

resume of the present knowledge relating to the birds of this state, illustrated with some well selected half-tones and maps.

The thing that strikes the investigator with most force upon examining this work, is the paucity of information relating to the birds of this large and centrally located state; also the extremely limited number of observers who seem to have investigated the birds of Arkansas.

Another thing standing out prominently is the remarkable lack of proper laws for the protection of the birds there.

Birds and Mammals of Vancouver Island, University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 10, No. 1; by Harry S. Swarth.

This is a splendidly prepared paper based upon the expeditions organized and financed by Anna M. Alexander in 1910, for the exploration of Vancouver Island, and will well repay careful study by all ornithologists interested in the birds of that territory. The rank and standing of Mr. Swarth as an author, properly qualified for this work, is beyond question.

Amphibians, Reptiles and Birds of Northern Humboldt County, Nevada, by Walter P. Taylor, University of California Publications in Zoology, Vol. 7, No. 10.

So far as this paper relates to the birds of the territory covered by it, it is of much interest to the average ornithologist. Owing to the fact of the very limited observations which have heretofore been made within this territory. The birds occupy pp. 356-421, to which is appended references to the literature cited and a faunal map. It is a publication creditable alike to the compiler and to the institution publishing it, and contains a number of high class half-tones.

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In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

Nests with and without sets wanted. Can use many common varieties; have you any eptile eggs? J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Penns. (11-11)

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I desire to purchase magazines and books on oology and ornithology. GEORGE SETH GUION, Napoleonville, La. [1-12]

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WANTED.—Certain numbers Godey's Lady's Book, or Ladies American Magazine, edited by Mrs. S. J. Hale, Philadelphia, 1843 and later. Give date, description of plates, and index to text. State price. Also want Vol. 6 O. & O. and Vol. I-V Utica, N. Y. Oologist. GEO. W. H. VOS BURGH, 2408 Elim Ave., Zion City, Ill. (1 p)

BIRD-LORE AND OOLOGIST WANTED.—I will give highest market values, cash or exchange, for Bird-Lore Vol. 1, Nos. 2, 4, and 6, with index; Vol. 2, Nos. 1, 2 and 3; Vol. 3, Nos. 1 and 2; and Vol. 7, No. 1; or bound volumes of Vols. 1, 2, 3 and 7. Send your list of oologist previous to No. 222. CHAS. A. HEWLETT, Woodmere, N. Y.

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FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America parts 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. Ridgway's Hummingbirds, Auk, October 1903, No. 4, Condor September, October, No. 5, Vol. XI, Pacific Coast Avifauna, No. 2, Fisher's Hawks and Owls, Bailey's Forest and Stream Bird Notes, also many U. S. Department of Agriculture Bulletins and North American Faunas. I want Auk Vols. 1 to 6 inclusive. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va. (1)

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I will give the following prices for these magazines. Such prices have never before been offered and probably never will again be offered for these.

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The Avifauna, Vol. I, Nos. 1 and 2	- \$.50
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I will buy a large number of each of the above back numbers for cash at the rate they are listed at, as being for sale in this number of THE OOLOGIST. Address,

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXIX. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y. MAY. 15, 1912.

WHOLE No. 298

Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Illinois.



Nest of Pied-billed Grebe

—Photo by Alex Walker.

Pied Billed Grebe.

While not breeding in as large colonies as other Grebes, the little "Dobchick" or Pied-billed Grebe, is more evenly distributed throughout its range.

Expert at diving, their home is on the water. Rarely coming on land, and then their progress is very awkward. Diving at the flash of a gun, and appearing a few feet away, they defie the hunter who thinks he has an easy target.

The nests are floating piles of decayed rushes and mud brought from the bottom. They are always wet and sometimes the eggs are in water, but they generally hatch. When the parent is away, they are covered with a wet mass of rushes.

From five to eight eggs compose the set, but the usual number is six. Nesting begins during the latter part of May.

Alex Walker.

Armour, S. Dak.

The Golden Eagle.

While in California we had the pleasure of viewing a Golden Eagle's nest with the eggs therein. This nest was photographed and in due time an article will be published and giving a history of not only this nest, but of other nests and of a series of the eggs of this most remarkable bird. There are individual matters relating to this particular bird which are peculiar to themselves and of which a record should be made.

The Passenger Pigeon.

The reward of \$1,000 for the discovery and reporting of an undisturbed nest with parent, eggs or young of the Passenger Pigeon has been extended to October 31, 1912, as have also been a number of other minor rewards. This is a good thing. All ap-

plications for such rewards should be addressed to Professor C. F. Hodge, Worcester, Mass.

California Mountain Quail in the East.

"Last season a farmer reported eight strange birds around his farm. I did not think much of it at the time, but again this season, a week ago, I once more met the farmer, and he spoke of the birds again. He said there were now eighteen of them and they resembled small grouse. I told him to shoot one, which he did, and he brought it in for me to identify. I was much astonished to find it to be a California Mountain Quail. To my knowledge this is the first time these birds have bred east of the Rockies." We know of no case where they have.—
(Ed.) Carl F. Wright.

Auburn, N. Y.

Do Birds Ever Fight to Death?

While driving up the street in Santa Ana one day I passed a pair of Arizona Hooded Orioles fighting. As they did not seem to give up after I had gone by a little way, I stopped, ran back to where they lay, fluttering and tumbling, and picked them up. They had a firm hold of each other, and did not seem aware of my presence until I had them in my hands, when they made a vain effort to escape.

I doubt their being able to fly if I had released them, for one of them held the wing of the other so firmly that I had to secure help to release it. They had pecked one another till one eye was bleeding and nearly closed.

After holding them a little while, I let them go. They flew into a walnut tree nearby. I never learned if they had any more fights, but I believe this must have been the death of one or both had no one interfered.

John L. Nichols.

Santa Ana, Cal.

Books Received.

Bulletin of the Charleston Museum, by Paul M. Rea. Vol. 8, No. 2 and 3.

These two are supplements to the *Birds of South Carolina*, published by the Museum and contain much that is valuable if taken in connection with the original publication.

Cassinia, Vol. 15, 1911, by the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club.

Cassinia for 1911 comes to hand just as good as ever. It is one of the standard bird publications of the country and is a credit to the organization that puts it out. It contains the following articles of general interest:

Constantine S. Rafinesque as an Ornithologist, by Samuel N. Rhoads.

The Frontier of the Carolinian Fauna in the Lower Delaware Valley, by Spencer Trotter.

The Center Furnace Swamp, by Richard C. Harlow.

Recollections of the Passenger Pigeon, by Herman Behr.

The Summer of Fire and Bird Adaptation, by Cornelius Weygandt.

Down the Pocomoke, by George Spencer Morris.

Numerous General Notes by various contributors; and a very extended and complete report of the Spring Migration of 1911, compiled by Whitmer Stone.

Abstract of the Club Proceedings—Club Notes.

Two well written memorial notices, and a Bibliography of papers relating to the *Birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware* for 1911.

Disappointed.

A. M. Abbott and E. R. Ford spent a day in early April with us in an endeavor to locate nests of the Horned and Barred Owl. We are sorry to say that they failed. Come again, boys, with better luck.

Goose News.

At the present writing we have one Canada goose sitting on six eggs with every prospect of bringing off the young. Our Bean goose made a nest, laid two eggs and abandoned them for some reason or other. We have a number of pairs of White-fronted, Snow Geese, Ross's Geese, Cackling Geese, Hutchins' Geese, and Blue Geese mated at this writing (Apr. 29), though none of them have as yet selected nesting sites or laid eggs.

Some rather unusual combinations are a Cackling goose and a Barnacle gander, a Ross's goose and a Hutchins' gander, and a Lesser Snow goose and a Blue gander all mated up. We are watching them with much interest to see what these combinations will result in.

California Condor's Egg.

While at San Diego, March 25th we purchased the collection of eggs formerly belonging to J. H. McConville, an old San Diego collector, but which for a number of years had belonged to Dr. C. C. Valle, and has been on exhibition in the Chamber of Commerce building in that city.

This collection of eggs contained one of the best known and certainly one of the best prepared specimens of the eggs of the California Condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*) in existence. This egg was fresh when taken and was blown with a No. 2 drill. An account of the taking of this egg was published in *The Condor*, Volume 11, page 124-6.

In securing it we have made a valuable addition to our collection.

Bobolink Data

(*Dolichonyx oryzivorus*)

There is no time during the year that I await more eagerly than the fifteenth day of May, for that date



A Nest of Bob'o'ling in Clump of Ragweed

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

marks the return of the first bird from which I ever took a set of eggs. It was the Bobolink, and from that early date I have ever grown more fond of him, and more interested in his welfare.

This particular set of eggs was found entirely by accident while tramping through the dew-drenched meadows at dawn. It taught me my first lesson in ornithology, one which

I have never forgotten. It was how to find the Bobolink's nest.

In the early morning hours, the female sits much closer than during the sunny hours of the day. This I noticed after having taken several sets when a beginner, as I never found a nest during the later hours of the morning. I also noticed that in most every case the nest was placed at the foot of some weed or tall clump of



Closer View of Same Nest

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

clover and very seldom in a tuft of grass. On these two facts I have based my operations ever since and have seldom failed in finding the "Four to Six" spotted treasurers.

There is one field in particular but a short distance from my home where the Bobolinks nest annually in large numbers. Here the grass is rather thin, dotted here and there with clumps of Ragweed in which the birds

almost invariably place their nests. On flushing a bird in this field, I mark the spot, as nearly as possible with my tripod. Then with a six foot piece of cord as a radius, the ragweeds within the circle around the tripod axis may be easily searched, and the nest is usually discovered. The advantage of being in the field at dawn is the small circle which needs to be searched, as the bird will seldom run more



Young Bob'o'link Four Days Old

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

than six feet before leaving the grass. On the other hand, if the nest is to be found during the later hours of the day, it would be necessary to search a much larger circle as the birds leave the nest at the first warning from the males and sometimes go thirty and even forty feet through the grass before flushing.

Although the birds arrive from South America about the middle of May, they do not start nest building

until the last week of that month, or the first week in June. The majority of young birds are hatched by June 14, but I have found one or two sets of fresh eggs on that date. Like many other feathered folk, the Bobo-link is subject to be imposed upon by the Cowbird and it has always been a mystery to me how they manage to find the well hidden nests of their hosts. I once found a nest containing eight eggs, four of the Cowbird and



Young Bobo'link One Week Old

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

four cracked and broken ones of the rightful owner! These, I believe were deliberately broken by the intruder. If not, why should only the eggs of the Bobolinks suffer such indignities?

When four or five days old, the young are not nearly so well guarded as during the first few days of their existence. At this period the parents seem to feel little or no responsibility when an intruder approaches their offspring. The female simply flies to

some other part of the field, and the male, after making a spectacular dive at her, flies high into the air and after singing loudly, circles once or twice and then returns to his usual perch on a near by tree or fence post. I have seen this action repeated time and again when the female is either leaving or returning to the nest.

The young leave the nest when about two weeks old and at this age they are extremely hard to find, as



Young Bobolink Two Weeks Old

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

they wander about among the grass and seldom remain long in one place. It is amusing to see the youngsters trying to look invisible, but it must be said however, that some striking cases of protective mimicry are sometimes met with.

In the early part of July, 1907, just a few days before the hay was to be cut, I was, as usual out taking my last nesting notes of the season on the Bobolink. The fields at that time

were very dry and even brown in certain places. While walking through one of these brown spots, I heard a chirp of a young bird somewhere in the grass. After searching for nearly an hour, the bird was discovered within six inches of where I had planted by foot many times during the search. Its coloring was nearly identical with that of its surroundings, owing to the dry state of the grass. I had probably passed the bird time and again with-

out seeing it.

The cutting of the hay marks the last of the Bobolinks until the fall migration begins in October, when they spend a few days with us in their somber Autumn colors. Then comes the first real cold wave, covering the land with the first white frost and again I eagerly await the fifteenth day of May.

P. G. Howes.

Suspended.

We are sorry to announce that the Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society has suspended publication. This little visitor to our desk will be missed. It contained much that was interested and some things that were scientifically valuable. It is a wonder that the bird publications of this country do not receive better support, but our little friend has gone to join very many of its kind that have bloomed for a short time and then faded away.

Cats-Kill 'Em.

When this number of THE OOLOGIST reaches its readers, the nesting time for small birds will be at its height. Not less than seventy-five per cent. of the song birds hatched in the corporate limits of the towns and cities of the United States are annually killed by cats. If you want to preserve the birds, kill the cats. We should be glad to be able to publish communications from our readers to the effect that they had destroyed 100,000 cats in the next thirty days.

A Warning.

About the time this number of THE OOLOGIST reaches its subscribers, some of them may be in receipt of a circular letter recounting the experiences of the writer for a number of preceding years in North Dakota, and may contain the following language:

"Yes, already the fascination of that

cooling meadow grips me and grips me HARD. I **must** go again. The trip cost from here about \$52. . . . I **am** now seeking to finance this trip for the coming June. I ask from each of ten men, \$5 each, or from each of five men, \$10 each. These amounts to be deposited in good faith, subject to ultimate adjustments on mutually satisfactory basis.

"To the highest bidder between \$25 and \$50 will go the first set of Yellow Rail taken. In addition to the cash contingent, this bidder is to furnish me a bonus in irreproachable sets between the values of fifty cents and three dollars per egg, at an average of Lattin's and Taylor's rates."

Following this may be a lot more of the same kind. At least there was in the communication received by us last spring.

We bit! And forwarded our check for Five.

Should any of our readers bite this year, they may about June 28, 1912, receive a personal communication reading as follows:

"I write to thank you for the kind advance on the trip to North Dakota.

"This was only partially successful. I finding but one set of Yellow Rail in two good colonies. This one set was contracted for some months ago."

If you do receive such a communication the chances are that you will be as much disgusted as we were in not being able to at least have an opportunity of being "the highest bidder" for the "first set of Yellow Rail taken," at from between \$25 and \$50. Perhaps also you might be more or less disgusted at learning that you had let go of your money in answer to this appeal, and then discovered after the eggs had been found and taken, not only that you could not bid on them, but that "this one set was contracted for some months ago"—even before

you received the appeal or let go of your money.

Such was our experience in the spring of 1911, gentle reader; so look out. While you may ultimately get your money back—we did; you may not be entirely satisfied with the whole deal—we were not. Would you have been?

Red Legged Black Duck(?)

It has broken out again—we knew it would. In *The Auk*, Vol. XXIX page 176, April, 1912, is an article by Charles W. Townsend upon this subject. We are pleased to see that attention is given by these distinguished gentlemen who occupy so much space in *The Auk* to the suggestions made in *THE OOLOGIST*, Vol XXVII, page 87 that they might learn something relating to this supposed subspecies by keeping a few of these birds in confinement. A little more practical horse sense and a good deal less theorizing if applied to ornithology would unravel many supposedly abstruse problems.

We have kept and bred Black Ducks in confinement for years, and have never yet seen anything that would lead us to believe that any such subspecies does or ever has existed. The isolated experience referred to by Mr. Townsend has not changed our notion in this respect.

Hunting Warblers Nests.

Several years ago on the afternoon of May 28th I started out for a large mountain valley nearby where farms and clearings are unknown.

The timber is mostly virgin pine and hemlock with a good bit of hardwood in places. In places it is large second growth with plenty of laurel and bush underneath.

A great place for the northern breeders especially warblers. For over

half a mile I passed through virgin growth seeing and hearing plenty of birds but the only nests to come to notice were two of the Wood thrush. Going slowly along on the grade of the narrow gauge which a few years ago was used to haul logs down from farther up the valley, my attention was drawn to a pair of very excited Canadian Warblers.

The Canadians seem to always make a fuss when a person gets in sight so that it is difficult to tell whether the nest is nearby or not.

However I looked around a little and in a nook in the roots of a big stump on the bank of the tramway I saw a nest in just such a place as would be chosen by a Junco. Investigating I found five fresh eggs. I was positive it was the Canadians but withdrew for a few minutes anyway.

Returning I saw the female at home and slipping up from one side I clapped my hand over the opening and caught her, but of course liberated her again.

Well pleased with this find I went on up and very soon saw a small neat nest on the horizontal limb of a hemlock. Climbing up I found a Black-throated Greens nest newly finished.

Next of interest was a newly completed nest of the Magnolia Warbler down in a small hemlock.

My next find was a Parula Warbler tugging at some lichen. I watched her make a few trips to the top of quite a large hemlock. A few days later I climbed the tree and found her sitting on five eggs in her ball-like nest of lichen, built in a thick bunch of small limbs.

At a place where there was considerable second growth hemlock a pair of Blackburnian Warblers took up a lot of my time. I tried to find the nest but had to give up.

Partly up the mountain side I found

another newly completed Magnolia's nest, also a Redstart's containing two eggs. At a small bushy clearing about an oil well I found a pair of Mourning Warblers. I started in and spent almost all my remaining time trying to find the nest but without result except that I found a Chestnut sided Warbler's nest containing three eggs.

As it was getting quite late I started out and on the way found a newly built nest of the Olive-backed Thrush in a little hemlock. It was the prettiest Olive-backed's nest I have ever seen. They generally use some moss but this nest was built almost entirely of beautiful green moss. I afterwards secured it together with a fine set of four eggs.

It was dark when I arrived home, hungry but well pleased with my trip.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

An Albinistic White-throated Sparrow.

At Montclair Heights, N. J., on the 5th of November, I accidentally came upon a small flock of twenty White-throats among the undergrowth at the summit of Crow Hill. Among these was one male which had many white feathers. The plumage of this bird was normal on all the underparts, crown and back. The nape was white pencilled with brown, the rump and upper tail coverts wholly white; tail very much mottled with white and brown. On the wings the greater coverts were wholly white while the middle and lesser coverts and scapulars apparently were normal; the secondaries and primaries being mottled with considerable white. As a whole the bird presented a very odd appearance, in fact, the white markings were so conspicuous that it is feared that the bird will sooner or later become a mark for an amateur

hunter's gun and meet the usual fate of the albinistic bird.

Louis S. Kohler.

An Unusual Nesting Site.

In the November OOLOGIST I notice a very readable article by Mr. Thos. D. Burleigh, on Unusual Nesting Sites, which brings to mind an incident which occurred to me back in the spring of 1902.

On May 27th of that year, I came upon the nest of a Northern Flicker in a leader pipe of a dwelling at Pompton, N. J., which was but ten feet from the ground and in a very exposed position. This pipe had become clogged by refuse from the roof and the constant flow of water had burst a hole about three inches in diameter about six inches above the obstruction. In this receptacle this pair of Flickers had established their home and when discovered had a set of four eggs in it. The female was brooding over these eggs when the nest was located. I also learned upon further inspection that the leader had become filled with rubbish at the opening in the gutter above, thus preventing any water from falling upon the occupants below. I very attentively watched this brood to see that nothing befell them until they were large enough to care for themselves and can happily say that while in this unusual home nothing occurred to disturb the tranquility of this family's home life.

During the spring of 1910 a pair of Flickers were again seen about this place, but during the meantime the owner had repaired the pipe, thus leaving no opening for the birds and they went off to take up their home elsewhere.

Louis S. Kohler.

Unusual Nesting Sites.

Reading the article by Mr. Burleigh

on unusual nesting sites, calls to my mind a few such; in over thirty years of active field work I never found but one Brown Thrasher's nest situated on the ground. This one was not a very substantial affair, being built of twigs, rootlets, pieces of leaves and grass, and placed among some wild grape vines, in what was really a pretty bower; it contained four eggs, of the usual type.

The Mourning Dove has furnished me with the greatest number of strangely placed nests, one on the ground under the tall coarse grass in a boggy marsh, made of a few twigs, and rootlets, and contained two eggs, placed close by a public road in the edge of a woods. Another nest of this species, the most beautiful nest, as to situation I have ever seen, was one placed low among some small green plants with a few scattering ones a few inches high as a relief, the soft gray nests of twigs, rootlets and grass and the snowy white eggs, two in number, made a sight to gladden any oologist's heart. The situation was on a ledge in a stone quarry of soft yellow Trenton lime stone.

A crested Flycatcher one season placed her nest of leaves and other rubbish in a piece of a hollow tree trunk, that hung lodged at the extreme end of a limb, in a very exposed situation. And which would swing considerably in the wind.

Once while a boy I found a nest of a Flicker in a hole in a large old stump by a public road, contained eggs but was disturbed by scholars near by, which reminds me of a Red-headed Woodpecker, who for years occupied a place in the cornish on the front end of the District No. 7 school where I learned my A. B. C's.

The first nest of the Scarlet Tanager I ever found was placed in the extreme top branches of a tall white

oak, up forty or more feet from the ground, contained young; was composed of the usual delicate material found in nests of these birds.

A nest of the Spotted Sandpiper, containing four eggs ready to hatch was placed scarcely two feet from the wheel track of a main public road, and over twenty rods from the river.

And the nest of the Evening Grosbeak, I was foolish enough to expect was built; well, I suppose up near the Arctic Circle.

George W. H. VosBurgh.
Zion City, Ill.

A Fox's Raid on the Home of a Ruffed Grouse.

In going over my notes for June 2d, 1909, I find an item which had previously escaped attention, regarding the raiding of a Ruffed Grouse home at Ringwood, N. J. Near the northerly end of one of the low hills in this village during the spring of 1909 I had encountered a male Red Fox on three different occasions, prowling about among the undergrowth.

On the above date I was again in this neighborhood and near noon had set down to rest on the top of a huge boulder and had fell asleep. After sleeping about a half hour I was awakened by the sharp and shrill cry of some bird apparently in distress. On investigating I found a male Red Fox in the act of devouring the remains of a female Grouse and on seeing me he shot off at express speed with the bird still in its jaws and quickly disappeared over the top of the hill. I later found the nest on which this bird was brooding and about it were strewn eight mangled bodies of nestlings about three or four hours old.

Louis S. Kohler.

Bloomfield, N. J.

Nesting of the Savannah Sparrow in Center County, Pa.

The season of 1911 was without doubt the most unsuccessful period in my short career as a field Oologist. Starting out with great promise, all my plans came to a sudden termination in late April when a severe cut, sustained on a collecting trip, developed into blood poisoning and laid me up for six weeks of the best time of the year. The results of this confinement bore fruit in an aggravated case of the Oological fever in July and though of course the results were few and far between yet on one of these trips it was my good fortune to find the Savannah Sparrow nesting and though the set was small and the eggs far gone, yet I have decided to place it on record as the bird is an extremely rare breeder in Center County. In relating the finding of this nest I have decided to simply copy the data from my note book entirely and thus give the notes, first hand to the readers of THE OOLOGIST.

July 20, 1911. While walking across the recently cut hay field on the Experiment farms one mile northeast of College, I saw several Bartramian Sandpipers and heard them calling. In some bushes along the road saw some Chestnut Sided Warblers and on the telegraph wires overhead a family party of Sparrow Hawks. Several broods of Grasshopper Sparrows were observed and in a deserted nest of this bird which had been partly torn out by the hayrake, a single fresh egg was found. Several hundred yards off, a vesper Sparrow was flushed from a bulky, firmly built nest which held an incomplete set of one egg. The nest was raised from the surface of the ground and protected by an overhanging Plantain leaf.

I was walking on across the field when suddenly I saw a small bird run

along the ground ahead of me. Supposing it was a Vesper, I paid little attention to the bird but on looking down at the well hidden nest it had left I instantly saw I had found something new and on following the bird, saw it to be a Savannah Sparrow, a rare breeder in this locality and though I had known there was a pair in these extensive fields, I had hardly hoped to find them at this late date.

Leaving the nest for a half hour I came back and found the female sitting. Though she watched me carefully, yet I approached until I could nearly touch her and watched her carefully for several minutes before she flitted off and walking about near me showed the yellow eye spot and the peculiarly arrow spotted breast very distinctly. I had thought of shooting her, but the view I now obtained made me doubly positive of the identity.

The nest was sunken three inches in the ground and was very scanty, being merely a flimsy lining of yellowish grass stems. The cavity was so deep that only the head and tail of the sitting bird could be seen and the depression seemed especially built for the nest. This held two far incubated eggs which were saved as second class specimens. The shells were extremely soft, nearly like wet blotting paper. They resemble a certain type of Song Sparrow's eggs, rather more elongated and slender and are densely spotted and blotched with various shades of rufous brown, the ground color being scarcely discernable.

Richard C. Harlow.

Killdeer in Lake Co., Illinois.

During the summer of 1909 I was working at farm and garden work, Zion City, Illinois, and as often as I could spare the time I would go and either hunt botanical specimens, oolo-

gical specimens, or Indian stone and copper implements. What I wish to speak of here was the abundance of Killdeer that nested in a certain flat open field on the north side of the city; I don't recollect just how many nests I found but they were plentiful, and each contained its quota of four speckled beauties, some nests were hollows in the ground, some more elaborately built. One in particular which I collected, with four beautiful eggs, was a great heap of pebbles with a deep hollow at the top, just large enough to hold the eggs, points in, this is the first stone nest I ever found and it being situated on a piece of ground that was sandy and full of very small gravel, satisfied me that the Killdeer uses just what is nearest at hand for lining to the hollow that serves for the nest. The nest in pastures are usually lined with roots or pieces from the lower end of old dead grass stems and bits of dead wood.

George W. H. VosBurgh.
Zion City, Illinois.

Nesting Dates for 1898

The following list of dates on which fresh sets of a few birds of Doddridge County, West Virginia, were taken, although getting old may be of interest, as I don't see much about birds from that region.

- 337 Red-tailed Hawk; April 12, 2 eggs.
393 Hairy Woodpecker; May 15, 3 eggs.
394 Downy Woodpecker; May 11, 5 eggs.
417 Whip-poor-will; May 7, 2 eggs; 10th, 2 eggs; 11th, 2 eggs; 19th, 2 sets of 2; 26th, 2 eggs; June 29th, 2 eggs.
418 Hummer; May 29, 2 eggs.
465 Acadian Flycatcher; May 28 and June 10, sets of 3 eggs each.
593 Cardinal; May 25, 3 eggs.

- 608 Scarlet Tanager; May 18, 3 eggs; May 20, 4 eggs; May 25, 3 eggs; May 30, 4 eggs.
624 Red-eyed Vireo; May 21, 3 eggs; first set of the season.
628 Yellow-throated Vireo; May 14, 3 eggs.
636 Black & White Warbler; May 15, 4 eggs; May 19, 3 eggs; May 21, 4 eggs; May 31, 4 eggs.
639 Worm-eating Warbler; May 25, 4 eggs; May 31, 4 eggs.
642 Golden-winged Warbler; May 23, 4 eggs.
648 Parula Warbler; May 14, 5 eggs; May 20, 4 eggs; June 1, 4 eggs.
658 Cerulean Warbler; May 12, 4 eggs; May 20, 2 sets of 4; May 24, 3, and May 30, 4 eggs.
675 Water-thrush; May 24, 5 eggs.
677 Kentucky Warbler; May 20, June 1st and 5th, 5 eggs each.
681 Maryland Yellow-throat; May 28, 4 eggs.
683 Chat; May 9th, 11th, and 19th, 4 eggs each.
718 Carolina Wren; May 29, 5 eggs; June 2, 5 eggs.
731 Tufted Titmouse; May 8, 7 eggs; May 11, 6 eggs.
751 Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; May 11, 5 eggs; May 14, 3 eggs.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

An Oddly Situated Phoebe's Nest.

Of all the curiously situated Phoebe's nests that I have ever found, the strangest came under my observation this year. It was found on May 28, 1911, at Lower Merion, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, and was underneath a small plank bridge spanning a brook in a woods, over which a lonely road passed. The bridge was about two yards wide and six feet high and the walls were of stone. An old shovel had been stuck blade first into the wall by a workman and

left there; the handle projected about three feet out horizontally over the brook, near one end of the bridge, about a yard from the nearest entrance and within less than a foot of the floor. Situated upon the flat open handle of the shovel was the Proebe's nest, about as well built structure of Sayornis as I have ever examined. Not a bit of material projected through the holes in the handle, to which it was securely plastered with clay.

It held five eggs about half incubated. When last seen, on June 6th, the nest contained young birds and I have no doubt but they were all successfully raised to maturity in their oddly situated domicile.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Red-Letter Days in the Country.

For several years it was my privilege to spend two or three days in the latter part of May with friends on a farm in the country. As the farm was fifteen miles from town it was beyond the region infested by the wandering pot-hunter from town, who is numerous enough in the vicinity of the city to make the birds inhabiting that section very shy even though he is unable to exterminate them entirely. In addition wandering Saturday squads of small boys with sling-shots and air-rifles keep our suburban bird population in a state of unrest although they may not do very much execution. At the present time the collecting of birds' eggs is not very popular among the boys so the birds do not suffer so much from that cause as in former years. The gospel of bird protection is being spread through the press and the public schools, and the seed is taking root.

The days on the farm were some of the most enjoyable that I have ever spent. My friends did not handicap

me by trying to entertain me but allowed me to spend every precious minute out-of-doors, only insisting that I come to the house in time for the bountiful meals and the welcome bed at night. The following is the story of one of these trips and I hope it will prove to be of interest to the readers of this paper. It contains no records of rare finds or unusual occurrences, but shows what can be accomplished near home by a busy man during a couple of "days off" spent in a favorable locality. The notes are copied verbatim from my record book.

May 29th, 1899. Fair day with north-west wind. At 3:55 p. m. I left via the R. I. & P. Ry. for Preemption where I arrived at 5:10. From there I rode with a farmer north about two and one-half miles to the farm of Thomas Montgomery, which was my destination. His place consists mostly of ploughed fields and pasture land covered with "second growth" timber, part of the latter being pretty thick with hazel and wild blackberry undergrowth. A hollow runs the whole length of the farm from north to south near its western boundary, the very small stream at the bottom of this hollow usually being dry in the summer. This hollow is about a hundred yards wide, the land at each side rising rather abruptly and from the point on each side where the slope begins is covered with timber. Near the house on the north side is a piece of only partly timbered land used as a pasture, while around the house are a number of shade trees of different varieties. On one of these, a choke-cherry, was a deserted Blue Jay's nest 20 feet up, containing two incubated eggs. The nest originally contained 4 eggs but 2 of them had disappeared. On a cross-beam just under the roof in the stable was a Pewee's nest. Five eggs had been laid in it but one of

them got broken and when examined two days previous to my visit the nest held four young. On the road from Preemption to the farm we drove past two pairs of Quail which were feeding by the road-side, and heard a number of others calling in different directions.

While riding on the train I saw a Prairie Hen near the track just out of the village of Milan. Near the same place I noted two Bobolinks in the pastures along the track. Near Mr. M's. farm I heard a Bell's Vireo singing in a thicket by the road-side and a Yellow-winged Sparrow singing in a field. Saw a Great Horned Owl pursued by several Crows, and a Blue Jay sitting on a large fallen dead tree. When I approached it flew a short distance and alighted with its tormenters in the top of a large oak, where it remained until I approached within about 40 yards before it flew. After 8 o'clock in the evening several Whip-poor-Wills were heard calling in the timber not far from the house. During the day I saw 42 species of birds, all summer residents and all but one were seen after 4 p. m. Happening to be awake about 11 p. m. I heard a Cuckoo and a Whip-poor-Will calling.

May 30th—Morning fair and warm. Threatening rain in the afternoon; strong south wind. Spent nearly the whole day in the timber. Shortly after starting out I shot at a Crow as it flew over the trees above my head but missed it. At 7:50 I shot at another under like circumstances and killed it. Approached within gun-shot of another which was perched in a tree in the timber but it flew just as I was ready to shoot. Late in the afternoon I shot at another sitting in a tree overhead but apparently missed it. (The tameness of these birds is evidence of my statement that the farm lies beyond the zone of the average hunt-

er.) I spent most of the morning and a part of the afternoon trying to shoot a pair of Great Horned Owls which were followed wherever they went by a band of Crows varying in numbers from six to a hundred. I shot at one of the Owls as it sat in a tree but after falling nearly to the ground it righted itself and flew off. I shot at the other Owl once sitting and once on the wing, but apparently missed both times. Later I fired both barrels at one as it sat in a tree but it flew off seemingly unhurt. (The small size No. 7, of the shot I was using, was probably the cause of my continued bad luck.) The Crows were so excited over the presence of the Owls that they paid very little attention to me, thus affording me many chances to shoot at them as they circled over the timber around the trees in which the Owls perched. When I started the first Owl there were only about half a dozen Crows following it, but they made such a racket that before noon the crowd had grown to at least one hundred, but by six p. m. they had gradually dropped out of the ranks till there only a few left.

Noticed a Red-tailed Hawk circling high above the timber. Saw at least six Blue-gray Gnatcatchers of which I shot one. They kept all the time near the tops of the tallest trees and seemed to be mating as they were in companies of three or more and kept up a constant shrill chirping like that of young birds. Found a House Wren's nest on a crevice in the upper end of a loosely rolled piece of canvas which was hanging in the corn-barn. The nest contained five eggs. Near the house I found a Robin's nest seven feet up in an oak tree. It held two partly feathered young which had been dead several days. A pair of English Sparrows had a nest 25 feet up in an old Woodpecker's hole in a

dead limb of a large oak near the house. These seemed to be the only English Sparrows on the place. Saw a pair of White-bellied Nuthatches feeding young in what appeared to be a natural cavity about 30 feet up in a large dead oak. The birds were not at all shy and made several visits to the nest while I stood at the foot of the tree. They were usually gone about five minutes in search of food, then both would appear at once on the tree, each with a large insect in its bill, and one at a time would slip into the cavity whereupon a great chirping would begin in the nest. This tree stood at the edge of the woods where they were bordered by a pasture. Farther along in the edge of the woods by the same pasture I noted a pair of Hairy Woodpeckers on a dead oak stump. While I was watching them one flew away and the other entered a hole about twelve feet from the ground where it remained.

At two different spots in the timber I flushed Whip-poor-Wills from the dead leaves on the ground under some hazel-brush but in both cases a careful search failed to reveal the nest. Found two Red-headed Woodpeckers' nests, both situated about twelve feet up in dead oak stumps which stood in partly cleared timber, a bird being on each nest when found. In an open spot among some hazel-brush in the woods I flushed a female Golden-crowned Thrush from among the dead leaves lying on the ground. After a short search I found the nest placed at the foot of a small wild rose shoot. The opening was in the side of the nest, the roof of which was barely raised above the level of the leaves around it. The nest was composed of dead grass and leaves and held three eggs of the owner and two of the Cowbird.

Found a nest which seemed to be a Blue Jay's, 25 feet up in an oak tree. Saw a pair of Robins building a nest twelve feet up in a "pig-hickory" tree near Mr. M's. house, probably the same pair which owned the nest in which I found the two dead young, as the trees containing the two nests were not over 100 feet apart. Found a Brown Thrasher's nest with four eggs, three feet up in an osage hedge. The eggs were cold and the nest was over-run with small ants so I suppose that it was deserted. Shot a Blue Racer fifty inches in length as it was sunning itself in the edge of the cornfield next to the woods. Killed a Milk Snake about a foot long and saw another about twice as long, both being hidden under old logs in the woods. During the day I saw 42 different species of birds, as well as a number of rabbits and squirrels. Mr. M. says that there are still a few Ruffed Grouse to be found among the hazel-brush in the timber and that occasionally one may be heard drumming between the hours of six and seven p. m.

May 31st—It began raining during the night and continued until morning. Warm all day, threatening showers; brisk southerly wind. Found a Red-eyed Vireo's nest with the bird on it, eighteen feet up and six feet out from the trunk, on an oak tree. Located a Beebird's nest with the bird on it forty feet up in the top of another oak. Mr. M. showed me the nest of a pair of Lark Finches which he had found while harrowing on the previous day. It was situated on the ground among some young oats three feet from the edge of the cornfield and contained three eggs. Lark Finches were very abundant everywhere I went, especially the borders of the open timber. They did not appear to be mated but were usually seen in

parties of three or four. Found another nest which I took to be a Bee-bird's about thirty feet from the ground on the tip of an elm limb.

Walking along an osage hedge I discovered a Blue Jay on its nest seven feet up. A little farther on was a Turtle Dove's nest ten feet up with the bird on it, while not far away was a Brown Thrasher's nest three feet up, containing four partly feathered young. Found a deserted Chickadee's nest four feet up in a dead willow stump about six inches in diameter. The cavity was about six inches deep, thickly lined with cow's hair, and contained a lot of broken egg-shells. About thirty feet from this stump stood a fair sized oak tree in which a Wood Pewee was beginning her nest about twenty feet up and ten feet out on a small dead limb. About 25 feet up in an elm a short distance from the oak was a new Crow's nest. A Crow was perched in a neighboring tree but retired on my approach. A little later while standing under the tree in which the nest was located, I shot at a Crow which flew past the tree but missed it. From the appearance of the nest which on examination proved to be empty, a squirrel had just begun preparing it for a home.

Ten feet up in an old apple tree in the corner of a pasture I found a Blue Jay's nest containing four eggs. In a bunch of hickory sprouts among some hazel brush just outside of the timber I ran across a Field Sparrow's nest three feet up with three eggs. Flushed a Whip-poor-Will from the ground among some scattered hazel-brush and a close search disclosed one egg lying on the dead leaves without a sign of a nest. A little later I flushed another among some underbrush but despite the fact that the bird showed much anxiety at my presence, flying around me and repeatedly uttering a

short "chut," I was unable to locate the cause of its uneasiness. At 11 a. m. I shot a Crow which flew over the tops of the trees under which I was standing in the timber. Later I shot at a Cowbird perched in a tree, but failed to get it.

During the day I saw six large Hawks, two of them being seen at one time, but all were too far away to be positively identified, although they were no doubt all Red-tails. In the timber there were many rabbits and squirrels and I noted one chipmunk. While standing in a ploughed field a rabbit hopped slowly past within six feet of my feet, apparently mistaking me for a stump. At 5 p. m. I started for home, one of the family taking me in the buggy to a point a mile and a half from Milan, from which I walked to the town, across the Rock River bridges and kept on by the way of the trolley-car tracks as far as Chipianock Cemetery where I boarded a car, arriving at home at 8:50. Between Mr. M's. farm and Milan I saw one Ruby-throated Hummingbird, three Green Herons (which were flying above Mill Creek), a Barn Swallow gliding over a pasture, about a dozen Eave Swallows flying high over the fields, and two Cooper's Hawks. Just under the eaves on the front of a farm-house standing by the road there hangs a wooden trough to carry off the water from the roof. I discovered a Turtle Dove sitting on its nest in the trough, above the front door of the house, the bird's head being level with the edge of the roof. Mrs. M. told me that the Dove was there on both the 11th and 25th of the month when she made her regular trips to town with produce. It is a wonder that the nest was not washed away by the heavy rains that have fallen while the bird has been setting.

At two different spots on the road

home I noted a pair of Brown Thrashers sitting in the osage hedge by the roadside with food in their beaks. Probably each pair had a brood of young in the hedge near by. As I was walking along the trolley track where it passes through a small patch of timber near Chippianock Cemetery a Screech Owl (possibly two, for it was so dark that I could not be certain) followed me for several hundred feet, flying from post to post and tree to tree, circling close to my head with vicious snappings of its bill, and keeping up a low wailing cry. From its actions I judge that its nest was not far off.

During the day I saw 58 different species of birds, all summer residents, making a total of 63 different species seen during my trip. The nests of twenty species were found.

Burtis H. Wilson.

Rock Island, Ill.

Hints on Collecting the Eggs of Birds That Breed in Holes.

The eggs of birds that breed in holes, such as Woodpeckers, Nuthatches, Titmice, Flycatchers, etc., are, according to the writer's experience, the most difficult of all birds to collect (excepting some Hawks and Owls) and often require special methods in order to be successful. Some of the following hints may prove useful to those who have not had long experience in this line of collecting. The writer has used them with success for more than thirty years and has found them well adapted to the locality in which he lives, which is the southern part of the state of Maine.

When I began to collect the eggs of Woodpeckers I found the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker nesting in live poplar trees at the height of from fifteen to forty feet from the ground. The birds began to dig the holes about the first

of May. I found it not very difficult to locate the trees in which they were building by traveling around in the woods and listening to hear the birds at work pecking the holes. After locating it was necessary to wait until it was finished and the eggs laid before making an attempt to collect them. My method of getting the eggs was as follows: I visited the tree when, to the best of my judgment, the bird had finished laying the set, which usually consists of five eggs, though sets of four eggs are common and a set of three occasionally is found. My outfit consists of a pair of climbing irons, a one-half inch chisel, saw, (a keyhole saw which can be carried in the pocket) and some tin boxes filled with cotton to hold the eggs. After reaching the tree I climb to the nest by using the climbing irons. I used the saw to make two cuts, at right angles across the trunk of the tree, the space between the cuts being about four inches and the lowest cut being as near as I could guess opposite the bottom of the nest inside the tree. These cuts were probably an inch and one-half deep. Then with the chisel the piece of wood between the saw cuts was split off from the tree. A hole was then dug into the soft wood until the nest was reached, the hole being made only large enough to allow the eggs to be removed.

In some cases the eggs can be taken out with the fingers though I usually carry for this purpose a small scoop net made by bending a piece of fairly stiff wire into a loop and attaching a small cloth bag to hold the eggs. By means of this scoop net the eggs were removed one at a time and each rolled in cotton and placed in the tin box. It often happened that the eggs had not been laid for one can not always judge the exact time when he will find a set and although I have tried

using a small mirror placed in the entrance to find out when a full set was laid, I could never make it work, due I suppose to the fact that there is not light enough in the inside to see the bottom. Now you can see the advantage of my method as in case the eggs have not been laid I fit a piece of soft wood into the hole and replace the piece of wood split off from the outside; this may be fastened with wooden wedges, driven into the saw cuts, or nails may be used to hold it in place. I prefer the former because the piece of wood is easier to remove when visiting the nest the next time. If the work is well done only the saw cuts will show from the outside and even these may be filled with bark. The Woodpeckers did not leave the nest but layed the set, and this I obtained by visiting the nest later on. I have even collected three sets from one nest in this manner though it is probably better to let the second set hatch. These birds occasionally nest in white birch trees which are partly decayed. In this case, the bark may be cut on the side of the tree back of the entrance and peeled off around under the hole. Then the chisel may be used to cut into the nest as in the case of the poplar tree. If there are no eggs the hole may be stopped up and the bark drawn back where it can be held in place with small tacks. This makes a very neat job and one would hardly know that the nest had been disturbed if they were looking at it from the outside.

How an adaption of this method to fit special cases may be used with other kinds of Woodpeckers that build in partly dead limbs and stubs, may be seen from the following case:

I once found the nest of a hairy Woodpecker in the dead limb of an apple tree not far from our buildings. The entrance was in a perpendicular

limb which made a bend just above so that it was nearly horizontal. By boring a hole with a two inch auger through the top side I could see into the nest. As only two eggs were laid I put a plug into the hole and a little later collected a fine set of four eggs by using the scoop net. I replaced the plug and about two weeks later took another set of four. Another set of three were taken from this still later, making three sets of fresh eggs taken from this nest. This method enables the collector to obtain nearly all the eggs when fresh, thus making the most desirable specimens for one's collection.

The Red-bellied Nuthatch often builds its nest in stubs that are so decayed that it is unsafe to attempt to climb them. I once found a nest of this interesting little bird in a poplar stub about thirty feet from the ground. As the stub would shake with the touch of my hand, climbing it was out of the question. It happened, however that there was a tree with a good strong limb only a short distance away, so that when I next visited the nest I brought a piece of small rope and I climbed the tree growing near and from there I was able to throw the rope over the end of the stub. By pulling carefully I drew the stub near enough so I could reach it. I soon cut through the soft wood with a chisel and found a handsome set of seven eggs resting in a nest of fine bark strips and other soft material. This bird usually digs a hole in some dead stub from ten to twenty-five feet from the ground. The hole is lined with fine strips of bark from the poplar and cedar trees. As I have found it impossible to tell when a full set was laid I have used the same method as in the case of the Yellow-bellied Woodpecker and have been successful in nearly every case.

I once found a Downy Woodpecker's nest in a dead poplar stub about twenty feet from the ground. The stub was not badly decayed but so weak at the roots that it would not hold my weight. I cut a large wooden hook from a young sapling growing near. I put on my climbers and went up another tree and placed the hook around the top of the stub and fastened it to the tree which I had climbed, with a piece of small cord. The stub leaned a trifle from the tree so that I was enabled to climb it as it rested firmly in the hook. I went up the stub and had soon cut into the nest with my chisel. I found a fine set of four eggs nearly fresh. In this case I did not stop the hole up as there was a full set. Possibly had I done this I might have got another set, but I did not have time to again visit it the second time.

As I have already used more space than I intended, I must close. If the editor finds this of sufficient interest to print in THE OOLOGIST, I may write more, in the future on this subject.

John Parsons.

South Paris, Maine.

The Starling at Philadelphia and Vicinity.

In the November, 1908 issue of THE OOLOGIST I recorded the occurrence of the Starling's arrival at Philadelphia. Well, it has come to stay, it seems, but whether the bird will prove a blessing or a "consarned" nuisance, like the "English" Sparrow, time alone will tell.

During the past spring and summer I found about a dozen Starling nests in Philadelphia, Montgomery and Bucks counties, Pennsylvania, mostly in the former county, and one in Gloucester county, New Jersey at Woodbury; and a friend reports having dis-

covered two nests at Fish House, Camden County, New Jersey.

The majority of the nests found were placed in Flicker holes; all the others being in knot holes, and they were usually high up in big dead or half dead trees. The lowest nest was placed in a small knot hole only seven feet up in a living pear tree in an orchard. Two broods were successfully reared in it. It may be of interest to state that this cavity had previously been used, since 1903, annually by a pair of *Passer domesticus*; before that time it was the yearly home of the Bluebirds.

The earliest eggs were found on April 21, 1911, and were four in number and fresh; they are in my collection.

The Starling frequents the tidg water marshes and meadows in the late summer and fall, generally associated with flocks of Purple Grackles, Cowbirds, Red-winged Blackbirds and Rusty Grackles; after these blackies have departed to the south, the Starling band together in bunches and flocks and roam about the country during the winter. It is a hardy bird and as far as my limited observations of its habits goes, it appears to be an inoffensive creature, never molesting our birds, nor committing any obnoxious depredations to the farmers' crops.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

In California. Personal.

It was a pleasure during our recent trip to California to come in contact with and meet a number of the California ornithologists and oologists.

At Pasadena we made the acquaintance of Pingrey I. Osburn, of whom we had known for a long, long time, and had the pleasure of looking over

his accumulation of eggs and skins. We were sorry to learn that he is about disposing of all of this material and going out of ornithology entirely. We endeavored to dissuade him from so doing.

At Hollywood we met J. Eugene Law, one of the two business managers of the Cooper Club, and an ornithologist and oologist of many years' experience. He is now president of the First National Bank there, recently married and is building a new home in which he is making extensive preparations for the installation of his large collection.

At Los Angeles we came in contact with W. Lee Chambers; a more whole-souled, open-hearted fellow we never met, and are glad that he has been our friend for a number of years. Chambers has entire charge of the bicycle department of the largest sporting goods house on the coast—W. H. Hoge Company.

We also met here, O. W. Howard of Howard & Smith, one of the largest of the landscape gardening nursery firms in the West. Few oologists stand higher than Howard. He took us in his machine and showed us one place that he was just finishing up where the contract for landscape decorations exceeded \$37,000. Of late years Mr. Howard has done little in oology but tells us that the bug is again working and he will soon be active.

Stopping one day at Fallsbrook while motoring through to San Diego, we ran into Frank Day, in charge of the garage at that place. It did not take us long to discover that he is an old oologist, having done much collecting in that country, and much exchanging throughout the country during the '90's, though now entirely out of the game. It was a pleasure to talk over old times with him.

As Escondido we sure ran into the

right kind. First, J. B. Dixon and his brother C. H. Dixon. "Jo" is superintendent of the local water company, and a water company in California is the whole thing. He is too well known to our readers to need any introduction. He and his brother C. H., who spent several seasons in Alaska in ornithological study are engaged in building up a local collection of the eggs of the raptures, and they certainly have a fine display. With him we visited the home of C. S. Sharp, who has one of the neatest looking citrus fruit propositions in that part of the country. Sharp is an old timer. He began studying ornithology with T. M. Brewer and has kept it up ever since. He has a beautiful and extensive collection of eggs, and it is a pleasure to meet such as he.

Here likewise we saw H. J. Carpenter, who, with his brother, was formerly well known through the United States as leading collectors in that vicinity. We had the pleasure of examining this collection, which was by all odds the largest that we saw in Escondido. "Hy" is now too busily engaged in building a nest on top of one of the hills at the edge of Escondido for himself and one of the young ladies of the town, to give much attention to ornithology this season.

At San Diego the first oologist we ran into was A. M. Ingersoll, than whom no man in North America stands higher as an oologist. Ingersoll is one of those fellows who has gotten rich in spite of himself; the boom in San Diego property having placed him permanently on the shady side of Easy Street. He does nothing now but collect rents, cut coupons and hunt birds. His collection is without doubt the best individual collection in that part of, if not in the whole state of California, and many pleasant hours were spent examining this, the

accumulation of years. The preparation of this collection is unexcelled, and in most instances the specimens are accompanied by nests, even those of the larger birds, including the Hawks. Mr. Ingersoll is at present preparing a new set of elaborate cases for the reception of his collection.

At San Diego we also met for a moment, Lawrence Huey, who seemed a mighty bright young fellow, and certainly a very energetic one, as he has been in the habit of getting up at 2:00 o'clock in the morning, mounting a motorcycle, and sometimes going fifteen to twenty-five miles after a set and returning home in time to go to work at 7:30 o'clock. Would have been glad to have seen more of him.

Nature Faking.

I was much interested in reading the article on nature faking by Richard F. Miller in the January number of THE OOLOGIST, and can say that I heartily agree with the sentiments which he expresses therein. It brought to my mind an article which I had read in a farm paper three or four years ago; and which I had preserved on account of some of the remarkable statement which it contained.

It was a paper on birds in their relation to agriculture, and among other statements which were decidedly interesting and new to me, it said: "The Goldfinch, sometimes known as the upland plover, or in the West, the Prairie pigeon, lives on noxious thistles and has ended more than one locust plague."

I do not think that this was a misprint, as there was no mention made of the upland plover or prairie pigeon (nor of the Bartramian Sandpiper or Franklin's Gull) anywhere else in the article. Considering this and the example given by Mr. Miller, seriously,

there is no doubt that the latter would be more harmful, for while probably very few farmers could be convinced that the Goldfinch was either a Sandpiper or a Gull, the story about the eagles might mislead many of its young readers in giving wrong ideas of the size and weight of an Eagle's nest, as well as the attitude of the birds when their nest is disturbed.

Again, just the other day, I noticed a piece in a local paper where some would-be naturalist in Chicago gave as a reason for there being so many Robins reported from this region in January, that the people were mistaking Pine Grosbeaks for Robins. It is beyond my comprehension how anybody, even from Chicago, could mistake a Pine Grosbeak for a Robin, but this merely goes to show the impressions which people in the large cities get from some books, written by so-called naturalists.

While probably neither of these specimens is as bad as those mentioned by Mr. Miller, it is my opinion that their writers would not be compelled to take a back seat in any Nature Fakers' Convention.

D. C. Mabbott.

We Are Proud.

We believe we have some right to be proud of this issue of THE OOLOGIST. For diversified ornithological matter of general interest, it is doubtful if we have ever exceeded this issue.

Unusual Nesting Sites.

May 17th, '04 I noticed a bulky mass of string, rags and twigs between the double iron braces supporting the cross arm of a telephone pole about thirty feet above the ground, on climbing to the nest I recognized my old friend the Arkansas Kingbird. The breezy home was occupied by four young about two weeks old and I was

received with shrieks of disapproval by the parent birds.

On another occasion, about twelve years ago I found a Kingbird's nest wedged in the iron floor grating of an arc light tower 125 feet, which stands in a corner of an intersection on a main street. Nest was also composed of string and rags, one in particular being a strip of red flannel about three feet long and one inch wide which was occupied by three young and I marvelled, as everyday the trimmer changed the carbon points on the five arc lights but I guess he was careful not to disturb the nest.

June 21st, '06, I found hanging from a branch of a gum tree about eight feet up the nest of an Arizona hooded Oriole, which undoubtedly had never been completed as a California Bush tit had taken possession and had added the top and left the usual tiny opening about one and one half inches from the top of the nest. It was of the usual material; lichen, cob webs and cocoon except the lower part, which was woven of the yellow fibre of the palm, the work of the Arizona hooded Oriole. Nest contained a fine set of seven eggs, slightly incubated.

Two nests of the Black-chinned hummingbird collected in May and June, '08, both are of the double-decker variety, that is, the new nest being built on the shriveled and blackened last year's nest. Composed of yellow willow, cotton and cobwebs, no lichen used, which gives the nest the appearance of a small sponge. This breeding place, a dense clump of willow covering a space of $\frac{1}{4}$ mile in the San Diego river bottom, is an ideal home for my little friends as I have found as many as sixteen or twenty nests in the course of a day's hunt. From three to six feet above ground, they will be found on willow twigs usually hanging over a narrow trail and often nests and eggs are ruined by horses

and cattle brushing against them.

In July, '08, I noticed an unusually large Hawk's nest about thirty feet up in a large cottonwood and decided to get a photo as it was easy to climb and great was my surprise when I flushed a Mourning Dove from the center of the bulky mass of sticks, and there lay two very badly incubated eggs. I have found two or three nests of this dove on the ground in grain fields but as a usual thing they can be found from four to twelve feet up in bushes or trees and the nest at that is merely a platform of sticks that most birds would disdain to roost on.

April, '09, I found a nest of Vigors' Wren in an old tomato can that was bottom up on a four foot lath, left there by somebody to mark one corner of a lot. Nest was of the usual material, fibres and feathers, and a few dried pieces of snake skins. In my rambles I have found as many as twelve or fifteen nests of this wren and always have I found a strip or two of skin discarded by some snake in the early spring.

April 10th, '01, my friend, also a collector, found a nest of a Valley Quail in a dense clump of scrub oak. Foundation of nest seemed to be a last year's nest of the California Thrasher which was eighteen inches above the ground. He obtained a photo (by a little brushing) of the nest, which contained fourteen eggs.

C. S. Moore.

San Diego, Cal.

A New Friend.

After watching for eighteen long years, the migration of the Stork, at last this bird has alighted upon the chimney of our friend Isaac E. Hess, leaving with him a little daughter. This will be good news to his ornithological friends, and to him we extend our congratulations.

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R. M. BARNES,

Lacon, Ill.

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R. M. BARNES,

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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXIX. No. 6. ALBION, N. Y., JUNE 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 290

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BIRDS

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WANTED.—The March, April and June Nos. of the "Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. 17, 1892. Will pay one dollar for the three Nos. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Penn.

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To our readers—We are about out of printer's copy. We cannot keep THE OOLOGIST up to its present high standard with out your assistance—We need short crisp bird notes, fresh from the field. All of you have seen something worthy of note. Send it to us.

The Editor

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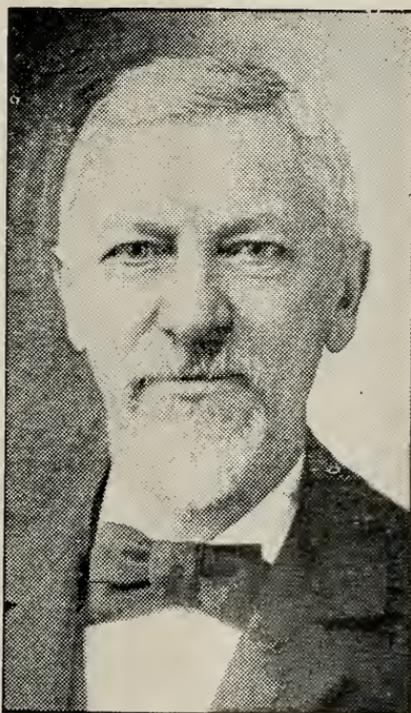
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THE OÖLOGIST.

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The well known Naturalist Ottomar Reinecke, of Buffalo, N. Y.

Ottomar Reinecke.

We are pleased to present to our readers with this issue, a likeness of one of the best known of America's naturalists, Ottomar Reinecke, of Buffalo, New York, who has been engaged in collecting natural history specimens since 1858, beginning in Germany before he came to this country.

Mr. Reinecke was recently elected Vice-President of the Buffalo Society of Natural Science. Our readers know of him and well of him. His contributions to *The Oologist* are standard on every subject of which they treat. The Buffalo Society is to be congratulated in having so active and capable a member. He has perhaps done more than any other member of that Society to build up the collection of the Society relating to ornithology and oology as well as to arouse interest on these subjects in that territory.

June.

This month is largely given over to the Warblers. May is the typical Warbler month; June belongs ordinarily to the Flycatcher. But for some reason or other our observing friends seem to have overlooked the Flycatchers, and we have never had copy enough to get out a Flycatcher number as has been our intention ever since taking over *The Oologist*. We wish our contributors would pay special attention to the Flycatchers and send us the results of their observations. Then one of these days we may surprise you with a Flycatcher "*Oologist*."

Notes.

Richard C. Harlow of the State College of Pennsylvania, well known to the readers of *The Oologist*, was a caller on our friend, E. W. Campbell of Pittston, Pennsylvania, April 25th, where he went to look up matters relating to Duck hawks.

Campbell reports taking an adult male and an adult female and a 1911 young female of the Canvasback, completing his series of this interesting bird.

Some Curious Finds for 1907.

While walking over a bank near the roadside on May 15th, a Song sparrow fluttered out of the weeds at my foot, and after running along the ground for a few feet, flew into a small bush. From the birds actions I knew that there must be a nest close by, but a search over ten or twelve feet on every side failed to reveal the home of Mrs. Melospiza. This aroused my interest sufficiently to want that nest whether unusual or not, so the search was repeated, this time with success. The nest had been constructed in a tomato can, the one place that I had failed to look through my own lack of brain power! The top of the can had been cut half way round and then bent up, thus forming a convenient roof over the front door. I left the eggs and nest, however, as the former, four in number, were far advanced in incubation.

On the 16th of May, I flushed a Robin from her nest and two eggs on the ground, close to a stone wall. The eggs were just hatching, and were lying upon the grass which had been slightly rounded into a poor excuse for a nest. Several days later, a Garter snake had a good square meal.

On August seventh I removed a bird box, which had been occupied by House wrens, from the porch. Upon opening it, what was my surprise to find that it contained ten eggs, slightly nest stained, but otherwise in good condition. The birds were constantly at the box during the spring and summer, and why they did not hatch this set is more than I can say. Incubation had not commenced in any of the

eggs. Perhaps they were all infertile. This is unlikely as the birds raised a first brood to my definite knowledge earlier in the year. The eggs are all very small, measuring .60 x .45. They are pinkish white, well covered with tiny specks of pinkish brown.

September 14th, while tramping cross country, found a nest of the Least Flycatcher, (*Empidonax minimus*) placed in the crotch of a maple sapling close to a road and about ten feet from the ground. The nest contained three, half grown young. There were probably fresh eggs in this nest about the last of August which would be the latest date in my records of this bird's breeding.

What time do the birds begin to sing in the morning? The following notes upon this subject were recorded on the mornings of June 14, 15, 16 and 17th, 1907, and although the birds would sometimes vary a minute or so from the times given below, the order of the singers was found to be the same on each successive morning, starting with the Robin and ending with the Yellow warbler.

BIRD	14th.	15th.	16th.	17th
American Robin.....	3:26	3:26	3:26	3:27
Black-billed cuckoo.....	3:27	3:27	3:28	3:28
Chipping Sparrow.....	3:30	3:30	3:30	3:30
Wood Thrush.....	3:45	3:46	3:47	3:48
Cat Bird.....	3:51	3:51	3:51	3:51
Chimney Swifts.....	Left chimney each morning at 3:52			
House Wren.....	4:06	4:07	4:07	4:08
Yellow Warbler.....	4:30	4:30	4:30	4:30

After 4:30 a. m. it was impossible to distinguish between the various voices in the great chorus of birds. Observations of this nature must be taken near the middle of June when there is little or no change in the time of the dawn on each day that the notes are taken.

Paul G. Howes.

**Fall Migration Notes
At Bloomfield, N. J.**

August 23, 1911. A Migrant Shrike appeared here today for the first time on record. The bird was an adult male

in full plumage and was perched upon a telephone wire over an open field near southern end of town. The bird displayed but little fear of man as I approached within twenty feet of him before he arose into the air and flew off about three yards onto the same wire.

August 27, 1911. An adult male Blackburnian Warbler appeared here in a thicket at the southern end of Bloomfield in company with several Redstarts and a Black and White Warbler. This is an unusual bird locally.

August 30, 1911. A male Migrant Shrike was found today in Branch Brook Park in the southern section along west shore of lake. Cliff Swallows were very common here today over this lake.

September 2, 1911. An Osprey appeared locally for the first time. Bird was an adult and was perched upon a low stump near stream flowing from Davey's Pond, a small pond in northern end of town.

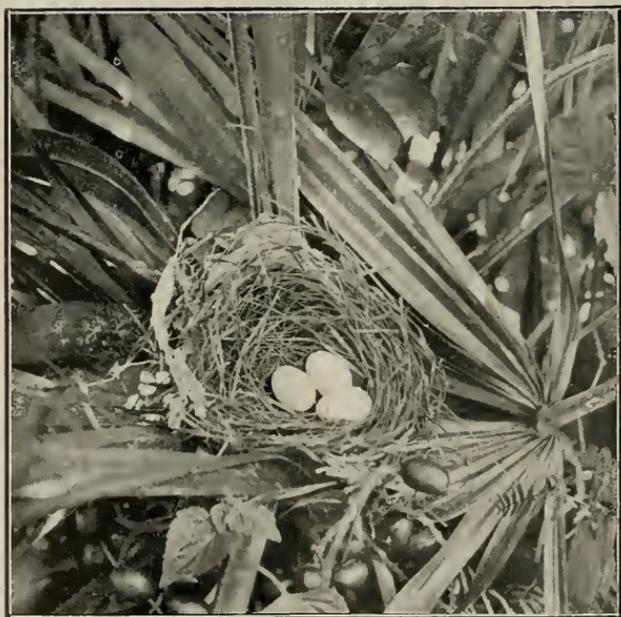
September 10, 1911. A male Carolina Wren, a rather uncommon bird here, appeared today in thicket near East Orange line. First of this species seen locally since August 7, 1910.

September 11, 1911. A female Blackburnian Warbler found in this same thicket today.

September 24, 1911. Two male Pied-bill Grebes found at Pompton Lakes, in Passaic Co. Both birds were adults in full plumage.

October 8, 1911. Pine Warblers, Pipits and Wood Thrushes very common at Pompton Lakes today. Another male Pied-bill Grebe found on Pompton Lake.

October 25, 1911. Another male Carolina Wren appeared in same place as one found on September 10th. This bird sang continually from noon until nightfall when it disappeared.



Nest and Eggs of White-eyed Towhee

—Photo by O. E. Baynard.

November 19, 1911. A Catbird was found in Branch Brook Park at noon among the low shrubbery. This is an unusually late record for this bird locally. The latest previous record was made on October 23d, 1903, twenty-seven days earlier than that of today. The bird was feeding upon the few bay-berries and other available food which remained and appeared very contented.

Louis S. Kohler.

From Texas.

On two different occasions this spring I have found American Crow nests containing, respectively, seven eggs and four young just hatched and three eggs ready to hatch. This is the only instances under my observation in twenty-five years where there was more than six in a clutch. Is it out of the ordinary?

For the last two or three weeks I have been watching a female English Sparrow on the streets of Vernon. This bird has a white head and about half down the neck is white. A glance at it reminds one of the head of a Scis sortail flycatcher with a Sparrow body. She has a nest in the cornice of a brick building and I am watching for harvest.

R. L. Moore.

Vernon, Texas.

Some Rareties.

Some time in the latter part of the '80s one of our neighbors shot two Swans on a large marsh four miles south of Columbus, Wisconsin. Both were fine specimens and were mounted by a local taxidermist, and were on exhibition in the window of a hardware store for several years.

In the early '90s a Bald Eagle in second year plumage was shot by another neighbor, and was also mounted and kept in a market a number of years.

And in 1898 a Golden Eagle, a superb specimen when first taken was kept for over a year in a cage by a local saloon keeper. In 1904 or 5 a Columbus party had two eagles confined but I never got to see what species they were, they were later murdered and mounted.

During the summer of 1891 or 2, I cannot now say which, I saw my last Passenger Pigeon, a lone bird, sitting in the top of a dead tree near Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Late in the winter of 1903 I saw for several days a large Snowy Owl.

Also in the late '80s at about the time the above mentioned swans were shot, a number of White Herons (American Egrets) (Editor) were shot from a flock at Fall River Pond, near here.

George W. H. Vos Burgh.

**Nesting of the Black Throated Warbler
In East Berlin, Conn.**

This summer for the first time I became acquainted with the nesting habits of the Black-throated green warbler, a bird that is not commonly met with on account of its haunts being located, chiefly in dense hemlock or pine woods.

It was in the early part of June that I discovered a pair of these pretty warblers, by hearing their scngs, which is a harsh zee repeated four or five times. Assuming that they must be nesting in this locality I made a thorough search of the immediate surroundings but was unable to locate their nest.

A few days later, on the 11th of June I made another visit to this place and further on in the dense hemlock woods I heard the song of several of these birds and after carefully searching the lower branches of the trees I was rewarded by finding a nest con-



Nest and Eggs of Pine Woods Sparrow

—Photo by O. E. Baynard.

taining four fresh eggs, wreathed about the larger end with beautiful markings of chocolate brown and lilac. After carefully examining the nest and eggs I withdrew to a secluded spot nearby and waited for the return of the bird, which within five minutes time stole quietly back to the nest. I then crept up so close to the nest that I could of reached out my hand and touched the bird, had it not been for frightening her.

She was a beautiful little bird, being olive green on the back shading into greenish yellow on the throat and cheeks, having a slight band of black on the breast, small white wing bars and tail notches.

The nest was composed of fine dead hemlock twigs and strips of bark, fine dead grasses, hair and a few feathers. It was saddled on the horizontal limb of a large hemlock tree, eleven feet above the ground, and ten feet out from the body of the tree, located beside an old wood road.

Two weeks later on the 25th of June I found another nest built on the lower branches of a hemlock overhanging a small brook at the foot of a ravine, and about fifty rods below the first nest. It contained your young, only a few days old. The parent bird made frequent visits to the nest with food, which gave me a good opportunity of studying her at close range.

It is usually quite difficult to get in close view of these little warblers, as they seem to spend most of their time high up on coniferous trees, the dense foliage keeping them well hidden from view, while they continually render their sharp little notes, as described above.

C. G. Hart.

Civilization and the Green Heron.

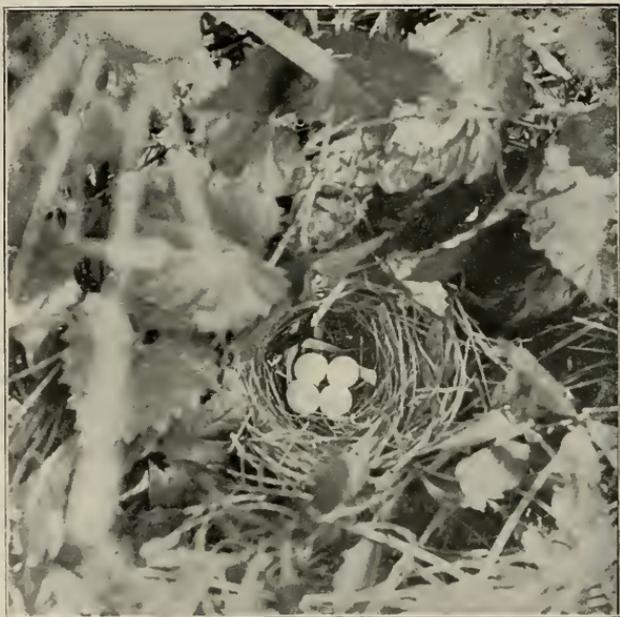
It is curious and interesting to note the effect that civilization is having upon the Green heron, *Butorides vires-*

cens, and its nesting habits in this locality, where it breeds quite commonly in suitable situations.

Some years ago, when there were few residents living outside of what was then the small town of Stamford, the Green heron nested freely, placing its nest in such low places that climbing was quite unnecessary. The data of a set in my collection, taken on May 14, 1897 reads: Four eggs, incubation begun. Nest placed on a dry mound in a swamp. Composed of sticks and old reeds. To quote another—May 6, 1898. Four fresh eggs, nest a frail platform of twigs, placed on a tussuck in a swamp, twelve inches above the ground.

These sets were taken fourteen and thirteen years ago respectively. As the country became more settled in the neighborhood of the herons' favorite haunts, the birds kept placing their nests at higher elevations as will be seen by the following data of two sets taken by the writer in 1907. No. 1, May 12, 1907. Two fresh eggs. Nest in Red cedar, twenty feet from the ground and close to the main trunk. Composed of small twigs with a slight cavity in the center. Eggs could be seen from the ground through bottom of nest. Birds deserted after laying second egg. No. 2, May 31, 1907. Four eggs, incubation 1-3 advanced. Nest twenty-five feet from the ground in a Red cedar. Constructed of twigs with slight hollow at one side for eggs. Solid enough, however, to prevent their being seen from the ground.

These 1907 nests were the last easy ones to reach. In 1908, 1909, 1910 and 1911 the nests were placed in maple trees, so high up and among such slender branches that it was not worth the risk to life and limb to go after them. One of these nests must have



Nest and Eggs of Southern Yellow-throat

—Photo by O. E. Baynard.

been at least fifty-five, or sixty feet from the ground. On climbing near enough to get a glimpse of it, I was surprised to find that although it swayed back and forth in the slightest breeze, it did not seem to be any more carefully constructed than those nests of yore, which were but a heap of twigs upon a tussuck. Civilization has not routed the herons, but simply changed their nesting habits.

Paul G. Howes.

The Bewick's Wren.

In southwestern Pennsylvania the Bewick's Wren must generally be considered a summer resident, although during certain winters a few may be found about barnyards where outbuildings afford them sufficient protection against the wintry chill.

This little wren may be seen especially during the warmer days of late March and early April; for then he becomes especially diligent. He creeps about fences; crawls in and out of brush heaps; hops about on the ground and now and then mounts to some higher fence rail, or any convenient projection, from which he sends forth a beautiful song.

His most common note is simply a short "plit" which is either uttered as a single note or as a succession of "plits." This note he generally utters while busily engaged in searching for food. While creeping about he very often jerks his tail in a peculiar manner at the same time uttering his peculiar note. He is very nervous and seldom, indeed, do we find him at rest; even while perched for a song he will jump back and forth as though he intended flying.

The food of this wren consists entirely of insects—spiders and their eggs being the most common diet. These they gather from crevices in fence rails, under the bark of trees

or about buildings; they also procure some food from the ground.

They are sociable bits of bird life and enjoy spending much of their time about farm houses and barn yards. At least that is where we often see them. In Greene County they seem to prefer the higher ground i. e. the tops of ridges and hills which abound in this section.

Some, it is true, are found inhabiting the creek valleys, but few in comparison with the number found in the above situation. Why they prefer the higher ground I have never been able to discover. Probably the higher ground contains a more abundant food supply.

Nest building begins late in April—usually about the 20th of that month. At this time they are very busy little fellows, carrying building material. Nests consist of small twigs, hay, dry grass, rootlets and sometimes moss and leaves; well lined with poultry feathers and horse hair. The sites chosen vary greatly and they range from an old pair of trousers or a hat to a tin can. To my knowledge the commonest places for nests are small out houses: corn cribs, barns, sheds, etc. In these they select some convenient nook and therein construct the nest. These may be either large and bulky or frail, as best suits the crevice wherein they build. Many nests are rather neat while the interior is always smoothly lined with soft material.

From five to eight eggs are deposited; the time usually being the first week in May. These are white, much speckled with reddish brown; some being spotted.

I have examined a considerable number of nests and none contained more than eight eggs; seven seemed to be the common number to each set.



Nest and Eggs of Florida Meadow Lark

—Photo by O. E. Baynard.

The female sits closely on these and seldom leaves the nest except for food and water. The male bird brings her considerable food. In about ten days the eggs hatch and you may be sure the parents are very busy; for they gather many insects with which to feed the young. The young grow rapidly and are soon strong enough to follow the mother about in search of food. It is a pleasing sight to watch a family of these wrens as they follow their mother. They, like other babies, quarrel at times and it is then that we hear their cross little scolding notes; and also the equally cross note of their mother who seems to be reprimanding them. We must, though, consider them as gentle little birds and encourage them to live near us for they are exceedingly beneficial creatures.

S. S. Dickey.

Washington, Pa.

The Increase and Decrease of Birds.

By John D. Kuser, Bernardsville, N. J.

One of the great questions in the bird world is: Are birds increasing or decreasing in numbers? There is no doubt that some are rapidly becoming extinct, whereas those birds which adapt themselves to civilization are becoming more numerous. In the following paragraphs I have taken up the status as to whether, from my observations, I think the different species of birds are becoming scarcer or more abundant in Bernardsville, in the northern central part of New Jersey.

The following are rapidly increasing: Turkey Vultures, Starlings, (a few seen in 1908, in 1909 they were more frequent and several large flocks were seen in 1910, also several nests being recorded in the latter year). English Sparrows, Robins, Bluebirds, Meadowlarks (one heard in mid-win-

ter), Song and Chipping Sparrows and Chimney Swifts.

Those which show a steady increase though not so rapid a one as the above mentioned are: Pheasants (about 100 of these birds have been annually liberated for several years, but it is a question that if no more were let out whether the birds would increase. Several nests have been recorded), Ospreys, Sparrow Hawks, Orioles, Goldfinches, Grosbeaks, Woodpeckers (except the red-head, which is rare), Blackbirds, Jays, Crows, Mallards (several pairs of which were liberated a few years ago and there is now a flock of a dozen or more), Great-blue, Black-crowned Night, and Green Herons, Flycatchers, Towhees, Red-eyed, Yellow-throated and Warbling Vireos, Black and White, Chestnut-sided and Yellow Warblers, Ovenbirds, Maryland Yellow-throats, House Wrens (formerly rare, have become more common during the past two years), White-breasted Nuthatches.

The birds which seem to remain about the same in numbers, neither increasing or decreasing, are: Morning Doves, Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, and Marsh Hawks (all of these Hawks are only occasional), Screech Owls, Hummingbirds, Swamp Sparrows, Indigo Buntings, Rough-winged Swallows, Cedar Waxwings, Waterthrushes, Catbirds, Chickadees and Wood Thrushes.

The slowly decreasing birds are as follows: Hawks of the Genus Accipiter, Cuckoos, Kingfishers, Vesper, Field and Grasshopper Sparrows, Cliff, Tree and Bank Swallows (none of the last named have been seen for two years, but formerly they were occasional), Brown Thrashers (only a few seen in 1910 and in 1911 they were even scarcer than in the previous year) and all the Thrushes not already mentioned.

The following birds are rapidly decreasing: Shore birds of the order Limicolae, Ruffed Grouse and Bobwhites.

The Cerulean Warbler Nesting in Greene Co., Pennsylvania.

One dark rainy day early in May, while afield in search of nests of the Blue gray Gnatcatchers, I came to the edge of a small quadrilateral wood which covered part of the ridge of a high hill, as I entered the North-east corner of the wood the peculiar notes of these birds could be heard in the tops of some tall white oak trees nearby.

They flitted away, and I tried to follow two of them but found it quite a difficult task and soon lost sight of them. Returning to the place where they were first seen, I waited a few moments, and caught sight of a small bluish gray bird with building material in its bill, flitting about through the oaks. It went to a long horizontal limb about 40 feet up in a medium sized white oak tree which stood just inside the wood, and began weaving the bits of building material about the limb.

Returning to the same place May 24th no Gnatcatchers were seen nor could I see the nest, which is generally visible from the ground.

However I went up the tree and as I approached the limb a nest could be plainly seen, but a strange one it was,—much like a Redstart's, but the bird was no Redstart. She sat closely, and only left the nest when I put a long branch with a nest fork on its end, out to collect the nest, then I saw that it was a Cerulean Warbler.

Upon securing the nest I found it to contain four eggs of the Warbler and one of the Cowbird, which afterward proved to be slightly incubated.

The female bird soon returned ac-

companied by the bright blue male, who made considerable fuss at finding his home gone.

This was the first nest of the Cerulean Warbler found in this part of the state, so it is needless to say that I was much pleased with it. This nest is found recorded by Jacobs in Champman's "Warblers of North America."

Since discovering the above nest I have, at several different times seen the Warblers as late as May 30th and found nests which were blown out during storms.

Undoubtedly a few pairs of these Warblers remain with us every spring but owing to their habit of staying in the tree tops they are very seldom seen.

S. S. Dickey.
Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

The Kentucky Warbler.

Of all our native birds none bring back more delightful memories than do the Kentucky Warblers. Many hours spent on wooded hillsides or dark ravines present themselves and make pleasant, dreary winter evenings when the woods and fields are cold and bare.

Some nests were built on weedy flats, high up on wooded hillsides, while others were found on level patches at the bottoms of deep hollows.

After their arrival from the South the Kentucky Warbler spends some time flitting about the woods chirping and feeding before commencing the serious work of nest building. About the 15th of May they usually start to construct their cozy nest. Leaves, weeds, stalks, horse hair and other minor material are carried to the base of a bunch of weeds, May apple stalks, or sapling growing on a level space, generally near a patch or an open place in the woods, although a few

are found in the densest and darkest recesses of the forest.

The female deposits four or five small white eggs speckled with redish brown and quite often the disliked Cowbird adds one of hers for good measure.

Sets are commonly completed by the 25th of May, and then our presence in the vicinity is objected to by vigorous chirpings. Even though we be considerable distance from their abode they seem to fear us, and flitting about in the dense foliage, slyly keep out of sight, but continually chirp.

Early one beautiful morning in May after careful searching I was able to discover five nests in a single stretch of wooded land high up on a hillside.

I have found many nests by locating the chirping of the birds, then carefully searching the level places nearby. Some have hidden their nests so completely that I have failed to find them. However I have been fortunate enough to find a sufficient number for careful study.

S. S. Dickey.

Waynesburg, Pennsylvania.

Kentucky Warblers.

My first set of Kentucky Warblers was found May 30, 1899 in Chester County, Pennsylvania. At that time I called it Maryland Yellow-throat and did not know the difference until one day while in West Chester, I called on Mr. Ladd and he told me my set was Kentucky Warbler.

I prized the set highly as it was my first, and kept it in a tray in one corner of my drawer with other Warbler sets.

One night I had the drawer out of the cabinet on the table admiring the eggs when my daughter came up stairs with our pet cat. The cat had a habit of jumping on the table whenever she came in the room, and when she got

close enough, made a spring for the table. My daughter held on to her the best she could, but one paw landed squarely on the set of four Kentucky Warblers, and broke three eggs.

It did not take me long to see what the damage was, and I immediately got busy and showed the cat my indignation at her imprudent action.

I hollowed first, and as the cat, frightened at my look and actions, started for the door. I grabbed a ten pound hassock and hurled it with all my force at her as she rounded the corner.

I regretted the loss very much, as I was afraid I would never be able to find another set.

June 24, 1900, I found a nest with one addled egg and four young, by watching the parent birds as they went closer and closer to the nest until I located it at the base of a bush in a hollow of the woods near a stream.

June 21, 1903, I found 1-2 with one Cowbird. The female flew from the nest as I was walking along a path in the woods. Nest was at the base of a bush.

June 3, 1906, I found 1-3 at Pocopson, Pa., in a hollow of the woods near a parth at the base of a bush.

May 31, 1909, I found 1-4 and one Cowbird at Pocopson, Pa., in a hollow of the woods near a road at the base of a bush.

June 4, 1910, I found 1-5, my first fine perfect set near Wilmington, Delaware, in a hollow of the woods at the base of a bunch of weeds. I flushed the female as I went over the ground with my stick, and as she sneaked away among the grass, I located the nest near my feet. The nest was nicely lined with black horse hair.

June 15, 1910, I found 1-4 near Wilmington, Delaware on the ground in the forks of a bunch of bushes. I lo-

cated the nest before the birds had finished it. The eggs were very pretty, elongated in shape and marked with brown spots and blotches, nearly all over the eggs.

May 27, 1911, I found 1-5 near Wilmington, Delaware, on the ground at the base of a very small bush. I flushed the female as I went through the woods, the eggs were fresh, marked with small spots of brown.

All my Kentucky Warbler sets were found near Wilmington, Delaware, but the two in Pennsylvania.

I have found four nests with young, and three empty in the past ten years.

They are always to be found around here in the nesting season, a pair generally in every low woods.

Saturday, June 10, 1911, I was out in the woods in the afternoon, and while sitting on the brow of a hill, looking at the beautiful scenery, I heard the notes of a Kentucky Warbler.

The bright rays of the noon-day sun penetrated the green foliage of the tree tops and made a picture that only nature could portray.

The day was fine, the air bracing, and all nature seemed to be dressed in its finest raiment.

Through the gentle breeze, I could hear the call of the male Kentucky Warbler as he sent notes of warning to his mate who was concealed among the weeds some where within sound.

My desire to find the nest was paramount, but where to look was hard to decide, as the low woods covered a wide expanse.

With stick in hand, and body bent, I parted the weeds as I went from bush to bush, covering all the ground that seemed most likely for a nesting site and found nothing.

Patience and perseverance brings its reward in most cases, and after an hour's work, I found the female at

home attending to her domestic duties. As I parted the weeds at the base of a small bush, I could see her outstretched neck as she leaned forward to ascertain the cause of the rustling noise I made in approaching the nest.

The next move she was gone, and lying in the hollow of the nest were five white eggs, sparingly marked with brown at the large end.

Nest was made of leaves, dead grasses, twigs and lined with rootlets. I have several sets in my collection and find the eggs vary greatly. Some are rounded oval in shape, while others are elongated. Some are profusely marked nearly all over with spots and blotches of brown, while others are nearly plain.

Some of the nests are lined with black horse hair, some with black rootlets, and some with rootlets of a lighter color.

E. P. Darlington.

Wilmington, Delaware.

Books Received.

The Museum News, Volume 7 No. 8, May, 1912; published by the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Science.

This issue of the *News* contains an exhaustive paper on "The Birds of Prospect Park, Brooklyn," by Robert Cushman Murphy, and is a carefully prepared review of the subject of which it treats.

The English Sparrow as a Pest, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmers Bulletin No. 493, by Ned Dearborn. Needless to say this, as anything else prepared by Mr. Dearborn is a valuable contribution to the subject of which it treats, giving among other things, particular directions relating to the trapping of Sparrows. Nothing that could be said against this avian rat nor printed, that would tend to assist in

its destruction but that would suit the writer.

Some Common Game, Aquatic and Rapacious Birds in Relation to Man, by William L. McAtee and F. E. L. Beale, U. S. Dept. of Agriculture, Farmers Bulletin No. 497. A thirty-page paper treating of a number of well known birds such as the Prairie Chicken, California Quail, Ruffed Grouse, Upland Plover, Killdeer, Horned Grebe, Franklin's Gull, Common and Black Tern, Cooper's Rough-legged and Sparrow Hawk, and Screech Owl. It is full of useful information relating to these species.

The Mammals of Illinois and Wisconsin, by Charles B. Corey, Curator of the Department of Zoology.

This is Publication No. 53 Zoology Series XI of the Field Museum of Natural History. While it is not strictly a bird publication, yet it is full of information for all naturalists, being a complete resume of the mammals found within the territory covered, occupying 452 pages, very fully illustrated, and coming as it does from the pen of one who stands at the very forefront of this kind of research, will like its companion book, *The Birds of Illinois and Wisconsin*, take and maintain rank as a standard upon the subject of which it treats for many years to come. It is a credit to the institution as well as to the author.

Birds of Douglas County, South Dakota, by Alexander Walker and Eugene C. Ford.

This little publication issued April 15, 1912, contains a list of the birds found in Douglas County, South Dakota. While it does not pretend to be a complete list, but "contains only those species that we have personally observed or know of their being found here," yet is without doubt a nearly complete list, showing as it does, 134

species. Extensive notes relating to 31 species are added, together with illustrations of the nests, eggs and birds of a number of other varieties. On the whole, the publication is one that is creditable to the authors. However, the scientific appearance of the same is detracted from by the addition of eight pages of advertising matter.

Professor Wilson Tout, City Superintendent of schools at North Platte, Nebraska, sends us a postal card showing what real practical bird work in schools will do. It contains a likeness of a class of sixty-eight scholars sitting on the steps of their splendid school building, each of whom holds in his hands, a bird house of varying construction for use this coming spring. Would that every bird lover engaged in school teaching in this country would do likewise.

Mr. Eaton's statement as quoted in Burn's "Monograph on Broadwing Hawk": See—Wilson Bulletin—last number, i. e., "do not breed in Monroe Co," (N. Y.) is incorrect.

A pair of birds were shot in the woods on farm owned by H. F. Walker in the town of Chili, on May 30th, 1906. Were feeding young at the time; taking young chickens from a coop on the adjoining farm belonging to, or at least occupied by J. Lesch. I supposed I had reported this to Eaton. I positively identified the dead birds.

Ernest H. Short,
Rochester, N. Y.

Mr. J. H. Bowles writes from the coast that he is just leaving for Tacoma and that on February 20th hummingbirds were nesting. That up to that time he had found five Anna's Hummers and four Allen's Hummers' nests.

Comparison of the Arrival of Birds at Port Hope, Ontario
During 1911 and 1912.

	1911	1912
Grey Screech Owl	January 15th	February 6th
Chickadee	January 27th	January 17th
Red-breasted Nuthatch	January 28th	January 6th
Slate Colored Junco	February 3d	March 14th
Tree Sparrow	February 3d	None seen
Evening Grosbeak	February 4th	None seen
Downy Woodpecker	February 10th	January 21st
Whistler Duck	February 18th	January 18th
Pine Grosbeak	February 17th	January 7th
February 19, 1911, found a mouse and a Chickadee impaled upon thorns, by a Shrike.		
	1911	1912
Crow	February 26th	March 3d
Horned Lark	February 25th	April 8th
Broad Winged Hawk	March 2d	April 5th
Swallow-tailed Kite	March 4th	April 10th
(Do these birds ever come so far north in the spring? I am sure that is what they are, as their plumage and manners refer exactly to the bird book.)		
	1911	1912
Redpoll	March 4th	March 4th
Canada Geese	March 9th	March 30th
Robin	March 13th	March 30th
Song Sparrow	March 14th	March 20th
Bluebird	March 15th	April 5th
	1911	1912
Pine Finch	March 25th	April 17th
Meadowlark	March 25th	April 5th
Purple Grackle	March 29th	April 9th
Kildeer	March 31st	March 30th
Vesper Sparrow	April 1st	April 12th
Rusty Blackbird	April 1st	April 10th
Wood duck, male and female	April 1st	None seen
White-rumped Shrike	April 1st	May 1, 2 nests
Hooded Merganser	April 8th	None seen
Phoebe	April 8th	April 13th
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	April 10th	May 1st
Wood Pewee	April 10th	None seen
Fox Sparrow	April 12th	None seen
Mourning Dove	April 16th	None seen
Red-winged Blackbirds	April 16th	March 30th
Flicker	April 16th	April 30th
Brown Creeper	April 17th	May 2d
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	April 18th	April 15th
Tree Swallow	April 18th	None seen
Purple Martin	April 19th	April 6th
Barn Swallow	April 19th	May 2d
Gulls, flying over in the dark	April 20th	April 16th
Veery	April 25th	None seen
Black and White Warbler	April 26th	None seen
Spotted Sandpiper	April 29th	April 30th
Chimney Swift	May 1st	May 3d
White Crowned and White Throated Sparrow	May 2d	None seen
Brown Thrasher	May 6th	

Norman Haultain,
Port Hope, Ontario.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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VOL. XXIX. No. 7. ALBION, N. Y., JULY 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 300

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We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

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WANTED—Nests of the Cliff Swallow; offer eggs or cash. I have a small supply of Stillbite from the extinct Frankford Quarry to trade for sets. J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa. (4-p)

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EGG (Continued)

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WANTED—"Nidologist", Vol. 1 No. 2; Vol. 4 No. 3; Vol. 5 No. 3. "Auk" Vols. 1-8, 11, 12, 13 and 28. Jour. Maine Ornith. Soc. and Bull. Mich. Ornith. Club, complete vols. and odd nos. DR. T. W. RICHARDS, 1207 19th St. N. W., Washington, D. C.

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GEORGE SETH GUION.

Napoleonville, La.

THE OÖLOGIST.

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Young of Ruby-throated Hummingbird in Nest
—Photo by C. F. Stone

Nesting of the Virginia and Sora Rails In Pennsylvania.

The status of these two birds seems to be very much of a problem to Pennsylvania Ornithologists. Their secretive habits, their miry haunts and their disinclination to flush all conspire to make them among the least known of our Pennsylvania birds. The Virginia Rail has been taken as a breeder at various places in the eastern part of the state by Thos. Jackson, Isaac Reiff, Dr. Hughes, J. Harris Reed and others and more recently by Richard T. Miller and it seems to be a regular though undoubtedly scarce summer resident at suitable places in the Delaware Valley. The Sora however, has very few authentic breeding records in the state and this article is written with a view to adding more light on both these birds as well as recording them as breeding in a new locality—Center County—at an elevation of 1200 feet and in the heart of the Pennsylvania Mountains.

The swamp where the Rails breed is about two miles east from State College and about five acres in extent. All through the spring of 1909, the presence of Rails made us hopeful that they might nest there along with a pair of American Bittern and small numbers of Swamp Sparrows. The Bitterns were later shot and our hopes as to their nest dashed, but the Rails stayed on and when May 29th still found them present, we decided to investigate at an early date. On this trip we also saw and identified several Short Billed Marsh Wrens but on subsequent trips we were unable to locate them. On June 7th we set out to look for the Rails nests and the results I have copied exactly as they were written up in my note book:

"June 7, 1909. This afternoon Foster White and I started for the Center

Furnace swamp where we saw the Rails and Marsh Wrens on May 29. On our way down we stopped at the spring and I found a Baltimore Oriole's nest ten feet up at the end of a willow limb and holding three fresh eggs. In some sheds several Barn Swallows' nests were found, some incomplete and some with young. In the Center Furnace woods, I saw a Cooper's Hawk and after looking about found her nest 40 feet up in the triple crotch of a Scarlet Oak but when the tree was climbed an empty nest rewarded my gaze. I had secured a set from this woods in early May.

"We then entered the swamp and though no Marsh Wrens were seen, I was agreeably surprised at our luck with the Rails. We saw several of these, both Virginia's and Sora's and several were flushed from their nest. As I looked about I suddenly came on a nest of the Virginia Rail containing ten eggs. The nest was a frail structure of Marsh grass placed under a tussock and cunningly hidden. The bird was flushed about ten yards away.

"About twenty yards away, I found a nest of the Sora Rail in the midst of a grass tussock. It also held ten eggs, quite distinct from those of the Virginia. The nest was cunningly concealed in the center of a grass tussock about three inches deep. Several of the eggs laid on top of the main layer. Not far from here I found an incomplete nest of the Virginia as well as one of the Sora. Down in the east end of the swamp I flushed a Sora and several yards away, I found her nest in a tussock, poorly concealed and somewhat in the open. It held one fresh egg (afterward destroyed by a Snapping Turtle.) Not far from here, a Sora rushed hurriedly off her nest and in a moment I had parted the grass and was looking in on six hatching

eggs and one black, little Rail, still damp. Nearby were two broken egg shells of birds already hatched. About 50 yards off I flushed a Virginia from her nest built in a thick clump of marsh grasses and about 8 inches above shallow water. It held ten eggs. Some 75 yards away, White came on still another nest of the Virginia Rail with ten far incubated eggs. It was built over shallow water about 1 foot up in the thick marsh grasses. The bird was seen nearby. All the nests were compactly made of dry marsh grasses and shreds of flags. The Rails usually run off and fly up when you are still several yards distant. We saw one or two Swamp Sparrows but found no nests, though two of the Song Sparrows were found with four young and five eggs. Several Red-wings' nests were found with from one to four eggs and I collected one set of the latter number. In a dead tree near the swamp we found a Red Headed Woodpecker's nest 25 feet up with young."

In 1910 I found a number of nests here and secured two sets of 9 and 11 eggs, but all nests found were Sora's. I also detected and killed a twenty pound Snapping Turtle while in the act of robbing a Rail's nest. David Harrower also found several nests and one of his sets held an unmistakable Sora's egg among a set of Virginia's. The year of 1911 the birds were not so common and we did not disturb them though they were still in the swamp as several were seen.

The nests and eggs of the two species seem unmistakably different to me. The eggs of the Virginia are much lighter, cream colored and speckled with light buff and brown, while the Soras have a harder shell are much darker and covered more with brownish and Olive blotches.

The nests of the Sora are more compact and deeper, and while they use flags and cat-tails more, the Virginia seems to prefer the dry Marsh grass.

The Soras usually nest directly over water and in the deeper portions of the swamp, while the Virginias often nest in parts which are barely wet. Both species are often very solicitious about the nests and very hard to see from above. The Sora seems to start setting with the first egg as in a set of ten, some will be fresh and others in all stages of incubation. In one set of eleven which I took, incubation ranged from fresh to nearly fully developed. This also occurs in the sets of Virginia but it is less pronounced. From the dates above, it may be seen that nidification in some instances must start by May 10th, about a week after the arrival of the birds. The species seem to be fairly uniform in their nesting habits and about May 28-30th seems to be the time at which the majority have fresh sets. As with the Clapper Rail and Florida Gallinule, there seems to be a tendency to build sham nests as a large number are never finished or laid in. I have found several nests which have been pillaged by Crows, Muskrats and Snapping Turtles, but their natural enemies seem to be few.

There are numerous swamps in Pennsylvania suited to these birds and I feel sure that rigid search will show them much more common than we are inclined to believe at the present time.

Richard C. Harlow.



Sora Rail's Nest

—Photo by J. F. Stierle

Sora Rail's Nest in Old "Mill Pond."

Eggs, fifteen. Some were partly incubated with large embryos, and some were fresh; proving that the bird sits on nest from the time the first egg is laid.

Nest built of Bull Rushes and slightly above the water level, in dense Bull Rushes, and in nine inches of stagnate water. Nest twelve feet from shore line.

Eggs and nest photographed June 15, 1910.

J. F. Stierle.

Marshfield, Wis.

•◆•

Notes.

A. J. Kirn reports the Gambel's Partridge (*Lophortyx gambeli*) at Vinita, Oklahoma. He also says the Pileated Woodpecker is still found in that vicinity, and refers to the fact of having once found seven Crow's eggs in a nest. This by way of reference to the report of R. L. More of Vernon, Texas, to the same effect.

We have a set of seven Crow's eggs in our collection, the history of which is rather interesting.

It was taken originally along in the '90's at Wady Petra, a small place eighteen miles Southwest of Lacon, and by the collector sold to Harry R. Taylor of California. When Taylor broke up his collection, we purchased this set and it returned to within a few miles of where it first started from. It is the only set of seven we have ever seen personally.

Mr. W. A. Strong of San Jose, California, writes that May 20, 1912, he discovered the nest of a Willow Gold Finch with four eggs which hatched on the 28th. On the 4th of June again looking into the nest, there were two little bird skeletons and nothing else except a multitude of ants. We have

no doubt but that many young birds are destroyed in this way.

Mr. S. V. Wharram of Geneva, Ohio, reports some unusual nesting sites this spring. One a Brown Thrasher's nest containing four eggs situated on the ground in the midst of a bushy pasture. Another a Chewink Towhee eighteen inches from the ground in a bush in the midst of the same bushy pasture. Both of which are unusual.

On May 20th of this year in Reeves County, Texas, I found in a catclaw brush on Sunflower Draw, a very interesting nest of the Road Runner. It contained one young bird that was fairly well feathered, six inches or more in length, and five others that ranged in age down to one that had been hatched only a few hours. One egg was pipped and two that were not, one of which lacked several days of being ready to hatch. Six birds and three eggs, making a set of nine. I have often found nests of seven and eight eggs and young; but one of nine I consider rare.

It is almost impossible to secure a full set of fresh Roadrunner eggs, unless, as laid, they are pierced to stop incubation.—Stokley Ligon, Pecos, Texas.

I have an unusual find to record for the season of 1912. June 1st while walking along the edge of a wood I flushed a Towhee from a well concealed nest placed in the center of a grass tussock. Stooping over to examine the contents I was somewhat surprised to say the least at the miscellaneous array of eggs that came to view as I parted the grass. Three typical Towhee eggs, a runt Towhee and a Cowbird for good measure. The runt is very heavily colored, in fact all the pigmentation that a normal specimen would receive is crowded onto its much smaller surface. The runt meas-

ures only .64 x .56 as against .94 x .73, the former being the normal size of the egg. The Cowbird is an average specimen. The runt, as is usual in such cases, proved infertile as well as one of the normal eggs. The difference of the set showed about four days incubation.

P. M. Phelps.
Eighteen inches from the ground.
Elyria, O.

A Battle With the English Sparrow.

Hoping to secure a family of Blue Birds as renters I erected a neat little bird house on my lawn this spring. No sooner was it in place than a pair of English sparrows proceeded to take possession. To this I objected and made my objections known by hurling clods and stones at them when ever they came near. It was interesting and amusing however, to observe the means they took to accomplish their purpose. When a person appeared outside the house there was not a sparrow to be seen within a half a block and they acted as though they did not know that there was a bird house within miles. But safely hidden by the window curtains indoors and peering out through the windows I could see what took place. The sparrows would fly unconsciously to some bushes close by and half conceal themselves there, while they took note of whether any one was in sight and if the coast was clear a quick flutter of wings and one would be in the house. After I had observed this to my satisfaction I tore out the nest and closed up the doors of the house as a reminder that such tenants were not desired. But my battle was not over yet. The house was one with a peaked roof and opened sables. The pair proceeded to take possession of the attic. By this time I had murder in my heart so I secured an air rifle and proceeded to

pump lead at them. But alas for my marksmanship there were no casualties but after several days of this sport not a sparrow was in sight and I was beginning to hope that my hints had been taken. Being called away from

home for several days, when I returned I found, however, a nest safely constructed in the attic of the bird house and in nine inches square. In disgust I tore out the nest and began to plan for some other campaign

of battle. It was at this point that reinforcements came to my rescue.

The reinforcement was in the form of a Kingbird (tyrannus tyrannus). I first saw him resting on a wire a few feet from the house observing it critically. He next proceeded to chastise every sparrow that came anywhere near the house but did not offer to take possession himself. He kept guard over the house for several days but has not been seen within a half a block of it since. I do not know what was his reason for taking part in the battle whether it was to help me out of my dilemma or just to show his kingly authority which ever it may be I am thankful for his assistance. But in the meantime my house stands tenantless.

It was taken care of by Eugene C. Ford, Armour, S. Des Moines, Iowa. It was taken care of by the large amount of feeding about our place and the abundance of water for the comfort of our wild fowl, it seems that nearly all the English sparrows in central Illinois desire to make their headquarters here. The result is that we have killed an average of a thousand sparrows a year on our home grounds during the past ten years. At times we can see appreciable diminution of the supply owing to the vigor with which we prosecute our warfare. At other times we almost give up in despair. If every

body would shoot and trap sparrows as continuously as we do, we are very certain the supply would shortly be limited. All real bird-lovers who desire to assist in the protection of our native species will wage a ceaseless warfare on that avian rat known as the English Sparrow.—Editor.

The Herons of South Central Wisconsin

The Herons are one of my favorite groups of our North American birds. They are, I think, a magnificent addition to any bit of landscape especially a marsh or piece of flag. They are usually greatly persecuted though generally considered beneficial, or at least harmless. Seven species have come to my notice in this locality, four of which I have found breeding here.

American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*). This fine marsh bird is a common bird with us all through the spring and summer months, and nothing sounds more springlike than the Chunk-a-lunk-plunk of the Bittern. They nest in the marshes in May and June. They feed largely on frogs, snakes, lizards, crayfish, meadow mice, tadpoles and fish. I have collected several sets of eggs. I once collected five whole eggs from a nest containing two broken ones, seven in all.

Least Bittern (*Ixobrychus exilis*). This beautiful tiny creature is a common though not abundant summer resident, found in the marshes among the coarser grass and flags, where they place their nests. I have found their nests and eggs, but never have been able to get a set in perfect condition, as usually something destroyed the eggs before the sets were completed. I once discovered one standing among the grass with bill pointed straight upward. I walked to it and stood and

stroked its neck and side for some time.

Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*). I have often seen these great birds here during the nesting season, but have never found any nests, but have been told that formerly a few nested near here in some large timber now cut away. I have a set of eggs collected in Michigan. They feed principally on fish, they stand sometimes on only one foot, still as a statue, often for a long time till the luckless "finny" appears, when quick as a flash, down darts that terrible beak and poor fish is finished except for a meal. They also feed on frogs, lizards, snakes, mice, young rats, crustaceans, small birds, insects, etc.

American Egret (*Herodias egretta*). This magnificent heron occasionally wandered, in former years, into this locality; sometime early in the eighties a few were seen by a pond near here and one shot and mounted and posed for a number of years in a hardware store, in the city of Columbus, the admiration of all who see it. They are now nearly exterminated as a result of being killed to supply plumes for the ladies' hats!

Little Blue Heron (*Florida caerulea*). The Little Blue, occasionally came as far north as this locality where I have seen a few of them in the latter part of the season. This heron has three phases of plumage, white, blue, and mottled, irrespective of age or sex. Food—fish, frogs, lizards, crayfish, small crabs and insects; also crustaceans and larvae.

Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*). The Little Green Heron is a common summer resident, and formerly nearly every grove of small trees near a stream would often have a few nests of these birds. They also nest with the Black-crowned Night Heron and the Black-billed Cuckoo and the

time and the gun and ax have changed things considerably, and now but few scattering pairs are found nesting. They do not as a rule place their nest as high, or in as large trees as the Black-crowned. They feed on crayfish, frogs, small fish and insects. Nests usually in May and June. I have collected fine sets in May.

Black-crowned Night Heron (*Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*). Formerly quite abundant, but now scarce on account of the wanton destruction by the idiot with a gun; also sportsmen, and the cutting away of timber. Nests usually in colonies, in the smaller timber along streams in May and June. Food consists of fish, crabs, lizards, mice, and insects. I usually collected sets in May.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.

Zion City, Ill.

Field Notes.

June 22, 1912, having an afternoon off I decided to take a run up to my favorite hunting grounds, the Quinnipiac Marshes. So getting out my kit, I boarded a Montowese car and rode as far as Muddy River. After getting off the car I walked along the bank of the river down towards the marshes. After walking about a quarter of a mile and while passing through a little clump of water oak bushes, I suddenly came up on a Cuckoo's nest with a female Black-billed Cuckoo sitting on it. When I advanced a step she flew off the nest and disappeared among the bushes.

Looking into the nest, I could hardly believe my eyes, for besides one young, it contained two Yellow-billed and two Black-billed Cuckoo's eggs. The young was covered with bluish pin feathers and quite lively; therefore at least two days old; both eggs of the Black-billed Cuckoo must have

been nearly hatched, because I could see no light when I held them up to the sun. One measured 1.09 x .79, the other 1.12 x .80. One of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo's eggs showed dark reddish blotches on holding it to the light; therefore incubation had commenced, and the other was perfectly clear, showing only the yoke, and in fresh condition. Measurements, 1.17 x .85 and 1.15 x .84.

The nest, of dry sticks and a few skeleton leaves around the top, lined with mud colored leaves and skeleton leaves and one large feather (looked to be a Crow's feather) was a little larger and more compactly made than the usual run of Cuckoo's nests. It was two feet and nine inches from the ground and placed on a tangle of briars and ferns, tops of ferns projecting about three to six inches above nest. A very unusual nesting site for a Black-billed Cuckoo, at least in this section of New England.

I will devote my spare time to this nest for the next two weeks and am quite sure it will be time well spent.

E. Ulbert.

New Haven, Ct.

It is not unusual to find Cuckoo's nests containing the eggs of both species, nor to find nests containing eggs at various stages of incubation. At one time we found a nest containing seven Cuckoo's eggs, three of which were Black-billed and four Yellow-billed. And another time, a Yellow-bill's nest containing two young birds, one of which was in the neighborhood of a week old, the other just hatched, one normal perfectly fresh egg and one runt egg of not more than one-third the size of an ordinary egg of this species. These two eggs are now in our collection.—Editor.

A Letter.

"Dear Sir:—

"I suppose it is hard for collectors who have prosecuted their favorite study for years to appreciate the ignorance of the novice. And in our National History papers this dullness of comprehension sometimes fails of recognition. Having laid a favorite study on the shelf and resuming it after the lapse of years enables me to appreciate how much has "happened" in the interval. In 1893 I made some notes on the birds in Pennsylvania and collected some eggs. But my eyes were undergoing a test to keep up my college work and I had to abandon the work. Conchology claimed by devotion and has held it unflinching. But now I fain would pick up some of the lost links and it is my impression that a series of articles would be greatly appreciated by some collectors not as much lost as I am.

"Can you not arrange to tell us something about the prominent collectors (not necessarily the authorities in the literature of ornithology,) but of the field workers who have made collections worth seeing and worth knowing about? Perhaps this has been done in previous volumes of *The Oologist*, which unfortunately I do not have.

"I think also it would be interesting to review—what is, to be sure, most elemental—the best approved of modern methods of collecting and preparing eggs—all the way from caring for specimens in the field to their arrangement in the cabinet.

"Another thing which should be of special interest would be to call attention to neglected field where new birds might be found and rare eggs collected.

"Still another thing. What are the really rare and famous eggs? Of course the Great Auk heads the list,

but does it? and why? What other species are represented by rare sets of eggs, and where can they be seen? What sets are considered unobtainable? What is the history of some famous collections?

"Maybe I am very dull, but these are some of the things that I find myself wanting to know.

"H. E. Wheeler."

The above suggestion is a good one, and will be acted upon by *The Oologist* management in the future.—Ed.

How High Do Birds Fly?

This is an unsettled problem in ornithology. Various newspapers recently contained articles on the inability of birds to fly or soar at heights exceeding 25,000 feet, and some of the papers even intimated that it was impossible even for the Condor to fly at this elevation.

I believe it is Humboldt who says, "The Condor, that giant among the vultures, soars at an altitude greater than the summits of the Andes, and even higher than would be the Peak of Teneriffe were it piled upon the snow-crowned summits of the Pyrennes."

The highest peak of the Pyrennes is 11,168 feet, and the peak of Teneriffe is 12,182 feet above the sea: these piled on top of each other would make a gigantic mountain over 23,000 feet in height—about the average height of the Andes—or a little less than five miles; and yet the Condor soars above this immense elevation with comparative ease. In fact, it is rarely found, I believe, below 10,000 feet elevation.

Another traveler, Dr. J. D. Hooker, viewed from the summit of Mount Bhomteo, on the frontier of Thibet, in the Himalayan mountains, long black V-shaped trains or flocks of wild geese flying over the glacier-crowned top

of Kinchinjhow and winging their way at an elevation of some 22,000 feet.

Geese fly at immense elevation and Condors soar higher than any of the elevated Andes, some of which are 25,000 feet high, so it will be seen that, as usual, newspaper ornithology is wrong and misleading, as it generally is when it treats about birds.

Let us hear from others in regard to the height reached by birds in flight. As I have merely touched upon the subject I may have something more to say about the "problem" at another time.

Richard F. Miller.

Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.

The Egret.

It is known to nearly all bird lovers that one of the most beautiful of North American birds, the American Egret, is fast nearing the stage of complete extinction. This solely because of the barbaric custom of killing the bird while it is nesting, leaving the nest full of eggs or young to rot or starve; that its beautiful plumes may be secured for millinery purposes.

We are sorry to note the fact that we have observed more egrets worn by women within the state of Illinois this present year than ever at any time before. It is a source of wonder to us that women will be a party to such atrocities as the starvation of a nest full of little birds, that she may have the temporary pleasure of bedecking her head with the plumes of the mother.

Another thing that we have observed in this respect is that in the cities, a very large proportion of these plumes are paraded up and down the streets by the scarlet women of the street, at whose lack of natural instincts of motherhood we are not so

much surprised. But confessedly we fail to understand what moves the other and better class of ladies to follow this fad of their fallen sisters.

Thirty years ago thousands upon thousands of egrets migrated up and down the Illinois river and nested in large colonies in suitable places along the river. Today there is not one. The last known nesting place of the Egret in this part of the Illinois valley containing five or six nests where formerly there were hundreds, was shot out by plume hunters in 1907.

We hope to see Illinois pass a law making the wearing of an egret illegal, and attach to it, sufficient penalties to stop the abhorrent practice.—Editor.

The Cardinal at Harmarville, Pa.

During the years in which I have studied the birds in this locality, I have always found the Cardinal at all times of the year very plentiful. These birds are really even more plentiful during the winter months and I have never failed to go out without seeing at least fifteen of them. On the 10th of last February (1912), it was very cold, the temperature being below zero all day, and yet I found the Cardinal very much in evidence everywhere. As far as I can see, they seem to have no preference for any certain locality as I have found them on the hills, in the valley, in the open and in the more secluded places at the same time.

They usually begin to nest about the second week in April, the earliest data that I have, being found April 16, 1910, containing three eggs. But during 1911 they were very late in nesting, for although I searched everywhere I was unable to locate a nest containing eggs until the 13th of May. This was probably due to the late spring we had that year; for this year they began at the usual time again. In se-

lecting a nesting site, they show a great preference for grape-vines, although small trees are sometimes used. Out of all the nests that I found last year, but one was located in a small tree, the others being in grape-vines.

The height of the nest from the ground varies from three to ten feet from the ground, five feet being the commonest. Two broods are often raised in one year, but I have never found them raising a third brood, my latest nest being found on the 10th of June, 1911, containing three fresh eggs.

Their nests are very loosely constructed of weed-stems, grasses and grape vine bark, lined with fine red rootlets (rarely grasses) and almost invariably contain three eggs. During all my experiences with the Cardinal I have found but one nest containing more than three, and that was on the 18th of May of this year, containing four. When the bird is flushed from the nest, and I have found her a pretty close sitter,—she becomes quite excited and joined by the male, makes quite a lot of fuss.

Thos. D. Burleigh.

Pittsburg, Pa.

A Record.

On June 3d, 1912, there appeared a pair of Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on Pig Island, Northampton County, Virginia coast. On the 5th inst. some twenty more birds had arrived and were still there at the departure of H. B. Bailey for the mainland on June 7th. It remains to be seen if they stay to breed.

In Wm. C. Rives' "Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias" he gives a rather unauthentic record of a "bird being seen near Cobbs Island in the fall of 1881." Our latest check list,

A. O. U., gives its northern range as "Casual to North Carolina."

H. H. Bailey.

Newport News, Va.

A Good Three-Quarters of an Hour's Hunt.

Hearing a Kentucky Warbler singing in a wood at Rockledge, Montgomery County, Pa., on the morning of May 25, 1911, I determined to find its nest if it took me all the day to do so, and during the forty-five minutes I hunted for it I found and collected the following sets, in order named. Not a bad three-quarters of an hour's search, when it is taken into consideration that nests of all these species are hard to find, with the exception of the High-hole.

Flicker, 1-7; Ovenbird 1-4 and Cowbird; Blue-winged Warbler n-4; Chewink, n-4; Kentucky Warbler n-4.

There was also found a Crow's nest with young (not examined) and a Wood Thrush's nest just started.

Richard F. Miller.

Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.

Unusual Nesting Site of Brewer's Blackbird.

On May 1st I found what I thought to be a very peculiar nesting site of a pair of Brewer's Blackbirds near the top of a large dead stump. About ten feet up I noticed an entrance to a cavity excavated by Woodpeckers. I climbed the stump, expecting to find a nest of Western Bluebird, as those birds were observed nearby; but was surprised to find four incubated Blackbird eggs on a lining of grasses and hair.

As I did not see the parent leave the nest, I retired for a distance of about fifty yards. In a few minutes the parent bird returned to the nest, but this time did not leave until I rapped on

the stump below the entrance. I have never been told that such nesting sites are quite often found. Being as it was, my first nest of this species, it was especially interesting.

Alex Walker.

Mulino, Ore.

News.

The State of New York has just put a law in the Statute book placing a permanent closed season on the Wood Duck and Swans. These are two measures which we have been advocating ever since we took *The Oologist* in charge. We are sorry they did not also include the Woodcock.

It is to be hoped that other states of the Union, or what is better, the Federal Government by general law, will follow suit and protect these fast disappearing birds by the passage of and vigorous and complete enforcement of similar statutes.

We are in receipt of a neat advertising circular from the Maplewood Biological Laboratory at Stamford, Connecticut presided over by our friend, Paul G. Howes, advertising nesting boxes and cavities to be put up around improvements for the purpose of attracting birds. It is well gotten up and nicely illustrated.

The Agricultural Department of the State of Pennsylvania is agitating the passage of a law to prevent the killing of harmless snakes. Pennsylvania is afflicted with two dangerous reptiles: the Rattler and the Copperhead. Aside from these, all of the other serpents of that commonwealth are beneficial, many of them greatly so to the agriculturist. It certainly would be remarkable if they should succeed in securing the passage of this law. That it ought to be passed and enforced, those who have investigated the subject, of course know; but the density

of popular ignorance on the subject of snakes, will surely be hard to penetrate.

Personal.

C. S. Sharp of Escondido, California, has recently sold his beautiful orange grove home and moved into that thriving city. Perhaps this will give him more time for the birds.

Henry Hestness of Rockford, Washington, and a subscriber to *The Oologist* and a promising young ornithologist, has recently died. To his family we extend our sympathy.

F. C. Willard of Tombstone, Arizona, and H. H. Holland and wife of Galesburg, spent the day with the Editor a short time since, coming specially to investigate the Yellow-headed Black-bird in the marshes north of Lacon. But with the usual luck of a lawyer, we were tied up in court and unable to get away. We trust they will come again, as a day in an Illinois River marsh would certainly be, to say the least, something of a contrast for our friend Willard, when compared with the cactus covered mesas of Southern Arizona.

Bird Notes.

Our appeal for bird notes—printer's copy in the last issue, met with a generous response, and we hope the inflow will continue as our stock is still very low. We believe our friends and subscribers will assist us in keeping up the standard of the *Oologist* by contributing such readable observations as have come under their eyes in field work. Many such should be made of permanent record.

Books Received.

The Birds of North and Middle America, by Robert Ridgway, Curator, Division of Birds, Smithsonian National Museum, Part V, 1911.

This continuation of the monumental work now in process of publication needs no commendation from our hands. The name of Robert Ridgway is sufficient guaranty of its absolute thoroughness and accuracy. Part V now under consideration comprises the families of the Tapaculos—the Ant birds—The Oven birds—the Wood hewers—the Hummingbirds—the Swifts—the Trogons; the most of which of course are not included in the A. O. U. check list, being largely given over to birds found South of the Mexican Border, and hence will not be of general interest to bird students in the United States.

It is a volume exceeding 850 pages, and accompanied by many explanatory cuts and surely is a credit to the author.

Hand Book of the Birds of Eastern North America, with Introductory Chapters on the Study of the Birds in Nature, by Frank M. Chapman; 8th revised edition.

This standard work has gone through another revision and now emerges in its Eighth Edition. This of itself is testimonial enough of the demand for the book. The rank and standing of the author as an ornithologist and a real student of nature in the field is second to none in this country. The name "Chapman" stands for accuracy, scientific perfection, as well as popular presentation of subjects relating to birds. He is perhaps our greatest bird photographer, and this book is a lasting monument to his industry and ability.

It commences with the Zone map or Faunal map of North America, con-

tains about 530 pages, 24 full page plates, many of them in color, and 136 text figures. Aside from technically reviewing and describing the birds to be found in Eastern North America, it contains a vast volume of general information relating to birds generally, and includes directions for the collecting of birds and their nests and eggs.

If a person living in the Eastern half of the United States can afford but one bird book, there is no question but that this is the best one he can get. The technical make up of the volume is entirely satisfactory. We congratulate our friend Chapman upon the continued popularity of his work.



THE OOLOGIST seems to be better than ever as an advertising medium. I received live answers in reply to my advertisement of scientific shells and the duplicate sets of bird eggs, and as I disposed of both please do not run my "ad" again.

C. F. Stone, Dec. 7, 1910.

Allow me to congratulate you upon the splendid magazine which you have edited this year.

R. J. Longstreet, Dec. 12, 1910.

I am a subscriber of your paper, and think it is a dandy.

R. Ross Riley, Dec. 12, 1910.

Your current number is quite newsy and much improved in appearance.

H. S. Hathaway, Dec. 16, 1910.

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159 1-1	375 1-2	519 1-4 1-5	710 1-2 1-4
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191 1-5	385 2-4	530 1-5	721f 1-5
201 1-4	368 1-2	531 1-5	743a 1-6
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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMISTRY

VOL. XXIX. No. 8. ALBION, N. Y., AUG. 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 301

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc. inserted in this department at 25 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

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Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1903, at the post office, at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpeter Swan. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE—Skins of birds and animals of this country, with those of other countries. Also mounted birds and nests. FRANK ESPLAN, Taxidermist, Richmond, Minn. (1-p)

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EGGS

In sending in your exchange notices for nests, skins and eggs, we would appreciate it if you would arrange the numerals in your exchange notice in their numerical order, and not tumble them together hit and miss, as some of our readers are complaining, and we think justly so.

EXCHANGE.—A fine series of ten of the Pallas Murre from Cape Hope, Alaska. I want 188, 332, 343, 348, 362, 364 and many others. D. E. BROWN, 6044 1st Ave., No. W, Sta. F, Seattle, Wash.

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WANTED—Nests of the Cliff Swallow; offer eggs or cash. I have a small supply of Scribner from the extinct Frankford Quarry to trade for sets. J. P. BALL, M. D., Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa. (4-p)

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MISCELLANEOUS

IMPORTED COCOONS.—Atlas, Mylitta, Roylei, Selene, Trifen-estrata and other Indian pupae for Regalis, Versicolora and other desirable native pupae and eggs. JAMES L. MITCHELL, Indiana Trust Building, Indianapolis, Indiana.

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WANTED.—The March, April and June Nos. of the "Ornithologist and Oologist", Vol. 17, 1892. Will pay one dollar for the three Nos. PHILIP LAURENT, 31 East Mt. Airy Ave., Philadelphia, Penn.

WANTED.—Life history of North American Birds, Bendire; Bird Lore, volumes or single copies. Also Bird Books and Insect Book, report any you have. LAURA KEAN, Stockport, Ohio.

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WANTED—Cones "Key to N. A. Birds", 5th edition. State price and condition. H. F. HARVEY, Box 1134, Worcester, Mass. (1)

WANTED—Birds of New York, by Eaton, colored plates by Fuertes. We issue catalogues. THE SHERWOOD CO., 144 Fulton St., New York City. (8-12)

FOR SALE—Back numbers of the The Oologist, Osprey, Nidiologist, Birds and Nature, and other magazines, Life History of North American Birds, Bendire; Vol II Bingley's History of Animated Nature, 1200 illustrations Science History of The Universe, 10 volumes, new; and History of the World, Ridpath; latest edition, 9 beautiful volumes, new. Will consider offers part cash and A No. 1 sets with reliable data. L. ERNEST MARCEAU, 15 Pales St., Central Falls, R. I. (1-p)

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I offer fine exchange in first class sets for American Animals, Stone & Cram, The Reptile Book, Ditmars, Ernest Thompson-Seton's new two-volume work of American Animals, or the following if in first class condition: Colt's or Savage Automatic Pistol 32 cal., Winchester Automatic Rifle., 22 cal, Marble's Game Getter.

E. H. SHORT

Box 173

Rochester, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXIX. NO. 3.

ALBION, N. Y. AUG. 15, 1912.

WHOLE NO. 301

Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Illinois.



The American Bittern—From a Drawing by Audubon



Nest and Eggs of the American Bittern

The American Bittern.

A few of the remaining sportsmen, Ed. Fish, Arthur Bissell and others, will recollect that the American Bittern (of which a true picture is here copied from Audubon's great work, in possession of the Buffalo Society of Natural Science) in earlier days was quite abundant. Squaw Island was then covered with high elms and willows, and a sawmill stood at the head of the island, and Rattlesnake Island was also covered with trees. At Scajaquada Creek, on the left side of Delaware street, was Alberger's slaughter house, and opposite was a large farm house. In the rear of Stony Point was the West Seneca swamp, now entirely covered by the Lackawanna steel plant and the Village of Lackawanna. All along here such sportsmen as Charles Gerber, Steve Roberts, Jonathan Sidway, Bob Newell, George Harris, Lewis Kobler, Charles and Julius Weiss, Peter Heinz, Louis Newman and others, now all gone to the happy hunting grounds, in spring shooting encountered the American Bittern, but hardly ever took notice of it, much less to shoot it.

The grounds necessary to the bittern, are now in more remote places. They can be found in the Bowmansville and the faroff Tonawanda swamps. In the Tonawanda swamp their habitation may not last for many years, if the project to reclaim the swamp is carried out.

The upper parts of the American bittern are brown, profusely mottled and freckled with buff and ochre on neck, and under parts tawney white or ochery; each feather with a dark edged stripe, the throat line white with brownish streaks; a velvet black streak on each side of neck; crown and

tail brown; a buff stripe over the eye; quill feathers greenish black, tipped with brown; bill, pale yellowish; legs, greenish yellow, iris yellow. It varies greatly in dimensions: length 23 to 34 inches; extent, 32 to 45 inches. The female is smaller.

A set of eggs varies from three to six, and they vary greatly in size and color. The bittern arrives in this locality from April 10th to 20th, and at once looks for a nesting site which is most of the time in a patch of swamp vegetation. In the middle of this the nest is constructed from dry stalks of tules and swamp grasses about four to six inches above the surrounding set swamp. This nest is about a foot in diameter. From the edge of the cluster of swamp grass a regular path is formed. The male alights outside of the grassy patch and hops to the nest, thereby forming a path, and in this way it becomes easy to the experienced eye to find the nest.

The bittern lays from three to six eggs. After several weeks the young will emerge from the eggs. It was quite a treat for me when at one time I found two downy young in front of their mother, who was protecting the three remaining eggs from which the young had not emerged. After several weeks the young are quite large as the picture shows. This picture is due to Ed and Frank Zesch. The female is very persistent when sitting on the eggs, and in several cases, as with the woodcock, had to be taken bodily from the nest and eggs, and even will not budge when a dog is standing over them.

It is quite difficult for the parents to supply food to their young. In one instance which I have never seen recorded, the adult male flew with a frog to a nearby shrub and pierced the frog on a short dead limb, for future use. To my knowledge, when the



The Young of the American Bittern—Not a Handsome Bird

first set of eggs is taken, the mother invariably lays a second set, so their extermination may be far off.

Ottomer Reinecke.

Buffalo, N. Y.

We are indebted to Mr. Reinecke for the use of plates illustrating this article.—Ed.

Breeding Birds of Marshall Co., Ill.

In the *Ornithologist and Oologist*, Vol. xv, Page 113 (August, 1890) I published a carefully prepared "List of Birds Breeding in Marshall Co., Illinois."

Now, 22 years later, I desire as the result of those years of experience and observation to supplement that list and to amend the same in the following particulars, that it may be brought down to date and made as absolutely accurate as possible. Twenty-two years is a long span and part of the breeding season of every one of these years was spent by me in the field within this county. Many changes have worked amongst the birds and some new species added. The changes that I desire to make in this list are:

No. 131, Hooded Merganser, (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). An article published by me in *The Oologist*, Vol. No. 3 (March, 1912) details all the new discoveries with relation to this species to date.

No. 132, Mallard. (*Anas boschas*). Several sets of the eggs of this species have been taken within the county since 1890.

No. 144, Wood Duck. (*Aix sponsa*). Rapidly becoming a very rare breeder—now but a few pairs nest within the county where formerly there were hundreds.

No. 149, Lesser Scaup Duck. (*Marila affinis*). This bird even yet rare occasionally remains to nest here. I have seen the young.

No. 194, Great Blue Heron. (*Ardea*

herodias herodias). There is but one small herony left within the county, of probably a couple of dozen pairs. It won't last long. The Chicago Sanitary District Water has killed the larger trees in the river bottoms and they have no place to nest.

No. 196, Egret. (*Herodias egretta*). Not now seen in the county at all. Formerly migrated by here in Thousands and a few nested with us. Not one seen here in the past five years. The last known nests near here were in a larger herony of the Great Blue Heron. There were about a half dozen nests of this species, located at the head of Hennepin Lake ten miles north of the Marshall County line. All the birds were killed by plume hunters in 1907.

No. 206, Sandhill Crane (*Grus mexicana*). A pair of this species for a number of years between 1830 and 1850 had their nest on the farm now owned by my cousin, 1½ miles north and one-half mile east of the present Washburn School house. This is attested to by two of my uncles who lived on an adjoining farm, knew the birds well and saw both old and young birds and likewise saw and described the eggs to me so accurately there can be no question as to the authenticity of the record.

No. 208, King Rail (*Rallus elegans*). This bird I have ascertained to be a common breeder here. I have taken numerous sets of its eggs.

No. 212, Virginia Rail (*Rallus virginianus*). This is a rare breeder here. Wm. E. Loucks, formerly of Georgia, Ill., and now of San Francisco, Cal., photographed and took a set of nine eggs while the writer was present in the southern part of the county, May 7th, 1899. A half tone photo of this nest and eggs may be seen by turning to *The Oologist* Vol. XXVI, Page 118.

No. 221, American Coot (*Fulica americana*). Now a very rare breeder within this county. Perhaps not breeding here now at all. Formerly common as a breeder.

No. 261, Upland Plover (*Bartramia longicauda*). Now a very rare breeder here.

No. 263, Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularius*). Now a very rare breeder here.

No. 273, Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Not nearly so common a breeder as formerly, now seldom seen.

No. 300, Ruffled Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus umbellus*). I have a number of sets of eggs of this bird taken within the county since 1890, one set I took myself. This species does not seem to increase or decrease here perceptibly.

No. 305, Prairie Hen (*Tympanuchus americanus americanus*). This bird is almost gone here. There are not over a dozen breeding pairs left in the county. In May 1908, I received the eggs from three nests that had to be destroyed in plowing up the fields. These are the last eggs and nests of which I have any personal knowledge.

No. 310-a, Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallapavo silvestris*). Now entirely extinct within the county.

No. 325, Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). A few pairs regularly breed within the county and have so done for a number of years. Always as far as I know in huge hollow trees.

No. 333, Coopers Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*). Our commonest breeding hawk. Many now rest with us.

No. 337, Red tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis borealis*). Now a rare breeder here, formerly very common as such.

No. 339, Red Shouldered Hawk (*Buteo lineatus lineatus*). Now next to the Coopers Hawk our most common

breeding hawk. Confined to the River bottoms.

No. 365, Barn Owl (*Aluco pratincola*). One nest with five half grown young found and another with two half grown young. The latter taken and raised and kept in confinement here in Lacon for over a year, then one died and one was released. These are the only nests I know of ever having been found in the county.

No. 366, Long Eared Owl (*Asio Wilsonianus*). Not an uncommon breeder here now.

No. 373, Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*). Our most common breeding Owl.

No. 375, Great Horned Owl (*Bubo virginianus virginianus*). Not an uncommon breeder here. Might be called common, how it came to be omitted from my previous list I am unable to understand.

No. 393, Hairy Woodpecker (*Dryobates villosus villosus*). Now a very rare breeder here owing to the fact of the English Sparrow appropriating almost every nest hole as soon as the same is excavated. I once saw one of these sparrows enter the home of one of these Woodpeckers and take a newly hatched bird out in its bill, and flutter for an instant over the water (the nest was dug into a dead willow snag standing in the overflowed Illinois River bottoms) and drop the young bird into the water to drown. It then returned into the nest and soon appeared with another newly hatched woodpecker in its bill. As it fluttered over the water for an instant my gun cracked and the sparrow died. I firmly believe this sparrow will ultimately cause the Hairy Woodpecker to become extinct in all places where the sparrow is permitted to remain during the breeding season.

No. 409, Red bellied Woodpecker (*Centurus Carolinus*). Since the Chi-

cago Sanitary District water has killed off most of the larger trees in the river bottoms this species has become a common breeder here in the overflow bottoms.

No. 417, Whippoorwill (*Antrostomus vociferus vociferus*). A common breeder here now, much more so than twenty years ago.

No. 420, Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*). Now a very rare breeder here. This species and the preceding have reversed their relative positions in this respect in the last twenty years.

No. 456, Phoebe (*Saymoris phoebe*). Not nearly so common as formerly. The English Sparrow has practically driven it away from all the buildings and it now nests almost entirely under bridges and banks. It is a much wilder bird than formerly.

No. 466, Traill's Flycatcher (*Empidonax trailli trailli*). This is the species referred in my prior list under the number 466-a.

No. 511, Purple Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula quiscula*).

511-b, Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*). This latter species is the only one nesting here. It is an abundant breeder everywhere. The purple Grackle was included in my former list because of erroneous identification.

No. 584, Swamp Sparrow (*Melospiza georgiana*). A rather rare breeder along the river.

No. 593, Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). In the last twenty years this species has become one of our common birds. It is a resident the entire year, withstanding our very coldest weather apparently as well as a Downy Woodpecker. It nests all along the river bottoms on the bluffs and in the towns.

No. 595, Rose Breasted Grosbeak (*Zamelodia ludoviciana*). This spe-

cies has also become a common breeder here in the last twenty years.

No. 612, Cliff Swallow (*Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*). Twenty years ago this species was nesting all over the county. Today not a bird breeds within the county. Nor has there for the past eight or ten years. The cause? Same old story! The English Sparrow has entirely driven it out by taking every nest as soon as completed. Today the farmers horses and cattle must be eaten up by the myriads of flies and mosquitoes that no longer fear this natural enemy, the Cliff Swallow.

No. 614, Tree Swallow (*Irdoproene bicolor*). Not one-half as common a breeder as in 1890 for the same reason the Hairy Woodpecker is not, namely, the English Sparrow takes all its nesting places.

622-e, Migrant Shrike (*Lanius ludovicianus migrans*). The remarks applied in my former list to the White-rumped Shrike apply to this bird owing to the change in nomenclature, see 1910 A. O. U. Check list of North American Birds.

No. 633, Bells Vireo (*Vireo belli belli*). Of recent years this species has become a tolerably common breeder in this county.

No. 731, Tufted Titmouse (*Baeolophus bicolor*). Of occasional occurrence within the county. I know of their nests being found, one by myself. Only one set of eggs have ever been taken and preserved as far as I know. That was taken by Prof. D. B. Burrows. I believe this bird is gradually becoming more common here.

No. 751, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher (*Polioptila caerulea caerulea*). I know this bird breeds in this county because of having seen it here during the breeding season and because of having several nests brought to me by persons who found them after they had been

blown out of the trees. I have never known the eggs to be taken or an occupied nest to be found.

No. 766, Blue Bird (*Sialia sialis sialis*). Not one-tenth as common a breeder as it was twenty years ago. The cause is two-fold: first, the freeze which killed off most of this species in the south some years ago; second, the English Sparrow stealing its nesting places and destroying its nests, eggs and young.

With the above corrections and additions I believe the list first referred to be an accurate list of the breeding birds of this county.

R. M. Barnes.

Lacon, Ill.

On the Tionesta.

A few years ago while still going to school, a chum and myself spent about a month of our vacation with a woodsman who was taking it easy for awhile, after having been badly injured while cutting timber.

He had a camp on one of the smaller branches at the head of the Big Tionesta Creek in this county, and near the Forest County line. We went in June 1st and stayed about all month, only coming out a couple of times for grub.

A large tract of virgin timber, mostly hemlock, but with considerable beech, oak, chestnut, etc., in places, covered this region. At the very head of the Tionesta was a fine tract of huge white pine. The country between this big woods and the river was lumbered over and consisted of slashing, jungle, second-growth and scattered timber. In the slashings, many huge stubs stood about. The country is rough and rocky. On many ridges are piled up numbers of huge rocks of sandstone and white gravel. The streams are clear and cold and fed by numerous ice cold springs. The beds

of these streams were rock sand and fine white gravel.

Our camp was near the head spring of one of the branches and within a stone's throw of the timber. A barn 40 x 60 built of white pine timbers still stood by the ruins of an old saw mill and overhead in one corner on the stringers, deer hunters had built a snug room in which we stayed.

Our grub we packed in. A farmer, four miles away, who was our nearest neighbor furnished us with bread and pies.

Trout fishing was good and we spent many happy hours after the speckled fellows.

This woodsman was quite an expert bee-hunter and that summer, found and cut twenty-four bee-trees. A number of these were found and cut while we were there. Although early for honey, we had all we could eat; also all the stings we desired. Twenty of these swarms were saved and hauled out the following winter on bobsleds.

Nearby was a rocky ridge overgrown with huckleberry brush and sweet ferns and known as a great place for rattlesnakes. We crossed this ridge on several occasions while lining bees and killed two large rattlers, but near our camp and along the streams we found none. There was a family of Flying Squirrels in the old barn and the Red or Pine Squirrel was very common. The large Blacks and Grays were rather scarce as there was too much pine and hemlock.

Porcupines were a nuisance and paid nightly visits to our camp where they chewed and fussed about so that we had to get up at night frequently and shoot one to stop the noise.

Returning one evening we caught a coon in camp and chained him up. There were plenty of signs of Bear, but we did not see any. With deer

we were more successful and jumped them on several occasions, and one day while fishing in a deep pool on the big creek, three deer walked right up to me, but certainly exceeded the speed limit on becoming aware of my presence.

There were quite a few Wildcats (Bay Lynx) too, and one cloudy afternoon, while sitting on a big rock watching a pair of Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers feed their young, a large cat walked out from behind a rock not thirty feet away. We were both surprised, but Mr. Cat did not seem in a hurry to make a get-away. He sized me up at his leisure, then turned about and the last I saw of him was his bob-tail as it disappeared from view behind the rock. They are surely a ferocious looking thing though.

There was a fine variety of birds about our camp and every morning at daybreak we were greeted by a great bird chorus. There were more birds in the slashing than in the heavy timber, but of course many kinds of birds found in the timber would not be found in the open, and again many were found in the open slashings that never were seen in the heavy woods. Situated as we were so close to the woods, we got both the melody from the woods and the chorus from the slashing.

Close to camp along the edge of the timber, a pair of Olive-sided Flycatchers had located and the loud harsh call of the male was one of the common bird notes as he sat high up on a big dead stub. Above camp a little ways, a pair of Yellow-bellied Woodpeckers had a nest, and every morning about daylight the male bird had a habit of alighting on the roof and hammering away. We called him our alarm clock. Altogether I noted 73 species there and all no doubt were

breeding. Such birds as the Meadowlark, Vesper and Savanna Sparrows, Blackbirds, etc., were of course entirely absent as there were no fields.

The only water birds were the Kingfisher and Great Blue Heron. The Kingfisher follows up all the larger mountain streams in quest of trout and the Herons were nestling in the big pine. Wood Duck were said to summer on the big creek but I saw none at all. Deep in the forest at the mouth of one of the branches, we found a family of Woodcock which rather surprised me, as I always thought they frequented more open country. Sharp-shinned, Cooper, Red-shouldered Hawks were about every day, and two miles away in the slashing, a pair of Sparrow Hawks had set up housekeeping.

Barred, Horned and Screech Owls were heard every night, and the former two we frequently saw.

The big stubs in the slashings were well liked by the Woodpecker tribe and the Hairy, Downy, and Flicker were common. There were several pairs of Red-heads near camp and the Yellow-bellied was not at all rare as we frequently met with them; and not a day did we spend in the woods but what we saw the Pileated.

As dusk approached, the Whip-poor-wills tuned up. They were tame and often alighted on the camp. I improved the opportunity to learn something of their habits. Nighthawks were quite common about the barren ridges. A pair of Kingbirds were about the old mill, and a pair of Phoebe's nested in our camp. Everywhere in the forest, the Wood Pewee was common.

According to our woodsman friend, Ravens had been found there the year round up to a few years previous to our visit.

Small flocks of Crossbills were seen nearly every day, and on several occa-

sions we saw little flocks of five and six of the Pine Siskin. Juncos were abundant and we found several nests.

My friends the Warblers, were plentiful and I spent lots of time with them. Back in there, the Yellow was entirely absent, but in the forest, the Parula, Black throated Blue, and Black throated Green, Magnolia, Oven-bird, Redstart, Hooded, Canadian and Blackburnian were all more or less plentiful. The Black and White was there, but was scarce. Along the streams we met a few Water-thrushes. In the slashings, three warblers were common: the Yellow-throated, Mourning and Chestnut-sided. These three we never met in the deep woods.

I found nests of all the warblers except the Water-thrush and Blackburnian. A pair of House Wrens nested in the ruins of the old mill and I found three nests of young Winter wrens while fishing.

The old boiler had been left at the mill and about twenty feet of stack still stood. In this stack I got a set of Chimney Swift. Also saw a Swift's nest inside an old camp. Both the Creeper and Red-bellied Nuthatch were found in the timber and probably nesting. Thrushes were plentiful—Wood, Wilson's, Hermit and Olive-backed.

Altogether it was a very enjoyable vacation.

I have not been over there for a few years now, but the conditions are no doubt much the same except that a good bit of the timber has since been taken out. There are other places near here at present where the conditions and inhabitants (Mammals and birds) are about the same, but the big tracts of timber are disappearing and a wilderness of briars and second growth are taking their place and the time is not far off when the big tracts of giant hemlock, maple, beech, etc.,

will be a thing of the past in Pennsylvania.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

Large Sets of Robin Eggs.

In a recent number of *The Oologist*, I promised to chronicle my experience with large sets of our plebian Robin, and as "things promised are things due," it behooves me to keep my word.

The Robin is generally supposed to lay from three to five eggs, and according to most ornithological writers it does, but during a long oological experience in which I have examined almost a thousand occupied Robins' nests, I have found sets of five eggs to be of exceeding rarity, as I have only six records of nests containing five eggs or young, or over, which is a very small ratio in proportion to the large numbers of nests examined. It will then be seen that I do not exaggerate when I assert that sets of five eggs, or over, are of decidedly rare occurrence, in Southeastern Pennsylvania and South Jersey, at least.

There have been published a few accounts of sets of five Robin's eggs, as well as one set of seven, by different collectors in *The Oologist*, of both the eastern and western birds, and most of the writers agree that such sets are of exceedingly rarity.

Davie says, "the typical set of eggs is four, rarely five," but in my experience, sets of three eggs are almost as common as four and often only two eggs constitute a complement in second and later clutches." Dr. Coues, in his "Avifauna Columbiana" says: "The eggs are 4-6 in number," and he is the only ornithologist whom I can remember crediting the Robin as laying over five eggs.

A writer in the defunct *Museum* (Vol. I No. 1, 1894, p. 6) says, "in a rather active collecting experience now extending back for fifteen years,"

that he has never found a Robin's nest containing over four eggs. I wonder whether he has since, been more fortunate in his search?

My records of Robins' nests containing over four eggs and young follow, and it is a curious fact that all but two nests were in unusual situations.

I. Five fresh eggs; collected April 17, 1902, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., from a nest placed 30 feet up on wooded railroad trestle bridge (one track) spanning a creek, but not above the water, underneath a cross-tie and within fifteen inches of the rail; on bridge used daily by about fifteen or twenty trains. Eggs ovate; greenish blue; size 1.10 x .81; 1.05 x .76; 1.00 x .78; .95 x .73 inches.

II. Five fresh eggs, collected on May 2, 1902, at Wissinoming, Philadelphia County, Pa., from a nest on a wooden-girder supporting a large wood-encased water main in a ravine, 12 feet from the ground and about a foot from the bottom of the pipe. Eggs, ovate; greenish blue; size 1.19 x .83; 1.18 x .83; 1.18 x .83; 1.17 x .83; 1.15 x .83 inches. Notice the remarkable uniformity in width of the eggs.

III. Five small young (no Cowbirds) examined on June 3, 1902, at Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa.; nest situated 15 feet up in a willow along creek, placed between a double crotch. It was first found on May 21st, when it held two young and three hatching eggs; the eggs were typical. The young eventually perished from exposure and starvation as wanton gunners murdered their parents.

The discovery of three Robins' nests in one year containing over four eggs and young is a record, I think, that will not soon be equaled or surpassed.

IV. Five young about a day or two old (no Cowbirds) found on May 30, 1904, at Parry, Burlington County, New Jersey; nest placed about five

feet up in a white cedar sprout in a cedar swamp along a creek.

V. Seven eggs, fresh and (3) commenced; collected on May 11, 1904 at Holmesburg, Philadelphia County, Pa., from a nest placed on a girder of a large wooden road bridge spanning a creek, over forty feet above the ground and less than ten inches underneath the floor, beneath the foot walk; a double nest, one built inside the other making it two inches higher than in average-sized nest, otherwise typical. Eggs ovate and greenish-blue, size 1.19 x .83; 1.19 x .81; 1.18 x .79; 1.15 x .81; 1.12 x .79; 1.11 x .80; 1.10 x .80 inches.

VI. Five fresh eggs, collected for me by my young brother William from a nest on a steel railroad bridge spanning an unopen street, on May 22, 1911, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Pa.; nest about 24 feet above the ground and 20 feet down from the tracks, placed on a big bolt among many united straining girder rods and almost concealed. Many heavy trains pass daily over the bridge. Eggs ovate and greenish-blue, two abnormally colored; one being faintly sprinkled with bright yellowish-brown and the other lightly speckled with the same color over the entire surface; size 1.12 x .85; 1.15 x .81; 1.18 x .80 (faintly sprinkled), 1.16 x .81 (lightly speckled); 1.13 x .80 inches. The markings are pigment and not dirt marks.

This is the first spotted set of Robins' eggs I have ever examined, although I have seen a similarly marked set of three in the collection of Dr. J. P. Ball of this city, who collected it in this vicinity.

All of these sets are in my collection and I prize them highly, although they are only "Common Robins' eggs."

Let us hear from others who have

found more than four eggs in a Robin's nest.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

P. S. Since the above was written the writer has examined a set of six Robin's eggs, as well as one of five, in the extensive collection of Thomas S. Gillen of Ambler, Pa. They were collected in Montgomery County, Pa.

R. F. M.

Nigger Sloughs, 1912.

In my ornithological research this year, I have paid particular attention to the birds that haunt the regions of Nigger Slough. This wonderful "Birds' Retreat" lies just seven miles south of Los Angeles and three miles from San Pedro Harbor, Southern California.

No doubt many of the readers of *The Oologist* at once recognize this typical bird land, where for two miles the country around is covered with water, surrounded by a dense growth of water plants and tales.

Here too, occur large colonies of tulle Wrens, various species of ducks, coots, and red wings chasing each other round and round as if at play. In the lake, water striders glide on stilt-like legs among the rushes and floating leaves, while dragon flies hawk at midges; and on a dead tree near the water's edge, a Kingfisher has his perch, from which on my approach he swoops down twirling his watchman's rattle and disappearing from sight. Sometimes in the tules nearby I frighten up a bittern, and in the shallows near the shore the great blue heron is fishing, standing knee-deep in the water watching patiently for his victims. As Wordsworth says:

"The birds around me hopped and played;
Their thoughts I cannot measure;
But the least motions which they made
It seems a thrill of pleasure."

I am very glad to say that the little

Tule Wrens (*Telmatodytes palustris paludicota*) are arriving at Nigger Sloughs in great numbers every year.

During the month of May, 1912, I counted fifty-three nests and I am certain they are this year's nests, for I have been keeping a close watch on the Tule Wren migration in this locality for some time previous. Twenty-four nests contained full sets, three had young, and the remaining number were either empty or contained but one or two eggs.

I have secured some very interesting notes during my research this year at Nigger Sloughs on several species of Southern California birds, especially that of the little Tule Wren, and have made some investigations concerning its maturation period and manner of general housekeeping. I expect to have my data completed before the fall opens and next year I expect to spend much of my time looking into the American Coot migration throughout Southern California.

Alfred Cookman,
Univ. of Southern California,
Biological Station, Venice, Cal.

The Purple Martin (*Progne subis subis*) Nesting in Eaves of a Building.

Late in June, this summer, I noticed Purple Martins entering holes in the large eaves of three story buildings which stood facing the main streets of Madison, Wisconsin.

At first I did not suppose they were nesting, but as they were seen to enter the holes so often, (holes formed by pieces of plowed and grooved boards breaking through) I became interested, and after careful watching I could see the parent birds feeding their young, which came to the entrance to receive the food. Later I could see the young birds sitting in the entrance. Several other places were seen where

the Martins carried food material to the young.

This is a new occurrence as far as my observations are concerned. I never heard of Martins nesting in such situations.

S. Dickey.

Madison, Wis.

This is the usual and ordinary nesting place for this species, in the towns and cities of the central west.—Ed.

Books Received.

Personal Observations and Notes on Breeding Migrant or Visiting Birds on the Niagara Frontier, made by Ottoner Reinecke.

This is a list published in the proceedings of the Buffalo Society of Natural History and covers the observations of the writer during the years of his residence in that vicinity. It is prepared with the well known and often demonstrated scientific accuracy of the writer and illustrated by numerous half tones, and is a contribution deserving of a place in the library of all scientific ornithologists.

Annotated List of the Birds of Oneida County, New York and of the West Canada Creek Valley, by Egbert Bagg, March, 1911.

This is an excerpt of the transactions of the O. H. S. Volume 12, pg. 16-85. This is a very comprehensive treatment of the birds of the territory covered by the list, and is particularly interesting to the editor, because, not only of the thoroughness of the paper itself, but also on account of the introduction as follows:

"Twenty-five years ago this winter, I appeared before you in the rooms connected with those of the City Library and read 'An annotated List of Oneida County, N. Y.' which I had prepared from the observations of the late Dr. William L. Ralph and myself. Tonight

I appeared again to bring that list up to date."

Like the list of the Breeding Birds of Marshall County, Illinois, brought down to date in this issue of *The Oologist*, Mr. Bagg's list shows the changes wrought by this long number of years, and it is a production of which Mr. Bagg may feel proud. It shows a thorough knowledge and extensive study on the subject treated.

Lost Birds.

There seems to be good reason to believe that birds may become bewildered by bright lights, storms or fogs, and to completely lose their sense of direction. Last February I was crossing the Mediterranean from Algiers, in Africa, to the coast of Southern France. This route goes over the broadest part of the Great Sea. When we were at least 200 miles from land, I found a common bird of Europe and Africa, the White Wagtail (*Montacilla alba*) on the boat. How long it had been with us I do not know. It seemed tired, but would fly to another part of the steamer when disturbed. It was with us all day and doubtless spent the night with us, and going ashore at Monte Carlo in the morning.

On our homeward journey we left Gibraltar in the early evening of May 6th, on the Berlin for New York. The next forenoon, and when 250 miles from the nearest land, I saw on the boat a Yellow Wagtail (*Montacilla flava*) and a Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) while four Turtle Doves (*Turtur senegalensis*) were circling about the steamer, keeping it company but afraid to alight on it. By evening we were 400 miles from land and the birds were all with us. The captain told me that such things were not uncommon, but that they would beat themselves against the lights at night and fall into the ocean. Next

morning I found that two of the doves had been picked up on the vessel, in an exhausted condition, and that the captain had them in an extemporized cage, and he had them when I left the ship at New York, eight days later. I found that the Yellow Wagtail had left us, but that the Lark was still with us, and it stayed all day until we were 800 miles from land, but I could not find it the following morning.

On our second day out from Gibraltar and when 500 miles from land a large wader which I felt sure was a Greenhawk (*Totanus canescens*) was flying about the ship, coming at times very near it, but afraid to alight anywhere on it. I last saw it at sunset 800 miles from land.

In every case except the last, the supposition would be that the birds were attracted by the steamer's lights, when near shore, and flew about them till out of sight of land, by which time they were completely bewildered and lost, with no sense of direction left. Some birds, of course, go at times, far beyond their usual range without being lost, and a Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*) was shot on the 7th of this month, in a town adjoining this on the Vermont side of the line, and was brought to me for identification. I also have a Leech's Petrel (*Cymochorea leucorrhoea*) shot on a small lake near here, and fully 200 miles from the ocean.

During the past five years some 20 to 25 Common Guillemots (*Lourvia troile*) have been picked up on the snows of December and January in this town, half of them in one winter. Some were dead but there were more live ones, though they seemed unable to take wing.

These instances might be continued, but my article is already long enough.

F. T. Pember.

Granville, N. Y.

Instead of this article being long enough, it is too short, and we hope friend Pember will continue his contributions to *The Oologist*. It is a long time since we have seen anything on the subject of birds from his pen, and are very sure the "old timers" will join us in soliciting him to continue the good work.—Ed.

The Black and Turkey Vulture.

I will try to give a few points on the vulture for the best bird magazine in the world. First of all I will say that the Vultures are a very interesting study of birds, laying from one to three eggs before setting, but usually they lay two eggs. I have found a set of one Black Vulture, two different times, and they were well incubated. This Spring about June first, Woodruff Yeates, a Fort Worth bird collector, and I went to a Vulture grounds about twenty miles from here. We had the good luck to find one set of three Turkey Vulture, six sets of two Turkey Vulture, and two sets of one. All these were found in about four hours' hunt.

I find that the Black Vultures prefer the rock ledges and thick under brush, while the Turkey Vulture will lay in Boisdarc Hedges, underbrush and rock caves. I had the experience one time last spring to pull a Vulture off the nest and examine her thoroughly, but that was the only time out of about thirty sets collected. Usually they will fly away before you get two or three hundred feet from them.

The eggs are oblong with a white background, having brown blotches mostly on the large end. One egg being more brightly colored than the other. I have one set collected last Spring that are nearly white, while others are thickly blotched.

R. Graham.

Ft. Worth, Texas.

Notes.

Charles R. Keyes, the widely known Iowa ornithologist, has just left for an extended trip in Europe.

On July 18th, 1912, while walking through a field near my home I found a nest of Song Sparrows placed on the ground in a tussock of grass which contained four eggs of Song Sparrow and two eggs of Cowbird. Is this not late for the Cowbird to be depositing eggs, as all eggs were fresh?—G. R. Earlow, S. Killingly, Ct.

The "Outer's Book" is now running a serial article by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt entitled "American Ducks and How to Distinguish Them." This is one of the best papers on this subject that we have seen. The fact that Dr. Shufeldt's name stands sponsor for it, places it in the rank of authority.

A few days ago a friend told me of having heard a Quail near his farm. This reminds me that last summer on June 28th while fishing up the Cone-wango, about six miles north of here, I came upon a flock of young Quail. I was walking along a fence and came to a corner where grew considerable brush, when the birds began getting up all around me. They were hardly half grown and could fly but a few feet. This is the only positive record of Quail breeding here that I know of. We are a little too far north, and our winters are too severe. The birds at intervals stray here in the summer, but this covey is the first I have seen of this bird here for several years.—R. B. Simpson, Warren, Pa.

A recent business trip took us over a good part of the states of Kansas and Nebraska. While at Wichita, July 23d (thermometer only 106 in the shade) we met Dr. W. I. Mitchell, one of the very best known of the Kansas bird men. He is as enthusiastic an ornithologist as we have seen for lo, these many days.—Editor.

Bluebirds Scarce in the Delaware Valley.

What has become of our little har-binger of Spring, the Bluebird? Since late last February have not observed one of these rovers, and reports from points all along the Delaware indicate that there has been a great Bluebird blight this year. Even the farmers are complaining loudly of the inroads of cutworms, of which the Bluebirds eat great quantities.

The only reason that can be assigned to the small numbers of these birds having been observed this season is, that while enroute north during the early Spring migration, they doubtless encountered the tail end of our past severe winter and vast numbers of them perished.

Let us hope that Dame Nature will in her good time restore these little denizens of our fields and gardens and that next year its ever welcome song of Spring will be heard in greater numbers.

William M. Palmer.

Trenton, N. J.

 Verification Wanted.

In the July issue of *The Oologist* I find an article entitled "The Herons of South Central Wisconsin," in which the author, speaking of the Little Blue Heron, says: "Occasionally came as far north as this locality, where I have seen a few of them in the latter part of the season." While the address of the author, as appended to the article mentioned, is Zion City, Ill., I presume he has reference to Columbus, Wis., his former home.

So far as I am aware we have but two actual records of this bird for Wisconsin, one of these being August 28, 1848, and the other was made in the early fifties. And while I do not know the exact age of the author, I very much question whether he saw any of these birds anywhere in Wis-

consin before 1860. It is evidently an error in identification and should be so considered until the writer can give actual proof to the contrary.

While the author does not claim his list to be a complete list of Herons of South Central Wisconsin, I might mention that other species, records all verified, have been taken in the territory under consideration. Among them Cory's Least Bittern, Snowy Heron, Glossy Ibis, Wood Ibis, and even the Roseate Spoonbill.

W. E. Snyder.

Beaver Dam, Wis.

Two California Birds.

Two of the most interesting birds, with which I became acquainted during my sojourn in California, were the California Blue Jay, a jolly, noisy fellow and the western Meadow lark, an exceedingly interesting bird of the Alpine meadows, whither I often retired to search for specimens of wild flowers of the great and glorious old state California, a veritable Empire by herself. Of the former bird I often caught glimpses in the live oaks along the trails and mountain sides and often did I head his loud scream, some time before I got to know him at close quarter; when the birds began nesting I looked for nests and one day in the foot hills on a steep incline, covered with an almost impenetrable growth of small trees and bushes, I spied Mrs. Jay on her nest, I had a good look at her and a hard job to scare her off her set of four eggs, for she was setting hard. Of course I ought not to have disturbed them but as I was expecting to leave soon and had none of these eggs, which I very much wished to possess, I decided to take them and make every effort to save them, although all the blow pipe I had at the time was the neck of an oil can. I got them partly blowed and had to

pack up and come to Wisconsin. After I arrived I tried every way to save them but could save only one, which I have with the nest.

I first became acquainted with the Western Meadowlark in Minnesota; a bright whole souled bird of the Alpine meadows of the coast Range, in California where we became better acquainted and where I used to hear his clear singing notes on all sides. I succeeded in finding two nests, but one was destroyed. I still have the other, with four eggs, in my collection. This bird can be heard a long distance and I usually could hear him, away up near the top of the mountain before I had gotten very far up. He is a livelier bird than the eastern bird and carries himself more erect. Both birds won my admiration and I secretly determined to portray them on paper some time in the future as souvenirs of my visit to California.

George W. H. Vos Burgh.

Zion City, Illinois.

Notice.

We are again out of bird notes—get busy—this is meant for you Mr. Reader.—Ed.



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" 8, " 4, 5, 8.	" 16, " 4, 9.
" 10, " 2, 3, 4	" 26, " 9.

I will buy a large number of each of the above back numbers for cash at the rate they are listed at, as being for sale in this number of THE OOLOGIST. Address,

R. M. BARNES.

Lacon, Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y. SEP. 15, 1912.

WHOLE No. 302

Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Illinois.



Nest and Eggs of Western Redtailed Hawk

—Photo by J. B. Dixon.

THE HUMMING BIRD

A morsel of rainbow forgot by a shower
Is dashing the dew from the cardinal-flower.
Two delicate pinions delightedly drumming
Are witching the dawn with Aeolian humming.
A dainty black needle is probing the roses
And proving that nectar the lily encloses.
But under the honey-vine's odorous cover
A true little bride waits her recreant lover.
Then, fie! feathered truant, 'tis time you were
 winging;
Enough of your feasting and music and singing,
And arrow your flight to that bower of rest—
Your spider-web, thistle-down, maidenhair nest!

Arthur Guiturman in Youth's Companion

BOB WHITE

BY LEROY TITUS WEEKS

Oh, sweet to the ear in the early morn
 Is the whistle clear, over rustling corn,
 Of the brown little bird whose rich content
 Is a breath of life by summer sent !
 His gladness thrills the heart, and spills
 The laughter of nature over the hills.

“Bob White !” “All right !”

“O Bob White !”

He pipes of dells with rippling rain,
 Of tinkling bells in shady lane,
 Of sunburned cheek and sun-filled heart,
 Of joyous life in the fields apart.
 A true chevalier, he spreads good cheer
 And the haunting dream of the golden year.

“Bob White !” “True knight !”

“O Bob White !”

Where leaves are aflame in the autumn air,
 His shy little dame with wifely care,
 Will gather her brood about her breast
 As the sun dips low in the purple west,
 And lilt love's glee across the lea—
 The deep undying mystery:

“Loyalty !” “Loyalty !” “Loyalty !”



Young American Bitterns

—Photo by F. B. McKechnie

A Preliminary List of the Water Birds Of the Middle Delaware Valley.

The Middle Delaware Valley is that part of the Delaware River below tide-water at Trenton and above Salem, N. Y. The description of the region is deferred until the completion of the list when all remarks about how the cities of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Camden, New Jersey influence the occurrence of the birds, etc., will be commented on in the fuller report.

The reason I refrain from using the scientific names, which are supposed to be of such importance in a list of this nature, is to economize the accepted English names of our birds as well as to economize space, and as all birds have common names by which they are known to ornithologists, it seemed to me superfluous to give the scientific ones also in a preliminary report.

1. Holboell Grebe; rare winter visitor; October to March.

2. Horned Grebe; common transient; spring and fall.

3. Pied-billed Grebe; common spring and fall transient. Both species occur rarely in late summer.

4. Loon. Rare transient, spring and fall; rarely seen in winter; occurs chiefly in November.

5. Red-throated Loon. An uncommon spring and fall transient; chiefly occurs late in the autumn.

6. Black Guillemot. An extremely rare straggler during severe stormy winters.

7. Puffin. An accidental winter wanderer of exceeding rarity.

8. Brunnich Murre. Rare winter straggler.

9. Razor-billed Auk. An extremely rare wanderer during stormy, severe winters.

10. Dovekie. An exceedingly rare

straggler during severe storms in winter.

11. Pomarine Jaeger. Also occurs rarely during severe winters.

12. Kittiwake. Of doubtful occurrence in severe winters.

13. Herring Gull. Abundant; September to May. Our commonest Gull. Often occurs inland.

14. Ring-billed Gull. Common, associated with the preceding. October to April.

15. Laughing Gull. Common spring and fall transient.

16. Bonaparte Gull. Not a rare transient.

17. Franklin Gull. Rare straggler.

18. Gull-billed Tern. Occurs rarely during former years.

19. Caspian Tern. An accidental wanderer.

20. Royal Tern. An accidental straggler.

21. Forster Tern. A rare visitor in former years in all probability when it was not an infrequent transient along the New Jersey coast.

22. Common Tern. Common transient; April and May and August to October.

23. Arctic Tern. Accidental straggler in former years.

24. Roseate Tern. Not a rare visitor in spring and fall in former years when it bred on the New Jersey coast.

25. Least Tern. Occurred not rarely during former years in spring and fall, when it bred commonly on the coast islands of New Jersey.

26. Sooty Tern. An extremely rare summer wanderer.

27. Black Tern. Common spring and fall transient.

28. Black Skimmer. Of rare occurrence in former years when it bred in New Jersey.

29. Greater Shearwater. Accident-

al straggler of extremely rare occurrence.

30. Stormy Petrel. Accidental straggler.

31. Leach Petrel. Accidental straggler.

32. Wilson Petrel. Accidental straggler. Any of these petrels are likely to occur during severe winter storms.

33. Gannet. An extremely rare accidental straggler.

34. Double-crested Cormorant. Rare visitant.

35. White Pelican. An accidental straggler in former years.

36. Brown Pelican. An extremely rare southern straggler or wanderer.

37. Merganser. Common; September to May.

38. Red-breasted Merganser. Common; September to May. Both species of Sheldrake winter in immense numbers.

39. Hooded Merganser. Uncommon transient and rare winter resident.

40. Mallard. Common; August to November and March and April.

41. Black Duck. Rare breeder and common transient. (The Red-legged Black Duck also occurs commonly in the fall and spring.) Rare winter resident.

42. Gadwall. Rather rare visitant.

43. Baldpate. Common, spring and fall.

44. Green-winged Teal. Rare visitant.

45. Blue-winged Teal. Common transient, especially common on the marshes in September and October.

46. Shoveller. Very rare visitant.

47. Pintail. Common transient, spring and fall.

48. Wood Duck. Rare resident; decreasing.

49. Redhead. Common transient, spring and fall.

50. Canvasback. Rather rare spring and fall visitant.

51. Greater Scaup. Abundant, spring and fall; transient.

52. Lesser Scaup. Abundant transient, spring and fall. Our commonest ducks, are these two species of Broadbills as they are called by gunners.

53. Ring-necked Duck. Very rare visitant.

54. Golden-eyed. Common spring and fall transient and rare winter resident.

55. Bufflehead. Also occurs commonly in the migrations and rarely winters.

56. Old Squaw. Occurs commonly during spring and fall.

57. King Eider. An exceedingly rare winter straggler.

58. American Scoter. Not a rare autumn visitant.

59. Surf Scoter. Probably occurs rarely in the fall.

60. White-winged Scoter. An uncommon fall transient. Scoters occur commonly in flocks, chiefly in the fall, occasionally in winter, and frequently in early spring, but the species is in doubt; probably all three occur.

61. Ruddy Duck. Common spring and fall transient.

62. Snow Goose. Snow geese are occasionally seen flying over but whether the Lesser or Greater Goose, or both species, can only be conjectured. The Lesser Snow Goose has rarely been taken, however, and no Greater Goose records are extant.

63. White-fronted Goose. An extremely rare visitant.

64. Canada Goose. Abundant transient and not a rare winter resident; September to May.

65. Brant. Not a rare transient; very rare winter resident.

66. Whistling Swan. Of extremely rare occurrence.

107. Lesser Yellow-legs. Also a common transient, spring and fall; arrives as early as August.

108. Solitary Sandpiper. Common

67. Roseate Spoonbill. An exceedingly rare accidental straggler from the South during former years.
68. White Ibis. Also occurred during former years as an exceedingly rare wanderer from the South.
69. Glossy Ibis.
70. Wood Ibis. Both of these Ibises also occurred as extremely rare stragglers from the South in former years.
71. Greater Bittern. Common transient and rare breeder.
72. Least Bittern. Common summer resident; decreasing.
73. Great Blue Heron. Common summer resident, but, like the majority of the water fowl, waders and shore birds, it is slowly decreasing.
74. Egret. Not a rare summer sojourner.
75. Snowy Egret. Extremely rare summer visitant, but occurred occasionally during former years.
76. Little Blue Heron. Not a rare summer visitant; very rarely seen in spring.
77. Green Heron. Common summer resident.
78. Black-crowned Night Heron. Common summer resident; rarely occurs during mild winters.
79. Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Rare southern visitant.
80. King Rail. Common summer resident.
81. Clapper Rail. Rare straggler from the seashore.
82. Virginia Rail. Common summer resident.
83. Sora. Very rare summer resident and common transient.
84. Yellow Rail. Very rare fall transient.
85. Black Rail. An exceedingly rare summer resident.
86. Corn Crake. An extremely rare straggler from Europe.
87. Purple Gallinule. Rare wanderer from the South.
88. Florida Gallinule. Common summer resident in restricted localities.
89. American Coot. Common transient, rare breeder and occasionally winter resident.
90. Northern Phalarope. Rare straggler.
91. Wilson Phalarope. Rare straggler.
92. European Woodcock. An accidental straggler of great rarity from Europe.
93. American Woodcock. Rare breeder and common transient.
94. Wilson Snipe. An abundant transient, spring and fall; often stays till late in December and May.
95. Dowitcher. An exceedingly rare straggler.
96. Long-billed Dowitcher. An extremely rare straggler.
97. Purple Sandpiper. Of great rarity.
98. Pectoral Sandpiper. Common transient, by far commoner in autumn than in spring.
99. Least Sandpiper. Abundant spring and fall transient; arrives as early as July.
100. Red-backed Sandpiper. Very rare transient.
101. White-rumped Sandpiper. An exceedingly rare transient.
102. Semipalmated Sandpiper. Common spring and fall transient, usually associated with the Least Sandpipers and both species occur often in immense flocks.
103. Sanderling. Rare visitant.
104. Marbled Godwit. Rare straggler.
105. Hudsonian Godwit. Also a rare straggler.
106. Greater Yellow-legs. Common spring and fall transient.

spring and fall transient; arrives as early as July.

109. Willet. Occurs rarely in former years when it bred in New Jersey.

110. Bartramian Plover. Rare summer resident.

111. Spotted Sandpiper. Common summer resident.

112. Buff-breasted Sandpiper. Of great rarity and of doubtful occurrence.

113. Long-billed Curlew. Rare visitant.

114. Hudsonian Curlew. A frequent transient, spring and fall.

115. Black-bellied Plover. Not a rare fall transient.

116. American Golden Plover. An exceedingly rare visitant.

117. Killdeer. Common summer resident.

118. Semipalmated Sandpiper. Common spring and fall transient.

119. Piping Plover. Rare visitant in former years when it bred on the New Jersey coast.

120. Wilson Plover. Also a rare visitant during former years when it bred in New Jersey.

121. American Oyster-catcher. Rare straggler during former years.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

The Downy Woodpecker.

On finding the nest of the above species this spring, 1912, I sawed the cavity open with a V-shaped opening, and exposed one fresh egg. I then closed the opening by wiring the V-shaped piece back into place. Seven days later I returned and secured a set of five fresh eggs. I then closed my improvised door again as before, and sixteen days later the nest contained three young birds. The fact that the bird had laid this number of eggs and hatched them in so short a time surprised me.

William B. Crispin.

Salem, N. J.

Visit Large Fowl Yards.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Breen and family, in company with James Kinsella, spent Sunday in Lacon, with relatives. While in Lacon we had the pleasure of being shown the large flock of wild fowl—now tamed—owned by R. Magon Barnes, the well known lawyer of that city. While Mr. Barnes has probably as large a law practice as any lawyer in Illinois, he finds time and pleasure in his hobby of raising and taming wild fowl. His residence place is one of the oldest land marks of Lacon, handed down by his father, the late George O. Barnes also one of the greatest lawyers of his time—and consists of many acres. He has the place fitted up with artificial water pools for his flock, and the birds have become so used to his call that many of them will eat from his hands.

His flock of wild geese consist of eleven different species, and are handsome specimen of water fowl. In order to get them he has spent hundreds of dollars, and in the collection are geese from all over North and South America as well as from European shores. Besides the geese he has also a number of wild ducks, wood ducks and mud hens.

Probably the most interesting specimens in his large flock are his Swans. Among these are some of the most rarest of the Swan family, and in fact one or two he has are the only known species alive. One other species he is now after, and with this view in end he has a party in Alaska on the lookout for the bird. The old legion of the swan-song has no terrors for Magon and he takes great delight in his flock, and in showing them to his visitors, of which he has many who come to see the birds.—Bradford, (Ill.) Republican, June 12th, 1912.



Woodcock on Nest

—Photo by F. B. McKechnie

A Barteminin Sandpiper's Nest.

Many were the trips afield, and many more were contemplated, in my endeavors to find the nest, and secure a set of eggs of this—South New Jersey's Will-o'-the-wisp.

On May 16th, 1912 dame fortune smiled and smiled aloud as I gazed upon something I never before even dreamed of seeing; a cupped shaped depression in the ground, containing five eggs—fresh eggs of this specie. I am unable to find any positive account recorded of their eggs being taken in this locality. But there are several notices of the eggs and young being seen. As far back as 1897 or 8 I remember a pair of old birds standing on fence posts as wagons passed along the road. These birds had young about, but nothing was done until 1910. While gunning in another locality for the same birds in August, I decided they must have bred there. The following spring in the early part of May, 1911, I observed the birds about, and near a public road within a quarter of a mile of the L. P. R. R.

On the 30th of the month two others and myself investigated with a long drag rope. We entered a scanty growth of timothy in a field. The old birds greeted us by circling around near by and whistling. The female coming within gunshot at times, but the male was not often so close. We were positive that the birds had a nest in that field but failed to find it and went off and hid. Then we would rush to the place where we thought that the nest was, but without results. As a last resort I laid down closer and rushed again with no new developments except to pick up a wee bit of a downey young that was skulking in the grass. This settled matters for 1911, and we all went home.

For the year 1912 I planned a vig-

orous campaign against these birds. Early in the spring while the grass was short I located a pair that had a range of five mowing and two pasture fields with other fields of cultivated lands in between, about a thousand acres in all, roughly speaking, constituted their range.

I was confident that I had them located for a homesite when I visited them the last of April in a clover field on the brow of a hill, but was doomed to disappointment when one week later my assistant and myself explored it with a drag rope. The following Sunday we located another home site—and another disappointment—another drag this time at night, with no result. Another evening we located them in a new field in a low pasture and another flew up from the sparse growth of clover in an adjoining field. We found nothing as it was getting too dark. The bird jumped up probably thirty yards ahead of us. The rope all this time had brought no result. Three or four mornings after this at about eight o'clock I visited this place, and had the set in hand within ten minutes after entering the field. The male bird on this occasion stayed away off, the female which flushed about five yards from the nest, circled round uttering the usual nesting note of the species, left and returned again, circled for a few moments and left for good, alighting upon a fence post so far away that we could hardly see her.

The eggs were not pointing toward the center as might be expected, but lay about without order, and there were really too many eggs for the nest depression. It was so full as to seem to be overflowing. The site was on the brow of a hill in the least fertile part of the pasture where the clover was the thinnest. The location could



Nest and Eggs of Lark Sparrow

—Photo by P. G. Howes.

be likened to that of a Spotted Sandpiper, though that species would have liked a scantier growth.

William B. Crispin.

Salem, N. J.

There are but few authentic sets of Five of this species known, and Mr. Crispin is to be congratulated upon securing such a prize. The foregoing also shows what can be done by systematic, and continued effort.—Ed.

Grasshopper And Lark Sparrows.

(*Coturniculus savannarum australis*)

And (*chondestes grammacus*.)

In years gone by, the Grasshopper Sparrow was not uncommon, in fact at one time it was abundant in the fields which surrounded my home. Suddenly they became very scarce and during the years 1906, 7, 8 and 9 not one nest was discovered although I searched continually during the nesting seasons. The only birds noted during the scarcity were on spring migrations and these apparently all passed on to the north as the fields were uninhabited and I never heard their familiar insect like call during those four long summers.

On arriving home from Switzerland about the 15th of May, 1910, I was overjoyed to find that the birds had returned in greater numbers than ever before. Where they went during those four years is a mystery to me, but wherever they may have been there was no "race suicide" for this year their long drawn out "chip-chzeeeeeep" floats to ones ears from every side.

I found my first nest of the season on June 3. It was placed on the ground in a thin hay field about twenty feet from a stone wall. The birds must have used every scrap of their energy in the construction of this nest as the bottom of the cup was fully an inch and a quarter below the surface of

the ground, the sod tough and very dry. The eggs were two-thirds advanced in incubation but a little patience saved the precious set. On June 6 I found a second set of five in the same field. These were fresh. On June 9 I ran across two more nests while hunting for Bobolinks in a heavy field of grass about eight miles from where the first two nests were found. One contained five young about seven days old, and the other four young, fully fledged, and one infertile egg.

From the above observations it is evident that the completement is usually five and that May 15th would be about the correct time to look for fresh eggs. The nests are always partly arched over and the entrance invariably faces the sun! This being the case with every nest that I have ever found

The composition of the nest is always the same, fine dead grasses; weeds or hair seldom, if ever, being used in construction.

On June 10th of this year I was searching for nests of this sparrow in Long Ridge, Conn. I was walking through a hay field and had almost reached the wall at the edge of it, when a bird flushed from the grass within a few inches of my foot. A short search revealed the nest, a plain affair of grass and rootlets, but "Gee" what have we here, four eggs unlike those of any ground-nesting bird that I ever ran across before! Retracing my footsteps, I left the field for an hour. On returning I nearly lost my senses when the bird flushed again, this time to light on a milk weed stalk about fifteen feet away. I threw my camera in a near by brook in my excitement, for it was a Lark sparrow in full breeding plumage, and there in the grass, under my very nose lay those four bluish, brown scrawled



Nest and Eggs of the Grasshopper Sparrow

—Photo by P. G. Howes.

treasures, so unlike the eggs of any other North American sparrow.

I believe this is a record for Connecticut, if not you wise ones tell us about it. It is my rarest find for the season.

P. G. Howes.

Some Erie, Pa., Notes.

While visiting at Erie this past spring (1911) I spent some time each day on May 31, June 1st and 2d on the "Peninsula."

The lower part of the "Peninsula" had been swept by fire last fall and the cover rather open for land birds but still they seemed to be plenty.

It was the water birds that interested me most and I spent most of my time looking them up. Long-billed Marsh Wrens were breeding plentifully as were also the Red-winged Blackbirds. I flushed an occasional Least Bittern but was too early for nests.

At a small pond lined with cat-tails I flushed a female Mallard several times but could find no trace of young. About the marshy head of a small pond I flushed a Wilson's Snipe that persisted in coming back but I could find neither eggs or young and next day could not again find the bird.

There was a pair of Piping Plover on the outside beach and I got busy and found the nest, mention of which has already appeared in *The Oologist*. There were several pair of Killdeer about. Spotted Sandpipers were very common and I saw several each of Turnstone and Dunlin in full dress. Also several each of Semip. Plover and Semip. Sandpiper.

There was a flock of 15 or 20 Scaup Ducks about the bay. I picked up a turtle that was strange to me and took it along. Afterwards I found it to be a Blanding's Turtle, a rather rare thing in this state in the way of

turtles. After keeping it awhile it presented me with a set of nine eggs.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

The Season's Opening.

When February comes with roar—we know that winter's almost o'er—all through the housed up days we've read—and evenings 'till we went to bed—all Bird books on our shelves and then—we read them everyone again—

And oh, the pleasure we derived—in old experiences revived—We read of how in Rawson's days—he found and wrote about Hawk's ways—read C. F. Posson's squibs and notes—laughed at his funny anecdotes—saw pictures of the younger set—enrolled now in Fame's alphabet—saw our *Oologist* hang on—while rivals died soon after born—learned Lattin's Short's and Barnes' moods—their trials and vicissitudes—read every magazine and book—about eggs found and pictures "took"—We sharpened hatchet, irons and drill—and tried to wait with patience 'till—the birds came back and made their nests—and lulled the longing in our breasts.

Then when March winds begin to howl—we hie us forth to find an Owl—the Great Horned Owl we hunt with zest—we're tickled when we find his nest—and when we shin up and the cold—air whistles through our breeches old—we feel that we are sure repaid—to find two big round eggs she's layed—we hustle home like all egg fools—and dig around for blowing tools—but we don't feel quite safe as yet—until we see in cabinet—the label with 375—and then we settle down and strive—to act as we think smart men should—and stay at home 'till weather's good.—

But oh, those long cold lonesome

days—of later March when every phase—of springtime promise disappears—and snow and sleet confirms our fears—But March goes past like other years—and finally we hear Kill-deers—'Tis then we buckle armor on—and whistle tunes from Mendellsohn—we hie us forth on lengthy walks—in search of nests of Red-tailed Hawks—no trees too high, we boast and scoff—we walk our blamed legs nearly off—we sneak and creep down forest aisles—(we happy carefree imbeciles)—and crane our necks with eyes aloft—and strain our muscles winter soft—we list with ear drums taut it seems—for “*Buteo borealis*” screams—at last we see A NEST, A NEST—we scramble at our very best—we see the great height, grind our teeth—and but for fresh sticks underneath—we'd turn away with “sour grapes” sneer—and say “an old nest, built last year”—but zounds, we'd never be content—we'd feel small as a copper cent—to turn away with just a glance—from such propitious looking chance—we long to scale the Hawk environs—and grasp at last our climbing irons—we buckle all the straps up tight—and pause to scan the nest's great height—our eyes run up the trunk toward sky—Gee Willikens but it is high—how minutes now will seem like hours—until that set of eggs is ours—we sink the spurs into the bark—the first ten feet, oh just a lark—fifteen feet more and oh that tired—exhausted feel, but now inspired—with visions of a set of four—we buckle to our task once more—we settle in a crotch to rest—and gaze again up at the nest—

What hidden secret it beguiles—us to climb up these miles and miles?—what magnet is it draws and becks—and causes us to risk our necks—on rough and scraggly shell bark roads?—Pride of possession 'tis that goads—

and we are proud of every set—for Red-tail's eggs are hard to get—so dog-goned hard that I won't trade—my Red-tail's eggs to man or maid—'twas forty, fifty, sixty feet—at eighty odd, the nest I greet—I lift my hand and oh the thrill—Great Ceasar, I can feel it still—Yes, eggs, but sad heart, only one—now I must climb this son of a gun—of a tree again to get those eggs—oh my poor weary skinned up legs—

March 29th found us again—beneath the *Buteo*'s lofty den—337 our data reads—nest composed of sticks and weeds—a lining of corn husks and leaves—with binder twine from old oats sheaves—nest was a good six feet around—placed eighty-seven feet from the ground—Set mark, one three, a beauty set—I 'aint done lookin' at 'em yet—

Next month if Editor Barnes is kind—I'll tell you of my Buzzard find.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Illinois.

Personal Notes.

We recently made a 300 mile automobile trip in the counties lying south and southwest of Lacon in the course of which we met, among others, Dr. W. S. Strode of Lewistown, Ill., who in years past was one of the most active of Illinois' Ornithological students. We spent a pleasant half hour with the doctor and looked over some of his specimens.

Of late years he tells us that he has not paid much attention to Oology, but has done considerable collecting and making of bird skins, of which he has a large local representation, as well as one of the most complete collections of fresh water mussel shells that we have ever seen.

The Doctor promised us some copy for *The Oologist* in the near future.

and we shall look forward to it with interest.

At Jacksonville, we were permitted to examine the collection of the late Dr. King, an old resident of that city who died some years ago. This is one of the most remarkable assemblages of natural history objects gathered together by a private collector that we have ever seen. It includes substantially everything under the sun of a natural history character, including mounted specimens of birds and mammals from all parts of the world, a beautiful collection of heads and antlers, and an extremely large collection of ethnological specimens. It is housed in a substantially built room, beautifully cased and certainly is a credit to the industry and perseverance of the one who gathered it.—Editor.

Oscar E. Baynard,—everybody that knows Baynard loves him—was struck by one of Florida's famous Diamond Rattlers last season, and is not yet fully recovered. He has recently been appointed Curator of the Museum of the Florida State University, and a better selection could not be made. He has already secured the widely known R. D. Hoyt collection of eggs, skins and mounted birds for the museum. We predict that it will eventually become, under his administration, one of the best known accumulations of Florida natural history specimens in existence. We are glad to note that he reports some Thirteen Thousand nests of birds on the Orange Lake reserve controlled by the Audubon Society, including 405 pairs of Egrets, where there were only Four Pairs, two years ago. This shows what protection that really protects will do.

E. A. McIlhenny, who for many years was one of the most active of American Oologists and who has grad-

uated into the millionaire class of property holders, has recently purchased 74,000 acres of swamp land on the Louisiana gulf coast and donated the same to the state of Louisiana as a bird reserve, upon which all shooting of every kind will be prohibited. This tract adjoins another very large tract containing 13,000 acres, already the property of the State, and used for the same purpose.

This is a practical, sensible bird protection. All that will be needed now is to see to it that the laws prohibiting shooting on these grounds are strictly and impartially enforced. Would that there were more of his kind.

Mr. Stanley G. Jewett, one of Oregon's leading ornithologists writes, "I am home again after a glorious four months' afeld, mostly a desert I should say, as Wyoming is pretty dry in spots. Then I had a nice trip into the lake region of eastern Oregon where I visited the Egret colony and saw ducks, grebes and pelicans, not by the thousands, but by the acre."

We should be glad if he would furnish The Oologist readers with some notes on his trip.

L. Brooks, one of the older Oologists of the old Bay States, writes, "After having recovered a long broken health I should like again to become a subscriber of The Oologist. We are pleased to have him with us again, and congratulate him on his recovery. No one who has good health realizes what a fearful calamity its loss is. An unusual set of Nine eggs of the Great Crested Flycatcher," taken twenty-five years ago" is reported by W. H. Lebelserger of Fleetwood, Pa. Also a set of Three of the Mourning Dove, taken in 1888.

Collectors, Naturalists Birds, Labels, Mammals

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TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXIX. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 308

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

BIRDS

WANTED—Live American Wild Trumpet-Swan. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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I will buy a large number of each of the above back numbers for cash at the rate they are listed at, as being for sale in this number of THE OOLOGIST. Address,

R. M. BARNES

Lacon, Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXIX. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y. OCT. 15, 1912. WHOLE No. 303

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



J. F. Stierle (on right), and Charles Pelton (on left), of Marshfield, Wis.

**Pennsylvania and New Jersey Nesting
Dates for 1912.**

- 190 American Bittern, June 29, 4 eggs.
 212 Virginia Rail, May 28, 10 eggs.
 214 Sora Rail, May 28, 12 eggs.
 216 Black Rail, June 29, 7 eggs.
 316 Mourning Dove, July 3, 2 eggs.
 331 Marsh Hawk, June 29, 5 young.
 333 Cooper's Hawk, May 3, 3 eggs.
 339 Red-shouldered Hawk, April 23, 3 eggs.
 356 Duck Hawk, April 9, 3 eggs.
 360 Sparrow Hawk, April 25, 5 eggs.
 368 Barred Owl, June 1, 3 eggs.
 388 Black-billed Cuckoo, June 3, 4 eggs.
 390 Belted Kingfisher, May 19, 7 eggs.
 394c Northern Downy Woodpecker, May 24, 5 eggs.
 405a Northern Pileated Woodpecker, May 2, 2 eggs.
 406 Red-headed Woodpecker, June 5, 4 eggs.
 412a N. Flicker, May 12, 6 eggs.
 423 Chimney Swift, June 28, 2 eggs. 2 young.
 444 Kingbird, June 3, 3 eggs.
 452 Crested Flycatcher, June 5, 4 eggs.
 456 Phoebe, June 5, 5 eggs.
 486a Northern Raven, April 1, completed nest.
 499 American Crow, April 9, 5 eggs.
 494 Bobolink, June 1, 6 eggs.
 498 Redwinged Blackbird, May 28, 4 eggs.
 507 Baltimore Oriole, June 5, 6 eggs.
 511b Bronzed Grackle, May 19, 3 eggs.
 529 American Goldfinch, July 31, 5 eggs.
 560 Chipping Sparrow, June 3, 3 eggs.
 563 Field Sparrow, June 5, 4 eggs.
 567 Junco, May 31, 4 eggs.
 581 Song Sparrow, May 19, 5 eggs.
 587 Towhee, July 31, 3 eggs.
 611 Purple Martin, June 29, 3 young.
 613 Barn Swallow, June 5, 5 eggs.
 617 Rough Winged Swallow, May 19, 5 eggs.
 619 Cedar Waxwing, June 24, completed nest.
 624 Red-eyed Vireo, June 3, 3 eggs.
 629 Solitary Vireo, June 22, completed nest.
 652 Yellow Warbler, June 1, 4 hatching eggs.
 654 Black-throated Blue Warbler, May 31, 4 eggs.
 657 Magnolia Warbler, June 2, 4 eggs.
 662 Blackburnian Warbler, June 1, 3 eggs.
 667 Black-throated Green Warbler, June 3, 3 eggs.
 674 Ovenbird, June 1, 5 eggs.
 684 Hooded Warbler, May 31, 4 eggs.
 686 Canadian Warbler, June 1, 5 eggs.
 687 Redstart, June 2, 4 eggs.
 704 Catbird, July 17, 4 young.
 705 Brown Thrasher, July 17, 1 egg.
 721 House Wren, June 5, 5 young.
 722 Winter Wren, June 4, 4 eggs.
 725 Long-billed Marsh Wren, June 29, 5 young.
 727 White-breasted Nuthatch, May 14, 7 eggs.
 755 Wood Thrush, May 31, 4 eggs.
 759b Hermit Thrush, June 22, 3 eggs.
 761 Robin, May 20, 4 eggs.
 766 Bluebird, May 2, 5 eggs.

Richard C. Harlow.

Edge Hill, Pa.

August Bird Notes.

On August 12, 1905, a companion and I secured a batteau at our boathouse at Richmond, Philadelphia, and rowed down the river to South Camden, N. J., a distance of about ten miles, to witness the launching of the battleship Kansas at the New York shipyard. We left at 10 o'clock in the morning and just reached the "yard" in time to see the huge ship glide majestically from the ways into the Delaware. It was launched on high water at 12:48 o'clock and was christened by the daughter of the Governor of Kansas with a bottle of water, as all ships should be christened.

We rowed down to view the launching against the tide and had to "buck" it in rowing back, and had barely reached the boathouse when a fierce thunder storm swept over. It was a hard twenty miles row, but we never complained as we were used to it, and had an enjoyable trip.

As we rowed out on and down the river, off Richmond, we encountered a small flock of Common Tern (*Sterna hirundo*) flying about, in pairs and by threes and fours; not over sixteen were seen and they were all adults. They probably came here after the heavy storm that occurred on the 6th inst., and they tarried the rest of the month in this and other parts of the river.

They were the first Wilson Tern we ever observed on the river, but since then I have found them to be a common bird here in late summer and late spring.

While rowing past Cooper's Point, Camden, N. J., a small flock of nine Least Sandpipers flew by close to the boat, followed by a lone squalling Lesser Yellowlegs flying about a road being the Peeps; both species flew swiftly and less than a meter above the smooth surface of the water.

Near here we saw two Song Sparrows fly across the river into New Jersey. They came from Philadelphia and must have flown across the river as it is built up for miles from where the birds came. Quite an unusual "migration" for August.

Everywhere along the river we saw Swallows flying about and skimming over the surface; Barn and Bank Swallows were abundant and we identified at least six Rough-winged Swallows amongst them.

On our way and in returning we rowed close to Petty's Island, which is about a mile long and on the Jersey shore, and on it observed the fol-

lowing birds; Mourning Dove, a pair; Ruby-throated Hummingbird, 3; Spotted Sandpiper, 1; Red-winged Blackbird, 1; Song Sparrow, heard two singing; Catbird, 2; Maryland Yellowthroat, heard; Barn Swallow, few; Bank Swallow, few; House Sparrow, many. The Swallows were seen flying about on or rather above the island.

One of the Rubythroats savagely attacked a Catbird which escaped its fierce and diminutive antagonist by promptly flying into a dense clump of elders. The attack was entirely unprovoked.

Just before the storm broke, a large flock of Barn and Bank Swallows flew over high up, ahead of it, and as we ran from the ship to the shelter of the boathouse, as the rain swept downward, we descried a pair of Blue-winged Teal dropping into the river, not three hundred yards away, which were also probably seeking shelter from the storm. An hour later, after it had cleared, the Teals were nowhere to be seen. They probably drifted down with the tide, but the Swallows (Barn and Bank) put in their appearance and flew about until dusk.

These remarks go to show that even on a pleasure trip, birds can be seen by the observant and records of some importance obtained.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Bartramia Longicauda.

Upland or Field Plover is one of the most difficult birds to approach. I had occasion to watch during the mating season, the peculiarities of the Woodcock and the Wilson or so-called English Snipe, but I prefer the girations of the male Upland Plover.

In alighting they stretch their wings to the utmost, high over their backs, as if to get the wrinkles out before gently folding them. When flushed



Male, Female and Young of Upland Plover

they utter a soft bubbling whistle. During migration, one may clearly hear those sweet notes from birds traveling beyond the limits of human vision.

They migrate from here to South America, but have not been seen by any reliable ornithologist down there on account of hardly ever being in the open, which makes observation also exceedingly difficult up here. For years we have tried our best to locate their nest, and this spring we were rewarded with success. In a dry pasture we found about six Upland Plover, and by walking up and down, flushed a female from the nest containing four finely marked eggs, size, 1.80 x 1.50. Their color being creamy buff or white, spotted with reddish brown or chocolate, chiefly at larger end.

In order to complete this description as far as possible we tried our best to obtain a pair of birds and several young, and finally found a dry meadow close to two tracks of a much frequented freight line of the New York Central railroad. The coal soot of the constantly passing day and night trains imparted itself to the surrounding vegetation and the constant moving of the Plover through the weeds gave the plumage a dirty greyish appearance, but the Taxidermist succeeded in cleaning them as shown in the group.

We almost stepped on one of the young ones; they squatted before us without moving and looked like toads.

The Upland Plover is increasing in this locality, on account of the difficulty to find them.

I have seen a great many adult and young Solitary Sandpipers within the last few days, and hope to succeed to find their nest.

Ottomar Reinecke.

Buffalo, N. Y.

Failure to Find Nests of Passenger Pigeon.

Twenty to thirty years ago the Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes Migratorius*) nested in this region by the millions, according to the information which I have obtained from the oldest inhabitants. These same inhabitants say they used to go into the Blue Ridge mountains, which are only a very short distance from here, and kill large bags full of birds in a very few hours. Today not one of these pigeons can be found; they have disappeared, not being able to withstand the great slaughter to which they were subjected.

My brother and I have conducted a careful search this season for nests of pigeons, in which we have covered several hundred acres of the wooded land of this section of North Carolina, but have not found any nests, nor have we seen a single Passenger Pigeon. This convinces us that nests of the pigeon are not to be found in this section, while back farther in the mountains a nest might be found if searched for in the proper season.

Next season we expect to make a search into the Blue Ridge, but it is doubtful whether we will find any nests.

I am going to spend part of the winter in Florida, and hope to have something interesting to write about the birds of that state.

Charles F. Moore.

Cliffside, N. C.

About Nuthatches.

'Twas early in May in my favorite grove; with all the acumen I had I strove to find a set of the elusive bird, whose soft nasal quanks you often have heard; the White-bellied Nuthatch—upside down; half of the time a regular clown; He's an adept at fooling, a deceiver base, for he



Nest of Upland Plover

leads us so oft on a wild goose chase.

Well, I spotted for future a wild old patch, where I vowed I would find and rob Mr. Nuthatch; So during the following fortnight I read, all the dope about Nuthatches any one said; And when I was posted, it seemed that they beckoned; So I hiked for Lynn Grove on May twenty-second;

I left pretty early for I wanted to hear, the very first "quanks" so I could get near, when they started out on the morning's trip, and by following up I could get a straight tip;

I soon got my bearings and found a fine pair, but to watch two at once proved a crazy nightmare; I named one the female and followed her tracks but if she had method, it surely was lax; She slid down the tree with a skip and a hop and the next tree ascended from bottom to top; She hunted and stuffed and ate 'till I'm blessed, I made up my mind she'd forgotten her nest; But at last the reward for patience was mine—she struck out for tall timber in a bee line; She swung round an open place—lit on a tree, and there she revealed her real home to me; Of course 'twas the biggest old tree in the wood; She'd have chosen a larger tree yet if she could; And as if to remind of the tree's mammoth size, She'd pop in and pop out and thus tantalize; Now that tree was at base a full seven feet through, which made the full distance around, twenty-two. With the Nuthatch's nest about fifty feet up, a draught of real bitterness filled full my cup; With nothing but wings could your servant e'er hope, to reach that fine set or perhaps with a rope, let down from an airship might one succeed, in performing the miraculous nerve-thrilling deed;

I confess that my very first words were "the devil," but my zero-like spirits 'rose when I saw level, with a

forty foot crotch of the great tree, another prong in a nearby tree just like the 'tother; Now the tree that was nearby wasn't so big, and to climb it was easy as dancing a jig; A sixteen foot sapling was cut down and lifted, forty feet up in the crotches and shifted; It dropped into place and thus spanning the bayou, was good as an iron bridge o'er the Ohio; I put my hand into the fur nest and "Stung"—For I counted two, four, six, eight featherless young; Take a lesson, dear reader, from this my sad fate—Go for Nuthatch's eggs at an earlier date.

Isaac E. Hess.

Philo, Illinois.

1912 Field Notes.

April 24th. Found a nest of the Starling in a large cavity in an old apple tree. This nest was remarkable from the fact that the eggs were nearly five feet from the entrance of the cavity, the whole interior of the trunk being hollow to within a foot of the ground.

On April 26th I visited my Purple grackle colony, before reported in the Oologist, and found it to contain the nests of about twenty pairs. These nests were huge bulky affairs of mud and coarse grasses shaped into deep and substantial cups. A curious fact is that the older nests in my collection, taken in 1898, are very frail and loosely built of twigs, leaves and a very small quantity of mud. What has caused this change? I have often wondered, for the nests are so entirely different that one would never imagine that they were constructed by the same species.

May 27th, and again on May 31st I was walking through the same field of hay at about 6 A. M. and on each occasion I flushed a Bobolink from a full set of five well marked eggs. These are the First nests from which I have flushed the bird directly from her

eggs during my many years experience in the field.

June 4th. Found nest containing three eggs of the Kingbird. It was placed upon a small limb of a Sycamore tree 35 feet from the ground and six feet from the main trunk. The birds used a large amount of greasy cotton-waste in the nest which had been thrown from locomotives on the the railroad, close by. One of these eggs was fresh and the other two had been incubated about 24 and 48 hours, showing that this species commences to incubate as soon as the first egg is laid.

Paul G. Howes.

My husband found what we believe to be a curious set of four eggs of the Red-winged Blackbird. One egg was marked with a very plain figure 5, another with a 4, another with a 3 and the other with several 2's.

Mrs. F. R. Fowler.

Rails.

Probably most of our readers are familiar with the well known laughing call of the common rails and probably some of the them may be able to throw some light on other rail calls, which to me have always been rather a puzzle. The King rail and the Yellow rail are easily identified by call notes, and so far as I know do not use any that are liable to mislead the observer into thinking that the notes were made by either the Virginia or the Sora, but the two latter are puzzles to me.

I once heard the laughing call made by a rail and immediately a sora ran in sight and I thought I was justified in concluding that it was the author of the note. This note is heard also from a little marsh near here where nothing but soras are usually seen, none are any others supposed to be there. On another occasion on the

edge of a large marsh on Lake St. Clair two of us heard the laughing call and, on going over, flushed a Virginia Rail, and since then have heard this call from a little marsh where nothing but Virginias lived so far as known.

This question therefore arises:— If we admit that both rails have many similar calls, can we say that either species has a call belonging to itself alone, and if not, are there definite variations by which one species can be told from the other by a comparison of these common call notes?

The single musical whistling tone is another common note I have also felt justified in ascribing to both species. The same remark applies to their ascending musical note resembling that of the gold finch.

The great difficulty with these birds arises from the fact that they are nearly always hidden when calling. On a very few occasions I have seen the birds in the act of making a note, but some of these opportunities have only added to the puzzle because they prove conclusively that a certain note which I supposed to have been made by one species was really made by the other as well.

There are doubtless some of your readers who are very favorably situated with regard to these birds and may be able to distinguish between notes of the Virginia and Sora and if such persons will kindly give us the benefit of their experience, they will be making a valuable addition to Rail Literature.

W. E. Saunders.

Migration Note Of Interest.

In sorting and classifying a collection of Venezuela bird skins, recently received at the Museum, I find the following common birds familiar to all eastern collectors. The data given below gives an idea of the distance

travelled twice yearly by small song birds.

1. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*. Bobolink. Merida, Venezuela. September 20th, 1902. Altitude 4800 feet.

2. *Mniotilta varia*. Black and white warbler. El Corial, Venezuela. November 17th, 1902. Altitude 9000 feet.

3. *Dendroica aestiva*. Yellow warbler. Valle, Venezuela. November 24th, 1902. Altitude 9000 feet.

4. *Seiurus noveboracensis*. Water thrush. Merida, Venezuela. November 18th, 1902. Altitude 4890 feet.

5. *Steophaga ruticilla*. American redstart. Valle, Venezuela. August 24th, 1902. Altitude 6000 feet.

6. *Hylocichla aliciae*. Gray-cheeked thrush. El Corial, Venezuela. November 17th, 1902. Altitude 9000 feet.

Paul G. Howes.

◆◆◆

From the Plains.

In Northwestern Kansas, the Bronzed Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula aeneus*) has been growing scarcer each year for the past three years, owing, I believe, to the depredations of the Western Fox Squirrels, which are becoming very plentiful on account of strict protection by law. Three years ago the Bronzed Grackle nested in large and small colonies in this locality, mostly in Box-alder groves near the Sappa Creek, colonies ranging in size of from twenty to four hundred nests to the grove. Nest building commenced soon after their arrival from the sunny South.

Incubation usually began May 18th to 25th. As soon as the young birds were able to follow their parents, they commenced feeding near the colony, and as the young grew stronger, their epicurian propensities drew them farther from their homes. When their wings were strong enough to make extended flights, of a morning as soon as it grew light, the Grackles spread

over the surrounding country in large flocks to make war on the Grasshopper, Corn-worm and the numerous other injurious insects that constitute their bill of fare.

Having spent the day at this, to them, agreeable task, they would then seek their roost. This, an ever recurring delight, to any bird-lover, extended over a period of four months. Imagine a continuous stream of noisy, happy Blackbirds passing over head in the early gloaming,—first come a few early birds straggling home; then comes a whole army making the air vibrate with the whistle of thousands of eager wings, calling to each other in soft low tones or giving loud clear commands, as they fly in a wide level plane, undulating like a black sleepy sea. Sometimes the stream contracts to a few dozen birds abreast, giving a minor note to the music. Then as it widens, the sound gradually increases in volume until the uproar is perfect. This gradually dies away as the last belated traveller finds his roost, leaving the observer to moralize over the wonders of nature.

This year, 1912, but very few Bronzed Grackles succeeded in rearing a brood. A small colony of some fifteen pair on my farm succeeded in rearing their young in safety with some help; on two different occasions, squirrels attempting to dispoil the nests of eggs and young; but the colony being near the house, I was at hand with a shotgun.

Until the last few years the Fox Squirrel was an unknown quantity in this locality. The first few pairs that arrived were hailed with delight and stringent laws passed for their protection; but they have proved of no economic value and are second to none as bird destroyers, but they are still protected.

Guy Love.

Oberlin, Kansas.



California Condor and Egg in Collection.

The Scarlet Tanager.

On the 31st of August while spending a week in the Allegheny Mountains near Uniontown, Pa., I came across a very interesting thing. I was walking through the small orchard when I noticed a Scarlet Tanager behaving in a very peculiar manner. It would cling to the side of an old apple tree for a few seconds and then fly to a limb and pick violently at its tail. After I had watched it doing this several times, I became curious and went closer to see what was going on. The bird was very interested in what it was doing, so that I was able to approach within a few feet, and its actions were soon perfectly clear to me. There was a small colony of little red ants in a crotch of the tree and as there was no other way in which to get at them, the bird would let its tail hang among the ants until a lot had crawled on it, and then fly to a limb and eat them off. I have seen many examples of the intelligence of birds, but this beats them all.

Thos. D. Burleigh.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

I enclose clipping from San Antonio (Tex.) Light, a daily newspaper, this date September 9th, 1911.

Just another sample of ordinary newspaper-ornithology.

R. L. Moore.

Save the Pigeons.

From various sources of late have come dispatches announcing the return of the passenger pigeon. This bird, twenty-five years ago was one of the greatest and most numerous game birds of the country. Every year they crossed the country in millions, and they were slaughtered by the hundreds of thousands. They suddenly disappeared and until recently have never been heard of.

Unfortunately for the passenger pigeon he went from among men before the country had awakened to the fact that it was killing game at a rate that would soon destroy it entirely. Consequently when the game laws were framed they contained no mention of the passenger pigeon. There was no more reason for mentioning him than there was for passing an act to protect the dodo. He is now unprotected by the law, and the hunters are hot on his trail. Of all birds in America morally entitled to protection under the game laws, the passenger pigeon holds first place. He is not numerous, and if the hunters are allowed to have their way without restraint, they will wipe him off the earth.

Every state in the union should, as quickly as possible, pass laws protecting the passenger pigeon for a term of years. Unfortunately the legislatures of the majority of the states are not now in session, and they will not meet for many months to come. In the meanwhile the passenger pigeon must take his chances. The case is lamentable but it is unavoidable.

Runt Woodpecker's Eggs.

In my collection I have many abnormal eggs, but in this paper, I shall only mention my runt Woodpecker's eggs.

A set of four Red-headed Woodpeckers eggs (set $\frac{1}{4}$ coll. R. F. M.) taken June 18, 1910, at Harrowgate, Philadelphia County, Pa., by the writer, contains one runt egg and measures as follows: 1.08 x .79, 1.05 x .80, 1.02 x .78, .83 x .68.

A set of two eggs of the Northern Flicker (10-2 coll. R. F. M.) contains a runt and was collected by myself on May 10, 1912, at Holmesburg, Philadelphia. They measure 1.09 x .84, and .83 x .68. Notice that the runt is

exactly the same size as the above one in the set of *Melanerpes*.

In a set of two Red-headed Woodpecker's eggs (5-2 of coll. R. F. M.) taken June 27, 1912 at Harrowgate, (where the foregoing set was secured) by the writer and R. C. Harlow, is an abnormally large egg which looks like and partakes the dimension of a Flicker's, but which is evidently a Red-head's egg. They measure 1.16 x .85 and 1.00 x .78.

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

**Summer Residents of Rutherford Co.,
North Carolina.**

The following is a list of the breeding birds of Rutherford County, North Carolina, 1912. This is not a complete list as it contains only those species whose nests I have been able to find, or have proof that they nest here.

I think most of the Warblers nest here, but as I do not know them very well, I can list accurately only the few members of the Warbler family that are known to me.

The numbers used below are used to show how many species are listed, and are not A. O. U. or other scientific numbers.

1. Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*). This little Grebe is not very common in the nesting season, only a few nest here.

2. Killdeer (*Oxyechus vociferus*). Not a very common breeder in this section.

3. Bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*). The Bob-white or Quail is one of the most common of our breeding birds. The farmers of this locality value the Quail, and in the hunting season they will not let hunters kill them; the law also protects them ten months in the year.

4. Mourning Dove (*Zenaidura ma-*

croura carolinensis). The Dove is a very abundant breeding bird in summer; it is an abundant game bird in the winter.

5. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura septentrionalis*). Our most common breeding bird of prey.

6. Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*). A very rare bird.

7. Screech Owl (*Otus asio asio*). The Screech Owl is very uncommon in this locality.

8. Yellow-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus Americanus*). Not very common.

9. Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*). Quite uncommon.

10. Pileated Woodpecker (*Phloetomus pileatus*). Very scarce. It has been reported to me that this Woodpecker nests here, and I have observed one or two in the nesting season, but I have no positive proof that they nest here. But as they are non-migratory I think it probable they nest in this county.

11. Red-headed Woodpecker (*Melanerpes erythrocephalus*). Not very common.

12. Flicker (*Colaptes auratus auratus*). This handsome bird is a very common resident the whole year.

13. Whip-poor-will (*Antrostomus vociferus*). A fairly common bird.

14. Nighthawk (*Chordeiles virginianus virginianus*). Very abundant. There are more Nighthawks here this season than I have ever seen before.

15. Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*). This beautiful little bird is very common in this locality. I have observed as many as ten in our flower yard at one time.

16. Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*). Abundant.

17. Wood Pewee (*Myiochanes virens*). Abundant.

18. Crow (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*). Abundant in both winter and summer.

19. Red-winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus phoeniceus*). Common in our marsh and swamp lands along the rivers.

20. Meadowlark (*Sturnella magna magna*). Quite uncommon.

21. Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*). Very rare; I have never found but one nest.

22. American Goldfinch (*Astragalinus tristis*). Rare, only two observed this season.

23. English Sparrow (*Passor domesticus*). This pest is the most abundant of any bird we have.

24. Chipping Sparrow (*Spizelba passerina*). Very common.

25. Cardinal (*Cardinalis cardinalis*). The Cardinal is very common all the year.

26. Purple Martin (*Progne rubis*). Very abundant.

27. Maryland Yellow-throat (*Geothlypis trichas trichas*). This little warbler is a fairly common bird.

28. Yellow-breasted Chat (*Icteria virens*). Not very common. I have observed several here this season but have found only one nest.

29. Mocking Bird (*Mimus polyglottos*). Our best known song bird is the Mocking Bird; it is quite common.

30. Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*). Very abundant.

31. Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*). Plentiful.

32. Carolina Wren (*Thryothous ludovicicus*). Very common all the year.

33. Tufted Titmouse (*Bealophus bicolor*). Plentiful.

34. Wood Thrush (*Hylocichla ustulata*). Abundant.

35. Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). Not very common in summer, but in winter they are numerous.

Chas. F. Moore.

Cliffside, N. C.

Books Received.

Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 7—Cooper Ornithological Club—Birds of the Pacific Slope of Southern California, by George Willett, July, 1912.

This is one of the best local lists that has come under our observation in a long, long time, and is indeed a monument to the industry and thoroughness of the writer as well as a credit to the Club which stands sponsor therefor. There are 377 birds treated and hypothetical list of 18. The mechanical execution is A No. 1 and the entire production without doubt will stand for years as an absolute authority upon the birds of that region.

Pacific Coast Avifauna No. 8—Cooper Ornithological Club—A Systematic List of the Birds of California, by Joseph Grinnell, August, 1912.

This is merely a check list of the 530 species and sub-species the common and scientific names of which are given, and as its title indicates, is aimed to be an accurate list of the birds of California. It is prepared with the usual well-known scientific accuracy of Professor Grinnell, and will without a doubt be of much service to the bird students of the Golden state.

A Revision of the Sub-Species of the Green Heron, by Harry C. Oberholser, from the proceedings of the United States National Museum, Volume 42, pages 529-77.

This separate, as its name implies, is a revision of the sub-species of this bird, and shows a painstaking investigation of the subject treated. It purports to divide this species into fourteen sub-species of which ten are new sub-species; none of which however we are pleased to say are North American, or rather are inhabitants of the territory covered by the American Ornithologists' Union Check List of North American Birds.

To the layman it is utterly astonishing the extent to which hair-splitting in the naming of apparently more or less localized races will go and the slenderness of the foundation upon which it is sought to build them.

Four Spring Days on Government Island.

During April 11th, 1911, I spent four days on Government Island in the Columbia River. The Island is situated about one hundred and ten miles from the mouth of the river, and ten miles due east of the City of Portland.

The principal trees on the Island are Cottonwood, Willow, Black Ash and Wild Crab Apple.

There is a large lake of some eighty acres in extent in the center of the island that is the principal resort of the water fowl. The island is about seven miles long, and from one to one and a half miles wide.

My camp was located on the river bank amongst the willows and from the tent I could watch the Audubon's and Black-throated Grey Warblers, Western Warbling Vireos, Oregon Chickadees, and Seattle Wrens as they gathered their insect food from the willow twigs.

On the more open flats about the lake American Pipits stopped to feed every day before continuing their flight Northward. Gardner's and Harris's Woodpeckers were busy excavating nesting cavities in the dead willow snags, and the Rusty Song Sparrows, Oregon Towhees and Robins were all busy mating or nest building.

Two Wood Ducks had taken up house keeping in a large Cottonwood tree on the lake shore and before I left had become quite tame. Among game birds Ruffed Grouse and Ring-neck Pheasants were the most com-

mon but a few Mountain Quail were found in the more brushy section of the Island.

Occasionally a Stellar's Jay flew across the river from the Washington side and two flocks of Bandtailed Pigeons were seen, but they did not nest on the Island.

The only Owls seen were the Kennicott's Screech; they were fairly common and can always be found in the willow thickets.

Other birds seen were Great Blue Heron, Western Crow, Northwestern Flicker, Lewis Woodpecker, Western Meadowlark, Ruby Crowned Kinglet, Cooper's Hawk, American Osprey, California Purple Finch, Nuttall's Sparrow, Lutescent Warbler, Western Bluebird, Western Savannah Sparrow, Varied Thrush, Pacific Yellowthroat, Northwestern Redwing, Trail's Flycatcher, Western Evening Grosbeak, Pine Siskin, Rufus Hummer, Blue-ring Teal, Beldpate, Cliff Swallow and McGillvrays Warbler.

Some Eastern people coming to Oregon like to tell us how few birds we have here, but personally I think forty-one species in four days in April is not a bad showing.

Stanley G. Jewett.

Portland, Oregon.

BIRDS.

Feather Law Has Beneficial Effect.

(San Jose Mercury.) New York, Sept. 19.—That the law which went into effect in New York last year, prohibiting the sale of feathers of native birds for women's hats is having a beneficial effect on the rare birds of the country is revealed by reports received this week from bird protectors in all the Atlantic coast states. Especially is this statement applicable to the rare white egret, from the back of which the "aigrette" of the millinery trade is obtained. As the birds bear

these plumes in the spring their killing means that the young are left in the nest to die of starvation. As a result, the egret is now regarded as one of the rarest birds in America. This summer, for the first time in several years, they are reported to have appeared in New York state and several have been seen in Massachusetts.

The National Association of Audubon societies may truly be regarded as the patron saint of these birds. "As quickly as the New York Legislature passed our anti-plumage law," said Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of the association today. "We sent agents into the southern states to ascertain the whereabouts of the few remaining colonies of these birds. In all, 15 were found. These were situated in the Everglades and lake country of Florida and in the rice-field section of South Carolina. During the past summer about 5000 egrets dwelt in safety in these colonies, for we protected them from the agents of the millinery houses by employment of trusty guards."

It is freely stated that other species of plumage birds are being benefited in a similar way by the passage of the law which it was predicted would prove disastrous to many of the large millinery firms of this city.

Eagles are becoming a threatening form of destruction to the deer of the state of Idaho. The state game warden has received information to the effect that in many sections of the state every young fawn has been carried off by eagles of large species.—San Jose Mercury..

Long Journeys Made By Plovers.

Bird migration has always been and is yet a thing of much mystery. Let the man who has never felt the thrill of this mystery take his atlas and

turn to the map of the Western Hemisphere. Let him locate the Arctic Islands north of North America, say seventy-five degrees N. L. and with his pencil draw from there a line down along the coast of Labrador, across to Newfoundland, and down to Nova Scotia, then across the Atlantic to the Lesser Antilles in the West Indies, from there to Brazil and across to Argentina, and finally halt his pencil in Patagonia. He will have traced then what is said to be the southward migration of the American plover. But let him continue the course, across to the Pacific, northward up the coast, then across Central America and up the Mississippi valley, through central Canada, and back to the northern islands. He will then have mapped what naturalists have given as the yearly itinerary of some of these wonderful birds—a journey of some fifteen thousand miles.—Outing.

W. A. S.

Notes on the Parula Warbler.

On June 9th, 1912, a friend invited me down to look for Parula Warblers' nests, which was something new to me as these birds do not build here in my neighborhood. We crossed the Connecticut River in a power boat and landed on an island about a mile wide by four miles long, and after looking for some time on the south part of the island and not finding any trees which had any moss on them, started for the north end.

As we were walking along on the edge of a small ledge I noticed some cedar with quite an amount of moss on them and at the same time heard a sharp "chip" from some bird. After looking about five minutes my friend discovered a nest up about fifteen feet from the ground, and upon investigating, found it to contain four eggs of

the Parula Warbler with incubation quite well advanced.

The nest was made entirely of long moss woven together with a few grass stems. Both male and female were close by all the time we were around the nest.

About a half hour later I found another nest in a cedar up about eighteen feet, containing four eggs which were nearly fresh. This nest was a very pretty affair, being built on a good sized limb which had an abundance of long strips of moss, some of them twelve inches long. The moss was very thick over the top of the nest so the nest was not visible from the top. The birds entered the nest on each side. This nest was built the same as the other, woven together with a few grass stems. We looked over an hour before I located the third nest, which was in a cedar up fifteen feet and contained three young about three days old, and one egg. This time the female was found on nest and did not leave until I touched the nest with my hand.

We looked for sometime and in some good looking places, but with no results. I find you can tell when you are near a nest by the action of the birds and by the sharp "chip" uttered by them while near their home.

G. R. Barlow.

South Killingly, Ct.

Double Shelled Hens' Eggs.

W. H. Leibelsperger, of Fleetwood, Pa., writes that one of his friends recently brought him a tame chicken's egg that measured $8\frac{3}{4}$ by $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. It was 3.08×2.28 inches. He says: "After removing the contents I discovered that there was another egg within. This egg was removed by drilling out a hole with a diameter a trifle larger than the diameter of the inner egg

and also blown. The inner egg is 2.12×1.62 inches. The inner egg was surrounded by the usual contents of an egg. The shell of the outer egg is white and that of the inner one is yellow."

It is too bad that the hole in the outer egg was made large enough to permit the removal of the inner one, as that very largely destroys that value of the specimen. Were the two both blown and the hole in the larger one still so small that the inner one could not be removed then indeed would Mr. Leibelsperber have a rare specimen. We have the only specimen of this kind known to us that is prepared in this way.—Editor.

We recently purchased of W. I. Varner of Athens, Georgia, the fourth double-shelled egg which we have ever seen, and likewise the fourth specimen of this character in our collection. It is rather roughly prepared, having a hole punched in one end of the larger egg about the size of a man's fore finger. The inner egg has a ragged hole broken in the side of it about one-third this size. However it is prepared and blown in such a manner that the smaller egg cannot be taken out of the larger egg through the hole made and this of course certifies to the genuineness of the specimen.

By far the best specimen of this character that we have ever seen or known of came into our possession from Alex. Walker, of Armour, South Dakota. In that case both eggs, the outer and inner, were blown through small holes with modern oological tools and is without doubt the best specimen of this kind in existence.

Mr. L. E. Miller, one of our subscribers and an enthusiastic bird student of Huntingburg, Indiana, has recently returned from an extended trip into South America.

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I will buy a large number of each of the above back numbers for cash at the rate they are listed at, as being for sale in this number of THE OOLOGIST. Address,

R. M. BARNES

Lacon, Ill.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXIX. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y. NOV. 15, 1912. WHOLE NO. 304

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



CHIMNEY SWIFT

Yatesville, June 17, 1900.

BRANCHPORT, N. Y.

Nest and Eggs of Chimney Swift
—Photo by C. F. Stone.

Early Solitary Sandpipers in Philadelphia County, Pa.

It is well known that the Solitary Sandpiper breeds in the mountains of Pennsylvania, and like certain other birds of the Canadian fauna of this state, it is one of our earliest (if not our first) migrant to appear in the fall—late summer, rather, I should say.

Until four years ago I gave the Water Thrush first place, as our first "Fall" migrant with August 1st as my earliest date of its appearance, but now the Solitary Sandpiper usurps this species, and is the earliest bird of any species occurring here, to come in the "Fall."

On July 10, 1908, while hunting for a Florida Gallinule nest in a cat-tail marsh at Port Richmond, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, I observed two Solitary Sandpipers, which constitute my earliest record. They were together on a small "bar" of mud in the marsh and as tame as all new arrivals of this species, which is our tamest Sandpiper, and excepting the Spotted Sandpiper, the easiest one occurring here to identify.

On July 18, 1911, I saw a Solitary Sandpiper along the Frankford Creek, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, in company with a Spotted Sandpiper, and it was also seen on the same sand bar on July 25th following.

I have numerous August records of arrivals of the Solitary Sandpiper in the vicinity of Philadelphia, and the latest I have seen the species here has been August 10th (2 records). It occurs in the Spring from April 14th to May 30th, generally occurring in May, but on June 9, 1907, at Ocean View, Cape May County, New Jersey, I saw a single individual of this species at the seashore where it is rare (cf Wil-

son Bulletin, Dec., 1909, p. 225) at all times.

Richard F. Miller.
Harrowgate, Philadelphia, Pa.

Winter Notes.

The past winter was mild until about the first of the year when it set in earnest and we had a severe winter. Zero mornings were common and one morning it reached 40 below. We had two feet of snow in the woods and twenty to twenty-four inches of ice on the river.

Redpolls appeared in late November and have been abundant all winter. About March 20th they fairly swarmed and at present (April 10) are still common, but not in large flocks.

Pine Siskins became abundant late in December and are still very plentiful. Crossbills were very scarce.

Late in February there was a large flight of Horned Larks and on the 27th I found several Lapland Longspurs with a large flock of Larks. This is the first time I ever met the Longspur here. January 30th I saw a Flicker. It must have spent the winter although I never saw one here before in mid-winter. Also saw three Robins on the 31st, the only ones noted during the winter. There were a few Snowflakes late in February during some very stormy weather.

March 3d an adult Cardinal was seen. February 9th I saw a Holboell's Grebe in winter plumage. A Snowy Owl was seen January 12th and I shot an adult Goshawk January 2d, but could not locate any breeding birds this spring. There were quite a few Cedarbirds about up to the middle of January.

The ice did not pass out of the river until March 17th and very high water resulted. Ducks were quite common on the overflowed meadows and I secured some fine males of Mallard, American, Red-breasted and Hooded Mergansers, Scaup, Bufflehead, Wood Duck and Whistlers. Saw Swans on several occasions; also Geese; but these last two only seldom alight. A number of Herring Gulls have been about this winter and I have seen several fine Rough-legged Hawks.

R. B. Simpson.
Warren, Pa.



Ruffed Grouse, Jr. —Photo by C. F. Stone.

The Pine Siskin.

(*Spinus pinus*).

The Pine Finch is an irregular winter visitor in this region. Not a winter passes but a few flocks are about and at irregular intervals large flights occur. They make their appearance in November, and by the first of April have about all departed.

They are found in flocks in hemlock woods in the mountains and when large flights occur, flocks numbering as high as 200 are to be met with. They feed almost entirely on the small cones of the hemlock and are noisy and restless. They no doubt breed sparingly every season as at different times in summer I have seen small parties of them back in the mountains.

Previous to this present season I had never found a nest, although a few years ago in April, while fishing in a piece of virgin timber, I saw a siskin on the ground gathering nesting material. I dropped my fish pole and tried to follow her, but quickly lost her in the hemlocks and although I watched and moved about for over an hour, I never got sight of the bird again.

This past season all through the winter, Pine Siskins were abundant, and about the first of April I began to see a great many around town. By the middle of April they were still common near town wherever there were evergreens in cemeteries, groves or patches of woodland.

April 14th I was surprised to discover a pair building in a pine in a little bunch of pines nearby. I then put in what spare time I had in visits to the nearby patches of evergreens and found plenty of birds, and judging by their actions, most of them mated.

At this season they were feeding on the young buds of maples, etc., as well as in the conifers. They were

very noisy and restless and their sharp notes, somewhat like a Goldfinch, could be heard on every hand. The males were in full song and singing constantly.

Had I the time I could no doubt have found quite a few nests. As it was, I found ten. Five of these I found one Sunday morning in the cemetery before ten o'clock. The first one found (April 14th), was in a white pine, twenty-five feet up, and ten feet out on a horizontal limb, but was deserted before any eggs were laid.

Number 2 was twenty-five feet up in a small hemlock and three feet out on a horizontal limb. I found this nest April 16th when it was only fairly started, and spent some time on several different days watching building operations. The female did all the work, the male often accompanying her to and fro. The birds were constantly calling. The female frequently called while at the nest and the male was continually singing. April 29th the female began setting on a set of three.

Number 3 was also twenty-five feet up in a hemlock and seven feet out near the end of a horizontal limb. I found it completed on the 21st and on the 30th the female began setting on three eggs.

Nest Number 4 was a surprise. I was passing the site of a farm house that had burned last fall when I heard a siskin singing in the trees along the road. Just inside the gate stood two little yellow pines. They were so small I would never have looked in them if the male hadn't been singing. In the smaller of the two, I saw the female sitting on the nest. It was only six feet up and four feet out, and contained three quite well marked eggs of the siskin, and one of the cow bird. This was on April 28th.

Nest Number 5 was thirty feet up in

a thick spruce and way out near the end of a long drooping limb. There was no way to reach it without injuring the tree and as it was in the cemetery I wouldn't do that, so passed it up.

Number 6 was also in a spruce. It was eight feet up and eight feet out on a lower limb. It was entirely finished and strange to say, the female lay dead among the twigs on the limb within two inches of the nest. There was not a mark to show the cause of her death.

Number 7 was ten feet up in a hemlock and five feet out, and contained three young several days old. As this nest was found April 28th, this pair must have begun early.

Number 8 was found April 28th. It was ten feet up and four feet out in a thick spruce and held two badly incubated eggs.

Number 9 was twenty feet up and fifteen feet out in a white pine. It held three young just hatched.

Number 10 was found May 3d. It was in a white pine, fifteen feet up and fifteen feet out. It held three or four young just hatched. Couldn't get close enough to tell for certain the number of young. There seemed to be a full set, although I expected to find four.

The nests were neat and pretty. They were well built and warmly lined. As soon as the young were hatched the old birds became very quiet and have remained so ever since. Occasionally I hear one sing a little or hear a few flying over or meet a little bunch along some road feeding in the grass or on the ground. At such times they are very tame and allow a person to approach within a few feet before taking flight. I made one trip for nests back into virgin timber, but although the birds were common enough, I could not find a single nest.

Possibly in the big timber they nested high up.

It seems strange that these birds should have nested so commonly here this season, but I was certainly glad to make their acquaintance as this species and the Crossbill are two birds I have always suspected of nesting sparingly in the mountains, but had hardly hoped to find except by mere chance as they roam about so.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

Books Received.

Birds of Michigan—A list of all the bird species known to occur in the state, together with an outline of their classification and an account of the life history of each species, with special reference to its relation to agriculture; with 80 full page plates and 152 text figures—by Professor Walter Radford Burrows—special bulletin of the Department of Zoology and Physiology of the Michigan Agricultural College, 1912. This voluminous work of 822 pages is one of the best bird books that has reached our desk in a long time, and will without doubt remain for years as the standard Michigan Bird Book. It is embellished with a splendid line of illustrations, though some of them are severely subject to criticism. Most of them are very good. The text is what it purports to be, a condensed history of the Birds of Michigan, and is brim full of information from cover to cover. We would regard it as a necessity with all Michigan bird students.

The California Condor.

The half tone showing a mounted specimen of this species and an egg, appearing on page 362 of the October issue should have been credited to R. L. More of Vernon, Texas. We are sorry for the omission.



Common Tern Alighting Beside Nest
—Photo by F. B. McKechnie.

Nesting of the Wormeating Warbler in Philadelphia County, Pa.

The only locality in Philadelphia County where the Worm-eating Warbler (*Helminthus vernivorus*) breeds is along the extensive wooded ravines of the Wissahickon Valley in Fairmont Park, and it is by no means a common bird in this restricted region.

I have read about nests being found here in the note books of the late Harry K. Jamison, now in possession of my friend, R. C. Harlow, and have often viewed a nest and two eggs in the Delaware Valley Ornithological Club collection which were collected on June 11, 1893, by Mark L. C. Wilde at Roxborough, but until this year I never hunted for its nest, although I have been frequently on the creek during the nesting season, but always busy in searching for other avian rarities.

However, June 4, 1912, found me at Chestnut Hill, in the Wissahickon Valley prepared to spend the whole day, if necessary, in looking for the nest of the Worm-eater, but it didn't require much searching for me to find the nest. I had found the most desirable looking nesting place and approached it from the edge of the woods, and was just about ready to start a systematic search for the nest when a bird ran out from under my foot, which I instantly recognized as the Worm-eater. And glancing down, saw the cunningly hid nest and noticed that it held eggs; but didn't just then examine it, as the behavior of the bird attracted my attention. She had run off the nest like an Ovenbird—which she greatly resembled in her maneuvers, etc., and feigned lameness and tried hard to entice me away from her nest, all the time running about within a yard of me. After watching her a while, I anxiously examined the eggs which I found to be

four in number, and as I suspected by the bird's behavior, far advanced in incubation, one addled. However I collected the nest and have the set in my cabinet; and although they are second class specimens (except the sterile egg) I value them highly, as Worm-eater's eggs from this county are decided rarities in local collections.

The nest was placed at the base of a laurel sprout about fifteen inches high, on the ground under a drift of dead leaves, amid thin undergrowth in a mixed woods (mostly of hemlocks) half way up on a steep hillside over a hundred feet long. It was arched over by the thick mass of dead leaves and was well made, quite bulky, of dead leaves, many partly decayed and skeletonized, and lined thickly with red stems of a species of moss. It measured four inches in outside width and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in inside diameter; it was $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep inside, and was nicely cupped and well defined.

On the same day I collected my only set of five eggs of the Yellow breasted Chat, incubation advanced, although I have a record of five young Chats.

Richard F. Miller.
Philadelphia, Pa.

A Bluff Not Made Good.

We are in possession of a letter dated September 19th, 1912, forwarded to us by one of our readers, signed by a would-be well-known Oologist which contains among other things the following:

"You say that you 'have been informed as to my methods of dealing.' If you have been told my methods are dishonorable your informants are LIARS, every single one of them. Moreover, I warn you distinctly that if I ever learn of your using the U. S. mails to defame my character I shall



Roseate Tern on Muskeget Island
—Photo by F. B. McKechnie.

have you indicted for libel. Our postal system does not admit such outrage and the penalties are severe. Be careful; you have no case whatever against me. . . . Now do as you please If I do not hear from you in ten days I shall take action to defend my character."

Perhaps this diction will read familiarly to some who have been interested in oology in years past. So far as we are advised no action such as is threatened in the above communication has been commenced, and if any such is commenced, we will try and keep our readers advised of the progress of the threatened litigation.

It will be good for the honest oologist when all of the crooks are driven from the game, and be well for the honorable man when others learn that they cannot assassinate reputation without reason.

An Orange County Wood Ibis Rookery.

Bay Lake is located in the West Central part of Orange County and about 28 miles from Orlando, which is situated about the center of the county. It is a small lake, perhaps three-quarters by a half mile and contains a well wooded island. The Northern end of the lake is bordered by a thin fringe of cypress trees draped with Spanish moss, which is so becoming to them, and the remainder of the shore is fortified against human intruders by a thick, dense, and impenetrable jungle of tangle and matted vegetation extending down to the water's edge rendering it next to impossible to reach the lake from any other direction than that of the North.

There are but very few people living in the immediate vicinity, and the closest village is twelve miles distance. The lake is rarely visited and then only by those who go there

to fish, and the birds are never molested, and is resorted to year after year for breeding purposes.

In 1911 on April 1st, I started out shortly after sunrise with a young fellow as a companion and helper, to visit the rookery that I had heard about so frequently, and to discover if there were any truth in the statements that Wood Ibis were to be found breeding in abundance there, and that they had resorted to this same breeding grounds for years.

It was late in the evening when we arrived at our destination, and by the time everything was unpacked, and supper over we found it too late to do any investigating so we sat around the camp fire, and talked of the morrow's prospects, estimating the number of sets of different species that were in store for us, etc; until drowsiness reminded us that a little sleep would probably be good for us after so long and tiresome a journey. That night it appeared as if it were going to blow up quite a storm before morning, so preparations were made to arrange things to be kept as dry as possible; however, the clouds passed over, much to our satisfaction, and the weather cleared up nicely by morning. Next morning found me up at dawn and ready to begin the day. Everything looked as if we were going to enjoy a splendid day's collecting. It took some little persuasion to arouse my companion to activity, but finally all drowsiness disappeared, and he was soon ready to take part in the fun that was to come.

I had brought a boat along for an emergency, but as we had discovered a small homemade scow, we did not trouble to unload our own. The homemade affair was not fitted out in modern style, and was minus the oar-lock fittings, which compelled me to resort to the tiresome task of paddling with

a board (we had come off without oars) which was very unhandy, especially so to one who has been used to rowing, but just the same I did not think it too hard to undertake, realizing what was in store for us if rookery were reached. With an hour and ing what was in store if the rookery was reached, the sounds of the noisy young were heard long before their end of the lake was discovered, and at a distance the trees appeared as if partly covered with white sheets.

Upon finding so many young birds, and in all trees the same way I began to feel rather doubtful as to whether I would secure any eggs or not, but a birdman is hard to discourage, so with a feeling of confidence we began our search for eggs.

The first approached was a low cypress only ten feet high growing in four feet of water, and out 60 feet from the edge of the lake, and it contained six Wood Ibis nests all holding young, I should judge were fully six weeks old, and two occupied nests of the Snakebird. The young of one nest as we came too near, became suspiciously alarmed, and plunged head first into the water, and swam to the tall grass near shore to remain concealed until all signs of danger were past. It is marvelous how they reveal such wonderful instinct at so young an age. Think of hopping directly out of a warm nest and diving into a chilly body of water with all its lurking dangers! The other nest contained four badly nest-stained eggs, which were incubated about one week. Leslie, my companion, did the climbing for me as I had severely sprained my knee by jumping from a wagon and catching my foot in the reins, throwing the knee-cap out of position with the jerk in landing. Thought for a time I had broken it. This was done some weeks previous.

The old birds lingered at the nests until we would paddle within twenty-five feet of them, but when they saw that it was no use trying to resist the persistent and stubborn advances of the birdmen, they were off emitting a peculiar gruntal sound amidst loud flapping of wings. Soon they began to circle around overhead uttering an occasional deep-throated grunt, as if questioning our authority, or perhaps it would be more correct to surmise that it was done to establish the quietude of the noisy young which were doing their utmost to drown out all other living sounds. The air just fairly rung with Ibis "music." Ward Herons, Florida Cormorants, and Snakebirds flew restlessly and uneasily about knowing that something out of the ordinary was going on, and their inquisitive natures prompted them to see for themselves. One tall tree (cypress) contained a nest of the Ward Heron, one Cormorant, and three Wood Ibis nests, all occupied with young with the exception of Cormorant, which contained three badly incubated eggs. Two cypresses growing close together had interlocked, and this seemed to be a favorite tree judging from nests in them. There were four Cormorant nests, and eight or ten of the Ibis; all eggs had hatched of both species and the young varied in ages from two to seven weeks. I estimated the number in this tree at forty-five counting both species; there was scarcely standing room for all, and it was a mystery to me how they kept from being jostled into the water below. The noise coming from this tree was something tremendous. As we advanced from one tree to the next we could see Ibises soaring over the swamp and alighting in the nests behind us with food in their sharp and spear-like beaks. These were possibly birds that had gone after food before

our arrival, for they appeared startled and surprised at finding "visitors," but the loud hungry calling of the young soon quieted their fears, and apparently we were temporarily forgotten. Many of the parent birds were sitting silent and long-faced among the taller branches of the cypresses lining the shore, one particularly solemn individual and outwardly peaceable, perched his or her self down beside a disagreeable and aggressive Mrs. Snakebird, who at once resented the liberty taken by this tall, bald-headed creature whose only and sole aim in life seems to be that of remaining dignified, and peaceful, and began by striking viciously with her sharp needle-shaped bill directly at the Ibis's naked cranium by way of chastisement for rude conduct. Every time she would act in a menacing manner "Baldy" would edge nearer the extremity of the limb, and would be followed up each time until at length, the end of the project was reached, and rather than quarrel with a lady in sight of fellowmen, "Baldy" arose awkwardly as though embarrassed, and between alternate flapping of wings and soaring, flew to a more convenient and agreeable atmosphere. No, not for a moment must we be led to believe that "Baldy" is a coward, he simply respected Mrs. Snakebird's diminutive size compared with that of his own, and would not stoop so low as to combat with her, besides this he is sympathetic and has some regards for the feelings of others; the birdman had just taken a set of eggs that she, indeed, was very proud of, and wasn't this quite enough to place her in a vicious mood. "Baldy" has had many fierce and dangerous encounters with large moccasins and other venomous reptiles, coming out of the fight victorious.

By actual count there were between

ninety-five and a hundred Ibis nests, and I estimated the young at three hundred and fifty; only two nests were found containing eggs—one with three eggs with young breaking shell, and a set of two infertile specimens. The bird was found sitting on this nest brooding silently and patiently, doubtless wondering how much longer she was to be detained. The young ranged in age from seven weeks to a young breaking through the shell, but by far the majority were about three weeks old. All trees utilized for nesting purposes were growing out in the lake a distance from shore in order that they might nest in safety, and be protected from all animals. Nests ranged in height above the surface of the water six to fifty feet, and anywhere from two to ten nests in a single tree. I don't recollect seeing any one nest of this species, but always accompanied by one or more.

In several instances in this colony I found Cormorants, Snakebirds and Ibis nesting in the same tree but there was only a disturbance apparent, and perfect harmony and peace is never in evidence when such a combination is aggregated. Crows seemed to have gotten in their thievish work, as many nests contained only two young, and others just one each, while still there were some that held four, but three was mostly observed.

The nests were rude and bulky, but substantial structures placed flatly on a forked limb, in a crotch of a tree, or among the bushy branches, some so close as to be touching each other. Course twigs and vines of several varieties were used in the construction, and ten inches thick, and two feet in diameter in some while others were not quite so bulky.

Not more than a dozen Cormorants were breeding, and all had hatched but three nests: these I secured, three

Ward's Herons, two nests with young, and about twenty Snakebird nests in all stages of development from young ready to leave nest to young few hours old, some with fresh eggs, others incubated, while still there were to be found nests yet in construction.

When first hatched the little Snakebirds are covered with a dull yellow down, and this is fostered until the young have grown to be several months old, when about this period they enter into the pin-feather stage.

The Wood Ibis is slowly but gradually decreasing in numbers in Florida, that is very evident in every rookery visited nowadays. Formerly in places where thousands of these could be found breeding together there are now to be but several hundred at most. This is due to the rapid settling up of the state in the past few years. In Orange County there is only one more breeding place to which Ibis sometimes go, and this lake is called Mud Lake, being entirely surrounded by a dense cypress swamp which is impenetrable with the exception of a small opening on the Eastern side. It is an ideal spot, and if not molested they return every year, but if one season they are disturbed the following season finds the lake tenantless as far as Ibises are concerned, but it seems to take only a season to get over their fright and they are back again.

I did not go to this lake this year and have not heard any report from there, therefore am unprepared to make any statement.

Donald J. Nicholson.

Orlando, Florida.

Early Nesting of Oklahoma Hawks.

While hunting for Owl eggs March 3d, I went to an old nest of a Hawk, thinking it might be occupied by an

Owl; but imagine my surprise on seeing a hawk leave.

I wasn't long shinning up that tree (26 feet) and found one fine egg, while old Butes borealis viewed me from a distant tree, giving vent to his feelings.

On returning in a few days, the single egg was in the nest so I took it. On returning on March 16th, another set was laid, three eggs this time, marked chiefly at the smaller end.

At the time of finding the first egg, cold weather prevailed and the ground was covered with sleet.

March 4th I found a nest of Barn Owls containing five eggs. This I think very early for this bird. They were in a cavity in a maple tree on creek bank. Several dead mice were in the nest.

A Broad-winged Hawk's nest was found March 6th with two eggs; a crust of ice was formed around the top of the nest.

Albert J. Kirn.

Vinta, Okla.

Statement of the Ownership, Management, Circulation, Etc.

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

Note.—This statement is to be made in duplicate, both copies to be delivered by the publisher to the postmaster, who will send one copy to the Third Assistant Postmaster General (Division of Classification), Washington, D. C., and retain the other in the files of the post office.

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R. M. BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 30th day of September, 1912.

Erna Thiedohr,

Notary Public.

A Western Minnesota Early Blizzard.

On the afternoon of October 28, 1912, Ye Editor rode on one of the "Soo Line" overland passenger trains from St. Paul, northwesterly one hundred seventy-one miles to the little village of Elbow Lake, in Grant County. The day was an ideal Indian Summer day. Clear, warm, and with slight blue haze so dear to the autumn worshipper's heart. Most of the way was spent in a folding chair on the rear platform of the Observation car at the end of the train.

As we rolled out of the twin sister of St. Paul, Minneapolis, our train entered a rolling semi-timber country studded with many lakes and ponds. Our eyes of course were open for birds, but if there is any place more unsuited for ornithological observation than a moving railroad train, we have never discovered it. The roar of the train seems to scare the smaller birds into hiding and the larger ones fly at such a distance as makes identification very unsatisfactory in many instances.

After passing this rolling country we entered the wide level prairie where wheat is king. Here were likewise many small ponds and sloughs.

From the train we saw large flocks of Blackbirds and Long Spurs, some Juncoes, Crows and many small sparrows, the species of which were undetermined. Also some hawks, but the scarcity of the latter was a matter of astonishment to us, scarcely a half dozen being seen in the whole distance. Occasionally a few Coots, Grebes and Ducks floating on the ponds likewise relieved the monotony.

The morning of October 29th at Elbow Lake broke with a leaden gray sky, drifting clouds, a high cold Northwest wind and spitting snow. This continued with increasing vigor all day, and telegraphic reports gave details of a regular blizzard to the North and West, and three feet of snow covered the ground.

This little town takes its name from a shallow irregular lake that surrounds the place on the North, West and South sides, in some places a third of a mile or more in width and in other places less than half that distance. The business taking us to this town was law, and we got to the Court House by 9 a. m. This building is on a high knoll overlooking the North arm of the lake, and not over a block from the lake shore. Our case not being called, we had nothing to do but wait and look out of the windows which gave a splendid view of this part of the lake, lashed as it was into white caps by the fury of the storm.

The sights seen that day will be long remembered, reminding the writer of similar days thirty years or more ago on the Illinois river. The sudden change of weather had started the northern feathered hosts moving with a vengeance. Thousands upon thousands of wild fowl passed on this day,

many directly over the little town and some directly over the Court House, almost within gunshot.

Long strings of gabbling Mallards flying in irregular bodies, and huge flocks of Pintails orderly and high up, great troupes of Scaups crescent shaped, in bunches each seemingly trying to lead the flock. Occasionally a gang of Redheads or Buffleheads hurried by in the gray snowy day. Some Spoonbills passed, but were far outstripped by bunches of little Green-winged Teal that flashed by seemingly on the very wings of the wind. One small flock of White-winged Scoters passed as though they had urgent business further South. Aside from the Pintails, most of the ducks flew low, as I supposed, because of the fury of the wind; but not so with that king of waterfowl, *Branta Canadensis*. Two long lines of these birds away up, passed over, breasting the storm at a rate of not less than a mile a minute. As far as the eye could see those noble ganders led their companies in orderly fashion with regular wing beats, defying Boreas in a way to enthuse the lower of true nature. One troupe of Blue Geese followed the rest, and several of the White-fronted, the former silent as usual, and the latter more noisy than usual, if possible, for each seemed to be expressing his or her individual disgust with the weather as they passed.

Four Wilson Snipe passed within a half a hundred yards of the window I gazed out of, and several Marsh, one Pigeon, a number of American Roughleg and Swainson's Hawks drifted southerly in more leisurely fashion than the ducks.

There was scarcely any time during the entire day that a glance out of the windows would not disclose a flock of Ducks moving South. At the height of the storm a flock of a dozen or more

Prairie Chickens passed, alternately whirring their wings and sailing, as is the flight habit of this species, to the Southeast. The general cause of all the birds flying Southeast was that the wind blew from the Northwest.

Such migrations as this the writer has witnessed in days gone by on a sudden turn of the weather at home. Now we have none such. Those millions of wildfowl are gone. Those I looked at out of the Court House windows are going. They will not last long. Almost every able-bodied man in the town who could carry a gun and could get away was out doing his level best to slay as many of these poor birds that were fleeing from the storm king for their lives, as possible. And I assume the same was true of every other town in that part of the country.

In the little hotel in that town is hung the picture of five brutes taken with their five guns, surrounded with some hundreds of poor dead ducks with the statement that it occurred November 10, 1911. This shows the state of public sentiment there and those poor birds that fled that day before the wind and the cold and the snow, will not last long unless something is done to save them. R.M.B.

A Careless Cowbird.

A certain female Cowbird which spent the spring and summer in this locality was addicted to very peculiar habits; in fact, her eccentricities carried her so far as to utterly disregard one of the most fundamental rules of conventional Cowbird behavior.

This particular Cowbird arrived from the South sometime late in April,—at least she was on the place with her polygamist mate and at least one of his other wives when I arrived



Bob-white on Nest
—Photo by F. B. McKechnie.

from the southern part of the state the first week in May. For three or four weeks they flew about the place, the male evidently doing nothing but showing off from the top of a tall dead birch or driving a rival suitor away from his wives, while the females walked around among the cows in the stumpy pastures and fed upon the flies, which followed them.

In the meantime, a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers had begun a nest in a raspberry bush in a patch of brush not more than thirty feet from the side of our house, which was then in course of construction. On May 31st, this nest was finished and one egg was laid. This I thought was the chance for Mrs. Cowbird. But three days passed, and each day saw another egg until four were laid and the set finished, but still no Cowbird's egg. The female warbler sat patiently on these eggs, and could almost be touched before she would leave the nest, until on the morning of June 12th, just nine days after the last egg was laid, when I looked in the nest and saw, not the four young birds which I expected, but one lone Cowbird's egg, which proved to be perfectly fresh. The four Warbler's eggs were on the ground under the nest, two of them punctured. Needless to say, the mother bird was not sitting.

This was the first time I had ever known a Cowbird to lay an egg in a nest after the full set was completed, to say nothing of when the eggs were ready to hatch, but I was destined to be still more greatly surprised by the only other Cowbird's egg which I found on the place this year.

I was puzzled to find where this Cowbird was laying the rest of her eggs. There were plenty of fresh nests about the place, and many of them in plain sight,—June 6th, an Ovenbird's nest was found in the

woods not ten rods from the house; June 12th, another was found in the edge of the woods still nearer the house; June 6th, a Magnolia Warbler's nest with three eggs was found a few rods farther south in the edge of the clearing; and on June 7th and 8th, I found two more unfinished Chestnut-sided Warbler's nests a short distance away. In each of these a full set of its owner's eggs were laid, but none of the Cowbird. On June 12th, I found a Red-eyed Vireo's nest with four eggs, about five feet high in a small maple sapling, between two small branches and against the trunk of the tree. On June 20th, three of these eggs hatched. June 30th one of the young Vireos left the nest, and I removed the one addled egg.

On the following morning, July 1st, I found the old Vireos feeding their young in the bushes near the nest, but when I looked into the nest I was astonished to see that, instead of being empty, it contained a single, fresh Cowbird's egg. This egg was almost exactly like the one in the Chestnut-sided Warbler's nest, and I am satisfied that it was laid by the same bird. The nest may have been mistaken for a newly completed one, but it certainly did not look like one. Whatever the intent of the bird that laid these two eggs, it would be a bad thing for the race of *Molothrus ater* if many of her kind followed the example of this particular misguided Cowbird.

Now if any of you old timers have ever seen or heard of anything of this kind before, I wish you would write of it to *The Oologist*, for it is something absolutely new to me.

D. C. Mabbott.

Unity, Wis.

Unheard of Prices for Old Magazines?

I will give the following prices for these magazines. Such prices have never before been offered and probably never will again be offered.

R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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In answering advertisements in these columns mention "THE OÖLOGIST," and thereby help us, as well as the advertiser and yourself.

We will not advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make *bona fide* exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

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EGGS, Continued

I have a few good sets to exchange. Want 334, 334a, 337a, 337d, 340, 344, (351) 352a, 356, 360c, 361 and many others. DAVID E. BROWN, Room No. 11, Federal Bldg., Tacoma, Wash. (1 p)

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"Ideal" data blanks, your name and address inserted, exchanged for sets of birds' eggs listing 25 cents or over. C. F. STONE, Printer, Branchport, N. Y. (1-p)

WANTED.—To hear from collectors who have sets with Cowbird eggs in them. Who wants skins of the Wild Turkey, 310 A? Last year I put up ten. I need many of the common sets with nests, Canada Jay, Northern Raven, Audubon's Oriole, and nests, Cooper's Tanager, Warbling Vireo and nest, numerous Warblers, -t. Lucas, Mearns's and LeCont's Thrashers, and Varied Thrush and nest. H. H. BAILEY, Newport News, Va. (1)

EXCHANGE.—Vol. 23 Physical Culture. Want Reed's Color Key to North American Birds, Holland's Butterfly book, Hummers, Sets of 144 Eggs, flying squirrel skins. EARL HAMILTON, Yohoghany, Pa. (1-p)

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 1 sets taken this season, Glaucus Wing Gull, Pigeon Guillemot Violet Green Cormorant. W. F. BURTON, Esq., 937 St. Charles S. T., Victoria, B. C.

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The ad. in your paper to which you refer was intended to appear only in the November issue; instead it has been in three times and I was all cleaned out in two weeks after its first appearance. Will you please not print it again?

Gaylord K. Snyder.

January 31, 1912.

I had many replies to my recent ad. and could have disposed of my offering several times over.

F. P. Drowne, M. D.

February 19, 1912.

Your Oologist is too good to discontinue.

A. L. Marshall.

March 27, 1912.

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FOR SALE.—4 x 5 long focus camera equipped with Plastigmat lens and B. & L. Shutter. Camera is slightly used but in the best of condition. Parties interested write for full description and price. Also have a number of others, new and second hand, for sale cheap. F. C. WILLARD, Tombstone, Ariz. (1-p)

WANTED.—Photographs (any size from 3½ to 4½ inches and up) of birds nests with eggs in situ. As I desire these for coloring, prints must be made on velox or platinum paper, the latter preferred. Send any number you may have on approval, and I will remit 25c. each for those I keep. JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, Floral Park, N. Y. (3t-9)

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I will pay a good price for the following publications; all to be sound, in their original covers, and suitable for binding. I will accept bound Vols. when bound in with original covers, and will accept whole Vols. if seller will not break same, of a large number of those listed below.

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 The Ornithologist and Botanist. Vol. 1, Nos. 6, 10 and 12; Vol. 2, all.
 The Wolverine Naturalist. All Nos. except Nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Vol. 1.
 The Empire State Exchange. All Nos. except No. 3 of Vol. 1.
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 The Bay State Oologist, No. . . of Vol. 1.
 The Oologists' Journal. All except 1 of Vol. 1; and 1, 2, 3 of Vol. 2.
 The Hummer. All except Nos. 5, 6, 8 of Vol. 1.
 The Bittern (Cedar Rapids). All except Nos. 1, 2, 3 of Vol. 1.

The Bittern (Damariscotta, Maine). All except Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 of Vol. 1.

The Bittern (Canistota, N. Y. 6). All but No. 10 of Vol. 1 and No. 8, Vol. 2.

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Zoe. All except Nos. 2 and 3 of Vol. 3.

The Naturalist (Texas). All Nos.
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Bald Eagle

Photo from life by C. E. Baynard

The Captive Eagle.

A Ballad.

By Charles West Thompson.

An Eagle sat on the stormy peak
Of a mountain's rugged crag,
Where the winds of the winter whistled bleak

And uttered their boisterous brag.

His head was as bald as the cliff where he sat,

And his neck as white as its snow,
And his eye was like that of the mountain cat,

When he glares on his prey below.

On the scathed limb of an ancient oak,
He had taken his lofty stand,
And thence he looked down where wreaths of smoke

Gave tokens of cultured land.

And away and away did his gaze extend

O'er the ocean's waters blue,

And he heard the roar on the distant shore

Where the snow-white sea gulls flew.

He had perched his nest on that mountain's brow,

In the eye of the glorious sun,

And he looked on the face of the day-king now,

As for many long years he had done.

He had seen his eaglets thence go forth

To the chase of the hawk on the sea,
He had sailed on the icy-winged blast of the North,

And screamed as he rode it with glee.

Long years had he dwelt on that mountain height,

And sailed o'er that ocean's gloom,
When the morning was bright, or the blackness of night

Made darker the tempest's plume.

Long years had he stood by that roaring flood,

And that rock was his kingdom's throne,

By the storm-rent oak his decree he spoke,

And his will was his law alone.

Even now he sat on that oak so bare,
Majestic and proud and free,

The emblem at once, and the glorious heir

Of nature's liberty.

He sat with his noble wings outspread
For a flight o'er the sunny land,

And he launched thro' the air like an arrow that's sped

From a practised archer's hand.

Away deep down to the scene below

He flew on fearless wing,

And he paused where a waterfall turned into snow

The stream of a woodland spring.

Ah! bird of royalty! sad for thee

To have left thy mountain height,

Where thy way was unwatched, and thy wing was free,

And none to arrest thy flight.

For the hunter has marked thy downward course,

And fixed on thee his eye—

And has lifted his gun to the noon-day sun,

And said that thou shalt die.

A flash—a roar—the Eagle rose

From the tree where his perch had been,—

And the echo that woke from the forest of oak,

Shouted loud as to chide the sin.

He soared away on his upward flight,

As he uttered a piercing cry,

But suddenly dropped, like the meteor of night

That falls in a summer sky.

With a broken wing he could no more seek

To rise in the glare of day—

So the monarch that reigned on the mountain peak,

Was carried a captive away.

From "The Cabinet of Natural History and American Rural Sports," Vol. I (1830), p. 239.

The Pileated Woodpecker.

The Pileated Woodpecker may be called the king of woodpeckers, for though it is exceeded in size by the Ivory-billed Woodpecker of the Southern States, the latter bird is so near extinct that it may be neglected entirely. In regard to its habitat, Stearns says in *New England Bird Life*, "All of the 'forest primeval' still harbors the great, black, scarlet-crested woodman, chips of whose powerful chiselling are still scattered at the feet of many a decrepit monarch."

To put this into other words, this great woodpecker is found all over North America where the old growth forest still remains, being rare or casual in the more cultivated parts and in the wooded prairie regions. In Southern Maine this bird is still found, though in small numbers; it is probably more often seen in winter than in summer for at that season it is usually found in the depths of the forest caring for its offspring.

The eggs of this bird are very rare in the collections of this locality and there are none to my knowledge which contain a complete set, though there are one or two containing single eggs. For many years I have tried to obtain one of these eggs, but have always failed to do so for the owners would not part with them even if offered a gold mine.

Way back in the spring of 1886 I was passing through a piece of old growth woods not far from home when

we saw a large round hole in a dead stub; we knew it was too large for a Flicker's nest and stopped to investigate. As we were looking at it while standing some distance away, a Pileated Woodpecker flew to the stub and disappeared in the hole. We felt sure that the bird had a nest in the stub and were highly elated at our good fortune. We decided not to disturb the nest as we felt sure that it was too early to find a full set of eggs. We waited until the 10th of May before we visited the nest again.

When we reached the stub, my friend, who was the lighter, volunteered to climb it, though it was old and rather rotten. Not having any climbing irons he started up, making rather slow headway, for the stub swayed and shook in a way that threatened to throw him to the ground at any moment. After a climb of about twenty-five feet he reached the nest and digging carefully through the rotten wood he found that the eggs had not been laid.

We were bitterly disappointed at losing the set of eggs, but as we were young collectors we made no attempt to stop up the hole we had made in the stub, thinking it was useless; for we believed that the birds would desert the nest. I have since found that we were wrong and devised a method by which the eggs can be obtained without risk of the nest being deserted until the set is laid. This method will be explained later on. This stub was on a high, rocky ridge—a very unusual place for these birds to nest as they generally prefer swamps.

For many years after this first experience, my acquaintance with this species was limited to an occasional glimpse of one of these birds in the woods, though sometimes in the winter one would be seen flying from one woods to another. I felt sure that



Western Red-bellied Hawk's Nest and Eggs

—Photo by J. B. Dixon.

they were nesting in the vicinity, but so carefully were their nests hidden that all attempts to find them were unsuccessful.

In the summer of 1911 my brother, while driving through a piece of old growth woods about a quarter of a mile from our home, saw a young Pileated Woodpecker barely able to fly. This made it certain that this species of bird had had a nest in those woods. Greatly encouraged by this circumstance, I decided to try to find the nest the next year.

The next spring I was returning home through these woods about the middle of April after an unsuccessful hunt for a Great-horned Owl's nest which I had been trying to find since the last of February. While passing through a swamp in which there were quite a number of dead stubs I noticed a large circular hole about half way

up in a large poplar stub. I went to the foot of the stub and soon made certain that some bird was making a nest there, for the ground was strewn with fresh chips dug from the inside. I made no attempt to climb the stub for I did not wish to frighten away the birds, which I felt sure were preparing a nest there. Four or five days later I visited the nest, and as I was watching the hole at some distance, a Pileated Woodpecker put her head out of the entrance and after looking around withdrew it again. I had found a second nest, and I determined not to lose the nest this time.

Knowing the bird to be wild and wary, I had used great care while visiting the nest, and was probably not seen by the Woodpeckers. I kept away from the nest until May fourth, when I decided that the set of eggs

ought to be laid. So I went again, taking a hammer, saw, chisel, scoop net and climbing irons; an 18-foot ladder was also taken to reduce the height of the climb, as I thought it probable that I might have to go up the stub several times. On reaching the stub I placed the ladder against it, strapped on my irons and soon reached the nest. I looked into the hole, but could only see the edge of the bottom on the opposite side. It was about two feet deep. I used the saw to make two cuts about four inches apart opposite the bottom of the inside cavity. I split out the piece of wood between the cuts and with the chisel dug into the nest. I found that only one egg had been laid, so after lifting it with the scoop net near enough for a good look, I replaced it, fitted a piece of wood into the hole I had made and replaced the piece split off from the outside, fastening it with nails.

I made another visit on May 7th, and found that there were four eggs. What a sight to please the eyes of an oologist who had waited so many years to see his first set! How pretty they looked, like four gems in their setting of wood chips, the yolks showing through the translucent shells, giving them a pink tint, which is never seen in the eggs after they are blown. This tint gradually changes to a darker hue as the eggs advance in incubation.

Thinking that the set was not complete I left the eggs undisturbed. On May ninth I visited the nest again and found the female sitting on the four eggs. I removed the eggs and put in two Flicker's eggs which are somewhat smaller. The female sat on these about a week but deserted the nest when I took out one of them.

The male bird was not seen at any time when the nest was visited. The following measurements of the stub

and nesting place may be of interest: Diameter of the stub at the ground, 19 inches; diameter of the stub at the nest $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Diameter of the hole $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. This was almost exactly circular and on the western side of the stub. The horizontal depth of the cavity, the ruler being placed on the lower edge of the entrance, was 10 inches. The hole went in horizontally for $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches before it was worked downward. The vertical depth from top of entrance to the bottom, 24 inches. The diameter of the cavity at the entrance was nine inches. The diameter of the cavity at the bottom was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The distance from nest hole to ground, $30\frac{1}{4}$ feet. The entrance and walls were smoothly chiseled except at the top, where it was somewhat rough. The full height of the stub was estimated at 55 feet; there were no limbs on it and the bark only adhered to the lower part, the rest being bare. A glance at the measurements show that the cavity was widest at the top, tapering gradually toward the bottom. The four eggs are of nearly the same size and measure: 1.32×1 ; 1.34×1.02 ; 1.34×1.02 , and 1.34×1 inches. They are very smooth and glossy white.

In his "Life Histories," Bendire says of the nest of this species: "The entrance measures from 3 to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and it often goes five inches straight into the trunk before it is worked downward. The cavity varies from 7 to 30 inches in depth and is gradually enlarged towards the bottom where it is about six inches wide."

This description fits my nest very well, except it is the reverse in shape. This bird is so widely distributed that it may change its nesting habits somewhat so that Major Bendire was probably right, his description being taken from nests found in the West.

Some writers consider our northern bird, which is almost equal to the Ivory-billed Woodpecker in size, as a sub-species and have given it the name, Northern Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophoeus pileatus abieticola*. It inhabits the heavily wooded sections of North America from the Allegheny mountains northward.

John T. Parsons.

South Paris, Me.

Books Received.

Birds in Relation to the Grasshopper Outbreak in California, by Harold C. Bryan: University of California publication in Zoology, Vol. 11, No. 1.

This is a very well prepared article covering 19 pages and is exhaustive in its treatment of the subject. It discloses many interesting and valuable thoughts relating to the great assistance rendered by birds to men in the destruction of insects.

Sad.

The following clipping from a Washington (D. C.) paper is self explanatory. It is sad indeed that a young man in the morning of life will blight his future by a proceeding of this kind. Subsequent to the arrest, Mr. Reiseberg admitted his guilt of this charge, and owing to arrangements made, he was not prosecuted further, and the case was nolle prossed.

It is to be hoped that it will be a lesson to himself and to all others similarly inclined, for indeed the escape from a term in the penitentiary, at least in this instance, was narrow.

MUSEUM BOOKS DISAPPEAR.

Charges are Preferred Against Former Employee—Volumes in Demand by Naturalists—Located in Illinois—One Already Returned.

Charged with appropriating two rare books from the bird division of the National Museum, Harry E. Reise-

berg, 20 years old, of 1744 Jackson street northeast, formerly employed as clerk at the museum, was arrested last night at his home by Central Office Detective Weedon. He was released on \$500 bond for his appearance in the police court this morning.

The volumes were published in Utica, N. Y., in 1875, and consist of monthly serials bound together. They have long been out of print, and are in great demand among naturalists.

The books were missed about ten days ago. The museum authorities had the names of several persons who had been hunting for copies, and wrote to them to ascertain whether the missing books had been offered to them. Yesterday they received a reply from R. M. Barnes, of Lacon, Ill., stating that he had purchased the books for \$35. He returned one, and said he would send the other as soon as he could get it from a friend, to whom he had loaned it.

The Flycatcher of Eastern Massachusetts.

Massachusetts is credited with eleven species of Flycatchers. Eight of these occur more or less regularly, while three, viz.: The Gray Kingbird, Gay's Phoebe and Acadian Flycatcher are recorded as accidental visitors only. Those that summer with us or pass through the state during migration are the Kingbird, Crested Flycatcher, Phoebe, Olive-sided Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Yellow-bellied, Alder, and Least Flycatchers.

The Kingbird is a very common resident. They arrive from the South early in May, usually about the 5th, but occasionally as early as the 2d. When they first arrive I most frequently find them in the trees and bushes along the river bank, little groups of three to five birds that keep up a constant chatter, flying up into the air after passing insects and chasing one another from bush to bush with loud, harsh calls. They soon select their mates, then each pair retires to some



Screech Owl

—Photo by F. B. McKechnie.

nearby orchard where nesting is begun. Once a nesting site is decided upon, the birds guard it constantly and any other bird that chances to come near to the nest, or even the tree in which it is placed, is promptly set upon and driven from the locality.

Nests with eggs are to be found in this locality during the first ten days of June. The nests are rather bulky, composed of weed stalks, coarse grass stems, fine rootlets, some little horse-hair and often bits of cotton waste or yarn. Placed fifteen feet to twenty feet from the ground near the end of a branch usually of a fruit tree.

I take the following from my notes for 1901 regarding a pair which I watched at Lakeville, Mass.: "A partly finished nest was found June 10th. By June 19th it was completed. These birds did most, if not all of the building before 8:00 a. m.—in fact the birds were never seen at the nest, or the tree it was in, after that hour, although one of the pair was always on guard nearby. Eggs were laid June 20th and 21st. Then for some reason the birds deserted the nest and later Red Squirrels destroyed the eggs."

"Another site was chosen in an apple tree about 200 feet distant from the first nest. The tree stood alone in a field of about eight acres. This nest was completed and the first egg laid when I examined it, June 29th. The second egg was laid June 30th, and the last on July 1st. The young were all hatched on the 18th, the period of incubation being about 17 days." The birds seldom went far from the nest, apparently finding sufficient food for the young near at hand. No bird was allowed to cross nearer than within one hundred feet of the nest whether Crow, Jay, or inoffensive Robin or Waxwing. A nest which I watched in 1900 had much the same history, three

young being reared. They remained in the nest fifteen days.

If the first nest is destroyed they will generally rebuild near by, often finishing the second nest in a very short time. I have three nests in my possession which were all made by the same birds. The first was taken June 8, 1897, after it had been robbed by boys of three eggs. A second nest was built a few feet away, three eggs laid and incubation begun, but was also robbed. This was on June 24th. The birds nothing daunted, made a third attempt and by July 5th had another nest finished and three more eggs deposited. From the above it will be seen with what rapidity the birds must have worked in the construction of their nests; however, the second and third nests were not nearly as compact and well made structures as the first, but showed evidence of haste in their construction.

During August flocks of Kingbirds are often met with along roadsides and river banks. They do not form large flocks, but travel along in loose companies of a dozen or less, and by the end of the month most of them have left for the south. After September 1st all are generally gone, but an occasional bird may be met with as late as the 7th.

The Crested Flycatcher is a summer resident of somewhat local distribution and apparently varying in numbers during different seasons. During 1907 they were very common but since that year I have not found them numerous until this year (1912). They arrive about May 14th and leave in the fall at the same time as the Kingbird, often associating with them during late August in loose noisy flocks.

During their stay with us they are shy, noisy birds, haunting the higher branches of hardwood timber, rather than the farm, constantly flying from

tree to tree and screaming continually. The only nest I have ever found was built in a cavity of an apple tree in an old orchard, on the edge of the woods, well removed from any house. It was made of dried grasses and fine twigs and a quantity of pine needles. The six eggs which it contained were about one-half incubated, were cold when found and appeared to have been deserted several days. This was on July 4, 1902.

To the bird lover, living in the city and obliged to look to the city parks for his few glimpses of bird life, the Phoebe will long remain a stranger. Neither will he often be found in the woods. To make his acquaintance you must visit the farm, go to the barnyard, and there you will find him at home. They return from the south in March (my earliest date is March 23d), and almost immediately turn to the site of their last year's nest, and during the summer are seldom seen far from their home. This is most frequently under the barn, or a shed, but sometimes on a beam under a bridge; but wherever situated, the birds will return to it year after year.

Before the settlement of the country, the Phoebe probably placed its nest against the side of a rock or cliff. A nest of this sort came under my observation in 1905. On July 22d I found four well fledged young in a nest built in a crevice of a rock overhanging a small cascade well up the mountain side in the Berkshires. The nearest house was several miles away.

A typical nest is composed of moss, fine grasses or hayseed, more or less mud and lined with horsehair. If placed in a mortise in a beam, or on a ledge or end of a timber it will measure about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in outside diameter, by two or three inches in depth, but placed against a wall or upright beam with no support beneath, the

nest is always built up higher and will measure five or six inches in depth.

Five eggs generally constitute a set for the first brood and the second may consist of either four or five. Of the various nests that I have examined, a large proportion of them have had one or more eggs spotted. I am inclined to believe that spotted eggs are of more regular occurrence than is commonly supposed, and that some birds always lay spotted sets. I have found nests placed in the same spot for three consecutive years and each season they contained spotted eggs.

A nest for a second brood had the following history: Started June 12, 1901, on a small ledge under a barn. The birds worked rapidly collecting most of their material under the barn and by the 16th it was completed. No eggs were laid until the 19th. The first egg was unmarked. Three more were laid in as many days. I numbered each egg as laid with an indelible pencil. No. 2 had a few faint spots; No. 3 was more plainly marked, and the last one was quite well covered about the larger end with fine brown spots. Incubation lasted 14 days, the young emerging from the shell July 6th. They remained in the

The nesting season lasts from May nest 15 days, flying on the 21st. 1st to the last of July. After the first of August the birds seem to disappear from the barnyard and you find young and old in clumps of Alder or Gray Birch along streams or sometimes in growths of young Pine. They now renew their worn out plumage and early in October, leave for the South.

The Olive-sided Flycatcher is not common in eastern Massachusetts. Formerly breeding around Boston as attested by Nuttall in 1830, and Audubon in 1832, and by Mr. G. O. Welch in 1858 at Lynn, it has gradually de-

served that section and now occurs only as a migrant. The few birds that I have met with were wild and would not allow a near approach. They were usually silent, but a bird seen in a swamp in Plymouth County screamed continually,—a loud shrill note like the call of a Great Crest.

Of the five species of Flycatchers that summer common with us, the Wood Pewee is the last to arrive—usually about May 20. As their name implies they are birds of the woods, but at times one will visit the orchard; and during June, 1900, a pair built a nest in an orchard near where I was staying at the time.

The Wood Pewee builds the daintiest and most artistic nest of any of our eastern Flycatchers. Compact and symmetrical, it is made only of fine materials. It is saddled onto a limb or firmly attached to two parallel twigs and the exterior decorated with bits of lichens. When complete it matches its surroundings perfectly, and is then difficult to find unless by accident, or by watching the birds. The eggs, three or four in number, are white, with a creamy tint, and are marked with spots of brown and faint lilac, mostly about the larger end. Some eggs are exact miniatures of eggs of the Kingbird. Late in August or early in September as you walk through the pine woods you see a bird said quietly down from a dead branch near the top of a pine, catch an insect and fly to another tree some thirty feet away. In a minute or two he repeats the performance, returning to his first perch. Soon you see another, then another do the same until you discover that there are a dozen or more Wood Pewees in the trees about you, when you probably thought they were well along on their journey to their winter home. Although the last to arrive in the spring,

the Wood Pewee is not among the first early migrants to leave in autumn, but tarries until close to the 20th of September, only the hardy Phoebe remaining longer.

At this season, they are usually silent save for a faint "quip" given as they return to their perch after chasing a passing insect.

The Yellow-bellied and Alder Flycatchers are rare birds in this locality and I have never positively identified either of them here. They both pass through during the last few days of the spring migration and might be easily overlooked. The Alder Flycatcher summers in one or two restricted localities in the state.

During the last few days of April or early in May the Least Flycatcher arrives. You know of his presence long before you see him; his brusque "chebec, chebec," greets you alike from the orchard, lawn, the shade trees of our streets, and in woods of not too thick second growth. In about two weeks after his arrival he selects a mate, then he leaves the woods and takes up his home about our houses, selecting a branch of an apple or pear tree as a site for his nest. This is made of soft plant fibres, fine grasses, the buff colored down from the fronds of opening ferns and long horsehair. The eggs are usually four unmarked and of a cream white. Fresh eggs are to be found by June 1st.

On the 9th of June, 1901, I found a nest containing three eggs. The fourth egg was laid the next day, but the bird did not start to incubate until the 11th. On June 25th three young hatched and the fourth egg proved to be infertile—the period of incubation being 14 days. The young remained in the nest thirteen days.

After the young are out of the nest we see but little of these birds and they doubtless leave for the south

early. My latest dates are August 23d, September 2d and 5th.

F. Seymour Hersey.

Taunton, Mass.

Notes.

This summer (1912) I found an oddly situated nest of a Western Flycatcher. In an old deserted barn a pair of trousers had been thrown over a crossbeam, and the nest had been built upon the upturned cuff at the bottom. The nest itself was typical, and contained one egg, which however was accidentally broken and the bird deserted the nest.

On May 24, 1912 I found a Shufeldt's Junco nest containing two young, perhaps three days old, and two addled eggs; the latter pure white unmarked. These are the only unmarked eggs of this species that I have seen. The nest was placed under the overhanging edge of a low bank by the roadside.

Alex Walker.

Mulino, Ore.

Field Notes.

Jan. 8.—Found an English Sparrow's nest in a corner of a porch of a vacant house containing two fresh eggs. There was about two inches of snow on the ground and the temperature was four degrees above. This is the first nest of this bird which I have ever found during the winter, and why the bird should build during such a winter as we have had is beyond me.

May 22.—Found a Rose-breasted Grosbeak's nest containing five eggs. This is rather unusual around here, three or four being the usual number. As a matter of fact this is the first that I have ever found containing more than four; although the bird is a common breeder in this locality.

Sept. 14.—Saw the largest flock of Crows ever seen here. About 6:30 I was traveling up the Allegheny Valley

to spend the day at Harmarville, when I saw several Crows fly from nearby and start over the river. Watching them I saw several more fly out, and for about ten minutes a steady stream flew from the top of that hill. Out of curiosity, I counted them and found that exactly one hundred and one Crows had flown across. They probably roosted there, but it seemed to me to be rather early for them to be gathering in such large flocks.

Sept. 30.—Found a Cowbird in a very peculiar position. It was feeding on a much-used street with a small flock of English Sparrows and seemed to be very much at home. Being an adult male, it looked very much out of place in such a locality, and seeing it at a distance, I thought that the Starling had finally invaded us. Except for its size and color, its actions were exactly like those of the Sparrows with whom it was feeding, and it showed little fear of the passers by.

Oct. 3.—The Cowbird was still on the job, but it was gone the next day. It certainly did make quite a long stay in such a peculiar locality.

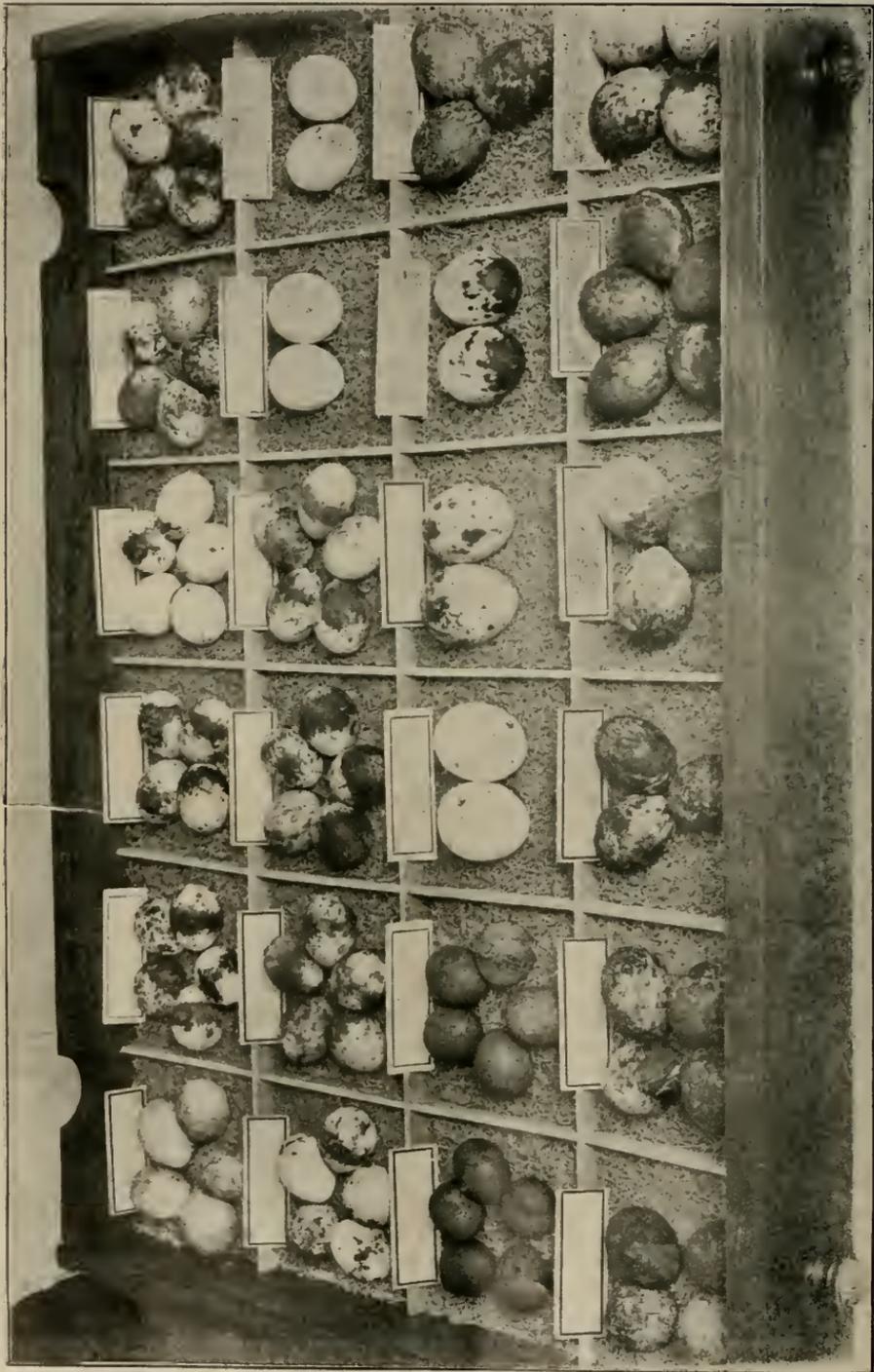
Thomas D. Burleigh.

Pittsburgh, Pa.

Northern Red Breasted Sapsucker.

One day last summer, May 9th, 1912, I believe, I spent some time in observing one of these beautiful birds working on a soft maple tree near the edge of a large wood. It was not in the least timid, and paid but slight attention to me as I sat watching it, only a few yards away.

Certain portions of the trunk, and some of the limbs of the tree were systematically covered, but why the whole surface was not tapped instead of patches of one or two square feet, here and there, I cannot say. The punctures as usual were in rows at even distance apart.



Series of Eggs of Sharp Shinned Hawks, Kites and other Rare Raptors In Collection of T. H. Jackson.
—Photo by Jackson.

When I first arrived, I noted a pine squirrel out on one of the branches, and by his actions I soon learned that he was getting a free drink of maple sap at the bird's expense. Every few minutes he would leave his position on some other part of the tree, and work towards the bird. The latter, with a sharp note or two, would make a few passes toward him and then fly to another part of the tree, leaving the enterprising squirrel to lap the sap from the fresh punctures.

Part of the time there were two sapsuckers present; the first having been joined by another, evidently its mate. They doubtless had, or were preparing a nest nearby, but I failed to locate it. The Northern Red-breasted Sapsucker, in this locality seems to prefer the dead stubs in the top of live maples for nesting sites, although they occasionally nest in large snags. May 3, 1912, I flushed one from a hole very near the top of an enormous dead snag. It was evidently incubating as it took several hard raps on the base with a stick to disturb it. This snag was about two and one-half or three feet in diameter at the bottom, and probably two feet at the top. Its height was at least one hundred feet, and as there was not a limb or projection on it, it was impossible to inspect the nest. This was near a small lake, around which this species was quite common.

Alex Walker.

Mulino, Ore.

A Week on Lake Erie.

On the 1st day of April, 1912, I left Pittsburgh for Kingsville, Ohio, a small town on the shore of Lake Erie, with great expectations for the following week, which certainly were fulfilled. The farm-house at which I stayed was very finely situated, the lake not more than 500 feet in front

of the house and a large pine forest a little distance behind it. On my arrival, I found the weather much colder than when I had left Pittsburgh, and I feared that a cold spell was coming on. My fears were justified, for when I got up the next morning a heavy blizzard was in progress and it was extremely cold. This lasted for three days, when it became warmer again, and the last two days were perfect.

The following is the list of birds seen during my stay:

51. Herring Gull—These birds were much scarcer than I expected to find them, seven being the largest number seen in one day.

148. Scaup Duck—Fairly plentiful in open spaces on the lake. Quite a number of other Ducks were seen but they stayed too far out to be recognized.

172. Canada Goose—Seen occasionally going by overhead in large flocks making quite a clamor.

273. Killdeer—Several pairs of these birds stayed in a large field near the farm house at which I lived, and were continually heard and seen.

300. Ruffed Grouse—These birds were very scarce, but one individual being seen during my stay.

316. Mourning Dove—Seen occasionally but never in large numbers.

331. Marsh Hawk—A pair of these birds stayed in a large swampy meadow and were seen daily.

352. Bald Eagle—These birds, although quite common the previous summer, were very scarce at this time, but one individual being seen on the 2d.

360. Sparrow Hawk—These little Hawks were fairly plentiful, being occasionally seen along the road.

390. Belted Kingfisher—Very scarce, being seen but twice, on the 5th and 6th, fishing in the lake.

394. Downy Woodpecker — Fairly plentiful, several being seen daily.

412a. Flicker—These birds arrived on the 5th and were plentiful during the rest of my stay.

456. Phoebe—Rather scarce, probably on account of the cold weather. One was seen during one of the coldest days and I often wondered if it ever found anything to eat.

488. American Crow—Very plentiful; large flocks often consisting of plentiful, several being seen daily.

495. Cowbird—These birds were during the last few days of my stay, extremely plentiful. From daybreak until about nine o'clock, large flocks passed by in an almost continuous stream.

498. Red-winged Blackbird — These birds were also extremely plentiful, passing by with the Cowbirds.

501. Meadowlark—Very plentiful at all times, even during the coldest weather.

511. Purple Grackle—Very plentiful for the last few days going by with the Red-wings and Cowbirds.

517. Purple Finch — Very scarce, only three were seen on the 6th, one of which was singing.

528. Redpoll—Very plentiful during the whole of my stay. On the 5th a large flock was seen which must have contained at least 100 individuals.

540. Vesper Sparrow—Very plentiful in the fields.

559. Tree Sparrow—Small flocks of these little Sparrows were seen but never in large numbers.

560. Chipping Sparrow—These birds were entirely absent until the 6th; when one individual was seen.

563. Field Sparrow—Seen in small numbers in the fields.

567. Slate-colored Junco — Fairly plentiful, seen in small flocks with the Tree Sparrows.

581. Song Sparrow—Abundant everywhere.

587. Towhee—Fairly plentiful in the thickets and brush piles.

593. Cardinal—Very scarce, but one bird seen, in a small thicket, on the 4th.

622. Loggerhead Shrike—Several of these birds were occasionally seen in a thorny grove of small trees.

726. Brown Creeper—Rather scarce, seen several times in the woods.

727. White-breasted Nuthatch—Fairly plentiful, seen occasionally in pairs.

748. Golden-crowned Kinglet—These little birds were seen but once on the 5th, when three of them were found in a small orchard.

761. American Robin—Fairly plentiful everywhere.

766. Bluebird—Very plentiful, often seen in small flocks of eight or ten birds.

Thomas D. Burleigh.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Copy.

We again call upon our contributors with the wail of the pursued to state that the typesetter calleth for copy, and we have but little left. These long winter evenings are good times to prepare short articles and notices giving pithy bird information acquired during the past season.

Nesting of the Sprague's Pipit.

It is a far cry from the Park-like region of Canada where I first heard and found the Sprague's Pipit on its nesting grounds, to the undulating prairie country of South Dakota where I became more intimately acquainted with this species.

I have heard and found this Pipit on its nesting grounds near Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, but it was some time after hearing the Bedilia, delia, delia, delia notes of this soar-

ing songster that I discovered it was the rare Sprague's Pipit.

When you hear this bird in its breeding haunts, you will find many, many nests—I don't think. I looked in vain all through late May and most of June for evidence of its nesting and only rarely did I find a bird of this species on the ground; because they have the knack of alighting and proving so quiet and elusive that to the average collector it doesn't appear possible for a Pipit to be in the country.

On most any clear day you will find them high in the air, sometimes out of sight uttering their melodious ringing song. This of course, is in the vicinity of their summer home, but the nest may be a mile or more away from where you hear them.

It was not until June 28th, 1905, that I found and brought to earth my first specimen of this bird from off her nest of four badly incubated eggs. This was in the Park region before noted, and the bird was in the midst of a black sand plain some miles in extent, covered with short grass. The nest was simply a depression in the ground among the short grass, made of dead grasses, canopied over as usual with the standing grass.

I found no other nests in this region and I left regretfully, without my perfect set of this bird which I so much desired.

But in May, 1907, while holding down my claim in Stanley County, South Dakota, I found my much coveted, perfect set. I was returning home from a trip to Wellsburg after necessary supplies, when within sight of and a quarter of a mile distant from my shanty, I noticed a hole in the ground seemingly made by some small rodent. I rode on slowly a short distance, when the Bedilia, delia, delia notes of a Sprague's Pipit burst out as it seemed, from a clear sky, and the

author of the song was out of sight and remained so. I turned my bronco and rode back, and after a few moments search, I found the nest that I had looked so long and hoped so much for.

It was simply a depression scratched in the soil to the depth of six inches, among short grass that had been mowed the season before. This was substantially lined with dead grasses and canopied over with some scattered dead grass left from last year's raking. It contained but one egg and I was unable in my own mind to place the identification satisfactorily, and I could hardly wait until the full set would be completed. Thoughts of that egg with the queer mode of nesting, crowded my mind in every idle moment.

After waiting the full allotted space of time for the bird to complete the set I returned to the nest from Ash Creek, where I had been after the mail, finding the bird at home on the full set of five eggs. I went to my shanty after my gun and returning, found her again incubating, and by a fortunate shot soon had in hand my much longed for Sprague's Pipit with perfect nest and five eggs.

This was on May 26th and a good day for eggs, as I soon collected four sets of three eggs each of Swainson's Hawk and one set of nine of the Pintail.

This bird is rare there, possibly one pair to each township, and I heard but three other males through the summer, and these in widely scattered territory. But in late August and early September I secured a dozen or more specimens, and easily, too.

W. H. Bingaman.

Algona, Ia.

In The Future.

For 1913 we have several leading,

carefully prepared articles already prepared which will occupy considerable space and are accompanied by some splendid illustrations; one of which is a resume of a two months' trip into the Everglades. And in the near future we expect to get out another Isle of Pines number which will be very valuable, as practically all of the information relating to that far away Isle that has been printed, has been published in *The Oologist*.

Scarcity of Bluebirds in the Delaware Valley.

I read Mr. William M. Palmer's note in the August *Oologist*, on the scarcity of the Bluebird in the Delaware Valley, with much interest, as I have noticed the same thing this year in Southeastern Pennsylvania.

In Northeastern Philadelphia very few Bluebirds were to be found this summer, and for the first time since 1897, when I first began keeping notes, I failed to find a nest of this harbinger of spring.

The Bluebird arrived on February 20th in this locality, when a pair were seen at Harrowgate by my cousin, R. M. Kerrigan, but it was not until March 19th that I observed it, when I saw a lone male at Chamounix in Fairmont Park.

Subsequently, till July, I have very few records of the occurrence of the Bluebird in the vicinity of Philadelphia, probably of not more than ten birds, and the highest number observed in one day is five, on April 1st, in the Pennypack and Huntingdon Valleys, Montgomery County, Pa., which were probably migrants, as only a female was seen on May 15th at the same localities. On April 4th, three Bluebirds were observed at Fox Chase, where at least a pair nested as I afterward saw one or two birds here. My

other few records are of single birds seen.

On April 28th, at Delair, Camden County, New Jersey, I saw two Bluebirds, and in South Jersey, on May 25th, one or two were observed at Cape May Court House, a region not in the Delaware Valley.

Where are the Bluebirds? I confess I do not know. But that they will return again I have no doubt, for they practically disappeared in the Eastern United States in 1895 and have since, till this year, returned.

Dr. C. C. Abbott had an article on the "Passing of the Bluebird" in the "Public Ledger" of June 9, 1896, a newspaper of this city, and reprinted in the Report of the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture for 1896, a beautifully written essay on the disappearance of the beloved Bluebird, and thought they had gone for good. But in a few years they were as plentiful as ever in their old haunts. At that time it was thought that the excessive cold weather decimated the birds and probably the same thing occurred again this winter, which was of unusual severity throughout the states and abnormally cold.

I heartily concur with Mr. Palmer that Dame Nature will, in her good time, as she formerly did, restore these little denizens of our fields and gardens. What would the fields and farms, orchards and groves be without the Bluebirds?

I also noticed a big decrease in Robins this spring in the Delaware Valley. With millions of Robins annually slaughtered in the South in the winter months it is a wonder there are so many found here as there are. If the murder doesn't cease the Robin will eventually become a rare bird, I fear.

Richard F. Miller.
Philadelphia, Pa.

The Birds "Self Served" Lunch.

All authors represent the Kentucky Cardinal or Virginia Redbird as a snobish, unsociable, selfish bird and a resident of the marsh and deep wood.

My experience with these beauties is so different from the reputation which they have that I want their admirers to know how cosmopolitan, how friendly and how civilized they can be.

Our home is within three blocks of the business section and our living room porch is about 40 feet from the street. Not enclosed by shrubs. Upon this porch and my window sill the Cardinals feed every winter.

In the fall, a male and a female came, and they are later joined, each year, by two and three males.

Netji Balchan says, "Bearing himself with a refined and courtly dignity, not stooping to soil his feet by walking on the ground like the more democratic robin, or even condescending below the level of the laurel bushes, the cardinal is literally a shining example of self conscious superiority, a bird to call forth respect and admiration rather than affection."

From day light until dark every day, my beautiful friends dine at my festive board.

They "break bread" with the Nuthatch, the Chickadee, the Woodpeckers, the Waxwings and even the sparrows but draw the line at the Blue Jay. Frequently they drop to the ground and eat the seeds that have fallen.

The snow, where so many birds (largely sparrows, of course,) have lighted, is as well trodden as a child's playground.

In his own family Mr. Cardinal is a trifle overbearing, but that may not be his fault, who knows. While he eats, Mrs. Cardinal, who is so exquisitely colored, patiently and admiring-

ly sits on the porch rail or in the gush near by and waits for him to crack and eat from ten to twenty sunflower seeds. When he leaves she comes down and eats.

If she is particularly hungry, or perhaps disrespectful, she will drop down, thinking to "put one over him" but he soon reminds her that she is out of order. However on the ground they both feed together. With no other bird does he act this way. She apparently does not resent his treatment of her, for I have never seen the beautiful blush on her breast deepen.

Bird authorities say that the Cardinal begins its glorious song in March. My Cardinals begin singing the last of January, indeed they are singing now, but not their fullest. From the apple tree above the porch within full view of several of our windows they sing all day. They are so gorgeous, so lovable, and so unusual that they are always new to us. Close to the kitchen window is a shrub protected from the west wind by a woodhouse. On the coldest days my beauties sit there with their heads under their wings, leaving only long enough to come for more seeds.

Last summer we found a nest of the Cardinal, parent on the nest, which was built in a wild grape vine about six feet from the ground. Vine covered a shed belonging to a summer cottage at Cold Water Lake. Cottager had not yet come.

The members of my bird family eat from sixty to seventy-five pounds of sunflower seeds during the winter. However I have other boarders than the Cardinals, the busiest of whom are the Chickadees. On my railing and porch posts and trees is plenty of suet, and the Chickadees and Nuthatches have arranged their affairs so that all of their time can be divided between eating seeds and suet. The

little stubby bill of the Chickadee seems ill fitted to crack the hard shell of the sunflower seed, but he can do it all day, as well as the Nuthatch can.

The Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers are an occasional Sapsucker, fattening on my suet. The Brown Creeper enjoys us apparently in his undemonstrative way, but I've never seen him eat suet. He slides past it and around it but never touches it.

Yesterday a flock of about 25 Cedar Waxwings visited us and ate the apples left hanging. As this is their habit, they as cheerfully, politely, and quietly left, as they came. Has any bird such beautiful manners as the Waxwing?

On Christmas day a real Robin sang a real Christmas carol in one of our trees. We have heard of this occasionally, but it is a rare experience after all.

Mrs. E. F. Gamble.

Vireos in Southside, Virginia.

On June 22d I was out for the first time in the season, and although it was late, I had hopes of locating some sets of Vireos. Fully a dozen nests were found, but in most of them the young had been hatched and had flown. One nest of the Red-eyed was found with three eggs slightly advanced in incubation, and one nest with four young. Both of these nests were suspended on the ends of small limbs about twenty feet up. The first in a beech and the second in an oak.

One nest of the Yellow-throated was found, four feet from the ground in a small sweet-gum tree, with four young in it. This is the first nest of the Yellow-throated that I have seen, although the Red-eyed, White-eyed and Warbling are fairly common.

The White-eyed as a rule is the more common of the three birds. The majority of the nests of the Red-eyed

that I have found since I have been collecting, have been in small sweet-gum trees near the roadsides and the White-eyed and Warbling usually build in thickets.

Chas. Lungsford, Jr.
Petersburg, Va.

Robin vs. Snake.

Several days since while walking along one of the streets here in town I saw an interesting sight. I noticed a robin on a lawn shaking and slapping something about, and on drawing closer, saw that the object was a small garter snake about ten inches long.

After his snakeship was quieted the robin picked him up and flew off heavily.

I never saw a robin tackle a snake before. Possibly he thought it a giant angle worm.

R. B. Simpson.

Warren, Pa.

Set of Black Rail.

One of our correspondents wrote us a few days ago that he had taken this season, a set of eggs of this rare bird. The letter has been mislaid, and we wish our correspondent would send us his name and address and as full a history of the taking of this rare set of eggs as he has time to furnish us with, and we assure him it will not again be lost.

A Letter.

"I see by the September Oologist that I am called on for verification of the statement I made in July Oologist about the Little Blue Heron. As I am cut off at the present time from all of my field notes and books, I cannot give any dates. Can only say that I myself saw and identified at close range, a Little Blue Heron. I will give the exact date and place later."

George W. H. vos Burgh.

Birds.

Thousands of birds are killed by Japs. Dr. Homer R. Hill says that Albatrosses are treated most cruelly. Starved to death that their feathers may be made more salable.

New York, Nov. 2.—That thousands of albatrosses have been imprisoned to die of starvation by Japanese feather poachers in the Hawaiian Islands was told today by Dr. Homer R. Hill of the University of Iowa in an address before the annual meeting of the National Association of Audubon societies.

He has recently returned from the Pacific and states that these birds each year collect in countless numbers to rear their young on Layson island, which is now a United States bird reservation. They grow fat from inaction and much eating and are easily captured. By placing them in dry cisterns, where no food is available, the fat becomes absorbed by the time the birds die. This makes the skinning easy and the feathers are rendered more salable.

Twenty-three of the agents of the feather trade were captured sometime ago and taken to Honolulu for trial. The Audubon society is planning to protect these birds in future by means of agents, who will be placed on the island during the breeding season of the birds.

"The past year we employed about 50 wardens to guard great nesting colonies of water birds throughout North America, and at least 2,000,000 birds thus dwelt in safety from the millinery hunters," said T. Gilbert Pearson, national Audubon secretary, after the lecture today. "There seems to be no limit to which the feather manufacturers will go in their desire to get bird feathers with which to trim women's hats," he declared.—San Jose Mercury.

Volume XXIX.

With this issue we close Volume XXIX of *The Oologist*. Whether it has been better or worse than previous volumes, the reader must judge. It will be the aim of the management of *The Oologist* to make Volume XXX as good or better than Volume XXIX has been; but this we cannot do without the support and assistance of our readers.

We publish *The Oologist* for fun; not for money, and are always glad of all of the assistance in the way of contributions of copy that our readers may make.

The only change the ensuing year will note in the policy of the magazine, if such may be denominated a change, will be that more attention will be given to Oology than was possible during the past year. And as a beginning, on the following page you will find the only published illustration of an authentic double-shelled egg that has ever been printed. This specimen is in our private collection, and has been repeatedly referred to in the columns of *The Oologist*.

R. M. B.

Please discontinue ad. of mine for exchange of a pair of field glasses. Have disposed of them long ago, and am still receiving inquiries.

George Seth Guion.

February 24, 1912.

Please cut out my ad. as it appears on page 2, middle of second column in the October number of *The Oologist*. Received all the copies I wanted. Have also disposed of all the bird books that I advertised in *The Oologist* for sale, some time ago.

Philip Laurent.

October 17, 1912.

The Oologist continues as good as ever since you acquired it and it's a pity some of the ornithologists and collectors do not contribute more articles to it than they do.

Richard F. Miller.

August 31, 1912.



Double Shelled Tame Chicken Egg

1913

THIS ISSUE OF
THE OOLOGIST
Reaches 5,000 Readers

You ought to read it, like it and subscribe for it.

We think you ought to send it to some boy or bird loving friend for next year as a Christmas present. It only costs 50 cents and will last a whole year.

Our subscribers ought to renew their subscriptions promptly as it gets the matter off their own minds and helps THE OOLOGIST.

We appeal to all of the real friends of THE OOLOGIST, and there are many such, to assist us in extending the subscription list for 1913.

THE OOLOGIST

Lacon, Ill., or Albion, N. Y.

WHAT THE BIRD PEOPLE SAY.

Here is what some of our friends say of us. Lack of space only prevents the publication of some hundreds of other just such comments. Peruse this list, you will note some familiar names, we are sure.

THE OOLOGIST.

The Oologist has improved more and more each month.

George Finary Simmons.
November 22, 1911.

The Oologist is very good reading and I would very much dislike to miss a single issue. Although I have been acquainted with it for less than two years, I can appreciate the improvement that has taken place even in that time.

Douglass Mabbott.
November 27, 1911.

Of all the interesting Bird Magazines none have I found superior to The Oologist.

Alfred Cookman.
November 29, 1911.

It is the best little paper on birds and eggs that is published, and after 14 years I still believe that. It touches a spot that no other paper does.

Karl B. Squires.
December 11, 1911.

I am now renewing for 1912, find enclosed P. O. order (50c) for The Oologist, the old standby. As long as I can dig up the price I expect to take it. I am glad to see it improving, may its life be long; for it is very useful to collectors, taxidermists, etc., and good reading. It brings us together more and more each year.

W. G. Savage.
December 11, 1911.

I don't wish to miss a copy. Wishing success to The Oologist.

Basse A. Beck.
December 12, 1911.

The December issue was certainly a fine one.

Henry Hestness.
December 12, 1911.

You are certainly giving us the finest little Bird Magazine published. The December issue is a hummer.

Lucius H. Paul.
December 14, 1911.

My December Oologist to hand today and is certainly rich in fine cuts. It excells by far in this respect any former issue of the magazine.

Dr. C. H. Luther.
December 26, 1911.

The December number is certainly all that you have promised us.

H. O. Green.
December 14, 1911.

The Oologist is improving and it looks like old times again. I have been a subscriber for nearly 25 years and would not be without it for any time.

L. Ernest Marcean.
December 26, 1911.

Your copies are gaining in interest monthly.

R. J. Longstreet.
December 26, 1911.

Fifty cents for the 1912 Oologist, which I could not do without.

Mrs. D. S. Brown.
January 2, 1912.

Enclosed find 50 cents in stamps for which please continue my subscription to The Oologist for another year. If at the end of that time you do not hear from me, please send it on and I will remit at once, as I could not do without it for any length of time.

R. F. Lozier.
January 3, 1912.

I like the magazine very much indeed, and about the 15th of every month I look forward to it greatly. I wish it came twice a month, but I have no place to grumble as I think it has improved wonderfully in the two and one-half years that I have taken it.

Norman Haultain.
January 3, 1912.

The Oologist is a dandy. Would not be without it.

Chas. B. Straub.
January 15, 1912.

As for myself, I am on the subscription lists of 18 magazines, but not a single one is extracted from the outer wrapper with as much promptness as The Oologist. I would be lonesome without it.

Isaac Hess.
January 17, 1912.

I cannot do without The Oologist, having been a subscriber since 1893.

G. F. Dippie.
January 20, 1912.

Last Oologist looks good. Keep it up.

Mr. Short.

January 19, 1912.

I have taken The Oologist for more than 22 years and I can't do without it now. It was worth the price at its worst and now it is at its best. Nuff sed.

J. W. Sudgen.

January 18, 1912.

Enclosed you will find the very small tax for a very fine paper. I wish to offer my heartiest congratulations for the success of the magazine in the future and for its vast improvement since you have taken it in hand. The advertising department is a wonder, and the printed matter is mighty interesting. The plates of the eagle for January number were fine.

Miller T. Mercer.

January 19, 1912.

When my subscription runs out don't stop paper. Dun me at my expense, sue me, call me up on the Long Distance. Do anything but stop The Oologist.

Thos. S. Hill.

January 20, 1912.

If for any reason my dues should not be forthcoming, please advise me and let The Oologist keep coming, as I do not want to miss any of it.

R. L. Moore.

January 20, 1912.

My husband subscribed for the first number of Oology in about 1884 and has interestingly subscribed for it ever since. We always read it and always enjoy it.

Mrs. E. F. Gamble.

January 26, 1912.

It is like an old friend and I couldn't be without it.

Pingree I. Osborn.

January 27, 1912.

The magazine is fine, both editorially and typographically and as I am a practical printer and old newspaper publisher, I think I know whereof I speak.

Earle Cassidy.

January 27, 1912.

The Oologist is improving month by month and is by far the most up-to-date and wide-awake publication of natural science of the times and should be, in my mind, far above the censure as was given it in a recent issue of the Nature Culture.

Louis S. Kohler.

January 28, 1912.

I am much pleased with your little magazine and wish you greater success than ever in your work.

James A. Rohback.

January 29, 1912.

Let me compliment you on your admirable little magazine. You may consider me a "life" subscriber.

Minnie Engel.

January 31, 1912.

Enclosed find 50 cents for The Oologist the coming year, the best bird paper in the United States, also please send me December issue, mine must have gotten lost in the mail during the Xmas rush.

M. A. White.

January 31, 1912.

Enclosed find a check for fifty cents, for a year's subscription to your very fine little magazine, The Oologist, for the year 1912-1913.

Samuel Claman.

January 31, 1912.

The paper is fine all the time and I wish you success for the ensuing year.

C. J. Chamberlain.

February 3, 1912.

I want to congratulate you on the appearance of The Oologist for the past year.

L. W. Brownell.

February 4, 1912.

I have been getting it now for over twenty years and I find it better and more interesting than it has been in all the years that I have been getting it.

George Miller.

February 5, 1912.

I must compliment you on getting out a very valuable journal, and having it out on time.

John Williams.

February 9, 1912.

I think The Oologist has improved wonderfully since you took hold of it.

I. Van Kammen.

February 16, 1912.

I am greatly pleased with your little paper and very much interested in its success.

Ray Wolfe.

February 9, 1912.

I wish to congratulate you on the steady improvement in The Oologist.

F. P. Drowne, M. D.

February 19, 1912.

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