

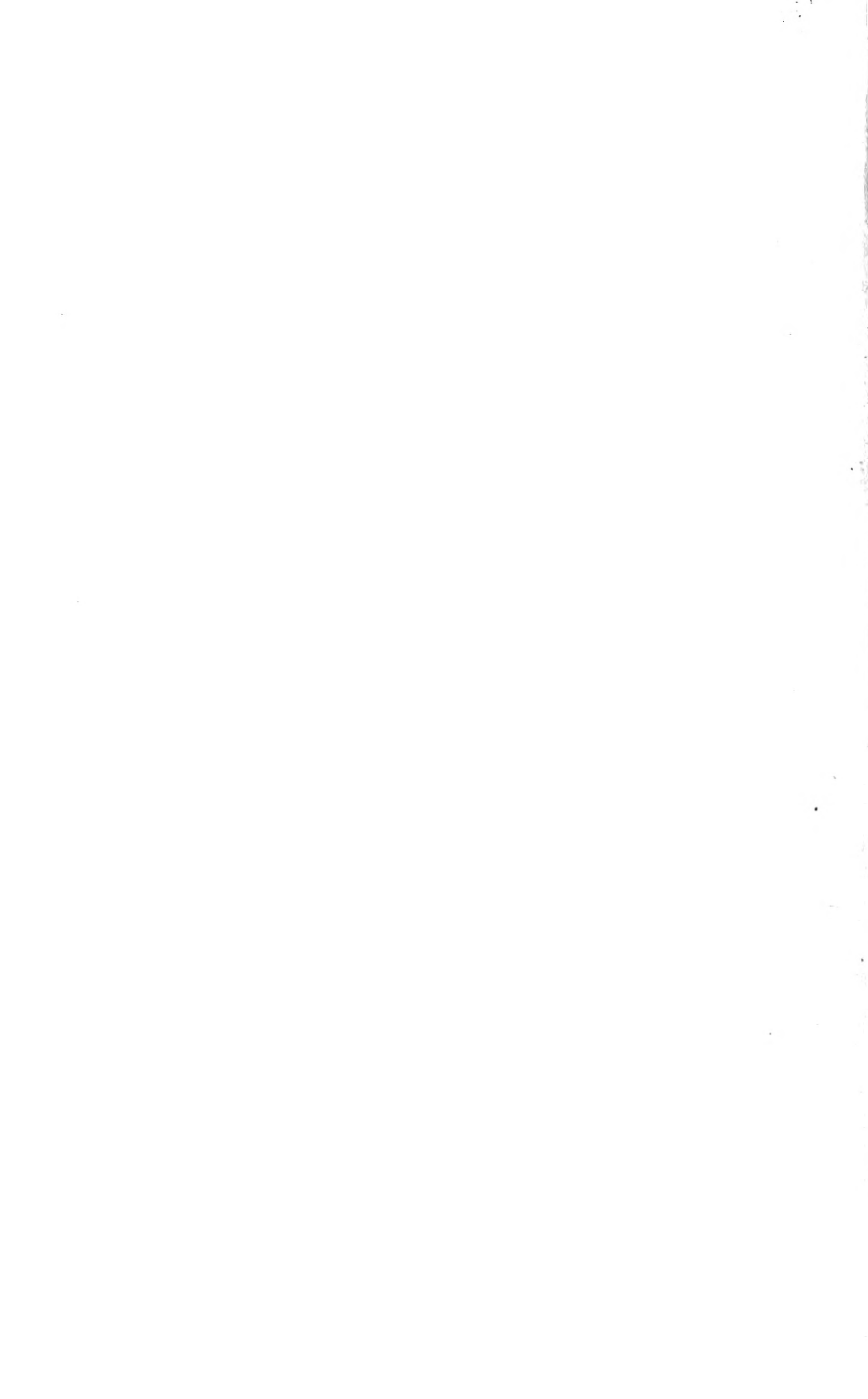


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# THE OÖLOGIST

— *for the* —

## STUDENT OF BIRDS

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XL. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1923.

WHOLE NO. 429



## THE OOLOGIST

### BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 15 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. 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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I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species, A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1923.

WHOLE NO. 429

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## TAKE NOTICE.

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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.



Sand Hill Cranes, 10 Days Old. June 10-22. Warner Lakes.  
Oregon—A. G. Prill.

AN ANNOTATED LIST OF BIRDS  
OBSERVED IN SOUTH FLORIDA

The following is a list of birds observed by the writer during the period from November 1920 to July 1922 inclusive, during my tour of duty at the Army Air Service Station at Carlstrom Field, situated about seven miles south and east of Arcadia, Florida.

These notes are not the result of painstaking study but rather the casual notes jotted down while on brief fishing or hunting trips, and inspired by the abundance of bird life or perhaps more accurately the facility of observation afforded by individuals of the species noted by reason of their numbers and their seeming lack of fear at the approach of humans.

The localities visited are included between the 28th and 26th parallels of north latitude, and from the Gulf coast on the west at Punta Gorda to the western shore of Lake Okechobee on the east; comprising Fisheating Creek, Charlotte Harbor, Sugar Bowl City, Peace River, Caloosahatchee River, Prairie Creek, and various other small marshes and streams, included in the counties of DeSoto, Polk, Lee, Punta Gorda, and offers a typical cross section of South Florida.

De Soto County which is representative of all the territory visited has much typical Savanna landscape, extensive stretches of level flat land covered with wild grasses and low growths of Saw Palmetto, with many flats or small marshes which are covered with pools of shallow water in which marsh vegetation grows abundantly, these pools or marshes are bordered by tall clumps of sage grass, and support cat-tail rushes, blue flags, water lilies, and pickerel weed which makes good breeding sites for Rails, and hunting grounds for Herons, Ibis, etc., and usually to one side of these

marshes is found a clump of oak, alder, myrtle and willow in which the Night Herons find refuge.

On the open prairie the most striking features of bird life are the Sandhill Cranes, Florida Burrowing Owl, and Southern Meadowlark.

Occasional "islands" of pine forest varying from a few acres to several square miles invade the prairie and break the monotony of the flat level grassland. "Hammocks" or clumps of live oaks, cabbage palms, and other arboreal growth are a distinctive feature of this country.

Along the rivers and smaller streams are belts of forest, composed on the outer edge of pines, and an inner zone of palms, tupelo, oak and cypress, the different trees predominating according to the nature of the soil and other conditions so that one finds groves composed exclusively of palms in one place and in others nothing but cypress. The pine forests are open and light with a carpet of grass and saw palmetto, while the palm groves have bare floors or little growth and the tupelo and cypress are usually swampy with little or no undergrowth; interspersed among these are thickets of alder, myrtle, scrub oak and greenbrier.

The larger trees are all hung with streamers of Spanish moss which gives the cypress and pine groves a splendid cathedral effect, while the presence of air plants and trumpet creepers in the trees along the streams remind one that this is the tropics.

1. A. O. U. No. 6. *Podilymbus podiceps*, Pied-billed Grebe. Often seen in small open pools, locally called "dappled Diver," observed every month in the year.

2. A. O. U. No. 70. *Sterna hirundo*, Common Tern. Seen at Tampa, Ft.



Meyers and Punta Gorda. Not common.

3. A. O. U. No. 80. *Rynchops nigra*-black Skimmer. Quite a number seen at Clearwater, near Tampa, July 1922.

4. A. O. U. No. 118. *Anhinga anhinga*, Water Turkey. First seen (two specimen) Oct. 18, 1921, July 16, 1922 while motoring from Tampa to Arcadia in a shallow pool by a phosphate mine near Mulberry, Florida. We saw four anhingas, two were in the water with only their heads and a length of neck showing snake-like and other two were perched on some old piles evidently drying their feathers after a prolonged immersion, for they sat motionless with extended wings and spread tails. We stopped beside one of the latter that was near the road perhaps ten yards from us, and watched it for some time, at length wishing to see it in flight with some difficulty we flushed the bird, but it flew only a few yards squawking a protest at being disturbed, then inconsiderately flopped into the water and disappeared after a few moments. However, its head appeared above water; then some of its neck. By its motions we could tell that it was walking on the bottom of the pool with its body submerged and head and neck sticking out.

5. A. O. U. No. 120a. *Phalacrocorax auritus cinnatus*, Florida Cormorant. This species seen at Punta Gorda April 1921 and Tampa July 1922.

6. A. O. U. No. 125. *Pelecanus erythrorhynchus*, White Pelican. Quite common along the coast.

7. A. O. U. No. 126. *Pelecanus occidentalis*, Brown Pelican. Quite common along the coast, but not so tame as the White.

8. A. O. U. No. 128. *Fregata aquila*, Man-o'-war-bird. First seen May 30 1921. Afterward seen in large numbers at Crescent Beach near Fort

Meyers. I saw this bird do a tailspin in approved airplane fashion.

9. A. O. U. No. 134a. *Anas fulvigula maculosa*, Florida Duck, resident May 14, 1921. The enlisted men of the Medical Department at the Field captured five downy young of this species in one of the drain ditches on the Field.

10. A. O. U. No. 139. *Nettion carolinense*, Green-winged Teal. Quite common in fall migration.

11. A. O. U. No. 143. *Dafila acuta*, Pintail. Common in migration.

12. A. O. U. No. 144. *Aix sponsa*, Wood Duck. A pair of these beautiful Ducks were killed near the Field by a local hunter in the winter of 1921-22.

13. A. O. U. No. 148. *Marila marila*, Scaup Duck. Many seen at all times of the year at Punta Gorda.

14. A. O. U. No. 184. *Guara Alba*, White Ibis. Many seen.

15. A. O. U. No. 188. *Mycteria Americana*, Wood Ibis. Often seen. A huge flock seen near Lake Okechobee, Dec. 1920.

16. A. O. U. No. 190. *Botaurus lentiginosus*, Bittern. Often seen.

17. A. O. U. No. 191. *Ixobrychus exilis*, Least Bittern. One seen April 1922.

18. A. O. U. No. 194b. *Ardea herodias Wardii*, Ward's Heron. Very common.

19. A. O. U. No. 199. *Herodias Egretta*, Egret. Few seen at intervals.

20. A. O. U. No. 199. *Hydranassa tricolor ruficollis*, Louisiana Heron. Often seen.

21. A. O. U. No. 200. *Florida caerulea*, Little Blue Heron. Common.

22. A. O. U. No. 201. *Butorides virescens virescens*, Green Heron. Many seen especially in the late summer.

23. A. O. U. No. 202. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius*, Black-crowned Night Heron. Common about all the

marshes.

24. A. O. U. No. 203. *Nyctanassa violacea*, Yellow-crowned Night Heron. Not so common as the foregoing species. One seen feeding at the kitchens of the soldiers mess in the spring of 1922.

25. A. O. U. No. 206. *Grus mexicana*, Sandhill Crane. Abundant at all times. Called "Sandhill Whooper" locally and sought for food.

26. A. O. U. 207. *Aramus vociferus*, Limpkin. Several seen.

27. A. O. U. No. 208. *Rallus elegans*, King Rail. Several seen.

28. A. O. U. No. 212. *Rallus virginianus*, Virginia Rail. One seen.

29. A. O. U. No. 218. *Ionornis martinicus*, Purple Gallinule. Several seen in 1922.

30. A. O. U. No. 219. *Gallinula galeata*, Florida Gallinule. Several seen in 1922.

31. A. O. U. No. 221. *Fulica americana*, Coot. Huge flock seen near Okechobee.

32. A. O. U. No. 230. *Gallinago delicata*, Wilson's Snipe. Many seen in the winter.

33. A. O. U. No. 254. *Totanus melanoleucus*, Greater Yellowlegs. Several seen Dec. 1920.

34. A. O. U. No. 255. *Totanus flavipes*, Yellowlegs. Many seen.

35. A. O. U. No. 261. *Bartramia longicauda*, Upland Plover. Many seen.

36. A. O. U. No. 263. *Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper. Few seen in the winter of 1920-21.

37. A. O. U. No. 270. *Squatarola squatarola*, Black-bellied Plover. Two seen in fall of 1921.

38. A. O. U. No. 273. *Oxyechus vociferus*, Killdeer. Abundant in the spring on the prairies.

39. A. O. U. No. 289a. *Colinus virginianus*, Floridanus, Florida Bobwhite. Very abundant at all times;

the shooting season finds many hunters afield all through the season and many are the limit bags brought in but for all the slaughter the number of birds seem to remain the same. One covey of about 20 birds lived in the vacant lots across the street from our house during the autumn of 1921 and fed in our yard afternoons, often being seen crossing the paved street while motor cars were passing.

40. A. O. U. No. 310b. *Meleagris gallopavo osceola*, Florida Turkey. This noble game bird is still found in slowly diminishing numbers, diminishing because of the fact that many are killed during the summer months, when fledglings. At this age the young poults may be broiled and are very good cooked in this way. I was informed by one hunter that he killed 77 young turkeys in the summer of 1921.

June 20, 1922 while motoring from Fort Meyers to Arcadia via "The Woods Road" we came upon a pair of old Turkeys and eighteen young feeding in an open space in the cypress woods. The old Turkeys were apparently not much alarmed and moved off about twenty yards where they stopped and stood motionless observing us intently, the young fully feathered and perhaps half grown, continued to feed among the bunches of sage grass apparently unconscious of our presence. The old birds stood this about five minutes and then did a regular movie "fadeout" but the youngsters were in sight about fifteen minutes before their quest for food took them out of range of vision.

41. A. O. U. No. 316. *Zenaidura macroura carolinensis*, Mourning Dove. Very abundant at all times of the year and hunted in season as a game bird. They congregate around fields of grain and in chufa fields in huge flocks and it is there that the sportsmen go to

shoot them. They furnish very good sport as they fly very fast and require a direct hit to come down. Their flesh is considered very good to eat and for this reason they are hunted.

42. A. O. U. No. 320. *Chaempelia passerina terrestris*, Ground Dove. Very common at all times of the year.

43. A. O. U. No. 325. *Cathartes aura septentrionalis*, Turkey Vulture. Very common at all times and everywhere. Not so tame perhaps as the next species, but to be seen associating in flocks with the Black Vulture. July 27, 1922 one of these birds swooped down in the pine woods back of the house where we were living at the time and rose almost instantly with a four foot black snake in its beak, holding the writhing snake firmly by the head the Vulture rose quickly to a few hundred feet altitude and swept away followed by two other Vultures who had seen him make the capture.

44. A. O. U. No. 326. *Catharista uruba*, Black Vulture, *ubiquitus*. Associated with the preceding species, they act as scavengers for all refuse of any kind that is left exposed for any time. On the open range these birds are found feeding with the Turkey Vultures and Caracara.

45. A. O. U. No. 327. *Elanoides forficatus*, Swallow-tailed Kite. Three specimen seen June 20, 1922 in a cypress swamp while motoring from Fort Meyers to Arcadia, and judging by their actions and the presence of a nest in a nearby tree I assumed that they were nesting there. These birds at this time gave us a wonderful exhibition of their flying ability, "zooming," side-slipping, and rolling, all the time uttering their cackling notes.

46. A. O. U. No. 331. *Circus hudsonius*, Marsh Hawk. Very common. Seen nearly every day skimming over the prairie in search of food.

47. A. O. U. No. 332. *Accipteryx*,

Sharp-shinned Hawk. One seen in Arcadia chasing Sparrows.

48. A. O. U. No. 337. *Buteo borealis, borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk. Often seen circling over the woods.

49. No. 339a. *Buteo lineatus alleni*, Florida Red-shouldered Hawk. Seen along nearly every ditch or crawfish pool hunting food. One set of two eggs taken in April 1921.

50. A. O. U. No. 342. *Buteo swainsoni*, Swainson's Hawk. One seen in the spring of 1922.

51. A. O. U. No. 357. *Falco columbaris columbaris*, Pigeon Hawk. One seen.

52. A. O. U. No. 360c. *Falco sparverius paulus*, Little Sparrow Hawk. Many seen at all times.

53. A. O. U. No. 362. *Polyborus cheriway*, Audubon's Caracara. Often seen nests in January.

54. A. O. U. No. 364. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis*, Osprey. Many seen. One nest seen near Punta Gorda in 1921. Three nests occupied in same locality in 1922. All huge nests in dead pine trees on borders of a small stream called "Shell Creek."

55. A. O. U. No. 365. *Aluco pratincola*, Barn Owl. One seen near Okecho-bee Dec. 1920.

56. A. O. U. No. 368a. *Strix varia alleni*, Florida Barred Owl. Several seen at different times.

57. A. O. U. No. 373a. *Otus asio floridanus*, Florida Owl. Common one nested in porch pillar in Arcadia.

58. A. O. U. No. 378a. *Speotyto cunicularia floridana*, Florida Burrowing Owl. Nests in every available place on the prairie. Several nests on the flying field in the summer of 1921.

59. A. O. U. No. 387. *Coccyzus americanus americanus*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Often seen in the vicinity of orange groves.

60. A. O. U. No. 390. *Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher. A conspicuous

object near every ditch and pool where minnows are to be found.

61. A. O. U. No. 393b. *Dryobates villosus auduboni*, Southern Hairy Woodpecker. One seen in our yard in Arcadia.

62. A. O. U. No. 395. *Dryobates borealis*, Red-cockaded Woodpecker. Several seen in our yard in Arcadia. These birds would come and thoroughly inspect the pine trees in our yard, beginning at the bottom of the tree and working upward, then when finished with a tree they would fly to another where the same performance would be repeated.

63. A. O. U. No. 405. *Phloectomus pileatus*, Pileated Woodpecker. A pair seen June 20, 1922.

64. A. O. U. No. 406. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Woodpecker. Seen in all localities visited this noisy bird always in evidence.

65. A. O. U. No. 409. *Centurus carolinus*, Red-bellied Woodpecker. Often seen in the woods.

66. A. O. U. No. 412. *Colaptes auratus auratus*, Flicker. Often seen in all localities. Frequently the Flickers came down in our yard in town and spent some hours digging in the ant hills that infested the ground.

67. A. O. U. No. 416. *Antrostomus carolinensis*, Chuck-will's Widow. Many heard.

68. A. O. U. No. 420b. *Chordeiles virginianus chapmani*, Florida Nighthawk. A great many of these birds were seen at all times of day.

69. A. O. U. No. 423. *Chaetura pelagica*, Chimney Swift. A few seen in Arcadia.

70. A. O. U. No. 428. *Archilochus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird. One seen in Arcadia June 10, 1921.

71. A. O. U. No. 444. *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird. Often seen especially around towns.

72. A. O. U. No. 445. *Tyrannus*

*dominicensis*, Gray Kingbird. One seen July 16, 1922 at Clearwater Beach.

73. A. O. U. No. 452. *Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher. Quite often heard and often seen. One pair tried to nest in one of the downspouts of the house where we lived in Arcadia. In May 1921 three attempts were made but the occurrence of rains brought their plans to naught each time. On their first attempt the nest was completed and egg laid. The second time four eggs were laid when a rain washed nest and eggs out. The third trial got only as far as the completion of the nest when it was washed out. The patient birds then gave up that place as an undesirable location and after a time departed from that neighborhood. These birds built their nests out of dried grasses and of course the usual lining of snakeskin.

74. A. O. U. No. 461. *Myiochanes virens*, Wood Pewee. Few seen.

75. A. O. U. No. 477a. *Cyanocitta cristata florinicola*, Florida Blue Jay. Often seen especially in town.

76. A. O. U. No. 479. *Aphelocoma cyanea*, Florida Jay. One seen on Fisheating Creek Dec. 1920.

77. A. O. U. No. 488a. *Corvus brachyrhynchus pascuus*, Florida Crow. Often seen.

78. A. O. U. No. 490. *Corvus ossifragus*, Fish Crow. Few seen.

79. A. O. U. No. 494. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink. One flock of 20 seen near Carlstrom Field, May 12, 1921.

80. A. O. U. No. 498c. *Agelaius phoeniceus floridanus*, Florida Redwing. Colonies nesting in every suitable marsh.

81. A. O. U. No. 501c. *Sturnella magna argutula*, Southern Meadowlark. Seen everywhere and at all times. Very tame.

82. A. O. U. No. 506. *Icterus* Spur-

ius, Orchard Oriole. Few seen in winter.

83. A. O. U. No. 511a. *Quiscalus aglaeus*, Florida Grackle. Many seen at all times of year.

84. A. O. U. No. 513. *Megaquiscalus major major*, Boat-tailed Grackle, called "Jackdaw" by the inhabitants. Very abundant.

85. A. O. U. No. 529. *Astragalinus tristis tristis*, Goldfinch. A large flock of these little beauties alighted in our yard one autumn afternoon in 1921.

86. A. O. U. No. 546b. *Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*, Florida Grasshopper Sparrow. Often seen and heard on the prairie.

87. A. O. U. No. 554. *Zonotrichia leucophrys leucophrys*, White-crowned Sparrow. One seen Jan. 20, 1921.

88. A. O. U. No. 587a. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus Alleni*, White-eyed Towhee. This noisy fellow could be often heard whistling his loud call from every wayside bush or noisily scratching among the leaves and undergrowth.

89. A. O. U. No. 593d. *Cardinalis cardinalis floridanus*, Florida Cardinal. Very often seen, especially about brier thickets.

90. A. O. U. No. 610. *Piranga rubra, rubra*, Summer Tanager. Seen in woods.

91. A. O. U. No. 611. *Progne subis subis*, Purple Martin. Many seen, mostly in towns or around houses.

92. A. O. U. No. 612. *Petrochelidon lunifrons lunifrons*, Cliff Swallow. Many seen in spring and fall migrations.

93. A. O. U. No. 613. *Hirundo erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow. Common.

94. A. O. U. No. 616. *Riparia riparia*, Bank Swallow. Found nesting along Fisheating Creek.

95. A. O. U. No. 617. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, Rough-winged Swallow. Many seen in spring and fall migrations.

96. A. O. U. No. 622. *Lanius ludovicianus ludovicianus*, Loggerhead Shrike. Abundant. One pair nested in a pine tree in our yard in Arcadia in the spring of 1922.

97. A. O. U. No. 658. *Dendroica cerulea*, Cerulean Warbler. Seen in fall of 1921.

98. A. O. U. No. 681b. *Geothlypis trichas ignota*, Florida Yellowthroat. Often seen and more often heard usually in low places.

99. A. O. U. No. 683. *Icteria virens, virens*, Yellow-breasted Chat. Few seen in thick woods.

100. A. O. U. No. 703. *Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*, Mockingbird. Very abundant. Seen everywhere and at all times.

101. A. O. U. No. 704. *Dumetella carolinensis*, Catbird. Common.

102. A. O. U. No. 705. *Toxostoma rufum*, Brown Thrasher. Few seen in fall of 1921.

103. A. O. U. No. 718a. *Thryothorus ludovicianus miamensis*, Florida Wren. Few seen in Arcadia.

104. A. O. U. No. 722. *Nannus hiemalis, hiemalis*, Winter Wren. One seen in oleander bushes in our yard in Arcadia in fall of 1921.

105. A. O. U. No. 725. *Telmodytes palustris palustris*, Long-billed Marsh Wren. Few seen in marsh near Sugarbowl City Oct. 1921.

106. A. O. U. No. 727b. *Sitta carolinensis atkinsi*, Florida White-breasted Nuthatch. Several seen near Sugarbowl Oct. 1921.

107. A. O. U. No. 729. *Sitta pusilla*, Brown-headed Nuthatch. A small flock seen Oct. 18, 1921 near Sugarbowl.

108. A. O. U. No. 731. *Baeolophus bicolor*, Tufted Titmouse. Several seen.

109. A. O. U. No. 736. *Pentstemon carolinensis carolinensis*, Carolina Chickadee. Few seen in Arcadia not noted in other places.

110. A. O. U. No. 748. *Regulus satrapa*, Golden-crowned Kinglet. One seen in our yard in Arcadia Oct. 20, 1921.

111. A. O. U. No. 751. *Poliophtila caerulea caerulea*, Blue-gray Gnat-catcher. A pair seen in Arcadia Sept. 18, 1921.

112. A. O. U. No. 761. *Planesticus migratorius migratorius*, Robin. Many seen in spring and fall.

113. A. O. U. No. 766. *Sialia sialis sialis*, Bluebird. Often seen at all times of year.

Logan I. Evans,  
Arcadia, Florida.

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**EVIDENCE OF THE BLACK-BILLED  
CUCKOO ROBBING OTHER BIRDS'  
NESTS, AND SOME SCIENTIFIC  
FACTS CONCERNING THE  
COLORATION OF BIRDS  
EGGS**

By J. Warren Jacobs, Director Museum of Applied Oology, Waynesburg, Pa.

In the section of abnormal eggs in the Museum of Applied Oology is recorded a set of three eggs of the Black-billed Cuckoo (*Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*), one of which is (or rather was) a supposed runt about the size and shape of a Chipping Sparrow's egg (*Spizella passerina passerina*). The set was collected June 10, 1897, by the late William L. Kells, the well known and very reliable Oologist of Listowell, Ontario, Canada, of the 80's and 90's.

At the time of receiving this set as an example of abnormalism, I write Mr. Kells stating my belief that the small egg was an almost immaculate specimen of the Chipping Sparrow species, which, in some manner, had gotten into the Cuckoo's nest, possibly by the latter species stealing the same from a nearby nest of the Chippie, as the Cuckoo's nest was found in an apple

orchard wherein is usually found a nesting resort of the Sparrow. Evidence of this, I pointed out to Mr. Kells, was apparent from the fact that he blew the contents of the small egg through a small irregular hole already in the side of the shell when found. This shell puncture resembles a break made by a bird's beak.

Mr. Kell's reply to me seemed too positive of self assurance that the small egg was of the Cuckoo's laying, and the matter was laid aside for future investigation. Had this small egg been in the ordinary spotting of a normal egg of the Chippie, I could have been without any doubts of its identity, and perhaps Mr. Kells would have arrived at the same conclusion before sending me the set, i e, that the small egg was really one of the Chippie stolen by the Cuckoo. Had the egg lacked traces of spottings of a reddish pigment I could have accepted Mr. Kells' assurance as to species, as the ground color was of the same shade of green as seen in its two companions—the Cuckoo's—one of which also showed the same contour characteristics. The markings referred to are of a very subdued vinaceous, or vinaceous-pink, and seated most heavily in the form of an irregular wreath around the larger end, just as the under colors are sometimes seen in the lightly marked specimen of Chipping Sparrow egg, and this alone seemed to me, was positive evidence that no Cuckoo laid the egg.

In the twenty-five years which have elapsed since receiving this set into the Museum, I have somewhat advanced my own knowledge of the facts governing the coloration of birds' eggs, through studies of relationship of birds and the causes of abnormalism among eggs. Mr. Kells had based identification of the small egg on the fact that he found it in the Cuckoo's nest, and attended, together with the other two eggs, by the brooding

Cuckoo, overlooking or minimizing the possible fact that the markings on the small egg were composed of a color pigment foreign to the productive organs of the Cuckoo. This is apparent when we consider facts in relationship of birds, and the proof is conclusive when we realize that throughout the whole of the order—including sub-orders—to which the Cuckoos and their allies belong, no species lays eggs spotted with any reddish color pigments. It would be against a law of nature which created the Cuckoos and sent them forth endowed with physical power to exact from nature certain things not in conflict with other laws of her creation. It would not be entirely impossible to find an abnormally pure white, or nearly pure white egg of a Cuckoo, nor is it an impossible expectancy to find them abnormally deep green, because nature has empowered the bird to draw little or much of these coloring substances from her store house; but never will a reddish spotted egg be laid by any member of the Cuckoo family, for, throughout the whole order of relationship, no species lays normal eggs so spotted.

Nature may refuse to supply sufficient coloring matter to enable a bird's egg producing organs to finish off a normal colored egg, or she may provide a superfluous abundance of the normal coloring pigments to over-color a bird's egg, but she will not give to a bird productive functions foreign to its own kind or those inherited from near relatives. No Oologist will ever find spotted eggs of Woodpeckers, nor will one ever report bluish or greenish tinted eggs of the Humming-birds. Nature forbids it.

Ornithologists have brought Hawks and Owls in close relationship by grouping them in the Order RAPTORES, Birds of Prey, but separating

them finally, by a straw, by grouping the former in the Sub-Order FALCONES, and the latter in the Sub-Order STRIGES, which is a union of closer relationship than Nature's fundamental laws seem to permit. Delving into fundamental principles for a proper scientific determination of species will not permit a lightly passing over of the make-up of a bird's egg from whence the bird came, and which, in the bird's life, it must reproduce, bearing evidence of hereditary elements. Since nature may refuse some normal element of coloring pigments to a mated Hawk, that Hawk will respond with an egg which we may consider either normally or abnormally immaculate; and since nature may supply another member of the same species with an over abundance of the pigments, we may find an egg very highly colored, even to the point of abnormally so; but nature has ordained that eggs of any species of Owl should not be spotted, hence no Owl will ever lay a spotted egg nor one showing the bluish-green tint within the shell texture as is the case with other birds of prey.

The reason we sometimes find Robins' eggs abnormally spotted is because the Robin is close in relationship with other birds which habitually lay spotted eggs. What is true with the Robin is also true in the case of many other species; but in no wise will an abnormally colored egg of any species be found which carries the elements of that abnormalism outside its own relationship among birds of its order.

The relationship of birds through facts and proofs supplied by scientific Oologists is a coming important factor in the final means of classification of birds.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Report of the Superintendent of National Zoological Park, for year ending June 30th, 1922.

This publication consists of but fourteen pages and is a comprehensive resume of the activities of that institution during the period covered and shows four hundred and eighty-two species on hand June 30th last included in which are the following: Mammals 490, birds 1069, reptiles 122. Something over two hundred people visited this exhibit during those twelve months. The appropriation by Congress being \$125,200 for the maintenance, and should be doubled.—R. M. Barnes.

## "Wild Fowl Lore"

Volume 29, No. 349 January 1923, American Forestry, contains a splendid article under the foregoing caption, from the accurate and reliable pen of Dr. R. W. Schufeldt. Many North American Ducks are considered in it.

It is illustrated by eleven half-tone cuts ranging from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  by  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches to full page illustrations. It is truly wonderful what an amount of readable or reliable scientific information is found in Dr. Schufeldt's publication, and we are proud to list him as a friend and contributor to *The Oologist*.—R. M. Barnes.

The Murrelet, State Museum, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, Volume 3, No. 3, September 1922, of this splendid mimeograph serial, is at hand and there are few if any bird publications that are here which are more welcome.

This is a fine bird publication filled with fresh notes direct from the observers in the field. To peruse it gives the readers the real thrill from the wilds. It is not over technical,

but its contributors are men of known scientific ability for writing interestingly and accurately all things which interest the average ornithologist, and which the ultra-scientific closet naturalist seems to have so little interest in.—R. M. Barnes.

"Transactions of the Academy of Science, St. Louis," XXIV, No. 8.

This publication of seventy-seven pages consists of "Extracts of the Diary of Otto Widmann," and covers the following subjects: Nesting habits of the Purple Martin, How young birds are fed, Where the Martins roost, The Crows winter roost at St. Louis, Our birds in winter, The Chimney Swift, Birds of the Ozarks, Reminiscences of a visit to Branson and White River, spring 1906.

This little publication is typically Widmann in its splendid delineation of the bird subjects treated and accuracy of statement.

It is splendidly gotten up mechanically and the contents are up to the best standard. Mr. Widmann and the Society are both entitled to congratulations upon this production.—R. M. B.

"Annals of the Carnegie Museum," XIV October 1922. This exceedingly well prepared publication of 611 pages relates to "The Birds of the Santa Marta Region of Columbia; being a study in altitudinal destruction by W. E. Clyde Todd, and M. A. Carriker, Jr.," and describes among other things the geographical and physiographic—geological history, climate-population, resources, ecological conditions of the territory covered and a Historical Review of Santa Marta Ornithology. List of species, North American migrants; Life Zones of the region, and a review of the various species encountered. The latter occupying pages 131-583. The publication is embellish-



ed with a number of text illustrations. A map of the region, also five colored plates by George M. Sutton, than whom there are few, if any better bird artists in America. The entire volume is up to the usual standard of the authors, which is equivalent of saying that it could not well be improved on. We predict that for years to come this will be the standard book of reference relating to the birds of that region.—R. M. Barnes.

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### Changes and Additions to the A. O. U. Check-List of 1910

By J. Hooper Bowles

The readers of "The Oologist," who are not acquainted with the A. O. U. check-list as it stands at present, may well have become somewhat uncertain owing to the discussion in recent numbers of the magazine concerning the new egg catalog. Consequently I will attempt to clear up matters as briefly as possible.

When I wrote my letter of July 15, 1922, I had been given the hope that a committee of the A. O. U. might be appointed in the fall to consider the vast number of suggested changes and additions to our list. For this reason I strongly urged that no action should be taken on considering valuations for the very few additions made since 1910, because a vast deal of time would be saved if all the changes could be considered at once. This was taught by experience with the catalog itself. However, no further action having been taken on new additions, etc., at the recent A. O. U. meeting, I am giving herewith all of the additions made to the 1910 check-list up to date. No eliminations, whatever, have been made since its publication in 1910, except those given here.

Up to date the only additions to the 1910 A. O. U. check-list may be found in the Sixteenth Supplement, which appears in "The Auk" for July, 1912. They are as follows:

95.1. *Puffinus carneipes* Gould.  
Pale-footed Shearwater.

253.1. *Totanus totanus* (Linnaeus).  
Redshank.

301c. *Lagopus lagopus ungvus*  
Riley. Ungava Ptarmigan.

316a. *Zenaidura macroura marginella* (Woodhouse). Western Mourning Dove.

The White-winged Dove is subdivided into two races:

319. *Melopelia asiatica asiatica* (Linnaeus). West Indian White-winged Dove.

319a. *Melopelia asiatica trudeaui* (Audubon). White-winged Dove.

373i. *Otus asio gilmani* Swarth.  
Sahnara Screech Owl.

379. *Glaucidium gnoma gnoma* Wagler. Pygmy Owl. Is found to be entirely extralimital, and the form occurring in the United States will be known as:

379. *Glaucidium gnoma pinicola* Nelson. Rocky Mountain Pygmy Owl.

390a. *Ceryle alcyon caurina* Grinnell. Northwestern Belted Kingfisher.

393h. *Dryobates villosus leucothoractis* Oberholser. White-breasted Woodpecker.

396. *Dryobates scalaris bairdi* (Malherbe). Texas Woodpecker. Is entirely extralimital. The form so named in the check-list will be known as:

396. *Dryobates scalaris cactophilus* Oberholser. Cactus Woodpecker.

396b. *Dryobates scalaris eremicus* Oberholser. San Fernando Woodpecker.

414a. *Colaptes chrysoides brunneus* Anthony. San Fernando Flicker.

414b. *Colaptes chrysoides mearnsi* Ridgway. Mearns's Gilded Flicker.

This is the only one found in the United States, 414 and 414a occurring in Lower California. 414b is also found in northern Lower California.

601.1. *Emberiza rustica* Pallas.  
Rustic Bunting.

542d. *Passerculus sandwichensis nevadensis* Grinnell. Nevada Savanna Sparrow.

741c. *Penthestes rufescens vivax* Grinnell. Valdez Chestnut-sided Chickadee.

764.1. *Calliope calliope camtschatkensis* (Gmelin). Greater Kamchatkan Nightingale.

No other species or sub-species have been eliminated, nor any other cancellations been made. The only other changes up to the date of this writing being in the scientific names, which may be found in the Seventeenth Supplement, printed in "The Auk" for July, 1920.

J. Hooper Bowles.

Jan. 11, 1923.

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### Australian Nature Studies

By J. A. Leach, D. Sc. Organizing Inspector of Nature-Study and Senior Inspector of Schools, Victoria, Etc., First Edition. Critchley Parker, 276 Flinders Lane, Melbourne, 1922. 800, bound 500 pp. Col. plates and text illustrations.

The author had it in view when he undertook the preparation of this volume to supply "A Book of Reference for those interested in Nature Study," and the task has been most satisfactorily completed. In addition to six full-page colored plates of Australian birds there are no fewer than 189 text "plates," each one of which varies a number of minor line cuts, some of them as many as thirty. They are run in continuation with the text matter where they occur and are need-

ed to illustrate what is set forth in the text. The titles of a few of these will indicate the general character of them and we have for example, "Art Studies" (Pl. 102); "Feathers" (Pl. 149-14 figs); Eggs of Animals (23 figures Pl. 89), and so on. In short there are hundreds of these instructive little cuts, and they very satisfactorily illustrate what is set forth in the text.

The "Table of Contents" gives us to understand that the volume is divided into three parts, viz: Part I, Plant Life; Part II, Animal Life, and Part III, General Studies, this last being devoted to Rock Studies; Shore Studies; Lake Studies; Pond Life and the rest. There is a most helpful index at the close of the volume, covering from pages 485 to 501 inclusive, and at its commencement an interesting preface. Among the statements made in the latter we read that "As the book was written with a view to helping those interested in the education of the young, technical terms have been avoided, for there is no room for such in the nature-study of children under 12 years of age." This must not be construed to mean, however, that the book was written for children of that age, for it can be effectually used by those in the high schools and colleges, for Doctor Leach says in his preface further along, that "Having had unusual opportunities and experiences in nature study as teacher, lecturer, organizer and inspector, in addition to a wide field acquaintance with the Australian fauna, flora, and natural features, the author offers this volume as an Australian contribution toward the development of a subject that has assisted in bringing reality into schools and interest into the lives of many children as well as adults."

Now comes up the question, what

value will this book have for American readers, American schools and American children, and the answer is not far to seek for more than four-fifths of the material described is either actually to be found somewhere in this country, or else something very similar. For example, "The Development of Seeds" is practically the same the world over as is "The Breathing of Plants;" the "Growth of Leaves;" and, indeed, all else our author sets forth in this botanical side of the volume, in fact the entire matter of plant life has been worked out and illustrated in the most satisfactory style possible, and it is truly surprising to note how many wild plants they have in Australia that are identically the same as those we have in this country. With equal truth this applies to the Sponge Studies; Corals; Stinging Animals; Worms; Shells; Crustaceans; Insects; and in fact every department of nature up to and including the Vertebrata, while the same may be said for the admirable chapters on Soils; Water; Lake Studies; Rivers and the physical features. In fact the book can be most heartily recommended to all nature students in America, including the children in all your public and private schools.

R. W. Shufeldt,  
Washington, D. C.

November 20, 1922.



#### NOTES ON KILLDEER IN SOUTHEASTERN WYOMING

Having read Mr. R. M. Lee's notes on the Killdeer in the November issue of *The Oologist*, I thought it might be of interest to its readers to hear something of the nesting of that bird in this section. I shall therefore tell of a trip of some 18 miles in length

taken on the first of May last.

Leaving town at about noon of said date, I followed the course of the railroad north of Wheatland down what was once known as a sand draw, now known as a seep draw since the time irrigation came into this country. Any of these seeps are favorite resorts of the Killdeer, and especially so during the nesting season. Here and there along the draw are large dry sand bars of sand, coarse gravel, and small boulders, where our noisy little friend loves to make his home. In the six miles of seep draw traversed I observed no less than nine nests containing from 3 to 4 eggs each, nearly all, however, containing 4 eggs as the bird begins nesting in this locality about April 20th and by May first practically all the nests contain their full compliment of eggs. After leaving the seep draw, I traversed about two miles of river bottom mostly in prairie hay and in the middle of one large meadow about one-fourth mile from water, (in a hoof print in the sod, I found another Killdeer's nest with a full compliment of eggs. This particular pair of birds were very quiet in comparison with the noisy birds that I had just left. On returning home across more or less cultivated country, I came upon a nest in the center of an alfalfa field some three miles from water at that time but in the course of a few weeks to come within a few feet of water in an irrigation lateral. Still another nest was found some three and a half miles from water at the present time but soon to be near irrigation water. This nest was located on an unplowed prairie knoll in the center of an 80 acre alfalfa field. I have only one instance of a breeding record far from water and that in a dry farm cornfield some fifteen miles from the nearest water. However, I do not doubt that the killdeer is a rather common breed-

er here far from water as he can be met with during the nesting season in almost any locality. But his favorite nesting place seems to be the seep draws of the irrigation localities.

James A. Neilson,  
Wheatland, Wyoming.

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### HAUNTS AND HABITS OF THE YELLOW RAIL

The attention of the readers of *The Oologist* is called to an advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the magazine, in regard to matters germane to the above title. Inasmuch as this is not a matter of profit with me, but simply of getting into the hands of interested ornithologists a most valuable monograph obtainable only of myself, I trust the editor of *The Oologist* will, with his accustomed generosity, give place for what I am here setting down. It has been said of me, by one who knows, that "Mr. Peabody is undoubtedly the highest, as he is almost the exclusive authority on the breeding habits of the Yellow Rail. (His incursions in quest of the nests of this rare bird have given us) one of the outstanding romances" of ornithological literature.

The Annual in which my monograph has been published was an edition of 800 copies only. It reaches a limited clientele of bird students; and I have felt most reluctant that the fascinating account of my twenty years of Yellow Rail study should fail to reach the hundreds of people that may never see the Annual in question. I have therefore taken the great risk of ordering a large number of separates, for which I have paid a high price, (so great the cost of paper and printing nowadays). In order, eventually to pay out, on this proposition, I am offering copies of the separate,

which contains unique photographs, one of these by Norman A. Wood, being the only photograph extant of a live Yellow Rail, for fifty cents each. But, the signed copies thus sent out will contain two inserts of contact prints of rare interest, from negatives too delicate to half-tone well; and also a brief note as to the unusual finding of 1922. I am also negotiating with wonderful Mr. Brownell, with a view to the securing, from him, of colored contact prints of the exquisite set of 1912 eggs, all capped with mahogany and lilac, at the apex. These will cost, I imagine, about fifty cents each, an additional cost all of which will go, of course, to Mr. Brownell. To those that may not care to afford all this additional cost, I will gladly furnish an insert, contact print, of this subject, for an added ten cents. The cost of the separates will thus be, fifty and sixty cents, each, prepaid.

Inasmuch as no other North American bird nests quite like the Yellow Rail, and since a large amount of other fascinating detail other than that germane to the fugitive bird in question, is contained in my monograph. I feel absolutely certain that readers of *The Oologist* will find my separate very delightful reading. Not because I have compiled it; but because it really is, as has been said, "an outstanding romance."

P. B. Peabody.

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### JUST A FEW CHOICE ONES

We have recently added to our collection a set of Whooping Crane's eggs, taken in North Western Iowa in 1871, by one of the best known collectors and naturalists in America, which has always been kept away from the light, moisture and dust and is in a truly splendid condition. Likewise a set of Buffle-head Ducks, and last and not least 1-5 Yellow Rail Specimens of these kinds are not easily acquired.

R. M. Barnes.

## WOULDN'T YOU LIKE TO GO?

A letter received January 9th from H. Arden Edwards, of Los Angeles, California, a well known member of the Oologist family contains the statement among other things:

"I am leaving for a two or three years trip in the South Seas."

Mr. Edwards goes on a collecting and pleasure trip. He has promised to write occasionally, and if he does we will be glad to divide such experiences as he may acquaint us with, with our readers.

R. M. Barnes.

#### FURTHER NOTES ON THE BIRDS OF GOOCHLAND COUNTY, VA.

In the Oologist of April, 1922 (Vol. 39, pages 62-64) appeared an article by me on birds observed in June, 1921 on and in the vicinity of the plantation of Dr. L. K. Leake, at East Leake, Goochland County, Virginia. Again I was fortunate enough to be the guest of Dr. and Mrs. Leake from October 24 to November 7, 1922, and naturally did not overlook the opportunity to investigate the fall birds of that locality. Although frosts occurred nearly every night, the weather was mild throughout my visit and almost without exception the sun shone in full vigor throughout each day. It was so mild and dry that when the hunting season opened on November 1, I heard universal complaint from the sportsmen at our house, but on the other hand, a Katydid which I heard at midday on November 3 evidently appreciated the opportunity to prolong its 1922 career.

In the former article I spoke of 50 species seen; in this 54 are listed, 30 of which are new; thus totaling 80 species seen on the two visits. In addition, reference is made to two others

reported to me—Wilson's Snipe and Ruffed Grouse.

Aside from the James River which bounds Goochland County on the south, the county is poorly supplied with surface water and so the water birds are few in species and individuals. The woods, however, are extensive, rich in varieties of trees and underbrush. Old fields cover wide areas, but here and there more or less extensive agriculture is being conducted, so that the avifauna of the region exhibits at least an average number of species of land birds. Being fond of persimmons I was pleased to find heavily laden trees scattered all over the region, in the woods, on the main roads, and standing in isolation in old fields.

Dr. Leake killed a Woodcock on November 2 and I flushed one a few days before on the edge of a small swamp at one end of the plantation. Andrew, the doctor's young son, told me that he had killed a Wilson's Snipe at this swamp last year. The moon was shining brightly at 9:30 p. m. on November 2, when I heard a Killdeer in the pasture adjoining the Leake plantation.

Bob-whites were abundant on and in the vicinity of the plantation, but due perhaps to the excessively dry and rather mild weather I did not see or hear one notwithstanding the dogs accompanied me on nearly every walk until the hunters brought in a few on November 1. Thereafter "partridges" were on the table almost every meal until I left, but I was told that on account of the drought they were ranging almost wholly in the thick brush and semi-swampy section and, therefore, were hard to find and difficult to shoot. Mr. David Leake saw a single Ruffed Grouse on November 1 and Dr. Leake told me that he sees one or two every season, but that they do not increase. On November 1

Messrs. Herbert Ragland and Walter Leake each killed a Wild Turkey—a male and female young of the year—and the following day Mr. Richard Harris also killed a male and a female young of the year. I was told of five other Wild Turkeys killed on the 1st in this same territory. It was astonishing to find the wary and much sought bird so abundant almost within the shadows of Richmond and only half a day's distance from Washington, but it will be remembered that Goochland County is sparsely settled and heavily timbered over a large area.

Mourning Doves were not so abundant as I had expected to find them. A flock of about 50 came into the Harris cornfield before I left.

In June, 1921 I saw but one member of the Raptorial order in Goochland County—the Turkey Vulture—and in my former article I spoke deplorably of the system of bounties maintained by the county. No doubt these bounties have greatly reduced the number of Hawks and Owls in the county, but I am pleased to say that the point of extermination has not yet been reached and let us hope that the authorities will realize their folly before it is too late. I am able to record 8 species of the Hawks and Owls observed on this visit. Turkey Vultures were quite abundant. I am very sure one or more could have been soaring in the air at any moment during the hours of daylight on each day I was there. Of the Marsh, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks, one individual of each species was seen, while of the Red-shouldered and Broad-winged Hawks two of each were observed. They were all very shy as would be expected. Near the end of my visit I heard both the Barred and Screech Owls in the woods back of the house and was told that the former is fairly

numerous in that section and I am sure that the latter must be also as all the conditions favorable to its necessities are there.

The Woodpeckers were represented by six species, among them the handsome, dashing Pileated, which was fairly numerous. Often during each day I hear their loud, resonant tapping on the largest and tallest trees in the woodlands. Here they are called "Log-cocks." I have no doubt that they could be found nesting in these woods in the spring. Both the Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers were seen but only one of each. Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Flickers were in fair abundance and near the end of my visit I saw one Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. As I saw no Red-headed Woodpeckers on the previous visit and none on this, I must believe that they are of rare occurrence in this region, and this is strange for all the conditions which would seem to be requisite for their existence and happiness are present.

In the former article I spoke of Swifts that inhabited the office chimney near the house. They were there again the past summer but had departed for the South before I reached East Leake. Their nest had fallen down to the hearth and had been preserved by one of the Leake family who exhibited it to me. It was unique in that it was composed exclusively of dry pine needles, glued together, of course, by the birds' customary mucilaginous saliva. Twigs of many species of trees were available in close proximity to the chimney but evidently these Swifts had discovered that pine needles make a very compact, symmetrical and artistic nest and have advantage over the crooked and twisted twigs usually employed. I think they were quite clever in their choice of nesting materials.

The North is no place for a Fly-catcher in winter. Nevertheless a pair of Phoebes was still lingering around the cow shed on the Leake plantation when I left on November 7, and Andrew told me that a pair, very likely this same one, had spent the entire previous winter at and around this shed. I often heard them chirp their familiar "phoebe" just as they do in the spring, but not quite so vivaciously.

Blue Jays were quite abundant and seemed to delight in leisurely aerial excursions across the fields from one woodland to another, sometimes singly and at others in squads of three or more. A beechnut tree in the Harris yard was literally alive with Jays throughout my visit. A flock of upwards of 75 Crows loitered each day somewhere around the plantation and in the vicinity. They were often in the Harris cornfield, one or more sitting for a time on the top of corn stubble. They were proclaimed an insufferable nuisance by the farmers with whom I talked.

Starlings have established themselves at East Leake. A flock of 15 or more was seen from time to time during my visit.

Meadowlarks were now in flock and could be heard at intervals on the warmer days singing as they do in spring, though not so persistently. A flock of Purple Grackles was seen several times. Some Cowbirds were seen following the cattle around the Harris pasture on several occasions when I passed by. A flock of Red-winged Blackbirds was seen. On the porch of one of the farmers who had collected it I saw a dry and withered branch of a hickory tree containing a last summer's nest of the Orchard Oriole. I mention this as I believe this bird rarely nests in hickories. I may add that two winters ago I found an old

nest of the Orchard Oriole in a persimmon tree in Leon County, Florida.

About midday on October 30 I heard the exquisite little song of the Purple Finch and searching for the author discovered it sitting on the topmost branch of a large oak tree bordering on the main road. Afterwards I saw several others. Chipping Sparrows were remarkably abundant. I was interested in the fact that in an elm tree in front of the Leake home a Chipping Sparrow had built its nest during the summer 35 feet from the ground. Juncos were quite abundant and I observed that they sometimes utter notes hardly distinguishable from the single lisp or clucking notes of the Brown Thrasher. White-throated Sparrows were also abundant and I found Song Sparrows wherever there were hedges and brush. I was pleased to see a number of Swamp Sparrows down in the small swamp at one edge of the plantation. Several Towhees, Cardinals and Goldfinches were seen each day while I was there. On October 30 I saw several Savanna Sparrows in the Harris pasture. Of course, English Sparrows were established around the barns and other buildings in this region.

Several flocks of Cedar Waxwings were present during my visit and I was entertained several times by watching them swing sometimes at the ends of depending wild grape vines eating the grapes thereon.

I saw but one Migrant Shrike. This bird could be seen almost any time of the day perched on a telephone wire along the road running through the Harris plantation. He must have had a very restricted range as I always saw him within a few feet of the place where he had been seen previously.

I was surprised to see any Vireo, but early on the morning of October 26 I discovered two Solitary or Blue-head-

ed Vireos, possibly mates, in the willow trees along a stream running through the Leake pasture. I watched them through my glasses for at least twenty minutes. Now and then they sang a very sweet little song much like that of the Red-eyed Vireo but more subdued. There were several other species and numerous individuals congregated in these willows and nearby trees and underbrush at the same time that I observed the Vireos. They all seemed to be animated by the migration instinct, though some of the Sparrows no doubt will remain in that locality throughout the winter.

Of the Warblers only the Myrtle was seen and it was very abundant. I was deceived for a few moments one afternoon when I saw several small birds in the distance sallying forth from the top branches of some poplar tree in the manner of Flycatchers. I discovered that they were Myrtle Warblers.

I heard Pipits only once.

Mockingbirds were common.

I was much pleased to find the Carolina Wren in fair abundance. On several mornings one or more of them delighted my ears just outside of the windows of my bedroom with their, to me, wild and charming "chiteree, chiteree, chiteree, chit." "

One of the most interesting discoveries made during my visit was the presence of Brown-headed Nuthatches. I saw and heard three in the pine and oak woods back of the Leake residence. This must be very nearly if not quite the northernmost range of this species. Several White-breasted Nuthatches were around the plantation at all times.

Carolina Chickadees and Tufted Titmice were nearly always to be seen.

Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned Kinglets were in the woods during the early hours of morning, the latter

literally in enormous abundance; they were very nearly as abundant as I once found the Ruby-crowned Kinglets in the hammock near the Gulf of Mexico in Wakulla County, Florida.

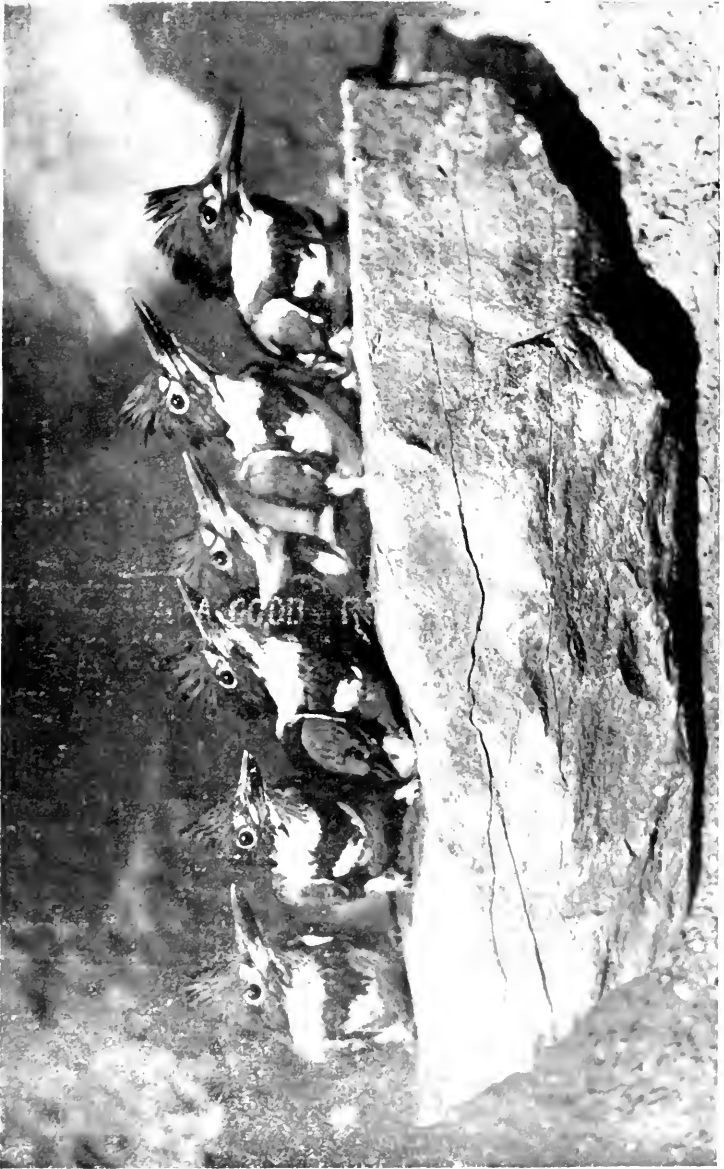
Robins and Bluebirds were abundant, the latter sometimes feeding on the berries of the dogwood trees. I heard a Hermit Thrush on October 28.

My visit was extremely pleasant in every way. There were many things aside from birds to engage my attention and interest. For instance, I found only one red squirrel thus indicating that this species is not at all abundant in this section. One of the pleasantest features of my visit was a bountiful stag supper given me and other visitors at the Leake home by Messrs. David and Richard Harris, bachelors who have followed the agricultural profession on their plantation for about fifty years. The supper was served very tastefully by old aunt Martha, a negro servant of antebellum accomplishments, who has been with the Harrises for fifty years. I have never seen Quail cooked and served so deliciously as they were at this supper. The table was actually groaning from variety and abundance of good things to eat, practically all produced on this plantation.

Robert W. Williams,  
Washington, D. C.







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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS  
TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1923.

WHOLE No. 430



# THE OOLOGIST

## 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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—**EDITOR.**

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**FOR SALE**—Birds and Nature Magazine bound in double volumes as follows: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 13-14, and volume 11 single. Covers slightly worn but in good second-hand condition. Write W. H. Over, Vermillion, So. Dakota. 2-3

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**WANTED**—Back numbers of Ornithological magazines, especially Condor, also any books on Ornithology or Taxidermy. Egg cabinet also wanted. Write, giving prices, James Suthard, Madisonville, Kentucky.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Fahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

**JOHN LORANG**, Genesee, Idaho. Collector of Idaho Birds eggs, also Bird and Animal Skins for mounting purposes. For sale or exchange. A black Squirrel Skin Mounted.

**FOR SALE**—Auk, 1918 and 1920, volumes complete, \$1.50 each, prepaid. Wilson bulletin, 1920 volume, 90c. Biological Bulletin 17 and 39 also. Fred Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

"Beginners Luck"—A collection of 75 varieties, eggs in sets, at a bargain. Common and not common; a good start for a collector. Also a Woodpecker and sapsucker, group of fifteen varieties, very reasonable. Send for lists and prices. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebr.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—After two years and a half in storage, I have now unpacked my library, bird and mammal collections, and have for sale many duplicate books and O. & O. publications. Also will exchange bird and mammal skins from this section and sets of raptors, finches and jays. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Zoo'l Park and Museum of Natural History, Miami Beach, Florida.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Butterflies of New England for California Butterflies. T. Love, Collector, 105 Grove, Lynn, Mass.

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I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species, A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1923.

WHOLE NO. 430

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.



Photo of Nest and Eggs of Loon taken June 9, 1921, on floating bog, in Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., by Ernest G. Tabor, of Meridian, N. Y.

### The Starling.

The European Starling is showing up in small flocks throughout our state and to such an extent that it promises to become a menace to the interest of our farmers and fruit growers. I have heard within the last two or three weeks of not less than a dozen flocks of this bird, and I presume it would be safe to say that there are fully hundreds of these flocks in as many localities of the state. In Orleans County they were reported to me as a new species of the Martin. From Wyoming County the press reports large flocks of "black birds," citing the same as an early harbinger of spring. Here at Albany a flock of eight "Robins" has been seen. This situation prevails to a greater or less extent throughout the state. In each instance, when followed up, the "Martins," "Black Birds" and "Robins" have proven to be the Starling.

I wrote Short in relation to the same about two weeks since and am compiling a little material to present to the State Fruit Growers at their annual meeting in Poughkeepsie, the latter part of the month.

Frank H. Lattin,  
Albany, N. Y.

\* \* \*

### THE STARLING.

*Sturnus Vulgaris* Linnaeus.

Eaton's Birds of New York.

Description:

Shaped somewhat like the Meadowlark, but with a relatively longer bill and shorter tail; general color black, glossed with iridescent purple and greenish, spotted with buff or brownish white; bill yellow; winter plumage with the brownish or buffy of the upper and under parts mostly obscuring the greenish and purple. Sexes almost alike. Female slightly more spotted below; young plain grayish-

brown. Length  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

Distribution:

The Starling is a native of Western and Central Europe, wintering mostly in Southern Europe or Northern Africa, now introduced in the vicinity of New York City. The birds were liberated by Mr. Eugene Schieffelin in 1890 in Central Park. They undoubtedly will continue to spread up the Hudson Valley and throughout the state if not throughout the country, unless their advance is artificially checked.

They are largely frugivorous, being particularly destructive to cherries, currents, berries, and other small fruits, and doubtless would become a veritable pest in the grape regions of central and western New York, if they ever became abundant in those localities.

The Starlings are more closely gregarious than the Meadowlarks, the flocks frequently appearing as dense as flocks of Rice Birds. In England and Northern Europe the "clouds of Starlings" are justly famous, sometimes practically darkening the sky and appearing in the distance like great storm clouds drifting over the country.

**Collinge—Manual of Injurious Insects.**

Starling—Distinctly the farmer's friend, but when allowed to increase duly they become equally injurious. In almost every country they require thinning out annually.

**Saunders—British Birds.**

The Starling feeds principally upon worms, slugs, small molluscs, insects and their larvae; it also eats voles, the young and eggs of other birds, cultivated fruit and wild berries.

**Newton—Dictionary of Birds.**

The Starling is about the size of a Thrush, and though at a distance it appears to be black, when near at hand its plumage is seen to be brightly



shot with purple, green and steel-blue, most of the feathers when freshly grown being tipped with buff. These markings wear off in the course of the winter, and in the breeding season the bird is almost spotless.

The worst that can be said of the Starling is that it occasionally pilfers fruit.

The congregations of Starlings are indeed very marvelous, and no less than the aerial evolutions of the flocks, chiefly to settling for the night, have attracted attention from early times, being mentioned by Pliny. The extraordinary precision with which the crowd, often numbering several hundreds, not to say thousands, of birds, wheels, closes, opens out, rises and descends, as if the whole body were a single living thing—all these movements being executed without a note or cry being uttered—must be seen to be appreciated, and may be seen repeatedly with pleasure.

\* \* \*

#### The Starling.

The Starling, as far as reported to me, have invaded New York State along two routes.

First, from the original Long Island colony up the Hudson Valley to above Newburg at last advice; second, across New Jersey and up through eastern Pennsylvania by way of Broome, Steuben, Yates and Ontario counties clear to Lake Ontario. Thirteen pairs were bred in Yates County in 1921, probably more. Sixty spent a month to six weeks in Monroe County, west of Rochester, from November, 1921, to January 15, 1922. Two hundred pair bred here (Chili, Monroe County) last spring, where I could keep them under observation. None here now, evidently too severe weather.

From the agriculturists' stand I consider them about on a par with the

Grackle (Crow Blackbird) with these noted exceptions: As far as I know they do not pull corn and they will peck holes in tops of cabbage heads late in the season. Like the Grackle during the nesting season, they probably, I would even say certainly, do more good than harm.

Their harmful career begins after mid-July, when they become gregarious and damage grain, fruit and even vegetables. In this stage they are worse than the Grackle and stay indefinitely as the season is open enough for them.

They attack the later berries, plums (ruining the Japanese varieties, Red June, Worden, Burbank, etc., if left alone) and will peck (and ruin for anything but drying stock or cider) the red faces of apples of at least these varieties: Duchess, St. Lawrence, Twenty Ounce, Baldwin and probably others. They do not damage Greenings materially as far as I can see and I could not detect any of their work on Blush, Pippins or Russets or Talman's.

The summer varieties generally rot when pecked.

Most of the Baldwins heal up, but the black, dry and irregular scars spoil them for packing.

I have not in reach for observation bearing trees of the newer fall varieties such as Wealthy, Gravenstein, etc.

If you wish further amplification on these points, I will try to fill the bill.

I am not sure what the young are fed on, but as they appear to get it from the ground in meadows and pastures, I judge it is of an insect nature.

So far have noticed no damage to cherries.

Later—January, 29, 1923.

Just mailed you re-Starling, and on my way home saw fourteen in a Spy tree tearing rotten apples open, pre-

sumably for the seeds—thermometer 18 degrees and snowing. Evidently they are getting acclimated.

Ernest R. Short.

---

#### Our Loon Plate.

Am enclosing a photo taken by myself of the nest and eggs of the Loon on a floating "cranberry bog," or small island in the south inlet of Cranberry Lake, St. Lawrence County, N. Y., on June 9th, 1921. The picture is taken from the boat, as it was some 20 or 30 rods from the shore to this bog, and could do no other way than work from the boat. Trusting it may interest you, I am sending a print of it to you.

E. G. Tabor,  
Meridian, N. Y.

---

#### Entitled to Credit.

Attention is just called to the fact that the article entitled "The Discovery of the Breeding of the White Ibis in South Carolina," appearing in a late issue of the Oologist, was written by Mr. Alexander Sprunt, Jr., under a misapprehension.

All of the facts and circumstances therein are both true and accurate; however, it was Arthur T. Wayne, Charleston, South Carolina, who first made this interesting discovery, and who had written an article on the subject, but the article he wrote did not get into print as early as Mr. Sprunt's article, through no fault of either Mr. Wayne or Mr. Sprunt.

R. M. Barnes.

---

#### Passed On.

A letter from our old friend Frank I. Harris, of LaCrescent, Minn., brings the sad news of the passing of Whitfield Harrison, pioneer resident of LaCrescent, Minn., who died at that place January 22nd. He was born in England, November 15th, 1854, came to LaCrescent from his native land at

the age of 16 years, and has resided there ever since.

Mr. Harrison during all his years of residence was a well known student of Natural History, and a collector of North American Oology.

Many writings of his will be found published in the amateur bird magazines of twenty and thirty years ago.

He leaves a widow and one daughter and in his passing our friend Harris loses a neighbor and an associate of more than fifty years, with whom he made numerable hunting and fishing trips.

It was our pleasure some years ago at LaCrescent to be entertained at his home, and he and his wife, a more charming couple it would be hard to find.—R. M. B.

---

#### They Are Never Cured.

A letter from Frank H. Lattin, founder of The Oologist, and now and for many years past, a Member of the General Assembly of the State of New York, advising us of the receipt by him of a letter from one of his former subscribers, reading in part as follows:

"About twenty-five years ago I used to read a magazine, The Oologist, published by you; if it is still published, or if you are still interested in birds, etc., send me such literature as you have. I want my son to become a student of nature and out-of-doors things, also."

Mr. Lattin adds that during the past two weeks he received five applications for catalogues and price lists of specimens and supplies. Four of these came from the older boys of twenty-five or more years ago, two of whom he had not heard from for some twenty-five or thirty years. All of which shows that when once inoculated the true Oologist never recovers.—R. M. B.

---

## THE COWBIRD.

By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Me.

Those who succeed in taming the wild bird, experience a certain amount of pleasure in the confidence it shows in coming to be fed. One can but feel even greater pleasure in the same amount of tameness and confidence shown by a wild, free bird, who coming when food is plenty, is not hunger tamed.

I have always tried to encourage the birds to use my farm as a summer home, especially to nest around the house. Since the year 1921 is typical of other years, I will enumerate those who nested in the immediate vicinity. The Phoebe nested above the door of the ell, a pair of Tree Swallows in a nest box situated about six feet from the home of the Phoebe. A Bluebird occupied a hole made by a mortise in one of the supporting posts of the shed, this nest being about six feet from the ground. The Barn Swallows, as usual, had many nests in the barn. A Robin built a nest and reared a brood inside my workshop, the House Sparrow made use of one of the boxes placed on the house for the Swallows. Chimney Swifts had nests in two of the three chimneys. Besides these already named there were nests of the Flicker, Kingbird, and Chipping Sparrow in the apple trees around about the house. Nests of the Song and Savanna Sparrows, Grass Finch and the Bobolink, a second pair of Tree Swallows and Bluebirds, all situated within a eight-rod circle of the buildings.

There were other nests, such as the Yellow Warbler, Red-wing Blackbird and Kingbirds on the banks of the river some fifty rods distant..

When I was about one-half way through with my haying this summer (1921), there appeared on the field a

female Cowbird. At first I thought it to be harmed in some way and unable to fly and thus keep out of the way, but upon trying to catch the bird I found it was not.

Although she would not allow one to catch her, the bird would at once return to where I was at work loading hay when pursuit was stopped. It was my thought that at the end of the day the Cowbird would depart and I would see it no more, but no, the next day there she was bright and early, ready to do her part in the haying operations, and for many days there after, or until the haying was finished she was my companion in the field. Both in the forenoon and afternoon, taking part in the various operations of cutting, curing and hauling in of the crop. She became such a constant attendant that we named her "The Boss." She usually appeared in the morning when I made ready to go to the field and would follow as I proceeded to the place of operations for that day. In changing from one field to another, as I often did in my haying, I would sometimes commence work in the morning one-half mile distant from where I ceased the previous afternoon, but regardless of the place the Cowbird would appear at the new field, showing that she must have been watching for me.

The Cowbird would follow me as I made the rounds of the field, allowing me to get but a short distance ahead, then flying to catch up; often she would alight just ahead of the cutterbar, obliging me to keep constant watch lest she be cut by the machine; then I would have to bring the team to a quick halt and drive her out of the standing grass. Sometimes instead of alighting on the ground she would perch on the back of one of the team and take a short ride.

As the field of standing grass became narrow she would fly across, alighting just ahead of the horses, and being nearly stepped upon, for she showed no sign of fear of either the team or clash and clatter of the mowing machine.

It was the work of hauling in of the crop that the Cowbird appeared to take the most pleasure; there was more stops and we were not constantly moving away; then she had a chance to be near (under foot), and if the day be especially bright and hot she would rest underneath the load in the shade; there I would pass her grasshoppers to eat from off the fork tine. Often I would have to drive her off a bunch of hay before I could place it on the cart.

She would follow the load of hay nearly to the barn, there await the unloading. In going to the field to load again the Cowbird would make short flights to keep up, sometimes even alighting on the cart for a rest.

The reader has no doubt decided that the cause of the Cowbird's attachment to us during our haying operations was the chance to catch the bugs and grasshoppers we disturbed, and while the bird did catch and eat many such, yet he should also remember that there were just as many in other fields that had been cut over, where we were not working; therefore this tameness was not caused by hunger.

What became of this Cowbird I do not know—since after cutting the hay on the home place I commenced on another several miles distant and thus lost sight of her.

Food habits—The habit of the Cowbird feeding among cattle, usually close to the head is well known by most observers. Their food consists of seeds, grains, berries and insects; grasshoppers, grubs and worms are

eaten in large quantities. The grains eaten are loose or waste grains; they do not destroy growing grains. As mentioned above, the Cowbird which attended me through the haying season, would eat grasshoppers until it could hold no more, but as digestion progressed it was soon up and at them again. Judd includes the Cowbird among those most actively engaged in consuming weed seed; also included among which are the least injurious to crops.

Beal in his summary of the results of the examinations of 544 stomachs of the Cowbird reports that 20 per cent. of the Cowbird's food consists of insects which are either harmful or annoying; 16 per cent. is grain, the certainty of one-half being waste. More than 50 per cent consists of noxious weed seeds, the destruction of which is a benefit.

Breeding habits—How many eggs does a cowbird lay? Who knows? Here is a chance for our Ornithological scientist to earn fame for himself without making two Cowbirds grow where only one grew before. Instances are known of seven eggs of the Cowbird being found in one nest, but whether they were deposited by one female is not known. Bendire sets the number that might be the production of one female at 60 to 100, but has no proof. Bendire also cites the nests of some 90 species in which the eggs of the Cowbird have been found. The Cowbird lays its eggs in nearly all of the smaller birds' nests; in this locality preference being for those of the Yellow Warbler and Red-eyed Vireo. The Cowbird will sometimes throw out the eggs of the rightful owner to make room for its own. Eifrig—Auk Vol. XXXVI—reports finding Cowbirds' eggs in the nests of the Meadowlark; one nest containing two of the Cowbird and four of the

Meadowlark outside of nest.

This is one of the largest birds whose nest is used to deposit its eggs by the Cowbird. The Baywinged Cowbird occasionally builds a nest of its own, incubates its own eggs and cares for its young as any respectable bird ought. A good description of the nesting habits of the Cowbird is given by Coues in his "Birds of the Northwest," page 185, to which I would refer the reader.

Mating habits—The Cowbird is perhaps the only species of the Avian family which practices polyandry, caused no doubt by the fact that the males far outnumber the females.

Nearly everyone who writes of the Cowbird has little to say of its good in the bird world; fault is found with its gross and confirmed habit of using other bird's nests as a home and allowing some other bird to act as a wet nurse for its children. Yet this "black sheep" has some good points; it is not all bad; it is all in the point of view.

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#### CALIFORNIA OBSERVATIONS.

During the season of the spring and summer of 1922 we, the family and myself, made many trips through the country surrounding Tulare, California, for a radius of about thirty miles.

Starting out in April we covered the country west of town first, then later we took trips through other parts and on one occasion went onto the plains west of Kings River, in Kings County.

Early trips were more for observation than anything else, but we picked up a set or two of California Shrike, and an early Red Shafted Flicker, also a set of California Jay, which had been deposited before the willow tree in which the nest was located was in leaf.

On this same trip we were digging

after the nest of a Burrowing Owl, or as we know him locally, "Billy Owl," and as the children were returning from a nearby stream where they had been prospecting, Flossie found the nest of a Kill Deer out in the open field.

Among the willow trees in Cross Creek and about 75 yards from the main traveled road we found a colony of Black Crowned Night Herons which contained many nests, and we took perfectly fresh eggs from these same nests on two different trips, proving that this family raised at least two broods in this locality this season. Our visits were just two weeks apart, and on the second there were no sign of young, only egg shells where they had hatched out.

West of here, about 15 miles from Tulare, there is a piece of overflow land and several trips to this place were productive of much enjoyment, as there were several kinds of water birds, and among them the noisy Black Tern and Black Necked Stilt. As we would near the pond they would set up a cry that seemed to us could be heard for a mile, and this was incessant until we had departed, after rambling around their abode for a while. Here we saw Mallard Ducks, one pair of Yellow-Headed Blackbirds, Black Tern, Black Necked Stilts, Coots, Pied Billed Grebe, and the ever present Kill Deer, and on one visit a Spotted Sand Piper, also many San Diegan Red-wing Blackbirds. The pond in one place was spotted with the nests of the Black Tern, quaint little bunches of grasses and offal, floating on the water, and surmounted by the unvarying quota of three darkly spotted eggs.

On a visit to the before mentioned Cross Creek on April 22 we found the nest of an Arkansas Goldfinch ready for occupancy, but it contained nothing, and we must have been viewed

with trepidation, for another visit later disclosed the fact that the nest was deserted. Another nest of this same species in a plum tree in our back yard, about 25 feet from the house, was filled with four beautiful eggs, and the mother could be seen from the ground on the nest. One day we missed her, and as the nest was not occupied again we concluded that some cat must have taken her from the nest. Eventually the eggs disappeared, but we could find no trace of shells.

This season we found two nests which were the "lowest down" of any of these varieties we have ever found. One was that of an American Crow, built in a button willow tree about ten feet from the ground, in a field probably a mile from the nearest house. The other was that of a Western Red Tail, built in a paradise tree, which stood in a field along side of several others, and this nest was about 15 feet up.

During our rambles we discovered the first Baltimore Oriole on April 19. These beautifully colored members of our birdland nest in this vicinity, usually in colonies in cottonwood or poplar trees, though another favorite place is the willows that border our irrigation ditches or an old deserted orchard. They invariably hang their neatly woven nest of horsehair on the outmost and frailest limbs that they can find.

About April 23d we found the nest of a Wren, ready for the lining. This was situated in a cavity in a large willow tree where a big limb had been blown off in times gone by, and this had rotted and the heart of the limb had been cleaned out after rotting, making an ideal place for such a family, having a nice roomy abode inside with a small opening, the only drawback being its proximity to the ground,

being situated not more than three or three and a half feet from the ground. About this same time, on this same stream, we found the nest of a Western Bluebird in an old Woodpecker hole in a willow tree, about nine feet from the ground.

It is about this time that the Road Runner starts housekeeping, also, and we found on this same trip a nest just completed, and containing one egg. It was built on an old fallen tree, and was only about five feet up, in a fork of a limb projecting from the fallen tree. This bird is frequently seen around here on the open country stretches, but does not come in near the more thickly settled parts. It makes a pretty sight when it gets a start ahead of you in the road and leads off. When you crowd it too closely with a machine it will suddenly turn into a field, and throwing its tail up in the wind, make a quick stop, raising the feathers on top of its head while it views its follower with curiosity. They are not very wild as no one ever molests them.

During the past summer we have observed here the following birds, which are listed as we saw them, and not in the order in which the catalogue is made up: Mocking Bird, Western Meadowlark, Mourning Dove, English Sparrow, Bullock's Oriole, California Shrike, Barn Swallow, Phoebe, Tree Swallow, Burrowing Owl, Brewers Blackbird, Cow Bird, Red-wing Blackbird, Yellow Headed Blackbird, Western Red Tail Hawk, Black Crowned Night Heron, Great Blue Heron, California Jay, Crow, Willow Goldfinch, Arkansas Goldfinch, House Finch, Western Bluebird, Lazuli Bunting, Road Runner, Red Shafted Flicker, Arkansas Kingbird, Kingbird, Western Horned Lark, Screech Owl, Sparrow Hawk, Coot, Canvas Back Duck, Mallard Duck, Black Necked

Stilt, Black Tern, Common Teal, Kill Deer, Sandpiper, Western Wren, Towhee, Western Magpie, Kingfisher, Pied Billed Grebe, Turkey Vulture, and this winter we were honored one noon by having a party of about twenty Juncoes for dinner in our back yard as they passed through.

Ren M. Lee,  
Tulare, Calif.

#### European Starling Appears.

I first saw the European Starling in April; 1922. It attracted my attention by its whistled note, and then I saw it fly straight across the garden and swoop into a sweet apple tree. Its plumage looked dark gray to me, and I noticed it had a short tail and white bill. All together I realized a stranger had appeared in our midst. It came a number of mornings, always alone and repeating its whistled note.

Last fall a number of dark birds gathered from time to time in the top of tall locust trees lining our streets and we called them Blackbirds. Cold weather came on and still we noticed these birds. All through December they continued to congregate there and fill the air with their calls, two or three times a day.

On the 12th of January, 1923, I counted thirty, and a short time after the flock left the locust and came into the sweet apple tree, where the lone Starling first appeared in April. Here they feasted a few minutes on frozen rotten fruit.

At close range they looked like young Robins. Their breasts brown, striped with cream color; head and shoulders of male dark, with tails rather short and bills conspicuously white. In size, a little larger than the English sparrow. They proved to be thirty Starling instead of thirty Blackbirds.

We are told that these birds were

introduced into New York a number of years ago, and the range of their spreading has been watched by the ornithologists, and our governmental surveyors at Washington, D. C.

In a bulletin issued by the Bureau of Biological Survey in 1913, of "Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard," with color plates of each, the Starling is not mentioned.

Chester A. Reed, curator in ornithology, Worcester Natural History Society, in Bird Guide of 1915, says: "They are spreading to other localities in Connecticut and about New York City."

In answer to my report on them to the Bureau of Biological Survey, Washington, D. C., the acting chief replied: "From your description of the bird and its habits we have no hesitancy in saying that it is the European Starling, and is therefore an interesting note on the occurrence of the bird in that region." This region being exactly on the boundary line between New York State and Pennsylvania.

It will be interesting to watch farther the life of this bird from whom much has been feared; for its disposition has been quarrelsome and domineering, with a tendency to drive out the song birds.

Leda W. Chace,  
Lawrenceville, Tioga Co., Pa.

#### Winter Residents at Northville, Mich.

Thinking that the following may be of interest to readers in the Oologist, I am sending a few notes taken during December and January, 1923.

I have found Blue Jays and Crows very common, and Black-capped Chickadee, White-breasted Nuthatch, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, common in the woods. The Barred Owl and Great Horned Owl are not uncommon, although not often seen. The Screech

Owl is plentiful and the American Long-eared Owl is seen occasionally; there is a report that a Snowy Owl was seen near Plymouth, Mich., about four miles from here, but this is a rare occasion, as the Snowy Owl but rarely visits this region.

The Bob-white and Ruffed Grouse are common, and I observed a male Brown Creeper for the first time, although it is recorded as not uncommon in Michigan. I have also observed the Purple Finch for the first time since 1919.

In the winter of 1920, the Evening Grosbeak visited this region for the first time; even the oldest residents here had never seen the bird before. It was here in great numbers all through the winter, in flocks varying from one dozen to two hundred. However that was its first appearance and it has not been seen since.

James Wood,  
Northville, Mich.

#### OBSERVATIONS.

The Gulf of Mexico is on the south and east of Texas and Wilbarger County is one of the counties just across the Red River from Oklahoma, just a few hundred miles from the Gulf, and no large body of water closer in these parts, and gives us—a dry stream about ten months in the year, being merely a run off for excessive rainfall. Pease River, running entirely across Wilbarger County, empties into the Red River about eight miles east of Vernon, the county seat of Wilbarger County, and it is a fact that had these rivers been filled with beer instead of water, Vernon would not be so much, as Pease River has nothing on "Red." The general makeup of both rivers is low banks, wide beds, being nothing more than sand wastes, with sand hills irregular on both sides. These rivers have

water holes scattered along and these ranging in depth from a few inches to several feet. Along in April and first days of May nearly all of the small waders are along these holes and by the hundreds, and mixed with the waders, Least Terns are plentiful.

Being so far from any water of any size, it did not occur to me the Terns could be breeding in such a locality, but three years ago, while just observing the birds at one of these water holes my attention was centered on the fishing of the Terns. Taking an individual I watched him dab down in the water, rise up and head north; the next one observed did the same, and so on until several had headed in the same direction. Immediately I headed north and in less than a mile soon located a colony of about fifty pair of Least Tern on a sandy stretch in the bend of Pease River, nests—yes, one for every pair, three eggs in each nest. This colony would not cover over three or four acres—some nests would be comparatively isolated, while others would be eight or ten feet apart.

Stranger still, in this colony were as many nests of the Snowy Plover—three eggs in each nest—as there were of the Tern. No attempt at nest making is made by the Terns—merely scratching out a small hollow—while the Snowy Plover invariably placed small stones around their nest, resembling the tell tales of the Rock Wren nest entrance.

L. L. More,  
Vernon, Texas.





**Kingfishers' Nests.**

On page 10 of the new "Exchange Price List," in the account of the taking of a set of Kingfisher eggs, the writer seems to doubt the finding of fish bones in a kingfisher's nest.

Now I have examined many Kingfishers' nests and in the greater part of them there was no attempt at nest building, the eggs laying on the bare earth in the enlarged end of the burrow.

However, I found many nests where there was an accumulation of fish bones around the eggs; this was usually in nests where the eggs were partly incubated. May 16th, 1885, I found a nest with four eggs, incubation commenced, where the eggs were laid on a few dead leaves and fish bones.

Verdi Burtch,  
Branchport, N. Y.

**Snowy Owl and Coyote.**

While on a trip to Mounville on January 24th, 1915, my partner noticed a coyote with a rabbit in its mouth, crossing a field. A Snowy Owl swooped several times at the coyote, making it drop the rabbit twice.

Perhaps the Owl had been the original captor of the rabbit, but at any rate the Coyote remained in possession.

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvedere, Alta.

**Late Mallards.**

On December 16th, 1922, late in the afternoon, while I was admiring a flock of Ruffed Grouse, browsing in a clump of willows, I happened to glance upward and saw three Mallards flying northeast. I had not seen a duck since Lake Nonne froze over on November 18th and I suppose the nearest open water would be at some

rapid on the Athabasca River, towards which the birds were flying.

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvedere, Alta.

**Notes From Benton County, Arkansas.  
the Land of a Million Birds.**

Unusual conditions prevail in this vicinity, due I believe to the extremely mild weather conditions that have so far been experienced. Robins are still seen in large flocks daily, while last year the last one had gone before Christmas, and the first returned on the 24th of January.

At this season of the year not as many birds are seen in the fruit and shade trees as during the spring and summer months, but in the big woods, brush lands, along the spring branches and small streams they are found by thousands. The tall timber finds large flocks of Flickers, numerous kinds of Woodpeckers, ranging in size from the busy Downy to the great Pileate; the harsh cry of the Blue Jay and the caw of the Crow also announce their presence. The brush lands claim most of the bird box, by using a small white pine the Red Birds, Wrens, Tom-Tits, Chickadees, Robins and various Sparrows. Along the creeks, in large numbers, we have Cowbirds, Blackbirds, Cedar Waxwings, Juncos and numerous others of our feathered friends in smaller numbers.

\* \* \*

**My First Set.**

According to the usual way of things, as I understood them, my first set of eggs should have been English Sparrow or at most Jay or Robin; however my first set consisted of three Crested Flycatcher eggs, taken from as eccentric a pair of birds as I ever heard of. This is the way it happened; One morning, having nothing else to do, I had with the assistance of a neighbor boy, constructed a four-room

box secured at the grocery store, and by nailing two partitions at right angles in the box four medium sized rooms were constructed: I next cut four round holes allowing easy access to any of the rooms; we finished by adding two porches with slanting roof, fastening one end of a sturdy pole to the box we then proceeded to nail the other end to a fence post in the chicken yard, between the chicken house and a large red oak tree. Although we anxiously watched the new house for several days, it showed no signs of being occupied, so we practically forgot it until one afternoon about three weeks later we noticed straw protruding from one of the lower holes: promptly getting a step-ladder we looked into the box and saw a rather bulky nest made of nondescript material. The nest contained one egg, which we took to be English Sparrow; it was rather dark in the nest and we did not touch the egg; before descending the ladder we noticed that the upper right hand hole also contained an about half-made nest. We did not look into the box again until the third day after our first visit, and were surprised to find the nest that was started on our previous visit completed and containing one egg; we took each egg out of the two nests, looked at them and returned them to their original places: in doing this we noticed a medium sized snake skin in or at the side of one nest, and I remarked to my companion that the bird must be hard up for building material if forced to use snake skins for nests. We did not know what kind of bird occupied our box, so hid nearby and waited to see; after waiting patiently for half an hour, during which time we often heard the pair of birds calling each other, but did not see them until suddenly the female flew to the top hole and went in and stayed as

long as we watched. The next afternoon we looked again and to our surprise found a third egg laid on a few grass roots in a different room from either of the other eggs. Our identity of the bird not being positive, we looked in our bird books for description of bird and eggs, and when we read the following description of the eggs it fitted them so exactly that we were sure they were Crested Flycatcher eggs (the strong personality of the bird is stamped even upon the eggs. Where is any to match them for curious crazy coloring? The artist had purple inks shading all the way from the deepest chestnut-purple to the faintest lilac. With a sharp pen he scratched the shell from end to end with all his colors till it was covered, then finished it off with a few wild flourishes and crosswise scrawls.)

We took the three eggs and blew them, using a pin to make a hole to empty the contents. I still have one of the eggs and I have since found that it is a typical specimen of the Crested Flycatcher. This peculiar incident aroused my interest in birds and eggs, which has been growing ever since.

David T. Young.

Bentonville, Ark., Jan. 8, 1923.

#### Werner—Taxidermist.

I am very much interested in the supplement to the October Oologist by Reger, of Norristown, Pa., particularly as I knew Mr. Werner intimately, and went on a trip to Texas with him in 1884 and helped him collect some of the birds Reger now has in the collection he obtained from the Werner estate. Werner was an artist in the lines of photography and taxidermy, and he commercialized his work only because he was compelled to in order to live. He often lamented to me that he was compelled to sell the creations

of his artistic hands. He was a genius, but too retiring and diffident for his own good. At the time of his death he was in Atlantic City, N. J., where he had been for a number of years, and his ambition was for the city to build a museum and take over his collection for the benefit of the public. But the politicians did not see it that way. Poor Werner, this collection was his life work.

G. B. Benners,  
278 S. 23d St., Philadelphia, Pa.

#### USE YOUR HEAD.

A Woodpecker pecks a great many specks

Of sawdust when building a hut;  
He works like a nigger, to make the hole bigger;

He's sore if his cutter won't cut,  
He don't bother with plans of cheap artisans,

But there's one thing can rightly be said;

The whole excavation has this explanation—

He builds it by using his head.

Gerard Alan Abbott,  
Glasgow, Ky.

#### An Alaskan Letter.

An Alaskan letter, dated September 30th, 1922, from one of our Alaskan collectors reached us January 8th, and contains, among other things:

"I came to town last week and go back to camp tomorrow. I walked in and led a pack horse. It is sixty miles and took four days to come in. Came over the mountains, as the shorter trail would mire the horse. One day we saw ten to twenty thousand Ptarmigans, and I thought of you and a camera. They were mostly L. Lagopus, but some were Mountain or Rock Ptarmigans, mixed with them. Of course the country could not support such numbers for long, but they

will move from there soon, as the snow is now nearly covering the ground. I saw them on the mountain tops. As you know I raise reindeer, and we have two thousand in one herd. We should have about seven hundred fawns next spring, and we must move from place to place to keep with the herd.

The range is what naturalists call Alpine Arctic, and below us, some three or four miles away, is often much less and poorer timbered country, called Hudsonian Zone; neither of these places are sandy, gravelly or grassy and none of it is heavily timbered. It is from one to three thousand feet altitude. My range is Tunda, or at least moss covered, and often considered barren land. It is typical of the treeless north.

Of nesting shore birds we have Phalarope, Snipe, Plover and several Sandpipers, also Hutchin's and White-fronted Geese, and the little Brown Crane, while the Swans nest on the lower ground. The Alice and Varied Thrushes and Robin are common as is also the Harlequin Duck. We have some Green Winged Teal, Pin-tailed, Mallard and Scaup Ducks, Red Breasted Mergansers, and also the Pacific Loon, and Holboell's Grebe, and rarer a Curlew. Blackbirds are only too common.

Long Spurs are abundant, also Horned Larks, the Pipit and Snow Bunting, and high up in the rocks the Rosy Finch. Also Rough-legged Hawk and Western Alaska Red-tailed Hawk, Duck Hawks, Horned Owls, and the Golden Eagle are not found here, but are common in some places on the coast, also Myrtle Blackpoll and Yellow Warblers, Black Capped Warblers, Western Tree, Gambells and Yellow Crowned Sparrows.

I believe timber line here is about 2000 feet. It is a low and swampy,

grassy country at the mouth of the river, which can be reached from here in two days, where many Ducks, Cranes, Gulls and shore birds nest.

The Short-billed, Bonaparte's Gull and Arctic Terns being among them, and a few Red Phalarope."

How many of our readers would enjoy a spring collecting experience in such a territory. R. M. Barnes.

#### Just As the Sun Went Down.

I gave up deer hunting for the day and decided to take my shotgun and go to a water hole and watch for some turkeys not far from camp. A wind mill furnished water that ran into this hole in the ground. A small wooden tank was near the mill and had a pipe running into it. The wooden tank was about six feet long and one foot wide; this would run full of water as the wind ran the mill. Then the tank would run over and fill up the water hole I was watching. I hid in the brush in shooting distance. Armadillos would come, get a drink and go. All animals that came to water while I was there would drink from the water hole. All birds would drink from the wooden tank. No big game showed up and I think several thousand Doves drank from the tank while I lay hidden in the brush. I got up and went to the tank, and to my surprise it was empty. The birds that had watered there in one hour's time had drunk it dry, and it was half full when I first went by it. A Dove does not drink much, but you can tell what a bunch of Doves watered there to drink the tank dry. At times you could holler as loud as you pleased and you could not hear yourself for the racket that the thousands of Doves made as they flew in, tlopped around, drank and made it away to their roosting grounds. I think every state in the United States must have

been represented at that Dove watering hole.

Now the sun is down and the moon has begun to peep, so I made a bee line for camp. I had walked a short distance and to my right I heard a roar. It sounded like the lions that roar in a cage at a circus. I knew what it was, and slowly walked along, watching every opening. To my sorrow, I was loaded with Turkey shot only. Another roar came from the brush and another, then the panther came into sight: he was not in shooting distance and funny, but it's the truth, I was glad of it, as I was not armed properly for such big game.

The panther saw me, but kept his distance; he was going the same course I was, but several hundred feet to my right. Now and then he would roar to let me know he was still coming. As darkness fell I lost sight of my friend Mr. Panther. I came to a gate not far from camp and saw a light flash at this gate. I was glad to see it. It was Mr. Anderson, one of our party. He was loaded with Turkey and was waiting for my father to arrive at the gate before they went on to camp. Father soon arrived with a big gobbler, and I said did you all hear that blood-curdling racket over there? Mr. Anderson laughed and said no. But my father spoke up and said yes. So we came to the conclusion that the panther did not want anything to do with me because I did not have any fresh meat, and he was slipping on my father, who had passed in a short distance of him with a wild Turkey. As it was too dark and we were loaded with Turkey we did not look for the panther. I can say one thing truly, there is one panther in the Blue Mountains that would be in my shop right now if I had of had a Winchester instead of a shotgun and bird shot. The rest of the party har-

rassed me for not shooting the panther with bird shot, but the ranch owner who was lighting a cigarette by a coal of fire raised his head and said, "Ye better be doggone glad ye didn't shoot at him with them bird shot. Why that would made the ole boy ready to fight instead of run."

Ramon Graham,  
Ft. Worth, Tex.

#### Not Golden Fronted Woodpecker's Eggs.

On page 86, 1914 Oologist, the late E. J. Darlington described a set of eggs (five) secured from the collection of the late Wm. B. Crispin, and asked, "What are they?"

The set was taken by F. B. Armstrong, Tampico, Mexico, and accredited to the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Mr. Darlington describes them as pale cream color, two marked with reddish and lavender spots, while the others are almost plain (unmarked). While eggs of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher are like those of the Crested Flycatcher, as pointed out by Mr. Darlington, these eggs were more like those of the Martin (Purple?).

His description, however, placed them as far away from Martins' eggs as they appeared to be from the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, inasmuch as all were creamy white and showed more or less markings.

I have examined hundreds of nests of the Purple Martin with flash and mirror in the hope of finding at least one breaking away from the regulation type of immaculate, but in a total of three or four thousand eggs thus examined, not one showed any trace of markings. Other Swallows, such as Barn, Cliff, etc., frequently lay pure white unmarked eggs, but I say, a marked specimen of Purple Martin egg will be an abnormal wonder—not an impossibility, however.

Now, apparently, Mr. Darlington obtained satisfactory authenticity from some Texas man who pronounced the questioned eggs Golden-fronted Woodpeckers' (see Oologist, 1915, page 64).

Mr. E. H. Short, of Chili, N. Y., saw the eggs, as did also Mr. E. J. Court, National Museum, Washington, D. C., but neither could name the species; Mr. Court stating that they certainly were not eggs of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Sometimes I have wondered if Mr. Darlington was taking the identification seriously, by the Texas man who said the eggs were a typical set of Golden-fronted Woodpecker.

Mr. Armstrong sent me eggs of the Golden-fronted Woodpecker, but they are real Woodpeckers' eggs.

The Golden-fronted Woodpecker never did, and cannot lay spotted eggs. Biological laws governing the separation of orders and the coloration of eggs forbid it. But, on the other hand, the Sulphur-bellied Flycatchers will produce eggs graduating all the way from the normal specimen, through extremely lightly marked types to abnormally faintly marked and the rarer phase of abnormalism—pure white. A pure white egg of the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, or any of the Crested species, retaining its normal shape, will very closely resemble normal eggs of the Purple Martin.

I firmly believe Mr. Armstrong knew what he was doing when he accredited the eggs to the Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher.

Mr. Armstrong furnished me many sets of abnormal eggs, and there can be no question of authenticity. Why he allowed this set, valuable to a student of abnormal eggs, to get into hands where even museum bird doctors could not name the species, I do not understand. J. Warren Jacobs.

Waynesburg, Pa., Jan. 12, 1923.

### A Belated Swallow.

Friday, November 17, 1922, was cold and wintry. The ground was whitened, the result of a recent snow flurry, and altogether it was decidedly cheerless. I was traveling by train from St. John, New Brunswick, to Montreal, and was impressed by the scarcity of wild bird life. Not even a Funeral Crow in many miles to break the lifeless monotony of the landscape. Finally, about nine in the morning, we stopped and I noticed the sign read "Birchton." I was told we were in Quebec. An open field lay between the train and some farm buildings one hundred yards or so away. Suddenly my attention was arrested by a small bird flying slowly across the field. It sailed along leisurely with an occasional familiar wing movement, and I saw that it was a Tree Swallow (*Iridoprocne bicolor*).

It disappeared behind the train, and I eagerly watched, hoping it would return within range of my vision so that I might reassure myself. Presently it reappeared and this time passed by the window within forty yards and as it wheeled on several occasions I was able to note the pearly white breast which clearly distinguishes this from others of the Swallow family.

On such occasions one naturally asks why should this frail bird have remained while others of its kind went south some two months or more ago? I believe that it is true that the Tree Swallow is one of the hardiest of the Swallows. It has frequently been seen feeding on berries of various kinds, either from choice or when insects failed to abound in sufficient numbers to sustain it. Nevertheless, it is essentially an insect eater and is one of the first of our summer birds to leave for the south at the approach of autumn. Possibly this might have

been an injured bird, hence unable to complete the long flight, though on the wing it showed no evidence of any physical defect. Might it not be that sometimes individuals among the birds reach maturity, lacking that marvelous sense which we call the "migration instinct?" Separated from their fellows they linger aimlessly about their native haunts, eventually succumbing to the natural forces which apparently must soon destroy the frail bird I have described.

R. W. Tufts,  
Wolfville, N. S.

### A Catbird's Nest.

The following is a detailed account of the materials in a Catbird's nest taken from an apple tree in an orchard near Bardstown, Ky., from which a set of five eggs was collected on May 11, 1921.

The lining consisted of two hundred and twenty-five small rootlets, mostly about four or five inches long. Evidently these were secured from an old raspberry patch that had been plowed up a few weeks previous.

Just outside the lining of rootlets there was a mixture of grapevine bark and bits of corn fodder. There were twenty-four pieces of grapevine bark, mostly about three inches in length, though one piece was six inches long; five shreds from blades of corn fodder ranging from two to six and one-half inches in length.

Next came leaves, forty-four in number, all of which, except one, were from sugar maple and nearly all had the stems attached. The exception was a beech leaf.

Outside the leaves were several bits of paper, as follows: Two moisture proof papers from chewing gum; one small piece from an envelope flap; two pieces of newspaper, one about two inches square, the other was about

three by four inches, but was doubled before the nest was torn down; the top off a seed packet, bearing the word "lettuce;" a triangular piece of old wall paper about three inches across. There was also with the paper a strip of cloth about six inches long and an inch wide.

Then came the foundation, consisting of wood stems, a few rootlets, and two pieces of coarse grass. There were thirty-seven pieces of annual vine and weed stems, the longest piece about thirty inches in length, and there were ten pieces over a foot long. There were six large rootlets, the longest about sixteen inches in length and about the size of a No. 11 wire. The two bits of grass were about five and six inches long, with roots attached.

The total number of pieces of material was three hundred and fifty-six. Possibly a few pieces may have been lost in taking the nest, and a few might have been broken or lost in the count, but the number is nearly correct.

It is interesting to note that no twigs were used in the construction of this nest, in spite of the fact that such authorities as Alexander Wilson, J. M. Wheaton, Chester A. Reed and A. W. Butler agree that dead twigs are used by the Catbird. Also, grass is mentioned as a material used by this species by all of the above writers, except Wheaton, but in this nest only two pieces were used.

In this nest there seemed to be five separate layers. First, the foundation, mainly of weed stems. Second, bits of paper. Third, leaves. Fourth, grapevine bark and bits of corn fodder. Fifth, the lining of rootlets.

Doubtless nesting materials vary greatly in different localities, and the general statements of our ornitholog-

ical writers on this point cannot always be taken as a basis for the country at large. Therefore, if observers would more carefully study nesting materials and record the results of their studies, obviously they would be worth while contributions to this interesting phase of bird study.

Ben J. Blincoe.

Dayton, Ohio, Dec. 3, 1922.

#### NOTES ON COLLECTING EGGS OF THE GREAT HORNED OWL.

In 1915, when I began the collection of birds' eggs of Paulding County, Ohio, it seemed to me that of all the eggs I might take here, none would be more desirable than the eggs of the Great Horned Owl. Consequently during the season of 1915 I was continually on the lookout for nests of this bird.

About the middle of May, while walking through a small woods, two miles southwest of Payne, Ohio, I noticed a large dead red oak, the trunk of which was literally white-washed with bird droppings, and upon looking up noticed in the fork a young Horned Owl, not quite strong enough to fly. Thinking that perhaps there might also be an added egg in the fork, which was perhaps thirty-five feet up, I decided to climb and find out. After taking several rests(?) along the way I reached the fork, nearly exhausted (I had no climbing irons and the tree was large).

As I reached for the young Owl it attempted to fly, but dropped heavily among the dead leaves at the base of the tree. The fork was slightly dished and appeared to have been used as a nest. A single stick apparently had lodged in such a manner that it would have prevented the young or eggs from falling out. While still at the fork one of the parent birds flew by within fifteen feet, with a pack of

Crows in close pursuit. None of them seemed to notice me until they had passed. After reaching the ground I stared up into the top of a leaning tree nearby and saw the other young Owl.

After playing with the one that had fallen long enough to find out that with all his turkey-gobbler strutting and cute appearance, he was too dangerous for a pet, I grasped the tip of one wing, placed him on a leaning tree nearby, where he would be in no danger from dogs, and left him, hoping that he and his mate would have no other bad luck than to lay a fine set of eggs for my cabinet next year.

Nest number two was found February 20, 1916, in a large, dense, hundred-acre woods about a quarter of a mile west of the woods containing nest number one. The female attracted my attention by flying off the nest with a swish of wings, when I was fifty feet from the tree. The nest was about twenty-five feet high in the fork of a large elm and appeared to be an old Crow's nest with a great number of buffy Owl feathers clinging to the sides. I had no climbers, but fortunately a large ivy vine reached to a large branch just below the nest and I lost no time in testing it and deciding it would be safe to climb. Anyone who has climbed a rope for twenty-five feet knows they were plenty tired enough upon reaching the top without having to pull themselves over the beam, rod or branch to which the rope was tied; at least that was the way I found myself at the end of the vine, and as I pulled myself up over the branch it seemed to me that if I had weighed another pound I never could have made the grade. After lying on the branch and taking a long rest I rose and took a look at the two dirty eggs which lay on the heavy mat of down and feathers.

I had imagined they would be white as snow, and much more nearly spherical than they were and though disappointed in this respect was glad nevertheless to get them, no matter how they looked. Mrs. Owl crouched on a branch of a tree about one hundred feet away and did considerable whoo-ing. After a long rest I slid down the trunk of the tree and started for home with my prizes. Upon arriving home I found the eggs very heavily incubated and requiring the drilling of large holes.

Nest number three, found March 10, 1916. This nest appeared to be that of a hawk and very likely had been the home of Cooper Hawks the year before. The nest was about forty feet up in a slender dead elm near the center of the woods, containing nest number two. Both birds were seen near the nest. This tree was easy to climb without the aid of climbing irons and I soon reached the nest only to find that no eggs had yet been laid.

Two days later in the afternoon found me back in the woods without much hope that the birds had returned. However Owl "horns" were plainly showing and twitching above the nest and a rap on the tree caused Mrs. Owl to leave. The nest was soon reached and the two snow-white eggs were in my possession. A few bits of twigs and buds had been added since I had examined the nest two days before, but there were no feathers or other lining on this thick flat nest. I have always felt that these eggs had been laid by the same bird I had robbed in February and that I had done them a great injustice by taking the second set.

Nest number four was found about February 15, 1917, (exact date not known): I recall that the afternoon was very pleasant and warm for this time of year and that Mr. Don Parady,



of Payne, had asked me to help his boy scouts find a nest of the Horned Owl. The boys were too noisy and talked too much for us to have much luck in finding a nest. The Crows were continually harrassing a pair of the birds and seemed to be chasing them all about the woods. We were about to give it up when I noticed one of the Owls alight in a tree quite a distance away. We were soon at the tree and near-by found the down-covered nest which had been used by the Crows one or two years before. This nest was not more than twenty-five feet high in an elm and there was very little left of it except the mud, a few twigs and a little binder twine. The two dirty eggs were cold when taken and Mr. Parady informed me later that they were heavily incubated. Neither bird put in an appearance nor was heard of while we were at the nest. This nest was in the same woods where numbers two and three were found, but was quite near the north edge.

Nest number five was found in some woods near a portable saw mill. It was found February 23, 1920. This was a natural cavity and was about twenty-five feet up. There were plenty of feathers about the entrance to the cavity, but very few inside although there was plenty of snow and ice inside, surrounding the eggs. Mrs. Owl left at the first rap of my climbing irons and was not seen or heard later. The day was very cold and I had a great deal of trouble hanging to the bark with my cold, numbed fingers. This was another foolhardy climb. The tree was about thirty inches in diameter at the base and perhaps twenty-five inches at the cavity. The cavity was very large and deep enough that the sitting bird could not be seen from the ground. The eggs were slightly incubated.

Nest number six was found March 13, 1921, about one and a half miles southwest of Payne, in a small woods and not more than five hundred feet from a house. It was hard to believe that these Owls would use such a small woods for nesting, and it was only my curiosity that caused me to get the eggs. I had noticed what appeared to be an old Crow's nest fully fifty feet up in the fork of a red oak near the center of the woods. There were no downy feathers clinging to the sides of the nest and the "horns" of the sitting bird appeared almost exactly like pieces of corn husks which might have been dragged up by a fox squirrel or a raccoon. A rap on the tree brought no results, nor indeed a series of raps with a large club. Clubs thrown at the nest brought no results and I had walked away deciding to give it up as I didn't care to climb fifty feet for nothing. After walking some distance from the tree I decided to return and try it again. After throwing several clubs, I finally placed one so near one of the "horns" that Mrs. Owl moved it ever so slightly, but enough to let me know that it was not a corn husk. When about half way to the nest Mrs. Owl flew off and sailed up in the top of a tree nearby, where she did a great deal of hooting until a rapidly increasing flock of crows drove her away. The nest was an old Crow's nest with an addition of a few bits of moss and a very few feathers. The two eggs were very dirty and were considerably incubated, but were changed to an excellent set with small holes and a spotless surface.

Nest number seven was found March 25, 1922, in Allen County, Indiana, about seventeen miles east of Ft. Wayne. This was a natural cavity forty feet up at the top of a large living sycamore in a dense and very wet

woods. The tree was three feet in diameter at the base and fully two feet at the top where the cavity was so shallow that the sitting bird could plainly be seen from the west side of the tree. A rap with the irons was sufficient to send Mrs. Owl away to be further persecuted by Crows. The diameter of the tree and the smoothness of the bark gave me quite a problem to figure out. I first decided to fell a tall sapling nearby in such a way that it would lodge in the top of the sycamore and so give me easy access to the cavity. A gust of wind at the wrong moment spoiled this plan and so with the help of two boys who lived a short distance away, we carried a heavy painter's extension ladder from a barn nearly half a mile away. This proved to be too short, and so as the tree had no branches except a few up around the cavity I tied a rope belt around my waist and then tied the end of another long rope to the belt at my left side, passed the other end around the tree and tightened it up with my right arm and wrist, wrapping it about my wrist as I climbed higher and the tree became smaller in diameter. I climbed in spiral fashion, as it was necessary to loosen the rope occasionally from the small protruding knots or knobs. The cavity was reached in due time and there lay two tiny downy Great Horned Owls, about the size of day old chicks, and nearly as innocent looking. In fact as I peered down at these little pitiful figures it scarcely seemed possible that within three more months they would develop into "tiger" birds.

I descended as quickly as possible lest the nestlings might chill. The boys promised they would not kill either the young or parent birds, and I was both pleased and surprised when I returned two weeks later to hunt for a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest to

see the sitting bird up in the cavity.

Homer F. Price,  
Payne, Ohio.

#### INDEXING THE OOLOGIST.

A correction because of an unfortunate oversight on the part of our printer, the January issue of *The Oologist* is paged from 185 to 204. In preparing the copy for this issue it was not thus paged—it was paged from 1 to 20. This issue we began paging where the January issue should have left off and in making next year's index the reference to the January issue will be made from 1 to 20, instead of from 185 to 204; you should immediately upon receipt of this issue of *The Oologist*, repage your January issue so that it will comply with the paging which will be used in making this year's index, and that will be as follows:

#### January Issue, 1923.

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R. M. Barnes.

**EGGS**

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

TO EXCHANGE—One King Trombone, Silver plated Gold bell, Highland low pitch, new in case. For first class sets. E. A. Wheeler, E. Randolph, N. Y.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1. Oologist, Vol. XI, (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

North America, bound in library buckram, 59 colored illustrations by Fierres. Also bound 1916 Bird-Lore. Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

WANTED—For analysis, 1 set each 337 and 339. Must be absolutely fresh, unblown and very carefully packed and sent special delivery parcel post as soon as taken. Write and make agreement now. Will give copy of Bent's Diving Birds to the one who sends me the two sets this spring. Paul G. Howes, 91 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. Cash if preferred to the book. 2-3-4

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7. Illustrations of proper way to mark eggs.
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R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

**BUTTERFLIES**—Just received a new shipment of South American butterflies in papers unnamed, consisting of Papihos Heliconias Catsopilius Calagrammas, etc., which I will sell in lots of 25 mixed for \$5.00 post paid. Each lot contains one Morpho cypres, one of the most brilliant of South American butterflies; dealers charge \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the specie alone. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn. 1-3t

FOR EXCHANGE—A-1 sets 261, 273, 305, 308b, 331, 367 and others for well mounted specimens of 327, 331, 332, 333, 337, 337a, 342, 343. Also have finely mounted 334 will exchange for some of the above. Elmer Langevin, Crookston, Minnesota.

FOR SALE or Exchange—Mounted Birds, Skins, and Eggs in sets and singles. Jesse T. Craven, 5315 Roosevelt Ave., Detroit, Michigan. 1-2t

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FOR SALE—Ridgway's "Birds of Middle and North America," Vol. 4 & 5 (half leather), Vol. 6, 7 & 8, (Paper). Theodore R. Greer, Alledo, Illinois.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. 1 & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Spingidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila. Pennsylvania.

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Lacon, Ill.

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1923

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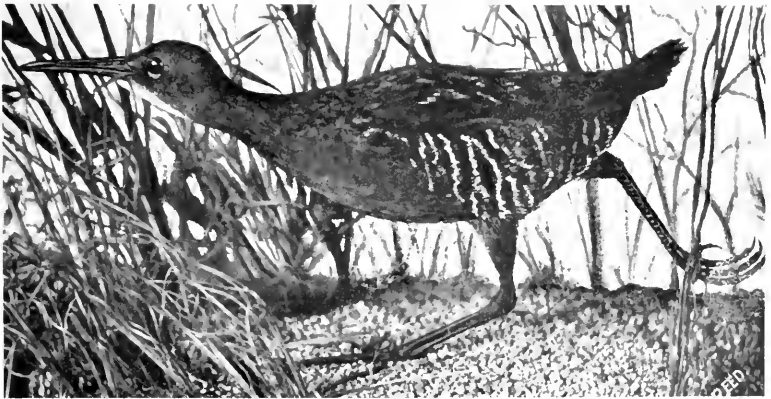
BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 3.

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1923.

WHOLE No. 431



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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. 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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**JOHN LORANG**, Genesee, Idaho. Collector of Idaho Birds eggs, also Bird and Animal Skins for mounting purposes. For sale or exchange. A black Squirrel Skin Mounted.

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In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

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I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species, A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.3

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1923.

WHOLE No. 431

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## SPRING!

March is here with its raw, bleak winds and chilly days— but also with its tall leafless trees in the hollows of which are hidden two or three great white spherical eggs of *Bubo virginianus*, or perhaps lodged high up in the fork of a high white oak on a hillside is a bushel or more of sticks and rubbish on top of which sits *Mrs. Butco borealis* hiding two, three or possibly four large, beautiful, whitish eggs blotched and spotted with red, brown and lavender tints. Great gobs of fresh air, ozone and good health await the Oologist in the wide outdoors. Not to speak of deep droughts of sugar water dripping from forest giants tapped by the owners. Try it!

R. M. Barnes.



Home of the American Dipper, Thomas Creek, Scio, Oregon

—Photo by Dr. A. G. Prill.



CINCLUS MEXICANA — AMERICAN  
DIPPER.

One of the Most Interesting Birds of  
the Mountain Streams of the Cas-  
cade Mountains in Oregon.

With its beautiful clear song it fairly makes the canyons ring during the breeding season.

Wading, swimming or diving, in the swift water of mountain streams for food, they may be seen, along the higher streams of this range. Building a dome-shaped nest with the entrance on the side and low down, generally placed near rapid water, or water falls, where the spray keeps the moss of the nest green, also building on shelving rocks or under old bridges or water power plants.

Nest and four eggs taken April 23, 1922, built on a beam underneath a flouring mill near water falls.

This pair of birds had been nesting there for four or five years to my knowledge, and W. L. Finley took moving pictures of this pair of birds and nest when they were feeding their young.

Nest built entirely of moss, the walls of which were about two inches thick, and in the bottom of this dome-shaped nest was built a fine woven nest of small dried grass, well cupped, which contained the four pure white eggs. Dimensions of nest: Circumference, 29x28 inches; length, 11 inches; width, 9 inches; height, 8 inches; opening on side 3x3 inches.

May 9 this pair of birds had constructed a new nest within three feet of the location of the first nest, and it contained four fresh eggs; building their nest and laying four eggs in 15 days.

Dr. A. G. Prill.

NO IDLERS AMONG THE BIRDS

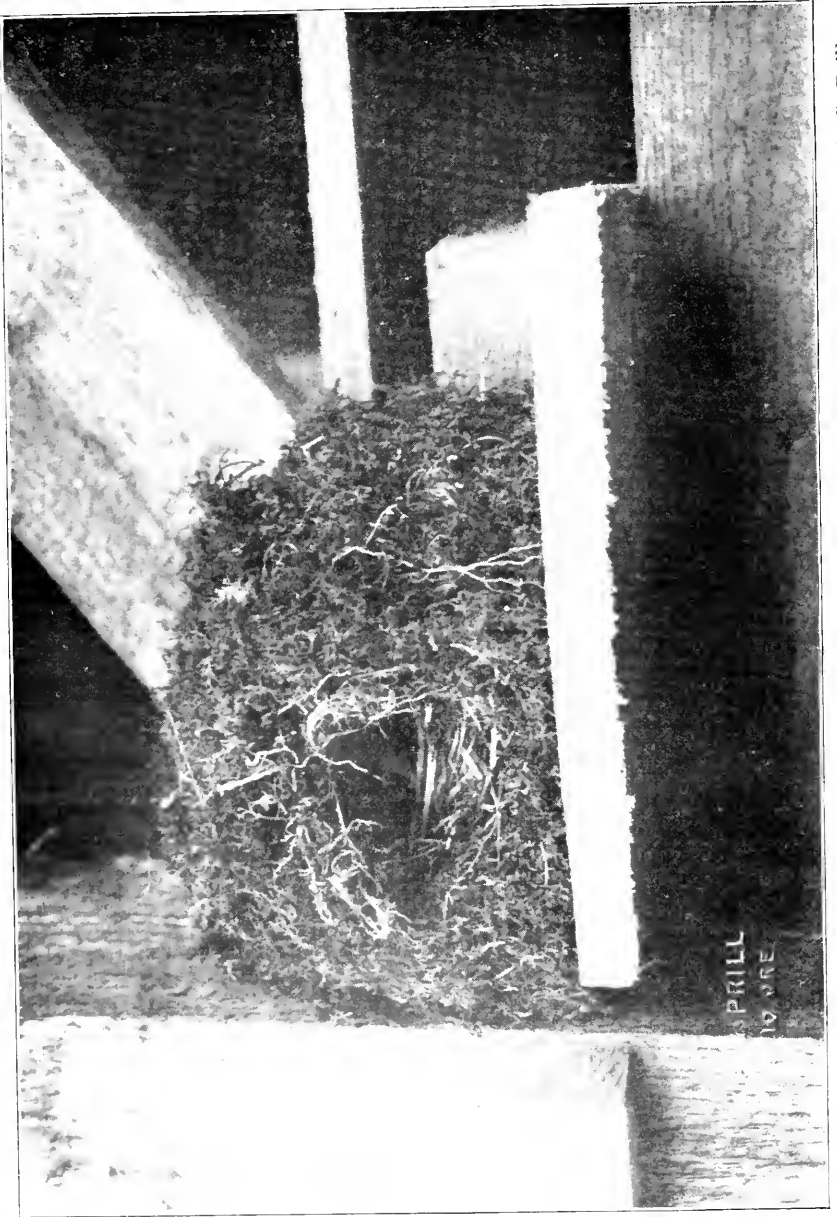
A close study of bird life shows a most careful division of labor, observes a contributor in Canadian Boy Builder, who knows the value of our common birds and has also detected the recent popular interest in the movement in their behalf. Some birds, such as Swallows, Swifts, Nighthawks and Whippoorwills, sweep the air and keep down very small gauzy-winged pests like mosquitoes, gnats and midges; while the Kingbird, Pewees, Phoebes and other members of the Fly-catcher family take care of the larger flying insects, most of which are injurious to vegetation.

To the Warblers and Vireos is assigned the task of keeping leaves clear of larvae, plant lice, and canker-worms. Thrushes, Bluebirds, Robins, Orioles, Catbirds, Thrashers, Wrens and Tanagers pay special attention to the larger caterpillars and tree insects.

Another family of birds has special charge of the bark; among these bird care-takers are to be found the various Woodpeckers and Nuthatches, Brown Creepers, Chickadees and Kinglets, who keep up a tireless search for insects in tree trunks, preventing their destruction.

Not only are there birds who work in the air and on the trees, but there are also ground-floor workers. Hidden on the ground around the roots of trees and in the grass are insect enemies whose name is legion. Black-birds, Crows, Robins, Oven-birds, Thrashers, Ground Warblers and Flickers are well known members of the ground-workers' gang.

Other birds work in close co-operation with man in the destruction of weeds by the eating of seeds. The various Sparrows and Finches are his constant co-workers. Some of the



Nest of the American Dipper, Thomas Creek, Scio, Oregon

—Photo by Dr. A. G. Prill.

APRILL  
1909

more tender Sparrows, who have to winter in the South, leave their work to be carried on through the autumn and winter by Juncos, Snowflakes, Redpolls and Grosbeaks.—The Classmate, T. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

**BIRD LIFE AT FUSIHATCHI COUNTRY CLUB, ELMORE COUNTY, ALABAMA.**

By Peter A. Brannon, Montgomery, Alabama.

The Fusihatchi Country Club is located on and surrounds the aboriginal site of Fusihatchi, on the Tallapoosa River. It truly perpetuates its name, if we are to consider it from the standpoint of a bird refuge. The word signifies "Bird Creek," in the Creek Indian language.

Aboriginal Gorgets found in the vicinity of this place show numerous applications of the figure of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker, and it is highly probable that the word takes its significance from the fact that in those days this bird was common in this region.

The bird life there is almost as it was in primitive times. Observations covering the last ten years, give many reasons why the original Creek Indian inhabitants of this section should have called it by that name. During the period from 1913 to the present time, the writer has visited this locality four or five times each year, sometimes oftener, and there is no place in the central part of the state that bird life is more prevalent or more diversified. The Country Club reservation has only been established about two years, but during the past ten years several observers have paid especial attention to the locality, and the fact of its natural beauty, as well

as its attractive winged inhabitants was one factor in the selection of the point as a club.

The grounds extend up Fusihatchi Creek from its mouth at the Johnson bridge, at old Ware's ferry, for three and one-half miles, and include part of the Tenant "quarter" of a large river plantation, the bridge keeper's house, as well as a small fish pond, a club house, a duck roost and some sage fields where quail abound. The entire acreage, though, is not large.

The Pileated Woodpecker has been known to nest on the reservation for more than ten years. A pair in full plumage, secured at different times here, is in the museum of the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

The Summer Tanager, the Red-winged Blackbird, the Bee Martin, the Rough-winged Swallow, the Chimney Swallow, the Mocking Bird, the Cat Bird, the Yellow Hammer, the Meadow Lark, the Bluebird, the Wood Thrush, the Mourning Dove, the Brown Thrasher, the Purple Martin (locally called the Box-Martin), the Crow, the Orchard Oriole, the Bluejay, the Cardinal, the Shrike, the Field Sparrow, the Red-head Woodpecker, and other of the more common permanent residents, nest in the immediate vicinity of Sambuli Lodge, the club house.

The King Rail, the American Bittern and now a small colony of Ducks are located just in the upper marshes of the lake, and the Kingfisher in the banks of the dam.

The flora of the surroundings is practically unchanged from that reported by William Bartram, who paid two visits to the Indian town in 1777. That flora characteristic of the central Alabama sandy country, is highly developed at this point. The mountain laurel and three of the azelias grow

on the grounds of the club, as well as two varieties of palms and other typically tropical plants. Both long leaf and short leaf pine, cypress, magnolia, bay, live oak, black jack, wild cherry, and other just as different hardwoods grow within a stones throw of one another. The natural surroundings of swamp grasses and shrubbery is highly conducive to the fauna of the region. The Chuck-Wills-Widow, the little Ground Dove, the Bob-White, and the Field Sparrow, as well as the Meadow Lark, nest within and near the pine groves, and the Crane and Water birds hatch their young not one hundred yards away.

On the 29th day of April, 1922, I noted within one-fourth mile of the club house the Cardinal, the Summer Tanager (both male and female), the Red-winged Blackbird, the Bee Martin, the Rough-winged Swallow, Chimney Swift, Snipe, Killdeer, Cow Bird, Mocking Bird, Cat Bird, Yellow Hammer, Meadow Lark, Savannah Sparrow, Bronze Grackle, English Sparrow, Bluebird, Marsh Hawk, Mourning Dove, Brown Thrasher, Wren, Crow, Purple Martin, and I heard in the marshes nearby the American Bittern and one of the Sandpipers, as well as seeing what I took to be a Tern, and the Warblers and Vireos were keeping up a constant twitter in the swamp nearby.

In passing by the edge of it, I identified the Pine Warbler, Parula Warbler, Prairie (in an open field), what I thought was a Yellow-bellied Fly-catcher, a Goldfinch and a Wood Thrush.

A small colony of Green-head Mallards nested on the reservation in 1922. The authorities of the club prevented the shooting of them in the hopes that they might become established in the locality. Reports of a few nests have been made during two

or three recent summers at the head of Speigners Lake, thirty miles west of here, but I cannot verify this. The Wood Duck is quite common at Speigners and may have been confused with the Mallard.

The Indigo Bunting, so attractive along the Tallapoosa River in other sections was not noted on these grounds until the late summer of 1922. The Water-Turkey is prevalent, and a reasonably common bird, in the swamp country in several directions, within a radius of five miles.

Two miles away and lower on the Tallapoosa River is a colony of White Heron, and I have taken the little Green Heron and the great Blue Heron at the same place. The Blue-gray Gnat-catcher was taken by me less than three miles from here, and I have noted the Brown-headed Nuthatch, the Kinglets and the Red-eyed Vireo just across the river from the club grounds.

The Purple Gallinule and the Florida Gallinule have nested on a lake two miles down the river for several years, and this year a pair of the Purple were observed here during the spring. A flock of seven wild Turkeys is nesting on Chubbabatchi Creek, not six miles away.

I have records of the Robin there in May, and as they nest in Montgomery county, I have reason to believe they nest here, too.

The European Starling has been taken in Elmore and Montgomery counties during the past three winters, not five miles from here, always in January, and feed in this locality on the winter berries.

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CRANE MIGRATION AT BATTLE  
PRAIRIE, PEACE RIVER  
DISTRICT.

I suppose the Cranes treated of in this article were the Little Brown Cranes, but the Owl, two of the most wary birds I ever shot, and which I intended to identify next morning, were served up in a stew for breakfast and I could not tell whether they were *Canadenses* or *Mexicana* by the taste. No doubt some of our learned bird doctors would have had no difficulty in deciding, judging from some of the stunts they have performed in this line.

I found it almost impossible to approach these wary birds near enough for a shot when they were feeding on the large prairies, but on some of the smaller prairies, surrounded by willows, they would feed around and around the prairie in a circle and give an opportunity for a shot as they passed my place of concealment in the willows. On these occasions they looked very much like a flock of Turkeys and probably this is why they are called "Wild Turkeys" by some hunters.

In 1916 the first Cranes noted were two large flocks on April 27th. One flock was flying north and the other feeding in the slough. In the fall they were first seen on August 30th, one small flock. On September 1st more were seen, and on the 3rd and 4th several flocks. On the 9th I heard them flying over and on the 15th saw one large flock. They were heard again on the 20th, and on the 22nd I saw several flocks flying over and one flock lit on the prairie. On the 27th and 28th several large flocks were seen flying south, after that none were seen.

In 1917 they were first seen on May 1st, a large flock going north. On the

3rd several large flocks passed over and a flock of two or three hundred lit on the prairie. On May 5th many flocks passed throughout the day and one flock lit. I made an estimate of each flock seen and the total number seen was around three thousand on this day. On the 6th they were still coming, and I estimated the number passing at about one thousand.

On the 7th only about one hundred passed and on the 8th none were seen. On the 9th one flock of fifteen passed and on the 10th one lone crane lit on the prairie—none were seen after this.

In 1918 I heard a Crane on April 13th, but no more were seen or heard until the 28th, when a flock passed over. On the 29th about one hundred and fifty passed over. On May 6th I saw a flock of about two hundred circling slowly down from a great height and alight on the prairie, evidently to avoid a wicked looking storm which was approaching from the north. It was a most beautiful sight and we stopped our saddle horses and watched it until they reached the ground. On the 11th I saw two flocks of about one hundred and fifty and two hundred each. The last seen passed on the 15th, a flock of about one hundred and fifty.

A. B. Henderson,  
Belvidere, Alta., Canada.

#### A UNIQUE BIRD TRAGEDY.

During the past late summer and autumn months (1922) Pine Siskins have occurred in great abundance in Nova Scotia.

Some weeks ago I was traveling by auto near Bedford and at a point where elaborate road construction was being carried on I was held up by one of the workmen, who informed me that a dynamite charge was about to be fired. He pointed to a pile of brush

about 150 yards down the road which was placed in the customary manner over the charge. As I waited I heard the familiar sweet notes of a rollicking flock of Pine Siskins. Glancing upward I saw them coming toward me about 30 in number and straight for the ominous brush pile. Flying at a height of about 60 feet they passed directly over it at the instant of the explosion and the air was filled with dust and pieces of flying rock. The birds appeared to be literally swallowed up in it and as none were seen to emerge in any direction I believed that many if not all were killed.

R. W. Tufts, Wolfville, N. S.

#### WRENS AND WARS.

Major O. C. C. Nicolls, late of the Royal Artillery, sends us the following clipping taken from the Royal Artillery Magazine, and of this incident he says, "It isn't a fiction," and it is truly a remarkable incident.

##### In Nieppe Forest.

In the spring of 1918 my battery was in action in Nieppe Forest. Our guns were protected by epaulments of fascines, which fascines were made by the Chinese Labour Corps in the peaceful days when the war was further east. The epaulments were carried high at the sides, to protect the detachment from splinters, and laths were stretched across the top to carry the green camouflage. So much for the *mise-en-scène*.

Amongst our forest friends were two wrens, who, looking around for a nesting place, found a pair of spurs, belonging to one of our subalterns, hanging on a small branch projecting from the mass bivouac. The foundation of the nest was wound around spurs and branch with wonderful speed, and the subaltern had to resign himself to spurlessness.

Unfortunately, we had to move our

position temporarily a few days later, for some festival. On our return we found that some unscrupulous person had destroyed the nest and absconded with the spurs. Apparently our return reassured the little builders, for we had hardly got our guns into their pits, when the pair were discovered constructing another nest between a lath and the camouflaging over No. 3 gun. This was serious. It is the one thing for a highly paid subaltern to sacrifice his spurs, but quite another for a 4.5-inch howitzer to give up the war; so the wrens had to take their chance. Daily and nightly the gun fired, and men scraped and cleaned and carted ammunition about the pit; but the nest was built.

Every time the gun fired, the lath—which was not two yards from the breech—jumped nearly six inches. But the camouflage netting held the nest on the lath, and the eggs were laid.

If the mother was ever off the nest when the gun was fired, she flew back, sat on the eggs, and held on for dear life to keep them down, as someone said. Strange to say, the whole sitting hatched out. The hungry, squawking little mouths became an excuse for diverting brigadiers' attention from a searching cross-examination on markings on ammunition. The noise, deafening to human ears, in no way stunted the nestlings' growth. They were fledged just in time to allow us to take the camouflage with us when we moved to St. Venant.

#### A PERFECT DAY.

Any true Oologist I believe will experience a thrill of excitement when he collects for the first time the eggs of a species of which he has never before personally taken, even though the species may be one of the commonest. Most of my collecting has

been in the Middle Western States, and to the readers who reside in the eastern section the below described nests are perhaps frequently their most common taken, but the past season of 1922 was my first residence in this locality and the below noted sets were the first of each species that I had ever collected.

It was Saturday, June 17th, I had finished the usual company inspection of quarters, stables and equipment. Saturday afternoon is a time-honored holiday in the army, so I concluded to pack up my collecting outfit and take a stroll in the hope of locating the nests of a few of our feathered friends. Leaving my quarters I went directly across the parade grounds toward the lake. Near the farther side there were two cedar trees and as I passed these I was just naturally curious, so grasping the lowest limb I raised myself up into the thick foliage; there not two feet away was a rather hulky nest resembling somewhat the nest of a Kingbird. As I looked a bird climbed from the nest, stood on the edge a moment and then was gone, a Cedar Waxwing; in my anxiety to see into the nest I almost overturned it. My heart took an extra beat: four beauties, grayish white with round specks of black and a few blotches of purple, and they were fresh. The nest was situated eight feet from the ground and among the thick branches of cedar. It was rather bulky, composed of twigs, leaves, grass, pieces of paper, a few strings and lined with rootlets and a few hairs. As this set was being carefully packed I nearly convinced myself to return home, because such good fortune right at the start of a trip usually means disaster for the remainder of the day, but I finally swung the basket over my shoulder and started along.

Some time later I was slowly working my way through a tangle of young saplings and small growth, then there was an open space of about twenty feet, and just on the opposite side of this a male Redstart hesitated a moment and then darted into the leaves. I made a few more steps and there was the nest about five feet from the ground in the top of a small maple. Five eggs reposed therein. I was not sure of the identification, so returned to the other side of the little clearing and sat down to watch the nest. In a few minutes Mrs. Redstart slipped down and covered the eggs, and then as I approached the nest again she and her brightly colored husband scolded at me from the top of a sapling a few feet away. This nest was a very neat cup, composed of plant cotton, inner bark of vines and cobwebs all woven together and about the upright forks; it was lined with root fibers and one or two feathers. The eggs were well advanced in incubation, and were of a dull white color spotted and splashed around the larger end with light brown. This was a beautiful set and as incubation was advanced, a lot of patient work was necessary in making a good set; the first set of American Redstart that I had ever collected. This set and nest were carefully packed and I continued on through a rather damp mixed woods, finding and photographing, but not disturbing several nests of the Wilson Thrush, Yellow, Chestnut-sided and Magnolia Warblers, a nest of our little friend the Chippy, nearly filled with three eggs of the Cowbird. Then at the edge of a patch of thick brush I parted the leaves of a blueberry bush; there was a nest containing three eggs that were new to me. This nest was so low that at first I thought it was in the grass, but found it to be in the outer forks of a branch

and about eighteen inches from the ground, constructed wholly of small straws and grass and lined with fine wire grass and a few fibers. The eggs were of a creamy yellow and finely specked around the large end with rich brown. I stood near the nest for several minutes, but no owner appeared, so I withdrew about twenty yards and lying down behind a thick bush I waited for the owner of the nest. It was fully half an hour before a leaf moved just over the nest and there appeared a bird which I at once recognized as one of the Fly-catchers, but was not able to determine just what species. I did not collect these eggs, but returned to this spot the following day, after I had looked up several references and was able to properly identify the Alder Fly-catcher. Needless to say this set is now a part of my collection.

By this time it was getting rather late in the afternoon, some heavy clouds had come up and a drizzle of rain began, but I had found the nests of three species which I had never collected before and consequently my morale was pretty high and what did a little rain matter. Some ten days previous to this I had found a partly constructed nest at the foot of a bush in a little glade about a half mile farther on, so I decided to continue on to there. Arriving at this location there was a patch of low bushes about three feet high and covering an area of perhaps ten yards square, but I had forgotten the exact place where the nest had been, so began walking slowly back and forth across the patch, parting the bushes and watching for the bird to flush. The whole area was soon covered, but no bird had been flushed nor could I find the partly built nest. It seemed quite evident that the nest had not been finished, but as usual I was curious to know just how it had been constructed,

of what materials and perhaps to learn of what species. I could not get any wetter than I was, so down I went in the wet bushes on all fours and began to search every square foot of the ground, having no idea of finding a set of eggs, but only to locate the old nest. After some minutes search it was found. There almost under my hand and just the same color as the wet leaves and grass quietly sat a little sparrow on her nest. Very gently I moved my hand over and covered her, then raised her from the nest; she did quite a lot of squealing and biting, but soon settled down. The nest contained four richly spotted eggs, but I could not identify the bird. After a very close examination I found her to be a female White-throated Sparrow in immature plumage; the white throat and crown stripes were practically absent and the only marks of certain identification were the yellow spots in front of the eyes and the small patch of yellow on the bend of the wings. This bird was banded with Biological Survey band No. 25327, and released. The nest was in a depression and sunk even with the surface of the ground and at the foot of some small bushes. It was composed of dry grass, dead leaves and bits of moss. Lined with fine wire grass and a few hairs. The four eggs were fresh, in color light greenish blue, heavily blotched with rich red brown. This was my first personally taken set of White-throats, and you may be sure that I prize it highly.

After carefully packing this set and the nest, it was beginning to get dark and I started for home, hungry, wet and tired, but never have I enjoyed a more perfect day.

Lieut. L. R. Wolfe,  
26th U. S. Infantry,  
Plattsburg Barracks, N. Y.



## A GRACKLE'S LESSON.

An amusing instance illustrating the seeming analogy between the motives and incidents in the lives of humans and birds so often observed by us, came to my notice one summer day some years ago.

We often see actions of birds that seem to us to show clearly their reasoning or lack of reasoning so very like that observed in humans that we wonder if the processes of evolution are not much more rapid than generally thought, and if we are not much more closely related to our bird and "beast" neighbors in point of time than we think, so that we have not yet lost the habits and processes of reasoning that actuate the lower(?) animals.

It may be that our neighbors imitate our habits from association with us; or else as is more probable, we read into the instinctive acts of birds and mammals the same actuating motives that we would experience and credit them with the same labored and time-consuming process of reasoning that we would employ in similar case, whereas their actions are the result of instinct and impulse and performed on the spur of the moment, without any conscious reasoning at all.

But, be that as it may, it is entertaining to see the similarity in their actions to ours, and in this particular case I speak of, the outcome so well demonstrated and pointed the moral of one of our oft-told parables that I thought it worth recounting.

A Flicker family had their home in a cottonwood stub, standing in our yard. The entrance was about fifteen feet from the ground.

I had been keeping pretty close track of their affairs, so one day when I judged the eggs must be hatched, I rapped sharply on the stub, as a preliminary to ascending to the

nest, to cause the mother to fly off.

Mother Flicker very promptly left her newly hatched babies and taking her station on a branch near her door began to abuse me in Flicker language, and intermittently to call for her mate.

A male Bronze Grackle, whose family was in a tree some distance away, and who was engaged in a hunt for food for his incubating mate, heard the Flicker's outcry, and recognizing her evident distress, being moved to sympathy because he had family cares, too, stopped, and perching beside the Flicker lady joined with her in soft "clucks" of sympathy for her and harsh "churrs" of abuse for me.

This went on for several minutes, when, the head of the Flicker family, hastening to his distressed mate's aid, arrived on the scene. A quick survey of the situation convinced him that, since I was a familiar object in that vicinity and apparently harmless, the Grackle must be the offender, and so with no delay he went into action. After chasing the misguided sympathizer for a quarter of a mile or so, he returned, and finding his mate at home again, the Flicker celebrated his victory with loud chirps, to which his mate responded with soft checkles of approval, never explaining to her mate his mistake, but applauding his valor and promptness in responding to her appeals.

To me this pointed moral to the old saw so often referred to in our comic papers about the inadvisability of interfering in a "private fight."

Dr. L. J. Evans,

704 First St., Ft. Myers, Fla.

## DON'T DO IT.

I was much amused in reading Colorado *Pedioecetes'* Altona Farm article in the December Oologist. He certainly uncovered some "halo" spots in the present-day "lime-light" ornithological "science."

Some allusions he makes reminds me of a little dialogue I overheard at a meeting of the A. O. U. some twenty years ago, just about the time the A. O. U. began expanding its finances by enlarging its associate membership above the 300 mark by caging the new arrival "lime-lights," with and without university labels (former preferred), who, feeling a "chesty" pride in the elevation, and hearing the constant babble of "buwd" clubs everywhere, start on a "daddy-long-legs" scramble over the heads of the old "300", grabbing for the biggest wires possible to land them right side up somewhere above the associate rank.

The dialogue referred to took place immediately after the introduction of the wives of two somewhat known ornithologists of rank above associate membership, and was thus, except that I use the name of Meriden for convenience and to illustrate the grace with which these dainty creatures handled the English language:

"Oh, ar' the' many buwds about Mewiden, Mrs. So-and-so?"

"Oh, yes, the' ar' a gweat many buwds about Mewiden, Mrs. So-and-forth."

And so thus, the rare bit of scientific information was settled, but not being a party to the conversation, nor clothed with any right to stand and listen, I cannot say whether Crows, Magpies or just plain *Passer domesticus* made up the list of abundance. Anyway, this all reads like a Christmas bird census; but let me protest against the ordinary "Quisnas Buwd Census" occupying the valuable pages of the Oologist. What matters it if "Gawge" did see more birds than Josephine? Or if "Fwauk" and "Gwace" did have a "glo'ious time" in getting lost from the rest of the "buwd pawty"? Or, why grin if some bright "lime-light" did report fat and plump

"larvae-eating Warblers" frolicking in zero weather 2,000 miles north of their Christmas home?

The most of us get from 35 to 50 pages of these Christmas lists in bird lore, and the fad bids fair to spread over more pages.

We want the Oologist for what it's for today, and for what it stood for in yore, while a bunch of the present day "big fellows" were still in their ornithological swaddling garments and eager to read, and yea, to contribute to the pages of the little magazine.

Vive La Oologist!

Oh, it's all right to go out and observe the birds on Christmas, and anything new or unusual is well worth recording, but when you get back home just sit right down and write, for the Oologist, some short article of your past experience, like Miller's "Late Nesting of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo," or the preceding article; or the next one. Or, if the day has been a good stimulant, then some longer article of a more technical character; but don't push the good old Oologist into the fad of an annual "peek-a-boo" day of mere figures and fancies.

J. Warren Jacobs.

Waynesburg, Pa., January 13, 1923.

#### THE NEWS.

There is a dearth of **short crisp** news items relating to Oology. It is your fault, Mr. Reader. Ye editor cannot tell of rare, unusual, or interesting finds unless you write them to us. We want news relating to birds, nests and eggs. Send us the results of your exploration of meadow, timber, swamp and mountain this season—not literally, but figuratively, by writing a post card or short note of every unusual observation.

Editor.

# THE OOLOGIST

## EGGS

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK; good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1 Oologist, Vol. XI. (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

WANTED—For analysis, 1 set each 337 and 339. Must be absolutely fresh, unblown and very carefully packed and sent special delivery parcel post as soon as taken. Write and make agreement now. Will give copy of Bent's Diving Birds to the one who sends me the two sets this spring. Paul G. Howes, 91 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. Cash if preferred to the book. 2-3-4

FOR SALE—Na. History Books and Magazines. Brent's "N. A. Diving Birds," "N. A. Gulls and Terns," "N. A. Petrels & Pelicans," Coues' "Key," "Birds of NW.," "Birds of Colorado Valley," "Ornithological Bibliography," "Botany & Zoology Mex. Boundary," (scarce, colored plates of birds), "Condor," "O. & O.," "Osprey," and many more; send for list. If you have Nat. Hist. literature or a collection of old Postage Stamps to dispose of, let us hear from you. Franklin's, Box 2, Washington, D. C.

Postal Permits, Precancelled Stamps and Slogan or Advertising Post Marks for sale or exchange. Correspondence solicited. W. E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 137, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

DAKOTA Birds, eggs, nests, fresh skins for Mounting. Mounted specimens. Sale or exchange. F. A. Patton, Artesian, South Dakota.

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R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

BUTTERFLIES—Just received a new shipment of South American butterflies in papers unnamed, consisting of Papi-lios Heliconias Catsopillas Calagram-mas, etc., which I will sell in lots of 25 mixed for \$5.00 post paid. Each lot contains one Morpho cypres, one of the most brilliant of South American but-terflies; dealers charge \$2.50 to \$3.50 for the specie alone. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn. 1-3t

WANTED — Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," volumes 2 and 7, also a Stevens Pocket Shot-gun—44 calibre preferred. Harold W. Copeland, 122 Park Ave., Bridgewater, Mass.

EXCHANGE—1 still have a few years of Oologist to Exchange. Delos Hatch, Oakfield, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Bent's Diving Birds For Sale—Nelson's Smaller Mammals of

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE—Two speed twin Indian Motorcycle, in good order. Want cash, Mounted birds and Mammals or old cancelled U. S. and Confederate Stamps. W. E. Snyder, 309 De Clark St., Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pitts-field Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; Mell-ithwaith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED — Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splin-gidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila. Pennsylvania.

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Lacon, Ill.

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1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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WHOLE No. 432



# THE OOLOGIST

## 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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**FOR SALE**—Birds and Nature Magazine bound in double volumes as follows: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 13-14, and volume 11 single. Covers slightly worn but in good second-hand condition. Write W. H. Over, Vermillion, So. Dakota. 2-3

I have some 5000 Indian Relics, mostly arrows, a few tomahawks, etc.. I will exchange for Mounted Specimens or bird eggs, or will sell same for cash. C. E. Pilquist, Dardanelle, Ark.

**FOR SALE**—Large collection of birds' eggs and nests, mounted birds, shells, corals, sea curios, minerals, carvings, nuts, Ceramics and Indian curios. Must dispose of same at once. H. E. Lutman, Painted Post, N. Y.

**WANTED**—Back numbers of Ornithological magazines, especially Condor, also any books on Ornithology or Taxidermy. Egg cabinet also wanted. Write, giving prices. James Suthard, Madisonville, Kentucky.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Pahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

**JOHN LORANG**, Genesee, Idaho, Collector of Idaho Birds eggs, also Bird and Animal Skins for mounting purposes. For sale or exchange. A black Squirrel Skin Mounted.

**FOR SALE**—Auk, 1918 and 1920, volumes complete, \$1.50 each, prepaid. Wilson bulletin, 1920 volume, 90c. Biological Bulletin 17 and 39 also. Fred Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

"Beginners Luck"—A collection of 75 varieties, eggs in sets, at a bargain. Common and not common; a good start for a collector. Also a Woodpecker and sapsucker, group of fifteen varieties, very reasonable. Send for lists and prices. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebr.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—After two years and a half in storage, I have now unpacked my library, bird and mammal collections, and have for sale many duplicate books and O. & O. publications. Also will exchange bird and mammal skins from this section and sets of raptors, finches and jays. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Zoo'l Park and Museum of Natural History, Miami Beach, Florida.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Butterflies of New England for California Butterflies. T. Love, Collector, 105 Grove, Lynn, Mass.

**Monograph on the Breedings of the Yellow Rail**—Record of twenty years intensive study in a fascinating region. About fourteen nests covered. Only four other authentic records known. Beautiful Frontispiece of my first nest; and eight other half-tones. An added insert—contact print,—of the most wonderful nest of all,—entered from below. Twelve pages of text, with manuscript Note on the wonderful finding of 1922. Price, Fifty Cents by insured post. Inserted contact print of the exquisite set of 1912, Ten Cents extra. Hand-colored copy of this print, Fifty Cents extra. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species. A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Wilson Bulletin, Year 1914, to and including 1921. Complete in A. No. 1 condition. What's your offer? A. J. Anderson, 1822 W. Palmer, Sioux City, Iowa.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Goss' Birds of Kansas—Ridgway's Bulletin 50, Vol. 8—Bent's Gulls and Terns. I want Auks, Bird Books and Magazines. Herbert A. Smith, 431 N. Van Buren Ave., Kirkwood, Mo.

**WANTED**—Oologist Vol. XXXV Nos. 5, 6, 7 and minerals. Can offer Birds' Eggs, Nests, Skins and old stamps. Send your lists. Conrad C. Haase, 14 Iglehart Ave., St. Paul, Minn.

## Get a CATALOG Before they are All Gone

*They are going very fast.*

Less than 100 copies are left.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No. 4

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1923.

WHOLE No. 432

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR.

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.



Nest and Eggs of Solitary Sand Piper, in Situ, Alberta, Canada



Nesting Site Solitary Sand Piper, Peace River, Alberta, Canada.

—Photo by A. D. Henderson



NESTING OF THE SOLITARY  
SANDPIPER.

June 16, 1914, proved to be rather a notable day for me in the oological line. In the afternoon I went out with the expectation of doing no more than taking a nest of Broad-winged Hawk, which a little girl friend of mine had located. On our way to the nest, she inquired, "Mr. Henderson, is a partridge's nest any good?" "Oh, no," I replied, "I have seen a good many of them." "But this is one of those black ones," she said. My indifference immediately vanished, and after taking the set of three broadwings, we went on to the nest of the black partridge, which proved to be the nest of the Canada Grouse, containing five eggs.

Surprises did not end here, for she next inquired, "What kind of a snipe builds in a tree?" I told her as far as I knew no snipe built in a tree; it must be some other bird. "Yes," she said, "one of the boys found a Snipe's nest in a tree, and I have seen it." Though I was sure a mistake had been made, she insisted it was so, and we went to see it. It was almost dark when we arrived there, and sure enough a Snipe of some kind left the nest, which was about a dozen feet up in a poplar, growing near an old beaver dam. It was too dark for me to identify the bird.

I wanted to come back next day and photograph the nest and identify the bird, but unfortunately had no film. By the time I had secured some film and went back for the picture, on the 19th, it was too late. An unusually high wind had blown the nest out of the tree.

So the matter rested and I often wondered what kind of a Snipe it could have been and vowed never to be caught without film again.

But in 1919 the mystery was solved to my satisfaction, as in talking to an acquaintance of mine who had done some collecting, I remarked that I had never been able to find a nest of the Solitary Sandpiper, though the birds were quite plentiful. "Oh," he said, "I and my brother have found two. They build in old nests of other birds in willow bushes, about the middle of June."

Since that time I have been on the lookout for another nest of the Solitary Sandpiper, but without success until this season, though in 1920 the young sister of my girl collector found two nests, also in bushes, but did not tell me, as I had been away three years at Peace River, and they did not know I was still interested. It is strange how a man can tramp miles of country and find little or nothing, and youngsters out for the cows in the evenings make rare finds.

On June 7th, 1922, I received a note marked urgent, from a young friend of mine, saying he had found a Solitary Sandpiper's nest with four eggs. I could not go until the 9th to see the long-sought nest. Fearing the eggs would hatch, he had taken them and the parent bird for me, when I arrived.

The nest was in a white buck tree, growing at the edge of the timber, on the shore of a small lake, and about 150 yards from his home. A brood of young robins had been raised in it last season, he told me.

It was about eighteen feet from the ground and a typical Robin's nest, of grass and mud. The inside lining of grass was gone and the eggs lay in the bare mud cup, no material being added by the Sandpiper, which I identified as the Eastern form of the bird.

The eggs were replaced in the nest, and after building a tripod, I was able to get a picture. I also took one from the ground, showing the surroundings.

The nest was in the tallest buck in the center of the picture.

Since assuring myself that the little girl's Snipe's nest in a tree was that of the Solitary Sandpiper, I have tried to find out something about its breeding habits in different bird books, but I either did not have the right ones, or very little seemed to be known about them. The small pocket bird book by Chester A. Reed seemed the only one to give real, authentic information, as it states they nest in old bird's nests in trees.

Oliver Davies mentions an egg taken by him in Ohio, in 1877, but the identification seems far from certain, and his description, "The egg was of a pointed, oval shape and not nearly so pyriform as are the eggs of most of the family, size 1.25x.88, smaller than the eggs of the Spotted Sandpiper. The ground was clay color, with a reddish tinge, thickly marked with reddish and blackish brown," does not coincide in any particular with the eggs now in my collection.

The other egg described, taken by Mr. Richardson in Vermont, in 1878, comes nearer, but still differs in size and color. Its description, as given by Davies, is as follows: "It measures 1.32x.90; the ground color is of light drab, similar to that of *Oxyechus vociferus*; over the surface are scattered small round markings of brown; some of these are quite dark; nowhere confluent, and not large enough to be called blotches. Its shape is elongated pyriform." In *North America Shore Birds*, by D. G. Elliot, the measurement given is 1.37x.95 inches, and it is stated the nest was on the ground, and parent bird secured as she left the nest.

The eggs figured by Chester B. Reed, in *North American Birds' Eggs*, bears no resemblance to mine. It is described as clay colored, spotted with

brownish black; no measurements given, and certainly would be a good illustration of an egg of the Spotted Sandpiper. Mr. Reed also mentions a set of five eggs taken by Dr. C. K. Clark, in Ontario, in 1898. All these nests were on the ground, and in only one instance was the parent bird secured.

There is little uniformity in either color, shape, or measurements in the foregoing descriptions, and I doubt if any one of them were really eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper. I will now give a description of the eggs taken by me, and then measurements, and the reader can judge for himself.

In the first place the eggs in my collection have a distinct individuality of their own; they can be picked out at a glance from any of the other waders' eggs found in this locality.

They could not be mistaken for any of the illustrations of waders' eggs in Reed's *Eggs of North American Birds*. They are remarkably large for the size of the bird, and measure 1.44x1.00, 1.44x1.01, 1.40x1.00 and 1.47 x.98 inches, respectively. The shape is elongated pyriform, and the ground color greenish, with reddish brown and amber spots, the first predominating, rather sparingly distributed from the small end to past the bulge of the egg, where they join into reddish-brown blotches, shaded with black and amber, and almost obscure the ground color on the blunt top.

Since writing the foregoing I have acquired a copy of *Canadian Birds*, by Macoun, and find therein, that Mr. Walter Raine, of Toronto, has nine sets of Solitary Sandpipers in his collection, all taken from old nests of other birds in trees.

A. D. Henderson,

Belvedere, Alberta, Can.

### THE SHORT-EARED OWL.

Well, dad, I guess Jones will have to kill his team. While he was ploughing with them this morning they bit off quite a little of his corn.

You ask the reason for Mr. Jones' shooting his horses? Oh, it's a matter of living up to his principles. Yesterday he shot a Rose-breasted Grosbeak. After the bird had bugged his potato patch, he found it stealing a berry or two.

There are any number of Jones' in the world, who, because of lack of insight rather than of principle, destroy every bird that happens to take its rightful share of tribute. They forget the law of the ancients which forbade a muzzle on the oxen when plowing. One of the innocent victims of such persons is the Short-eared Owl. It belongs to the chiefly beneficial class, according to the Bureau of Biological Survey. Seventy-five per cent of its food consists of mice. In addition to these it eats gophers, shrews, rabbits, grasshoppers, crickets and beetles.

The Short-eared Owl is the bird of the open country and seldom is seen in a tree. It quite frequently hunts by day, especially in cloudy weather. Often at midday it flies about over the fields and meadows searching for rodents and grasshoppers. Its flight is practically noiseless and its wing expanse gives the impression of much greater size. Its body measures a little more than fifteen inches.

In a way it is a bluffer. When captured it elevates its ear tufts or horns and hisses, but goes no further. At times of excitement a ring of white feathers about the face becomes noticeable. At breeding time it deposits five to eight white eggs, on the ground, usually beside a bunch of grass.

Its diurnal habits, along with a hawk-like appearance, cause many a Jones to shoot it; consequently a goodly number of them are destroyed.

Ralph Handsaker,  
Colo, Iowa.

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### 2,000 BIRDS FOR PRINCETON.

Collection, Gift of Alumnus, Once Owned by Ambler Man.

Princeton, N. J., Dec. 8.—(Special.)—A valuable collection of 2,000 birds has been presented to Princeton University, for museum purposes, by A. Pardee. Mr. Pardee was graduated from Princeton in the class of 1897.

Mr. Pardee purchased the collection from T. S. Gillin, of Ambler, Pa. The gift includes not only mounted birds, but also a large number of skins. There is a group of birds which inhabit eastern North America, while other specimens are from Cuba, Trinidad, and the Western States of North America.

One of the finest specimens is an adult male Passenger Pigeon, a bird which is now extinct. The collection includes about 40 skins of mammals, and about the same number of mounted specimens of mammals.

From the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, of Friday, Dec. 8, 1922.

Philip Laurent,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

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### THE PASSENGER PIGEON.

We are informed by O. S. Biggs, of San Jose, Illinois, that one of these birds was killed March 25th, 1901, at Oakford, Illinois, and was mounted by him and is still in existence. Owing to the lateness of the date, we thought this capture worthy of record.

R. M. Barnes.

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### EXPERIENCES IN BENTON COUNTY, ARKANSAS.

During the summer of 1922 I had several interesting experiences with the birds found in Benton county.

About March 20, in a clump of bushes and grapevines, I saw a year-old nest, presumably that of a Shrike. A few days later I was surprised to see the tail of a Loggerhead Shrike extending above the edge of the nest, and upon investigation I found the nest to be relined and a set of six eggs laid. In examining it, I held my hand over the nest for a moment and was instantly reproved by the male Shrike, who took his stand at one side of the nest and used his bill to good advantage.

Later, in a thicket of wild plum trees, I found a Robin's nest, not two feet above the ground, which contained a set of four eggs. The mother bird often allowed me to approach to within ten inches of the nest before flying, but would not accept food offered by me.

In July I had the pleasure of watching the actions of the female Pied-billed Grebe and her one charge in their native haunts, which in this case was a weed and brush-grown pond.

In an upright fork of one of these bushes was a Red-winged Blackbird's nest containing a set of four eggs. Both nest and eggs were about the size of those of the Orchard Oriole, and greatly resembled them. Numerous other Blackbird nests were of the regular type.

The overflow drain from this pond led into a swamp which was a veritable bird paradise, though few nests were found there; of which, probably, that of a Green Heron was the most interesting. This nest contained three eggs.

During the entire summer I found

between 100 and 125 nests, which were of the following species: Loggerhead Shrike, Chipping Sparrow, Green Heron, Brown Thrasher, Flicker, Dove, Cliff Swallow, Robin, Wood Pewee, Orchard Oriole, Cardinal, Towhee, Bluebird, Indigo Bunting, Catbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Pied-billed Grebe, Crow, Dickcissel, Quail, Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Meadowlark, Yellow-breasted Chat, Crested Flycatcher, Bluejay, Yellow Warbler, Kingbird and Bewick Wren.

J. G. Lewis,  
Bentonville, Ark.

### PLUMBEOUS CHICKADEE

I have found many nests of this bird. One nest I found went through an unusual tear up, but at last I got the set. I found the nest March 17 and tore open the hole, but there were no eggs. So I closed it up again, and tied the bark with string. March 19 one egg was laid. I took the bird off the nest; she was very tame. Again I called in a few days and removed the bird from the nest. She was still tame. On March 25 I collected a set of seven eggs, fresh. The nest was five feet up in a dead tree, near a small creek that runs into Lake Worth.

Ramon Graham,  
Texas Bird Notes, 1923.

### THE FLIGHT OF GULLS.

Robert C. Miller was awarded the Cooper Club prize of Ornithology offered by the University of California, 1921-2, for the best study of any subject concerning the birds, for his paper, "A Study of the Flight of Sea Gulls," published in the January, "The Condor." It shows exhaustive investigation and careful preparation, and we have no doubt but that the award was very properly made. Mr. Miller is to be congratulated.

R. M. Barnes.

## TRIP TO DELAWARE.

(March 10th, 1923.)

In company with my uncle, George H. Stuart, 3rd, Esq., and Edward Norris, Esq., I took a trip to Smyrna, Kent county, Delaware, the object being to procure a set of eggs of the Bald Eagle.

While on the train going to Smyrna, we saw a large flock of Pintails, numbering about 75, near Newport, and another flock near New Castle, numbering about 10. We also saw a small flock of Horned Larks flying low over a field, near Porter, Delaware.

Arriving at our destination, we were met at the station by a farmer, named Mr. Arthur Stokesbury. He informed us that the roads were very bad, on account of the recent rains and snows. We went to his house, where we put on our old clothes, and before starting on our hunt, he told us that he had engaged a colored boy, whom he called "Hambone," to climb to the Eagle's nest.

While driving to the woods, in Mr. Stokesbury's Ford, we saw a beautiful Sparrow Hawk, flying about 40 feet from the side of the car. When we arrived at the woods, my uncle, Mr. Stokesbury and "Hambone" left us, to look for the nest, and Mr. Norris and I went in another direction, looking for the nest, also. Pretty soon they found the nest, which was about 35 feet from the ground and built in a sweet gum tree. "Hambone" climbed to the nest, but, much to our disappointment, he said it was empty. Mr. Norris and I then took a short walk and saw the following birds:

Killdeer, Red-headed Woodpecker, Towhee, Mourning Dove, Woodcock, Marsh Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Cardinal, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Chickadee, Meadow-lark, covey of Bob White (about 12), Carolina Wren.

We also saw the following birds, which were very abundant:

Turkey Buzzard, Fox Sparrow, Blue-bird, Crow, Slate-colored Junco; also saw a flock of Purple Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds.

We noted the following trees:

Sweet gum, pin oak, white oak, poplar, white cedar, red cedar, hickory, elm and shellbark.

Although the trip was not a successful one, it was very enjoyable.

Total, 22 species seen.

Edward T. Stuart, Jr.,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## AN EASTERNER GONE WEST.

In moving from the East (New York State) to the West (Kansas) a person certainly runs up against absolutely different ornithological conditions. In fact, Kansas seems to have quite a fauna of its own.

The writer moved during the spring of 1922 from central New York State to southeastern Kansas, and during that time has had an opportunity of getting out in the field a little, but not nearly as much as he wished.

I have heard that Kansas is called the "Hawk State," and from my observations I am beginning to believe it. A person can at any time of year take a short trip out of town and run into from a dozen to twenty or thirty hawks. Naturally, he sees most of them sailing over the open prairie, and many are sitting on cottonwood trees, resting up a bit, or digesting their breakfast or dinner, as the case may be. Another place a person is nearly always liable to see the birds is at the topmost point of a straw or hay stack. The hawks seem to prefer the stacks to any other hunting ground.

The predominating hawk, at least at this time of year, seems to be the American Rough Leg. These Hawks

have happened to come under my observation more than any other species. They are not hard to approach, especially from an automobile, and one can at times drive right up under them, stop the car, and therefore observe them at close range. I have had the good fortune of securing several extra fine specimens of this Hawk in full adult plumage as well as immature. Also a bird of the second or third year which, although in full plumage, shows a great difference in size.

Other species of Hawks commonly noted are: Marsh Hawk, Coopers, Redtail, Swainsons, and the little Sparrow Hawk is everywhere. The writer has also seen a Redtail which showed up with a very white body and tail. This bird is undoubtedly the Kriders Redtail.

Kansas has had an unusually mild winter. Not a flake of snow has fallen so far in these parts. Consequently many birds have wintered over that would not have ordinarily. Red birds have been common. Meadowlarks have stayed in large flocks, and many Robins have been seen.

On February 24th the writer took a short trip in the field. The weather was typical April spring weather back East. Many birds were noted, and among them were:

Many Migrating Sparrows were in evidence, Bluebirds, Robins, Meadowlarks, Downy and Hairy Woodpeckers, Flickers, Red-bellied Woodpeckers, Chickadees, Nuthatches, Tufted Titmice, Juncos, Killdeer Plover, Mocking Birds, Towhees, Horned Larks, Cardinals, White-rumped Shrikes, Blackbirds, Crows, Mourning Doves, and several species of Hawks.

There is no news in this little article of importance to the bird man. However, the writer "felt inclined," and thought he would give an East-

erner's idea of a few ramblings in Kansas.

Carl F. Wright,  
Wichita, Kan.

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### MORE CLECKLEY!

Ernest H. Short sends us a check, dated February 24th, drawn in his favor by M. T. Cleckley, on the Augusta Savings Bank of Rochester, N. Y., which was returned because of want of sufficient funds.

We have so frequently warned our readers regarding this man Cleckley, that we are astonished any one would be caught by him. There was a time when Cleckley was all right, but he has fallen upon evil ways.

The Editor.

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### OWL SITS ON BROADWAY.

A small wild-eyed Owl sat by the warmth of the electric light in a Broadway sign and contentedly observed the passing throng.

It was a cold and wet Monday night, but he was warm and dry in his brilliant retreat, and his feathers fluffed soft and dry. The small boys couldn't hoot him away, nor did the groups who noticed him seem to disturb his reveries. If he were considering the bringing of his relatives from the woods about Columbia to enjoy the white lights of Broadway with him, it might well be taken as an appropriate symbol of a University town.

The Owl, being sacred to Minerva, goddess of wisdom, through all the ages, has caused many discussions; many people claim that he just looks wise. But his renown having been established in dim antiquity is his for all time to come.

Johnson Neff,  
1110 Paquin St., Columbia, Mo.

## NESTING OF THE COOPER'S HAWK IN PHILADELPHIA.

The Cooper's Hawk is a rare breeder in Philadelphia, but since the abolishment of spring shooting, and the abandonment of many farms during the past several years, this Raptore is increasing here. Previous to 1922 I had been unable to find but one nest actually in the city limits, but in that year I located three. All of these nests were found in the northeastern part of the city, in thinly settled districts, and in small woodlots on farms. None of them were any great distance from a farm house.

I found my first nest in Buzby's Thicket, near Frankford, a large tract of pin oaks, elms, sweet gum and other trees on the clay flats, and on May 7, 1917. It was well in the woods, situated about 40 feet up in a pin oak, and held four fresh eggs. This woods has since been felled, with the exception of a few acres, and was surrounded entirely by farm land, a brick yard being closely on the north corner, and a railway ran past it, a few rods distant, on the southwest side.

During 1922, I found three Cooper's Hawks' nests, viz: Two on May 15, and the third on May 29. The latter, about 70 feet up in a tulip tree, was not afterward visited, it being lined at that late date, and I never went back for it. The two other nests were visited on May 15, and complete sets of three eggs taken from each; small sets, but absolutely complete, as incubation was well advanced in each set.

The first nest was about 50 feet up in a beech tree in a wood on Pennypach Creek, Bustleton, and the other was about the same height up in a pin oak in a wood lot near Fox Chase. These sets made the fourth and fifth clutches of three Cooper's Hawk's eggs I had collected during the past

two years, whereas previously I always had taken complements of four and five eggs. It would appear that the Cooper's Hawks curtailed their sets for some reason. However, I did collect a set of five eggs in April, 1922, for a friend, the only Cooper's Hawk's nest examined containing over three eggs during the past two years.

These Cooper's Hawks' nests, like all Cooper's nests I have ever examined, were built exclusively by the birds, and none were old crows' nests repaired, as I have read that the Hawks often use old Crows' nests, but never in my experience.

Richard F. Miller,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## TROPICAL BIRDS.

By Auston Houston.

Do you love birds? Then you would enjoy a visit to the tropics. Nowhere will such a variety of the feathered tribe be found as in the forests and jungles of the tropics. Brazil alone has more than sixteen hundred species and most of these are inhabitants of the Amazon Basin. On all sides there are birds that whistle, chirrup, croak, coo, warble, or make discordant cries. Few of them are songsters like our northern birds. Those that do sing are more somber in color than the others, which seems to be an effort toward compensation.

Parrots fly over the invaders of these regions in screaming flocks, or alight on the trees and nestle together in loving couples, when their screeching becomes tender chirrupings. Most of these birds have beautiful feathers, so that one sees flashes of disintegrated rainbows on all sides. Sometimes there are hundreds of birds of many different species together, all moving with the greatest activity. The woodpeckers climb up

the trunks, while Ant-Thrushes, Hummingbirds, and Flycatchers flit among the leaves and lower branches. The bustling crowd loses no time, and although moving in concert, each bird is occupied on its own account in searching bark or leaf or twig. In a few minutes the entire host may be gone, and the forest will then remain deserted and silent. These miscellaneous foraging parties are quite a noticeable feature, especially in the Amazon district. They seem to travel together for mutual profit and protection.

Pleasant, indeed, it is to sit in the cool shade of the tropical forest and watch these gorgeously hued birds. The Indian natives are very fond of pets, and there is scarcely a hut where a bird or a beast is not kept. They will tame intractable Parrots in a few days. They allow the birds full liberty, instead of confining them to a cage, and the birds seldom violate this confidence.

The Toucan is a sort of caricature, with its long bill, which it turns from side to side with an old fashioned look. The largest Toucan is about two feet in length, of which one-fourth is taken up by the bill and another fourth by the tail. Specimens of bills seven inches long and two inches wide have been found. Its colors are black, white, yellow and red. The bill is beautifully painted red, brown and yellow. The principal use of the Toucan's bill, and in the Parrot, as well, is that of a weapon to defend itself against its enemies.

It is a wise provision that a bird in the tropics should be provided with some special protection, when one recalls the great number of predatory animals searching for nests and devouring the eggs as well as the young birds. There is likewise great danger from the immense armies of foraging

ants that occasionally overrun the forests. The birds are ever on the alert for the scouts of these advancing armies, for if the scouts are killed no word will reach the main body of a nest of helpless young birds.

The Toucan appears most comical when hopping about for food, and the long bill is very useful in reaching into corners and crevices. During most months of the year, it is encountered in single individuals or small flocks, and is then very wary. Several may be seen among the highest branches of the trees giving vent to their loud, shrill, yelping cries, with one bird mounted higher than the rest and apparently acting as leader of this inharmonious chorus. The cry sounds something like to-cano, and hence this name was given it by the Indians. The Toucan makes a very amusing pet, and is as easily domesticated as the Parrot.

Another gaudy bird is the Macaw, which belongs to the Parrot tribe. In flying, this bird shows red on the under surface, and in turning, combinations of blue, red and yellow gleam in the sunshine. They are long-lived, and some specimens have been known to reach a yard in length. It screams with harsh, discordant notes as it flies, seeming to proclaim to all the world that it fears no foe. Its formidable beak protects it from every danger, for no Hawk, or even a monkey, dares attack a bird so strongly armed. Were it not so its loud cries and brilliant color would simply proclaim its presence and invite destruction. With the small Parrots, such as Paroquets, it is different, for most of these are colored green, which makes them almost indistinguishable amid the foliage. One might gaze intently at a tree harboring scores of these small green Parrots, making an incessant noise, and not distinguish



one. The true Parrots generally are green, with a red border on the wings, and yellow breast.

The Tanager is a very common bird in the tropics. The male bird has a beautiful velvety purple and black plumage, with a patch of fiery red above the tail, and with a bill partly white. In its habits the Tanager resembles the common House Sparrow, being just as lively, restless, bold, and wary. Its notes are chirping and inharmonious, and it loves the neighborhood of man, but does not build its nests on houses. The Japim is a sort of Magpie, with rich yellow and black plumage. Its nest is shaped like a purse, about two feet in length, and is suspended from the slender branches of trees. The Japim is a noisy, stirring and babbling creature, constantly passing to and fro and chattering to its comrades. The building of hanging nests is quite common among tropical birds, for in that way they have better protection from predatory animals and ants.

The Motmot is a curious little olive-green and brown bird very common in American tropics. Its most conspicuous feature is a long curious tail, which it moves from side to side until it is nearly at right angles to its body. In the home of the White Egrets these birds will be seen flying on all sides. As night sets, the trees and bushes gleam like great white flowers among the dark green foliage. The Trogon is another conspicuous bird of the tropics, with dark green feathers above, carmine underneath, and wings that are speckled with white and black. Its flight is short, quick, jerky flights. The Trogons are constantly calling to each other, and are thus easily discovered. The natives call them "viduas," which means "widows."

Hummingbirds equal in number, if

they do not exceed, all the other tropical birds together. They have a chirp not greatly unlike that of some insects. The sparkling pools are the favorite resorts of these fairy-like creatures. Clothed in their purple and emerald and golden glory, they will hang, suspended in the air, dart into the pool, and then disappear like a flash of light. Every day in the cooler hours of the morning and evening they will be seen hovering around the many flowering trees and vines. They dart to and fro so swiftly that the eye can scarcely follow their movements.—The Classmate, W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

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#### EARLY.

J. W. Morse, Tulsa, Oklahoma, reports a set of Great Horned Owls, and another of Barred Owls eggs and nesting location being excavated by Pileated Woodpeckers, in his letter of March 5th.

W. E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wis., in his letter of March 3rd, reports the arrival of the Song Sparrow, at that point ahead of the Bluebird, which is unusual, and we might add that at our home the Bluebird has not yet put in its appearance, and is already long overdue.

R. M. B.

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#### THE STARLING.

Ernest H. Short writes us that in his resume, relating to the Starling printed last month, the statement should have been that two pairs bred, instead of two hundred, evidently an error of whoever prepared his copy. Also he says, relating to the set of eggs in Mr. Darlington's collection, referred to in Mr. Jacobs' article, he, Short, wrote, "I could not make anything else but Sulphur Bellied Fly-catcher, taking eggs and nests into consideration."

R. M. B.

### HUNTER'S LUCK.

The sun was on its weary way trying to get through the high mountains. Also two hunters were on their weary way trying to make it to a certain stretch in the mountain before the sun got up. My father and I took a southwestern course from camp in search of deer. Plenty of signs were found. We intended to go south so far, then separate and make a drive against the north wind. It was new territory to me, but my father had been over this route. Just at the break of day we heard wild turkeys flopping out of the trees in a canyon and flying to the open country above. These turkeys, about 100, had a jolly time as we watched them cross the canyon. They gobbled and putted and acted as if they didn't think there was a hunter within a hundred miles. I wanted to make a slip and kill some of them, but my father said no, it won't do, we are hunting deer; we will soon be in the deer range on top the bluff where the turkeys are. So we let them feed peacefully away. We sat down and watched them as they went away, gobbling and putting, happily and undisturbed. They soon got out of hearing. Then we made it through the rocks and on the top of the bluff to the deer range. My father told me to make a drive, keeping the moon on one side of me and the coming sun on the other. He separated from me and took another course. I lingered along slowly, seeing lots of small game, armadillos and rattlesnakes; now and then a coyote yelled in the distance. I soon found that I had made a complete circle and was back in camp again. So I beat it back to the deer country, as the sun was well up and I could keep my bearings. I sa wa doe now and then, but not a buck. Bang! I heard a shot, not far away, and I went over and

found my father and another hunter that he had met. They were following a bloody trail over the rocks. We trailed his buck for a mile or more to where he went into a deep canyon, thickly underbrushed. Here we gave up the trail as useless, and then my father related the story of the deer. He had walked slowly up a sloping, rocky part of a big draw that led into the canyons. As he reached the top, a perfect picture stood in a small opening in plain view. It was a big buck with many points. He shot and the buck turned a backward somersault and landed in some brush. Father got out his knife to stick the buck and walked slowly to him, as he struggled in the brush. Up got Mr. Buck, snorted, and made it away, my father not getting another shot. We then took the trail for home.

Ramon Graham, 1923,  
Fort Worth, Tex.

### LARGE SETS.

The following list of large sets in the collection of Mr. W. A. Strong, is sent us. An examination of this list will disclose many unusual sets, yet many larger sets are scattered about in the various collections. We have many sets of species here listed that are much larger than Mr. Strong refers to—for instance A. O. U. Nos. 219 1-17, 144 1-17, 316 1-4, 456 1-7, and many others.

- R. M. Barnes.  
67 9—Pied-billed Grebe, June 17, 1900.  
Walter C. Wood, St. Clair Flats, Mich.  
58 21 4—Laughing Gull, May 18, 1894.  
E. A. McIlhenny, Last Island, La.  
58 78 4—Laughing Gull, May 18, 1894.  
E. A. McIlhenny, Last Island, La.  
77 14 6—Black Tern, June 18, 1899.  
J. Claire Wood, Lake St. Clair, Mich.  
130 2 11—Red-breasted Merganser,  
May 24, 1913. Walter Raine & Son,  
French River, Canada.  
132 a 10—Mallard. June 30, 1910.

- Elmer Langevin, Crookston, Minn.
- 135 1/17—Gadwall, June 6, 1893. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 135 75/10—Gadwall, June 2, 1912. A. Treganza, Salt Lake Co., Utah.
- 137 110/10—Baldpate, May 25, 1914. Antwonet Treganza, Boxelder Co., Utah.
- 139 155/10—Green-winged Teal, June 4, 1912. Edward Treganza, Boxelder Co., Utah.
- 139 1/10—Green-winged Teal, May 17, 1906. W. Raine, Saskatchewan, Can.
- 140 1/10—Blue-winged Teal, June 3, 1894. Edwin S. Bryant, Devils Lake, N. Dak.
- 141 1/10—Cinnamon Teal, May 30, 1914. W. Leon Dawson, Los Banos, Cal.
- 141 80/11—Cinnamon Teal, May 28, 1915. Mrs. A. O. Treganza, Salt Lake Co., Utah.
- 146 1/10 and 137/1—Redhead, June 5, 1911. Edward Treganza, Salt Lake Co., Utah.
- 146 3/10—Redhead, June 16, 1896. E. S. Ralfe, Alberta, Canada.
- 148 4/11—American Scaup Duck, June 8, 1906. W. Raine & Son, Alberta, Canada.
- 150 a/10—Ring-necked Duck, June 10, 1906. W. Raine & Son, Alberta, Can.
- 151 11/11—American Golden-eye, May 24, 1895. Edwin S. Bryant, Devils Lake, N. Dak.
- 178 1/12—Fulvous Tree-duck, June 2, 1916. A. S. Vrooman, Fresno Co. Cal.
- 190 1/5—American Bittern, May 30, 1900. Frank Zesch, Jr., Erie Co., N. Y.
- 190 1/5—American Bittern, May 20, 1909. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 191 1/5—Least Bittern, June 6, 1902. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 191 1/5—Least Bittern, June 1, 1916. Edward E. Court, Alex. Co., Va.
- 194 5/6—Great Blue Heron, May 3, 1902. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 194 1/5—Great Blue Heron, May 3, 1902. J. Claire Wood, Oakland Co., Mich.
- 194 1/5—Great Blue Heron, May 5, 1893. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co. Cal.
- 197 8/5—Snowy Heron, May 15, 1910. M. R. Cheesman, Salt Lake Co., Utah.
- 200 8/5—Little Blue Heron, April 24, 1913. J. A. Dakin, Fruitland, Fla.
- 201 1/6—Green Heron, June 12, 1904. Frank Zesch, Jr., Erie Co., N. Y.
- 201 1/8—Green Heron, May 30, 1918. E. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 202 14/6—Black-crowned Night Heron, April 15, 1917. E. A. Sikken, Clarks Co., Md.
- 210 33/9—California Clapper Rail, April 24, 1904. H. O. Jenkins, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
- 211 2/12—Clapper Rail, May 12, 1909. For Dr. Cleckley, Hamlin, S. C.
- 211a 2/11—Louisiana Clapper Rail, April 30, 1893. W. E. Grovet, Galveston, Tex.
- 211c 2/9—Wayne's Clapper Rail, May 4, 1906. T. D. Perry, Chatham Co., Georgia.
- 212 1/13—Virginia Rail, June 5, 1906. Edward Zesch, Bowmansville, N. Y.
- 213 1/10—Spotted Crake, June 1, 1907. A. T. Copeland, Nasian, Germany.
- 214 1/16—Sora Rail, June 8, . . . . . Edward Zesch, Erie Co., N. Y.
- 218 1/7—Purple Gallinule, April 19, 1908. Oscar E. Baynard, Orange Lake, Fla.
- 219 1/12—Florida Gallinule, June 9, 1901. Walter C. Wood, Detroit River, Can.
- 219 b 12—Florida Gallinule, June 7, 1907. David E. Harrower, Philadelphia Co., Pa.
- 221 1/11—American Coot, June 6, 1893. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 285 4/4—Oyster-catcher, May 16, 1897. W. Raine, Walney Island, England.
- 289 1/17—Bob White—June 25, 1898. J. T. Overstrut, Smith Co., Tenn.
- 289a 6/15—Florida Bob White, April

- 29, 1885. F. T. Pamber, Miami, Fla.
- 283a 68 14—Chestnut-bellied. Sealed Partridge, June 19, 1891. D. B. Burrows, Star Co., Tex.
- 294 1/12—California Partridge, June 13, 1894. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co. Cal.
- 294a 1/14—Valley Partridge, May 3, 1916. For N. K. Carpenter, San Diego Co., Cal.
- 295 x/15—Gambel's Partridge, April 26, 1896. John W. Mitchell, Los Angeles Co., Cal.
- 300 1 12—Ruffed Grouse, May 26, 1912. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 300a 1 15—Canadian Ruffed Grouse, May 24, 1914. W. Raine, Ontario, Can.
- 301 1 10—Willow Ptarmigan, June 14, 1907. J. R. K., Tornea, Lapland.
- 308b 11/9—Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, May 19, 1897. Eugene S. Rolfe, Benson Co., N. Dak.
- 309 1/9—Sage Grouse, May 11, 1896. W. L. Burnett, Carbon Co., Wyo.
- 311 1 4—Chacalaca, May 11, 1891. For T. H. Jackson, Tamps, Mex.
- 331 11 7—Marsh Hawk, June 8, 1896. E. S. Bryant, Ramsey Co., N. Dak.
- 331 3 6—Marsh Hawk, May 19, 1907. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 333 1 6—Cooper's Hawk, May 25, 1884. For F. B. Spaulding, Lancaster, N. H.
- 335 16 5—Harris' Hawk, May 13, 1899. F. B. Armstrong, Corpus Christi, Tex.
- 337b 1 5—Western Red-tail, April 7, 1896. R. H. Beck, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
- 337b 1 4—Western Red-tail, March 22, 1894. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 337b 11 4—Western Redtail, March 27, 1902. C. S. Thompson, Paso Robles, Cal.
- 339 5 5—Red-shouldered Hawk, April 19, 1903. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 339 2 5—Red-shouldered Hawk, April 19, 1901. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 339b 1/6—Red-bellied Hawk, May 5, 1894. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 339b 1 4—Red-bellied Hawk, March 18, 1897. C. E. Grosbeak, Los Angeles Co., Cal.
- 374 IV 4—Rough-legged Hawk, May 19, 1900. G. Westway, Scandinavia.
- 348a 3/5—Ferruginous Rough-leg, Apl. 30, 1897. J. R. Croine, Benson Co., N. Dak.
- 252 1/3—Bald Eagle, March 13, 1904. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 352 2/3—Bald Eagle, Feb. 21, 1913. E. A. Sikken and E. J. Court, Fairfax Co., Va.
- 355 10 5—Prairie Falcon, May 19, 1904. W. A. Bowman, Assinobia, Canada.
- 355 5/5—Prairie Falcon, April 8, 1914. Fred Truesdale, Kern Co., Cal.
- 356 1 4—Duck Hawk, May 29, 1902. Edw. Dodd, Stark Co., N. Dak.
- 358 3/6—Richardson's Pigeon Hawk, June 3, 1901. W. Raine, Saskatchewan, Canada.
- 358.1 1 5—Merlin, May 29, 1914.....  
..... Cumberland.
- 359.1 CF 5—Kestrel, May 26, 1899. Mark Brandenburg, Germany.
- 360a 1 6—Desert Sparrow Hawk, April 18, 1894. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 364 1/4—American Osprey, April 28, 1917. E. A. Sikken and E. J. Court, St. Mary Co., Md.
- 364 2/4—American Osprey, May 4, 1919. E. K. Schleichert, St. Mary Co., Md.
- 365 1 6—American Barn Owl, March 22, 1893. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 365 4 6—American Barn Owl, May 6, 1906. J. B. Dixon, Pasadena, Cal.
- 366 1 5—American Long-eared Owl, April 16, 1900. C. L. Panter, Escondido, Cal.
- 366 1 5—American Long-eared Owl, May 20, 1894. R. H. Beck, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
- 367 1 5—Short-earned Owl, April 26,

1918. Harry Aldous, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 368 1/4—Barred Owl, Feb. 27, 1917. E. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 378 1/10—Burrowing Owl, April 20, 1894. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 378a o 11, 8—Florida Burrowing Owl, April 3, 1898. A. M. Nicholson, Kissimmee Prairie, Fla.
- 381 H3/4—Elf Owl, June 1, 1904. F. C. Willard, Tucson, Ariz.
- 383 1/9—Ani, May 6, 1889. F. H. Howard, Dutch Guiana.
- 384 16/5—Grove-billed Ani, May 3, 1904. F. B. Armstrong, Tamps, Mex.
- 385 1/6—Road Runner, Feb. 4, 1887. For E. Ricksecken, Cornal Co., Tex.
- 390 c/7—Belted Kingfisher, May 15, 1884. F. H. Carpenter, Rehoboth, Mass.
- 390 x1/7—Belted Kingfisher, May 26, 1907. Edw. Reinecke, Niagara Falls, New York.
- 402 1/6—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, May 26, 1907. P. E. Peabody, M. D., Oakland Co., Mich.
- 402 1/6—Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, May 30, 1902. J. Claire Wood, Oakland Co., Mich.
- 407a a/7—California Woodpecker, May 1, 1910. A. C. Shelton, Sonoma Co., Cal.
- 408 26/7—Lewis' Woodpecker, . . . . . D. M. Andrews, Boulder, Colo.
- 410 7 6—Golden-fronted Woodpecker, April 3, 1900. F. B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Tex.
- 411 1/4—Gila Woodpecker, May 18, 1908. H. H. Kimball, Fort Lowell, Ariz.
- 412 1 8—Flicker, May 27, 1888. S. W. Denton, Wellesley, Mass.
- 412a 1/12—Northern Flicker, June 10, 1897. C. N. Davis, Branchport, N. Y.
- 412a 1 8—Northern Flicker, May 28, 1906. P. E. Moody, M. D., Oakland Co., Mich.
- 413 1 9—Red-shafted Flicker, May 26, 1909. Edward Treganza, Tooele Co., Utah.
- 413 4 8—Red-shafted Flicker, May 22, 1894. R. F. Milton, San Bernardino, Cal.
- 413a x 7—Northwestern Flicker, May 5, 1897. E. S. Brooks, Chillewack, B. C.
- 414 1 4—Gilded Flicker, May 28, 1908. H. H. Kimball, Fort Lowell, Ariz.
- 447 2 6—Arkansas Kingbird, May 8, 1895. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 447 3 6—Arkansas Kingbird, May 30, 1896. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 448 1 5—Cassin's Kingbird, May 12, 1906. Pete Janregui, Santa Paula, Cal.
- 452 1 7—Crested Flycatcher, June 2, 1902. H. H. Spicer, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 252 1 6—Crested Flycatcher, June 5, 1821. J. O. Johnson, Southington, Conn.
- 453a 4 6—Mexican Crested Flycatcher, May 2, 1900. F. B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Tex.
- 456 3 6—Phoebe, May 13, 1917. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 457 1 5—Say's Phoebe, May 19, 1914. Guy Love, Decatur Co., Kan.
- 458 11 15—Black Phoebe, May 7, 1898. E. Adams, San Jose, Cal.
- 474b 1 5—Prairie Horned Lark, May 3, 1905. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 475 2 8—American Magpie, May 19, 1906. Walter Raine, Alberta, Can.
- 476 6 7—Yellow-billed Magpie, April 3, 1897. V. W. Owen, Mesated, Cal.
- 477 c 6—Bluejay, May 20, 1894. F. H. Carpenter, E. Provo, R. I.
- 478c 7 5—Black-headed Jay, April 28, 1914. A. O. Treganza, Utah Co., Utah.
- 480 25 5—Woodhouse Jay, April 16, 1909. H. C. Burt, Bernardo River, Cal.
- 481 1 5—California Jay, April 13, 1895. Ernest Adams, San Jose, Cal.
- 482 2 5—Arizona Jay, April 24, 1898.

- H. H. Wright, Cochise Co., Ariz.  
 483 21 6—Green Jay, April 18, 1900.  
 F. B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Tex.  
 486 1 5—American Raven, April 9,  
 1891. J. T. Adams, El Paso, Tex.  
 487 p 8—White-necked Raven, March  
 17, 1900. J. M. Carroll, Midland  
 Co., Tex.  
 488 2 7—American Crow, April 14,  
 1897. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co.,  
 Mich.  
 488b D 5—Western Crow, April 9, 1914.  
 M. C. Badger, Santa Paula, Cal.  
 490 4 5—Fish Crow, May 10, 1888. H.  
 G. Parker, Seven-mile Beach, N. J.  
 494 14 7—Bobolink, May 26, 1900. A.  
 W. Plumb, Rankin, Mich.  
 494 4 7—Bobolink, May 30, 1900. J.  
 Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.  
 497 1 7—Yellow-headed Blackbird,  
 May 10, 1894. For Anna Wolfe,  
 Lathrop, Cal.  
 498 5 5—Red-winged Blackbird, May  
 19, 1901. J. Claire Wood, Wayne  
 Co., Mich.  
 498a 6 5—Sonoran Redwing, April 12,  
 1907. C. W. Hartranft, Phoenix,  
 Ariz.  
 498d 3 5—Thick-billed Redwing, June  
 1, 1906. W. Raine & Son, Alberta,  
 Canada.  
 498e 2 5—San Diego Redwing, April  
 16, 1886. F. T. Pamber, Riverside,  
 Cal.  
 498f x 5—Northwestern Redwing, May  
 21, 1884. G. C. Clark, Mallieur Lake,  
 Ore.  
 499 1 5—Bicolored Blackbird, May 10,  
 1891. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.  
 501 a 6—Meadowlark, May 26, 1918.  
 Elmer Langevin, Crookston, Minn.  
 501a 1 5—Texan Meadowlark, June 19,  
 1895. W. A. Mathers, Albeica, Tex.  
 501b 1 5—Western Meadowlark, May  
 26, 1893. Dr. Jeannm, Converse Co.,  
 Wyo.  
 505a C 6—Arizona Hooded Oriole, Apl.  
 26, 1906. B. W. Panter, San Diego,  
 Cal. 507 1 6—Baltimore Oriole, May 31,  
 1896. Frank Zesch, Jr., Ontario, Can.  
 508 1 6—Bullock's Oriole, May 22, 1893.  
 W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.  
 510 F 6—Brewer's Blackbird, May 17,  
 1899. H. H. Dunn, Placentia, Cal.  
 511 10 5—Purple Grackle, May 15,  
 1893. F. C. Willard, Galesburg, Ill.  
 511b 1 6—Bronzed Grackle, May 8,  
 1898. P. D. Getty, McLean Co., Ill.  
 513 5 5—Boat-tailed Grackle, April 30,  
 1913. M. T. Cieckley, Little Sappelo  
 Island, Ga.  
 513a 2 6—Great-tailed Grackle, May  
 19, 1919. J. J. Carroll, Refugio, Tex.  
 519 1 6—House Finch, April 17, 1913.  
 W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.  
 529 1 6—American Goldfinch, Aug. 2,  
 1901. Bradshaw Swales, Wayne Co.,  
 Mich.  
 533 32 5—Pine Siskin, May 22, 1909.  
 D. E. Brown, King Co., Wash.  
 549 1 5—Sharp-tailed Sparrow, June  
 10, 1891. W. G., Queens Co., N. Y.  
 563 1 5—Field Sparrow, May 24, 1904.  
 Walter C. Wood, Oakland Co., Mich.  
 583 152 5—Lincoln's Sparrow, July 11,  
 1913. Antwonet Treganza, Salt Lake  
 Co., Utah.  
 584 1 6—Swamp Sparrow, May 20,  
 1897. Edward Reinecke, Buffalo,  
 N. Y.  
 591b 1 5—California Towhee, May 4,  
 1891. Rollo H. Beck, Santa Clara  
 Co., Cal.  
 594 1 5—Arizona Pyrrhuloxia, May 1,  
 1894. W. D. Garnett, Cooks Co.,  
 Tex.  
 598 1 5—Indigo Bunting, June 13, 1909.  
 Ottomar Reinecke, Niagara Co., N. Y.  
 604 1 5—Dickcissel, May 16, 1915. R.  
 L. More, Vernon, Tex.  
 605 8 5—Lark Bunting, June 6, 1901.  
 F. M. Dille, Boulder Co., Colo.  
 611 3 6—Purple Martin, April 28, 1889.  
 T. C. Pearson, Alachua Co., Fla.  
 614 1 6—Tree Swallow, May 21, 1898.  
 P. E. Moody, M. D., Oakland Co.,  
 Mich.

- 616 1 6—Bank Swallow, June 8, 1902. H. H. Spicer, Lake St. Clair, Mich.
- 617 3 7—Rough-winged Swallow, May 31, 1908. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 622 1 7—Loggerhead Shrike, June 13, 1893. L. Whitfield, Tallahassee, Fla.
- 622b 1 7—California Shrike, March 25, 1894. R. H. Beck, Santa Clara Co., Cal.
- 622e 9 6—Migrant Shrike, April 20, 1906. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 637 6/5—Prothonotary Warbler, June 16, 1922. Julius Wendler, Red Wing, Minn.
- 641 671 5—Blue-winged Warbler, June 5, 1904. J. C. A. Meeker, New Haven, Conn.
- 642 1 5—Golden-winged Warbler, May 25, 1902. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 646a 3 5—Lutescent Warbler, May 18, 1909. J. M. Davis, Humboldt Co., Cal.
- 674 1 5—Oven-bird, May 30, 1896. C. S. Butters, Bradford, Mass.
- 676 2 6—Louisiana Water-Thrush, May 30, 1897. W. A. Davidson, Ecorse, Mich.
- 677 1 5—Kentucky Warbler, June 1, 1910. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 679 1 5—Mourning Warbler, June 20, 1901. Ed. Reinecke, Orleans Co., N. Y.
- 681 xx 5—Maryland Yellow-throat, May 29, 1914. R. P. Sharpless, Chester Co., Pa.
- 681d 1 5—Northern Yellow-throat, June 2, 1900. P. E. Moody, M. D., Wayne Co., Mich.
- 685b 1 5—Golden Pileated Warbler, June 17, 1915. H. H. Kimball, Fallen Leaf, Cal.
- 687 w 6—American Redstart, June 6, 1889. W. Phillips, Red Wing, Minn.
- 694 1 6—White Wagtail, May 27, 1902. For J. G. Gordon, North Iceland.
- 697 x 5—American Pipit, July 1, 1894. For W. Raine, Hudson Bay.
- 701 1 5—American Dipper, May 10, 1919. Walter Berton, Vancouver, B. C.
- 703 14 6—Mockingbird, April 30, 1890. T. H. Jackson, Tamps, Mex.
- 704 6 5—Catbird, May 26, 1901. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 705 3 5—Brown Thrasher, May 25, 1873. F. T. Pember, Gainesville, N. Y.
- 706 143 6—Sennett's Thrasher, April 21, 1900. F. B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Tex.
- 707 1 4—Curve-billed Thrasher, April 3, 1914. F. B. Armstrong, Brownsville, Tex.
- 710 6 4—California Thrasher, May 11, 1897. Ernest Adams, San Jose, Cal.
- 715 2 6—Rock Wren, May 14, 1914. Guy Love, Decatur Co., Kan.
- 719 a-6 6—Bewick's Wren, May 29, 1891. O. W. Briggs, Paw Paw, Ill.
- 719e 1 7—Northwest Bewick's Wren, June 2, 1909. W. Douglas, Vancouver, B. C.
- 721 1 7—House Wren, May 30, 1900. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 721a 2 8—Western House Wren, April 20, 1916. M. C. Badger, Santa Paula, Cal.
- 722 6 7—Winter Wren, June 10, 1918. W. Raine, Ontario, Canada.
- 722a 1 6—Western Winter Wren, May 13, 1919. Walter Burton, Victoria, B. C.
- 724 2 6—Short-billed Marsh Wren, Aug. 18, 1885. M. Harrington, Iowa Co., Iowa.
- 725 o-1 7—Long-billed Marsh Wren, May 26, 1898. Edward Reinecke, Buffalo, N. Y.
- 725a 6 5—Tule Wren, April 15, 1906. J. O. Snyder, Palo Alto, Cal.
- 725b 1 6—Worthington's Marsh Wren, April 15, 1906. T. D. Perry, Chatham Co., Ga.
- 726 1 6—Brown Creeper, June 5, 1916.

- W. Raine, Ontario, Canada.
- 727 1 7—White-breasted Nuthatch, May 3, 1902. J. Claire Wood, Oakland Co., Mich.
- 727a 1 7—Slender-billed Nuthatch, April 29, 1899. For D. A. Cohen, Contra Costa Co., Cal.
- 729 2 6—Brown-headed Nuthatch, Apl. 11, 1914. T. D. Perry, Chatham, Ga.
- 731 40 8—Tufted Titmouse, May 4, 1896. S. Roberts, Nornay, S. C.
- 733 821 6—Plain Titmouse, April 12, 1913. H. W. Carriger, Santa Rosa, Cal.
- 735 1 7—Chickadee, June 1, 1915. E. S. Coombs, Readville, Mass.
- 735a 1 9—Long-tailed Chickadee, June 16, 1906. W. Raine, Alberta, Can.
- 736 1 7—Carolina Chickadee, May 6, 1905. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 738 100 8—Mountain Chickadee, June 8, 1915. H. W. Carriger and G. Wells, Placer Co., Cal.
- 740 1 7—Hudsonian Chickadee, June 18, 1903. W. Raine & Son, Manitoba, Can.
- 741 1 8—Chestnut-backed Chickadee, May 3, 1919. Walter Burton, Victoria, B. C.
- 741a 1 6—California Chickadee, April 13, 1906. C. V. Warren, Santa Paula, Cal.
- 743a 1 7—California Bush-Tit, March 16, 1896. Ernest Adams, San Jose, Cal.
- 748 1 7—Golden-crowned Kinglet, June 11, 1916. Walter Raine, Ontario, Canada.
- 748a 1 6—Western Golden-crowned Kinglet, June 20, 1914. O. A. Treganza, Salt Lake Co., Utah.
- 749 5 9—Ruby-crowned Kinglet, June 12, 1919. Walter Raine, Ontario, Can.
- 751 9 5—Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, May 13, 1916. E. A. Sikken, Prince George Co., Md.
- 751a 2 5—Western Gnatcatcher, May 21, 1916. M. C. Badger, Santa Paula, Cal.
- 753 4/5—Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, June 7, 1903. J. B. Dixon, San Diego Co., Cal.
- 756 1/5—Wilson's Thrush, May 31, 1896. Walter C. Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 759b 5/5—Hermit Thrush, June 2, 1901. O. Reinecke, Orleans Co., N. Y.
- 760 1 6—Red-winged Thrush, July 2, 1908. A. T. Copeland, Norway.
- 761 1 7—American Robin, April 21, 1913. Ottomar Reinecke, Erie Co., N. Y.
- 761 3/4—American Robin, May 30, 1899. J. Claire Wood, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 766 1 6—Bluebird, May 1, 1901. H. H. Spicer, Wayne Co., Mich.
- 767 1 5—Western Bluebird, July 19, 1891. W. A. Strong, Tulare Co., Cal.
- 767b 3 5—San Pedro Bluebird, June 6, 1908. B. P. Carpenter, San Diego Co., Cal.
- 768 1 6—Mountain Bluebird, May 2, 1900. W. S. Hathaway, Silvertown, Cal.
- 768 1 6—Mountain Bluebird, June 24, 1906. Walter Raine, Alberta, Can.  
W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

#### WHEATLAND, WYOMING, BIRDS.

Thought it might be of interest to your readers to know of some of the birds observed in this locality. The following is an abstract from my notes for June 3rd, 1922. The country covered included a circle of 18 miles, over farmed districts, prairie and rice bottoms. The farmed country is quite level, with a few groups of trees about the farmsteads, and all lies in an irrigation section. The prairie districts are more or less rolling, especially where they merge with the river bottoms; they are covered with the usual prairie grasses and sparse growths of sage, buck brush and soap weed, or yucca. The river bottoms are sparsely timbered with cot-



tonwood, boxelders, willow and some mountain ash, heavy thickets of rose, and a kin plant to the buck brush. Along our river bottoms are some steep bluffs, or chalk rock, with benches, on which are a few ball pine and cedars. There are also numerous sloughs.

The name of birds, A. O. U. No., place observed, and relative numbers are as follows:

Pied-billed Grebe, 6, river bottom, 2 pairs.

Mallard Duck, 132, river bottom, 3 pairs and 12 young.

Green-winged Teal, 139, river bottom, 2 pair.

American Bittern, 190, farming district and river bottom, common.

Great Blue Heron, 194, farming district and river bottom, common.

Sora Rail, 214, farming district and river bottom, common.

Wilson's Phalarope, 224, farming district, common.

Wilson's Snipe, 230, farming district, 2 pair.

Western Willet, 258a, farming district, 1 pair.

Spotted Sandpiper, 263, river bottom, 2 birds.

Killdeer, 273, farming district, prairie, river bottom, common, very.

Bob White, 289, river bottom, common.

Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, 208b, river bottom, 9 birds.

Sage Grouse, 309, prairie, 1 cock.

Mourning Dove, 316, farming district, prairie, river bottom, bluffs, common, very.

Marsh Hawk, 331, farming district, river bottom, common.

Krider Hawk, 337a, river bottom, 3 birds.

Western Red-tailed Hawk, 337b, river bottom, 1 bird.

Western Sparrow Hawk, 369, farming district, prairie, river bottom, bluffs, common, very.

American Long-eared Owl, 366, river bottom, 7 birds.

Rocky Mountain Screech Owl, 373E, river bottom, 1 bird.

Western Great Horned Owl, 375A, river bottom, 6 birds.

Burrowing Owl, 378, prairie, common.

Black-billed Cuckoo, 288 river bottom, common.

King Fisher, 390, river bottom, common.

Red-headed Woodpecker, 406, farming district, river bottom, 5 birds.

Lewis Woodpecker, 408, river bottom, 1 bird.

Red Shafted Flicker, 413, farming district, prairie, river bottom, bluffs, common.

Poor Will, 418, bluffs, 2 birds.

Western Night Hawk, 420a, farming district, prairie, bluffs, common.

King Bird, 444, farming district, river bottom, common.

Arkansas King Bird, 447, farming district, river bottom, common.

Say's Phoebe, 457, farming district, bluffs, common.

Western Wood Pewee, 462, river bottom, 5 birds.

Traill's Flycatcher, 466, river bottom, 3 birds.

Magpie, 475, river bottom, bluffs, common.

American Crow, 488, farming district, river bottoms, common.

Cowbird, farming district, river bottom, common.

Yellow-headed Blackbird, 497, farming district, river bottom, common.

Red-winged Blackbird, 498, farming district, river bottom, common, very.

Desert Horned Lark, 474c, farming district, prairie, common.

Western Meadowlark, 501.1, farming district, prairie, river bottom, common, very.

Bullock Oriole, 508, farming district, river bottom, common.

Bronzed Grackle, 511b, farming dis-

tricts, river bottom, common, very.

House Finch, 519, farming districts, common, very.

Pale Goldfinch, 529a, farming districts, river bottoms, 5 birds.

Western Vesper Sparrow, 540a, farming district, prairie, common.

Western Grasshopper Sparrow, 546a, farming districts, 2 birds.

Western Lark Sparrow, 552a, farming districts, prairie, river bottom, common, very.

Western Chipping Sparrow, 560a, farming district, prairie, common.

Western Field Sparrow, 563a, farming district, prairie, river bottom, common.

Arctic Towhee, 588, river bottom, common.

Lazuli Bunting, 599, river bottom, 1 pair.

Dickcissel, 604, river bottom, 6 birds.

Lark Bunting, 605, farming district, prairie, river bottom, common, very.

Louisiana Tanager, 607, river bottom, 1 bird.

Cliff Swallow, 612, river bottom, bluffs, common, very.

Barn Swallow, 613, farming district, river bottom, common.

Tree Swallow, 614, river bottom, common.

Bank Swallow, 616, river bottom, 3 birds.

Rough-winged Swallow, 617, river bottom, common, very.

Summer Yellowbird, 652, farming districts, river bottom, common, very.

Western Yellow Throat, 681a, river bottom, 4 birds.

Long-tailed Chat, 683a, river bottom, 1 bird.

Sage Thrasher, 702, prairie, 1 bird.

Catbird, 704, river bottom, common.

Brown Thrasher, 705, river bottom, common.

Rock Wren, 715, bluffs, common.

Canon Wren, 717a, bluffs, common.

Western House Wren, 721a, farming

district, river bottom, common.

Long-tailed Chickadee, 735a, river bottom, common.

Townsend Solitaire, 754, cliffs, 3 birds.

Willow Thrush, 756a, river bottom, 1 bird.

Western Robin, 761a, farming district, river bottom, common.

Mountain Bluebird, 768, cliffs, 2 birds.

English Sparrow, farming district, prairie, river bottom, common.

By common I mean anything over a dozen birds observed on this trip and birds which I know I shall meet in such numbers on my trips.

Would like to find out some good forms of filed note books, and also filing records of observations. My records I now use are clumsy, and I believe very incomplete.

It is my desire to make an accurate study of the birds of Platte, Goshen and Albany counties of this state and if time, etc., will allow, to extend it to entire state of Wyoming. My first interest in oology was through my friend R. C. Harlow, of Colgate University, formerly of Penn State.

The above list of birds I definitely identified on my trip, and there were others of whose identity I was not sure. It came to my mind that some such list might be of value to you and possibly to the readers of *The Oologist*, for I find it very hard to secure much authentic literature on Wyoming birds.

Very truly yours,

James A. Neilson,  
Wheatland, Wyo.



# THE O O L O G I S T

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1 Oologist, Vol. XI, (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

WANTED—For analysis, 1 set each 337 and 339. Must be absolutely fresh, unblown and very carefully packed and sent special delivery parcel post as soon as taken. Write and make agreement now. Will give copy of Bent's Diving Birds to the one who sends me the two sets this spring. Paul G. Howes, 91 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. Cash if preferred to the book. 2-3-4

FOR SALE—Na. History Books and Magazines. Brent's "N. A. Diving Birds," "N. A. Gulls and Terns," "N. A. Petrels & Pelicans," Coues' "Key," "Birds of NW.," "Birds of Colorado Valley," "Ornithological Bibliography," "Botany & Zoology Mex. Boundary," (scarce, colored plates of birds), "Condor," "O. & O.," "Osprey," and many more; send for list. If you have Nat. Hist. literature or a collection of old Postage Stamps to dispose of, let us hear from you. Franklin's, Box 2, Washington, D. C.

Postal Permits, Precancelled Stamps and Slogan or Advertising Post Marks for sale or exchange. Correspondence solicited. W. E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 157, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

DAKOTA Birds, eggs, nests, fresh skins for mounting. Mounted specimens. Sale or exchange. F. A. Patton, Artesian, South Dakota.

"NOT MERELY STUFFED," but perfect in plumage and condition and accurately mounted specimens of the following: Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Ruffed Grouse and Mountain Quail. Will exchange for sets. G. A. Abbott, Glasgow, Ky.

FOR SALE—Natural History Books and Magazines, Antiques, Curios, Minerals, Insects, Shells and other specimens from this locality, or will exchange for Coins and Stamps. Ralph L. Wheeler, Canaan, N. H.

WANTED — Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," volumes 2 and 7, also a Stevens Pocket Shotgun—41 calibre preferred. Harold W. Copeland, 122 Park Ave., Bridgewater, Mass.

EXCHANGE—I still have a few years of Oologist to Exchange. Delos Hatch, Oakfield, Wisconsin.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE—Two speed twin Indian Motorcycle, in good order. Want cash. Mounted birds and Mammals or old cancelled U. S. and Confederate Stamps. W. E. Snyder, 309 De Clark St., Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splin-gidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila., Pennsylvania.

WANTED—Prismatic Binoculars. C. S. Sharp, Escondido, Cal. Will give sets of 349 or part cash. How about it?

## EXCHANGE PRICE LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS' EGGS

We have just published this work which it took a Committee of well known Oologists, who were elected by The Oologists of North America for that purpose, nearly two years to complete. It is a Volume of two hundred pages, well illustrated, by half tones, showing the advance methods that now obtain in Oology. It contains the following special matter.

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1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1923.

WHOLE No. 433



## 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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**FOR SALE**—Birds and Nature Magazine bound in double volumes as follows: 1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 13-14, and volume 11 single. Covers slightly worn but in good second-hand condition. Write W. H. Over, Vermillion, So. Dakota. 2-3

I have some 5000 Indian Relics, mostly arrows, a few tomahawks, etc. I will exchange for Mounted Specimens or bird eggs, or will sell same for cash. C. E. Pilquist, Dardanelle, Ark.

**FOR SALE**—Large collection of birds' eggs and nests, mounted birds, shells, corals, sea curios, minerals, carvings, nuts, Ceramics and Indian curios. Must dispose of same at once. H. E. Lutman, Painted Post, N. Y.

**WANTED**—Back numbers of Ornithological magazines, especially Condor, also any books on Ornithology or Taxidermy. Egg cabinet also wanted. Write, giving prices. James Suthard, Madisonville, Kentucky.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Fahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

**JOHN LORANG**, Genesee, Idaho. Collector of Idaho Birds eggs, also Bird and Animal Skins for mounting purposes. For sale or exchange. A black Squirrel Skin Mounted.

**FOR SALE**—Auk, 1918 and 1920, volumes complete, \$1.50 each, prepaid. Wilson bulletin, 1920 volume, 90c. Biological Bulletin 17 and 39 also. Fred Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

**"Beginners Luck"**—A collection of 75 varieties, eggs in sets, at a bargain. Common and not common; a good start or a collector. Also a Woodpecker and sapsucker, group of fifteen varieties, very reasonable. Send for lists and prices. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebr.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—After two years and a half in storage, I have now unpacked my library, bird and mammal collections, and have for sale many duplicate books and O. & O. publications. Also will exchange bird and mammal skins from this section and sets of raptors, finches and jays. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Zoo'l Park and Museum of Natural History, Miami Beach, Florida.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Butterflies of New England for California Butterflies. T. Love, Collector, 105 Grove, Lynn, Mass.

**EXCHANGE or FOR SALE**—Skins of 478 and 481 A. O. U. No.. Jack D. Baker, Redwood valley, California, Mendocino County.

**FOR SALE**—Ridgways "Birds of North and Middle America." Vols. 1 to 8 inc. Also back Vols. and Nos. of "Bird-Lore" and other bird magazines. Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Maine.

**WANTED**—A good pair of second-hand field glasses, medium sized and reasonably priced. Write and send price to J. N. Elliott, Lancaster, Kentucky.

**WANTED**—1 pair of adult Northern Ravens in good feather, either skin or mounted specimens, or if possible, in the flesh. State price or exchange desiderata. George M. Sutton, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species, A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Wilson Bulletin, Year 1914, to and including 1921. Complete in A. No. 1 condition. What's your offer? A. J. Anderson, 1822 W. Palmer, Sioux City, Iowa.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Goss' Birds of Kansas—Ridgway's Bulletin 50, Vol. 8—Bent's Gulls and Terns. I want Auks, Bird Books and Magazines. Herbert A. Smith, 431 N. Van Buren Ave., Kirkwood, Mo.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.5

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1923.

WHOLE NO. 433

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.



### WHAT ARE THEY?

We will send a free sample copy of "The Oologist" for 3 months to the first five subscribers (or to anyone they designate) who write us a correct identification of the above young birds.

### THE SALE OF THE JOHN LEWIS CHILDS LIBRARY

In our April issue we published some observations by an Eastern man who had gone West, and now we have the pleasure of publishing the following observations of a Westerner from Central Illinois, who while laboring under a state of more or less mental aberration, went East for the purpose of attending the sales of the Libraries of the late John Lewis Childs, and one of Dr. W. C. Braislin, which were sold at auction, in New York City; the first on March 26th and 27th, and the last on April 2nd and 3rd.

John Lewis Childs spent a lifetime gathering together a Natural History Library which was a monument to any man and which contained some of the most splendid works on Natural History subjects in existence. After his death there appears to have been no sentiment moving anyone to perpetuate his name by keeping either his collection of Natural History objects, or his great library together. We have already commented on the manner in which his Natural History specimens were dissipated to the four winds. And here is what became of his library.

It was first sold to a New York book dealer, at a price as we understand it of ten thousand dollars. This man catalogued it and sold it at auction on the above dates, March 26th and 27th, at the American Art Association Rooms in New York, for more than twenty thousand dollars.

Some of the prices realized were as follows:

Audubon & Bachman Quadrupeds of North America. 3 Volumes. \$140.00

The Dr. Shattuck copy of the original Elephant Folio of Audubon's Birds of America, which was one of the finest, if not the finest copy of

this publication in existence, the plates having been personally selected and colored by Audubon and presented to his friend Dr. Shattuck, together with the five volumes of Text accompanying it, went for \$4,000.00.

A complete file of the Auk, and of the Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club. \$250.00.

The Natural History of Carolina, Florida and the Bahama Islands, by Mark Catesby. Two Volumes. 1771 \$275.00.

A Monograph of the Pheasants, by William Beebe. 4 Volumes. 1918-22 \$150.00.

A complete file of "The Ibis" brought \$530.00.

The Breeding Birds of Floral Park. Illustrated by 42 water color paintings, by Allen Brooks. \$480.00.

The Orchid Album, by Warren and William. 11 volumes, with 528 colored plates. \$115.00.

Catalogue of Birds of the British Museum, 1874-98. 27 volumes, and Catalogue of the Bird's Eggs in the same Museum, 1901-1912. 5 volumes. \$240.00.

Buffons' History Natural. Histori Naturelle des Oiseaux. 15 volumes, 1770-1786. \$100.00.

A complete set of the writings of John Burroughs. 23 volumes. \$210.00.

Dressers' Birds of Europe. 8 volumes, 1871-96. London. \$280.00.

Edwards' Butterflies of North America. 3 volumes. \$155.00.

D. G. Elliott's Monograph of the Pheasants, 1872. \$290.00.

The same author's Monograph of the Birds of Paradise. 2 volumes. \$160.00.

Gould's Monograph of the Trochilidae. 5 volumes. \$380.00.

Holbrook's North American Herpetology. 5 volumes. \$142.00.

Alfred Malhebres' Monographis des Piciidies, 1861-2. \$155.00.



Mathews' *The Birds of Australia*. 10 volumes in wrappers, 1910-23. \$360.00.

A fine copy of Wilson's and Bonapart's *Ornithology, 1808-1883*. \$150.00.

*The Genera Insectorum*, P. Wyt-sanan, editor, 1902-21. \$625.00.

The seven-volume edition of Audu-bon's *Birds of America, 1840-44*, brought \$390.00.

Howard Jones' *Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio*, brought \$425.00, though this copy was two plates short.

*Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, 1843-85*. 33 volumes. \$120.00.

Among the more important items in this sale secured by the editor, were the following:

Thomas Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia, 1832*.

"Autograph Facsimile"—*The History of the Art of Writing, with 203 full page plates, some in colors, from the earliest known date to the close of the 19th century. Four folio volumes. This item was extensively reviewed by Mr. Childs at the time he procured this rare work, in his publication, "The Warbler." This is a very unusual item.*

*The Monograph of the Cranes*, by F. E. Blaauw, London, 1897, with 22 colored plates. This is number nine of the limited edition of 170 copies of this rare work.

*The Trees of North America*, New York, 1908.

DeWitt Clinton's *Letters on the Natural History and Internal Resources of the State of New York, 1822*.

*American Ornithological Bibliography*, by Elliott Coues. 4 volumes.

*The Natural History of British Shells, 1800-1804*. E. Donovan.

*Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all of the Species Inhabiting the Western Palearctic Area, with more*

than a hundred colored plates, H. E. Dresser, 1905-10. 2 volumes.

*The Ferns of North America*. 2 volumes, 81 colored plates, 1879-1880.

*A Monograph of the Petrels*, Frederic d' C. Goodman. 2 volumes, 110 full paged colored plates, 1907-1910.

*Illustrations of the West American Oaks*; 37 plates. E. L. Green and Albert Kellog.

*The Fish of North America that are Captured on Hook and Line*, with 80 colored plates. W. E. Harris, 1898.

P. B. Hough's, "The American Woods," illustrated by 375 actual cross sectional specimens of the woods mounted in the work. 13 volumes

*Oologia Universalis Palearctica, 1906-1913*. Parts 1 to 78, inclusive. The first copy of this work ever offered for sale at auction.

*The Butterflies of the West Coast of the United States*; Ed T. Cresson, 1906.

*A Natural History of Nest and Eggs of the British Birds, 1870-1*. F. O. Morris. 3 volumes, 78 colored plates.

*The Geographical Distribution of the Family Charadriidae*, Henry Seebohm. 54 colored plates, 1890.

*Colored figures of the Eggs of British Birds with Descriptive Notes*; Henry Seebohm. 59 colored plates, 1896.

*The Dodo and Its Kindred*, Strickland and Melville 1848.

Besides the foregoing we secured a considerable number of books of lesser importance.

The total number of items listed at this sale was 801, and the total number of volumes sold was 3397, and in addition there were thousands of pamphlets, separates and magazines. The aggregate of the sale amounted to approximately \$20,600.00.

Thus a curtain is rung down on the lifetime efforts of Mr. Childs to build up a great library. It is put up for

auction and dissipated to the four winds at a profit of more than \$10,000 to the book dealer. In a few years no one will ever know that John Lewis Childs was a great lover of Natural History, and the owner of one of the finest Natural History Libraries in America.

This sale attracted a great many buyers from all over the country, and competition was very keen for many items. The bidder at that sale who expected to get anything had to travel in very fast company. All of the leading book houses in New York and vicinity had representatives there looking for bargains, and some of the great Museums also had people there to bid on special items. Many very wealthy book lovers had representatives at this sale to bid for them. Our experience at the Dr. Braislin sale will be referred to in a later issue.

R. M. Barnes.

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### THE CARNAGE

On March 13, 1922, after an unsuccessful owl nest hunt near Pennysgrove, N. J., while Turner McMullen and I were tramping back to town to get the boat for Philadelphia, we were shocked and saddened at the sight of 26 murdered hawks and owls nailed upon the sides of a barn by a farm house near the roadside. We asked permission of the farmer, who was working in the yard, to examine the birds. It was willingly given and he accompanied us over to his gruesome collection, of which he seemed fond. There were 11 Long-eared Owls, 6 Barn Owls, 1 Great Horned Owl, 1 Screech Owl, 1 Short-eared Owl, 4 Red-shouldered Hawks, and 2 Cooper's Hawks in the collection, all nailed to the barn through the heads; some with the backs exposed and others with the breasts.

The farmer told us he had trapped

the birds during the past month in steel traps set in "Engine" (Indian) grass in fields near his house, and that the hawks came after his young chicks. We didn't remonstrate with the farmer for his cruelty in killing the beneficial owls, as it would have been a useless waste of words, as I have learned from experience that men of his ilk cannot see any good in any kind of a hawk or owl, and it does no good to argue with them.

Richard F. Miller, Philadelphia, Pa

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### FROM CANADA

A letter, from the young man who acted as guide for "Ye Editor" at the time of his expedition to Quill Lake in 1909, dated March 25th, says, among other things as follows: "Quill Lake is much the same as when we spent the season there. The lake shore for a few miles from the lake has not been settled. I believe there is still a lot of birds making their home there, though the ducks are not as plentiful as they were ten years ago, but there should not be any change in the small bird life. I am told the swans are there late in the fall, just as they used to be, but have not heard of any white (Whooping Cranes) being seen.

Would like to see you come up here and we would put in a good holiday hunting eggs in this locality. I have a good Ford and a nice little tent and we could easily visit Quill Lake or any other place where we would be likely to find specimens you wish to possess. I have a good boat and there are streams and very large sloughs with plenty of rushes and plant life in them here, so we could hunt on both land and water.

This country is dotted with "bluffs" (little patches of isolated aspen trees) and is a great place for ducks, on account of the sloughs. Geese also nest on what is known as "Horseshoe

Lake," about ten miles away. I believe there is as much bird life here as anywhere in the Province. We have three wild geese, the same as those father raised that you gave him. I had four, but I think someone stole one of them. It was with the rest at noon and about 4 o'clock was gone. I keep them in the yard spring and fall, as they like to wander away during those seasons. In the summer time I let them out and they have never gone far from the buildings."

R. M. Barnes.

### DUCKHAWKIANA

I specialize on Duck Hawks—oologically and nidiologically. In the quest for this falcon's eyrie I find many interesting and instructive elements. Even humor, strange to say, occasionally has its little niche.

During the past few years I have had the good fortune to locate a goodly number of eyries of the Peregrine Falcon, or American Duck Hawk, and the good exercise of scrambling up and down a greater number of mountains and cliffs as the beautiful sets of Falcon's eggs now in my cabinet will bear mute witness to this fact. It is a great game—and full of thrills.

I sometimes wish I could have had the opportunity to engage in this quest thirty years ago when I was young enough to accomplish it with greater ease. But in those days I couldn't have had my Henryford to get about in, and so, perhaps, it is just as well after all.

On one of the high mountains in the State of Vermont Duck Hawks have bred for many years, and occasionally collectors have obtained their eggs. In the spring of 1922 I made plans for a trip to this location to see if, perchance, I might get my share of the spoils of the oologist. This mountain is about sixty miles from

my home, and the trip, climb, search and all make a pretty full day. Mr. F. T. Pember, a well known ornithological oologist, directed me to this nesting site, and he and a young man named Donald Nelson met our party near the mountain early in May. We first tried an uncertain prospect and were unable to get any results. Then we tackled the real old mountain and got a fine set of eggs, with all the accompanying ups and downs, disappointments and thrills and final success.

Upon leaving the place, I asked the young man if he would care to keep watch of the location and in three or four weeks make a search for another nest of these birds. This being agreed upon I came home and put in my spare time at other eyries.

I usually make these trips with full photographic equipment, of course, and no small part of the joy of the game is the getting of good pictures of nests and eggs and general location. The trip I have spoken of was no exception to this rule and, although the pictures were not of the best, still, I got at least one good one, showing the eggs laid on a little bed of broken rock, with a long deep cave behind and some foliage in front. These seemed to interest the boy and I sent him some prints. A few weeks later I got word from him that he had located the second nest and had the eggs for me. This was great good news and I was much pleased with what the young man had accomplished. The humorous part of it all comes in right here. Enclosed with his letter came a drawing of himself at the nest, in caricature style, with the note that as he didn't have the necessary camera equipment to illustrate his work, he had made use of such talents as he had at hand and presented the drawing, which is reproduced herewith.



Karl A. Pember in Distress at a Duck Hawk's Nest

This drawing doesn't pretend to portray nature with any degree of accuracy, neither is it nature-faking, but it provides that desirable element without which great enjoyment may be lost. And so, you see, there is quite a chance for amusement as well as pleasure and instruction in this game.

Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vt.

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#### "TIMING A SCREECH OWL"

Lots of us wonder, well, how long will it be until there will be a full set. I timed the Screech Owl as follows. Found Screech Owl in a hollow tree March 1st. Went back March 24th, found one egg. I said to myself, "Well, I will come back, let's see. Yes, the 28th for a set of five." Back again the 28th, but only two eggs. Back again the 31st but only three eggs. This sounds like to me it took Mrs. Owl seven days to lay two eggs. Back again in April, still 3 eggs, collected, all fresh.

Ramon Graham,  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

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#### THE MURRELET

The Murrelet, Volume IV, No. 1, January, 1923. This most interesting little publication came to our desk, filled from cover to cover, as usual, with real fresh, crisp bird news. Including among other things, Avafauna of Minindoka County and adjacent territory, by B. W. Davis. Haunts of the Swainson's Warbler, by Thomas D. Burleigh. Birds of the Bellingham Bay Region, by J. M. Edson, besides numerous pages of shorter articles and miscellaneous bird notes.

R. M. Barnes.

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#### SHORT-BILLED MARSH WREN IN CANADA

I have just been thinking of a short trip I had last summer, about three miles from home to an old wet meadow or pasture of about fifty acres in extent; the time was about the first of

June. On entering the meadow, I flushed a Savanna Sparrow and found a nest with five nicely colored eggs, and a little farther on a Bobolink's nest with six eggs, while looking closely in the rank marsh grass I heard a sound which I took to be the song of a Long-billed Marsh Wren, and on getting a little closer to the bird I was surprised to see it was a Short-billed Marsh Wren. I spent fully a half hour looking for the nest, as this species is very rare in this locality; in fact I have never heard of anyone finding them nesting here. My patience was at last rewarded by finding a well woven nest of green grasses, within two inches of the ground, in thick, coarse grass, well hidden. It contained six pure white eggs, but sorry to say they were chipped and about to hatch. However, I looked for more nests, but found no more with eggs, although I visited the meadow three or four times after. In all, I found seven nests, but no more with eggs. I suppose they were decoy nests, like the Long-billed Marsh Wren delights to fool us with. I look forward to finding a set or two for my collection this summer. I also found three sets of Bronzed Grackle, placed on rafters in an old barn on the premises, while pine and spruce trees were growing near by.

H. B. Bingham,

Barrie, Ontario, Canada.

April 5th, 1923.

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#### WHY?

At the sale of the John Lewis Childs Library, in New York City, March 26th and 27th, a fully paid-up subscription to "The Birds of California," Format de Luxe Patron Loan Edition, including the two parts already issued, by William Leon Dawson, was sold at auction, for fifty dollars,

R. M. B.

## A PRIZE

It is not the practice or the policy of the Oologist to offer prizes or premiums, however, we are authorized to offer a premium of a duplicate post-card illustration, similar to the one published in this issue of the three young birds in a nest to all of our subscribers who successfully guess, before the next issue of the magazine, what these birds are.

The Editor.

## ACADIAN FLYCATCHER

In looking over some old record books of the years that have gone by (when collecting was good), I found opposite the Acadian the word "Erratic," written. So I said to myself I will write this up; so I went over all the old records I could find, and to my amazement I found several of my books were missing, as I will show later on.

This interesting specie arrives with us about the 15th of April, and commences to build early in May and up to late in June; the reason I use the word, erratic, is because it is a wandering bird; some years you will find them quite common, then again several years may elapse before you see or find them again. Where they go, or where they come from I am unable to say. Most of our breeding birds come back to the old breeding ground every year, but not so with the Acadian.

The nest is built along lonely roads; it is a very loose affair, made of weed-flores placed between the fork of a drooping limb at a height of 4 to 30 feet, and some are so high that you can't get them. The nest is such a frail affair that the eggs can be seen through the bottom.

In a period of over 36 years, my records show the following, 1887 to 1892, I took no eggs—1893-94-95-96-97-99

and 1900 all my records were lost, so the following years are as I find them on my books:

1901, May 19th, 1/3.  
 1901, May 24th, 1/3.  
 1901, June 8th, 1/2.  
 1902, June 8th, 1/2.  
 1902, June 21st, 1/3.  
 1903, May 31st, 1/3  
 1903, June 3rd, 1/3.  
 1903, June 11th, 1/3.  
 1904, May 13th, 1/3.  
 1904, May 21st, 1/3.  
 1904, May 28th, 1/3.  
 1904, May 30th, 1/2.  
 1905, May 19th, 1/2.  
 1905, May 23rd, 1/3.  
 1905, June 20th, 1/2.  
 1906, May 16th, 1/3.  
 1906, May 26th, 1/3.  
 1906, May 27th, 1/3.  
 1906, June 3rd, 1/3.  
 1906, June 18th, 1/2.  
 1906, June 30th, 1/2.  
 1907, May 12th, 1/3.  
 1907, May 26th, 1/3.  
 1907, June 1st, 1/3.  
 1907, June 16th, 1/2.  
 1907, June 27th, 1/2.  
 1908, May 20th, 1/3.  
 1908, May 31st, 1/3.  
 1908, June 3rd, 1/3.  
 1909, May 30th, 1/2.  
 1910, none.  
 1911, none.  
 1912, none.  
 1913, May 20th, 1/2.  
 1914, none.  
 1915, none.  
 1916, none.  
 1917, none.  
 1918, June 15th, 1/3.  
 1918, June 28th, 1/2.  
 1919, none.  
 1920, none.  
 1921, June 18th, 1/2.  
 1922, none.

I have found that the same conditions exist in Camden County, further

south, where the birds were plentiful once, but are now gone. Why they come and go as they do I can't say, and I would like to hear from brother oologists what, if any, experience they have had with them. It seems like they are breeding farther north more plentiful than formerly, as I understand that they are common around Columbia, South Carolina.

Troup D. Perry Savannah, Ga.

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#### KARL A. PEMBER

The Boston Sunday Herald, of January 28th contains a write-up of the egg collection of our friend Karl A. Pember, of Woodstock, Vt., in which it is disclosed that he is the County Clerk of his county, and that he keeps his collection of birds' eggs, the result of thirty years strenuous collecting, in the Court House.

This write-up is illustrated by a number of half tone photographs of Mr. Pember and some of his experiences in his collecting. R. M. B.

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#### SCIENTIFIC SNOBBERY

A subscriber to the Oologist writes us, among other things, "You will note I have discarded all Latin names. Mr. X, of the XX, while he agrees with me that Latin names are being overdone, says he must have them in order that the XX be quoted. Now I wonder who decides that? Not the common every day man, I am sure; but at any rate I do not think I give a c—, whether I am quoted or not. Mr. X also says XX that he cannot see why it should not be just as well for one to use the English names as given in the A. O. U. Check List, as the Latin."

The above is a fair sample of the feeling existing and growing every day among the ordinary bird students of the country. We suppose that if some

person should suddenly come upon a colony of nesting birds of some of the varieties in the A. O. U. Check List, whose nidification secrets are at this time now wholly unknown, and should publish his observations, giving complete detail and thorough information as to the time, place, location and surroundings, as well as accurate description of the materials of the nest and of the contents, including eggs and young, as well as a thorough exposition of the actions of the birds in the vicinity of their nests while building, incubating, feeding and defending their young, and this should be published by some person who was either not familiar with the last accepted scientific name, which may not have been in use more than a week, because they change with extreme rapidity, this supposed bit of scientific information, wholly new to the world, would not be quoted, referred to, or regarded simply because of the failure to attach to it some scientific Latin jargon that 90% of the people of the country could neither read nor understand. That condition of affairs apparently is now arrived at.

We have no quarrel with Latin or scientific names, and possibly understand them as well as many who feign to make use of them, but we dissent entirely from the doctrine that unstable Latin scientific names, which are continually subject to change, and are changed, should take precedence over good old fashioned every day English. And the rule suggested by our correspondent is evidently an effort to smother scientific knowledge or at least place all of the obstacles possible in the way of the ordinary every day man, acquiring any part of it or receiving any benefit from it. It is too snobbish in principle to be endorsed or used by either real scientists or red-blooded men. R. M. B.

**FALCO PEREGRINUS ANATUM**

How many of you ardent oologists ever actually looked into the eyrie of the American Peregrine Falcon—and saw there a set of four beautiful eggs—and finally got them, brought them home, blew them successfully and placed them among the other treasures of your egg collection?

That's a fair question, isn't it? Well, I wish some of you would answer it, without the aid of a personal questionnaire.

This Falcon is certainly uncommon. It is quite a thing to locate a pair of the birds, even. But it is this very rarity and difficulty that ought to add zest to the pursuit for a real live oologist.

I don't know how many active collectors are on "The Oologist's" list of subscribers, but there must be many, and all of them ought to be. I know that four of them have enjoyed the experience suggested in the question above. I'd like to hear more about it through these columns. It is certainly worth writing about—and worth reading.

How many can not only answer "yes" to the above question, but can say they have repeated the performance? How many have done it more than twice. How many have collected nine sets? Have I done it myself, you ask? Oh, yes. I collected nine sets personally last season, and hope to do as well this year. But I'd like mighty well to read about you other fellows' experience along this line.

The taking of my first set of Duck Hawk's eggs in 1922 was accompanied by some rather interesting features. Having been down in Massachusetts, visiting Mr. R. L. Coffin and his Duck Hawks, I was returning home on the train, late in April. It was a fine spring day and I decided to stop off and visit one of my pairs of Duck

Hawks and try and locate their nest. The year before these birds had fooled me and I was anxious to land them, if possible. So I got off the train, got on a trolley for a couple of miles, got off the trolley and walked a mile, trundling suit case and overcoat; branched off the road into the woods where I could change my clothes in peace and quiet; did this, and finally reached the top of the cliff, which I call the "Delta" location.

This cliff is about 800 feet long and from one to two hundred feet high. A fringe of trees runs along the top, and a strip of woods fills the space between the foot of the cliff and the highway and river. It is a beautiful and sightly location, but one that would hardly be suspected as the abode of Falco Peregrinus Anatum. It was, however, for no sooner had I reached the south end of the cliff and showed myself than Mr. Duck Hawk flew off the cliff below me, with a great clatter and cackling. I gradually worked my way along the cliff, examining as carefully as possible the whole area as I went along. Nothing occurred until I had nearly reached the other end and was fast losing hope, when Mrs. Duck Hawk flushed and joined her mate in the air, both flying up and down the river, well away from the cliff face, and screaming and cackling no end.

Peeping over the highest sheer point of the cliff I saw about 15 feet below me on a narrow shelf three very darkly and heavily marked eggs. Beauties they were; one of the finest sets I have. You who have experienced this thing will know how I felt at this time—I hardly feel capable of expressing it adequately myself.

However, I took a good look at them, calculated how to get them, and started back well satisfied with the luck thus far. George met me with the



flivver.

After a while we went back to the location, and as I looked over at the nest, to my surprise, I saw Mrs. Duck Hawk on the nest. There we were, comparatively close together—and both quite surprised. The bird scrambled off the shelf and launched again into the air with much racket. As I looked again at the eggs, I could see only two on the shelf, and I thought probably the bird had knocked one off in her hurried departure. But this wasn't so, for when we got to the nest there were the three eggs safe and sound, but one had been rolled back out of sight under the ledge.

I wish I had a picture of that Duck Hawk, surprised on the nest shelf—it would be a fine example of bird expression. Surprise, fear, challenge, courage—all there in wonderful indescribable combination. I have never been so close to one before or since.

Karl A. Pember.

### THE RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD

By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine.

The land west of my barn slopes gently down to low ground, a swale, and this low land drains into the river a few rods distant. Birds that frequent low, wet ground are often found in this swale, such as Rails, Bitterns, Swamp Sparrows, Black Ducks, Red-winged Blackbirds, but excepting the Blackbirds and Sparrows, none have been found nesting, the swale being near to a highway and is also cut over each year for the hay it produces.

The higher land or slope is used for the growing of crops and grassland. Here the birds which prefer the more dry ground for nesting make their homes: Birds such as Grass Finch, Song and Savanna Sparrows, Bobolinks, Meadow Larks, etc.

In the spring of 1920 this slope and as much of the swale as would permit

of cultivation was prepared and planted to corn. Since the time for the planting of corn and the hatching and feeding of the young of the Crow to a large extent coincide, it behooves the farmer of this State of Maine to devise various ways of protecting the sprouting corn from those "imps of darkness," the Crows. Sometimes the seed is soaked in water in which copperas has been dissolved; some use an oil of tar with which the seed corn is coated; others string common twine over their planted fields, stakes being used to hold it a short distance above the ground; still others stand effigies of themselves or their wives in the cornfields, using cast-off clothes of various members of the family to create the likeness. But the sagacious old Crows, their intellect no doubt sharpened by the experience of former years and the continued calls of a number of hungry young, disregard all these expedients and following down a corn row, the sprouts of which are just peeping through the ground, will pull them up in order to reach the grain from which each sprout springs. If the seed has been coated with oil of tar it is dropped, but if uncoated or unsoaked seed is found, the grains are carried to the young; in any case the fields suffer to a considerable extent, and it is almost useless to replant here with the expectation of a crop, our growing season is so short.

It so happened the season of 1920 was chosen by a pair of Red-winged Blackbirds in which to build a nest and rear a brood of young in the swale at the foot of the cornfield. I found the nest when preparing the ground for planting, June 3rd; the eggs, four in number, being partly incubated. The Red-winged Blackbird in this locality customarily builds its nest in a low willow bush or a bunch of hard-back, a low growing shrub; a shrub

which thrives in our meadows; the nests being two or three feet above the ground or water in which the bushes may stand, the nest being attached to and hanging between several stems of the plant.

These nests have some depth and the rim projects on the inside somewhat, thus protecting the eggs from being thrown out when the wind is blowing hard. This particular pair had chosen a tussock of grass as a nesting site, and the nest was not so deep on the inside as commonly made; it more resembled a Song Sparrow's in construction.

The young hatched about the same time that the corn in the field began to show above the ground. The Crows, no doubt, noted this sprouting corn as soon as I, and soon began to frequent the field, much to my disappointment, as I had taken special care in coating the seed with oil of tar, even going so far as to try some of the prepared seed by feeding it to my hens in order to see if they would eat it, which they would not. But one day a Crow happened to alight near the nest of young Red-wings, and right there and at once war was declared; that Crow left in a hurry with many a C-a-w-k and a very angry, but very proud male Red-winged Blackbird came sailing back after having chased the Crow to a considerable distance. After that the Crows were not allowed on the corn-field or in the vicinity, and my corn thrived unmolested, producing a fine crop, thanks to Major Red-wing.

In gathering food for the young, I noted that the parents did not secure it in the immediate vicinity of the nest, each bird going to some distance; gathering from the upland fields; possibly food was more plentiful there than near the nest.

**Breeding Habits**—The Red-winged Blackbird has been reported as win-

tering as far north as Massachusetts, arriving here in the spring migration the last days of March or the first week in April.

The first to arrive are males, in flocks of considerable numbers, the females coming soon after; therefore I think they are unmated at the time of arrival. Nesting commences the last of May to the first of June.

The nests are built oftentimes in low bushes standing in water of two or three feet depth; sometimes a late spring freshet overflows their nests and destroys the eggs or young, as it did in June, 1922. Beal in Biological Survey Bulletin No. 13, states in exceptional cases Red-wing Blackbirds sometimes nest in dry situations, as the nesting of the one I have described illustrates. The material of which the nest is constructed is composed, as far as my observations go, wholly of dead grass, coarse on the outside and finer used for lining; it is a substantial affair, well made, and old nests often last several years. It has been stated that the Red-wing practices polygamy, but I have yet to find a nest that has not a male attached, or a colony in which there were not as many males represented as there were nests found.

**Food Habits**—Alexander Wilson reports that the food of Red-wings in spring and early summer consists of grubworms, caterpillars and various other larvae; also that the young are fed on larvae for at least three weeks. Both he and Audubon are of the opinion the millions of insects destroyed by the Red-wing in the early season are fully equivalent and more, for the damage done later in the season by them.

Dr. B. H. Warren states that the Red-wing destroys large numbers of cutworms, having taken as many as 28 from a single stomach; also that

grasshoppers, crickets and plant lice are eaten. Beal in the above mentioned report states that the Biological Survey has examined 1083 stomachs of the Red-wing, collected in every month of the year. Stomach examinations do not indicate a special fondness for grain; weed seeds consists of more than half of the yearly food, while grain less than one-seventh; of fruit almost none. He also states that more weevils are eaten by the Red-wing than by any other bird he has examined.

Dr. C. M. Weed, quoting Miss Caroline G. Soule, says that the Red-wings do especially good work in destroying forest-tent caterpillar. They damage my crops very little; sometimes in the fall migrating flocks will alight in standing grain or on shocked grain, but the stay is short and damage slight. The pair reported on took no grain that I observed, and the insect food taken must have been almost wholly to my benefit, to say nothing of the help they were in keeping the Crows away from my corn-field. Judging by the reported contents of stomachs examined, the Red-wing is a decidedly useful bird.

#### LONG-BILLED MARSH WREN

##### *Telmatodytes Palustris Palustris*

In northern New Jersey this species is by far the most often found of the two species of Marsh Wrens. It is quite possible that this species is more often met with by the average observer, due to the fact that they are not quite so seclusive as their short-billed cousins.

On the Newark and Hackensack Meadows and to the head of tide-water on the Hackensack is doubtless the best place for study of their home life of any in this section. The writer found his first nest in 1907 along Lawyer's Creek, about five feet from the right of way of the Manu-

facturer's Railway. This nest was suspended between the stalks of a clump of cattails, about three feet above high tide. At the time of discovery the nest contained seven reddish brown eggs, speckled with lighter and darker shaded chocolate spots. On the following day the clutch had hatched, but one of the nestlings had disappeared, and the nest only held six young. On this same day six other nests were found in a radius of one hundred feet of the first discovery, all of which held nestlings in various stages of growth; some just hatched and others almost ready for flight. These last six were practically situated the same as the first, but the heights varied from two feet to four and a half above high water.

In the next succeeding four years, I was employed in a tannery about 500 feet from the site of the first nest that was found in 1907, and during the noon hours, when I could spare the time during the nesting seasons of these years, observations were made almost every day, and after the young had left the nest in these seasons observations were made every two or three days for a few minutes as to their life while roving about in search of sustenance. In 1914 the writer spent the entire months of May and June on the Newark Meadows, making observations of the bird life there, and particularly to study intensively the breeding, nesting, incubation, feeding of the young and life after leaving the nest of the species in question.

The first males were observed May 2nd, and on the following two days numerous females put in an appearance. These wandered about apparently unmated until the 8th, when several males were observed in the early morning in unusually brilliant bursts of melody endeavoring to attract the attention of the females, which were about on all sides. Late in the after-

noon the first pair was observed in copulation and on the following day, the 9th, pairs were observed everywhere in the same process. The first foundation for a nest was found on the 11th, and this was completed by the night of the 13th and the first egg deposited at 9:45 a. m. of the 14th. The set, which consisted of six, was completed on the 21st. The period of incubation in this case was twelve days and four hours from the time of the laying of the last egg. The process of incubation was performed jointly by the male and female, the male always slipping on the nest a few moments after the female left for the purpose of food, bathing and exercise. At times the female would remain away for periods of over an hour, but as soon as she returned to the immediate vicinity of the nest the male would fly to the topmost cattail nearby and burst into ecstatic melody. At night the female was always found on the nest when a flashlight was focused on it and the male roosting a few feet away in the adjacent cattails. The male was always, when not trying to burst itself with its songs, on the search for some dainty morsel of food for its patient little mate, and visited the nest many times with these dainties. Their diet consists, as near as could be determined, of small insects. The young, after emerging from the shells, were attended by both of the parents, the female performing the major portion of the food visits to the nest. The excreta sacs were removed by the female only. She would carry these in her bill about five or six feet from the nest and drop them while still in flight in the waters below. The nest just described was exactly six feet four inches from the rail of the railroad in a cattail clump on the edge of the marsh, three feet three inches from high water. On the railroad, trains were passing every few

hours, but this would only cause a few moments of unrest in this family at each passing. The eggs of this set was six in number and were generally alike, and like the numerous other nests in the vicinity. The eggs averaged .64x.46, the extremes being .68x.48 and .62x.41. During this period of intensive study twenty-seven nests were located along this railroad, all within a distance of 900 feet. The largest clutch was eight eggs and the smallest five. The average incubating period of the twenty-seven was thirteen days, three hours from the laying of the last egg in the several nests. The shortest period of incubation was eleven days, five hours, and the longest fourteen days seven hours.

Further work is expected to be done by the writer with this species at some future nesting season to compare their distribution in this particular locality and secure photographs and other more minute details, particularly the weighing of the eggs at various times during the period of incubation, banding of the nestlings, determination of the food of the parents and also the nestlings and weighing of the nestlings at various periods of growth prior to leaving the nest.

One thing which the writer has determined to his own satisfaction is the fact regarding the handling of the eggs and the young. The pairs often build more than one nest, but after the first egg is laid they will not desert the nest in which they have actually begun home life. While they resent very much the intrusion of the observer, still after a few visits and their finding their property unharmed lose much of this fear and often remained within a dozen feet of the writer, uttering sincere protests. Most of the observations were made from a grass and cornstalk blind about four feet in diameter and six feet high, and lined on the inside with mosquito net

to keep off the mosquitos as much as possible. In addition, it was necessary to wear a bee veil and a pair of common cotton gloves to ward off these pests. This blind the writer left along the edge of the swamp all the while he was making observations and because of the few who visit the spot, it was not disturbed by anyone.

Louis S. Kohler, Paterson, N. J.

#### MORE "SAND"

We are in receipt of a communication from one William Leo Dawson, signing as "Provisional Secretary of the M. M. C. O. and I. M. C. O.," under date of March 14th, from which we draw the inference that more or less sand has filtered its way into the gear boxes containing the executive mechanism of the Museum of Comparative Oology, with the result of much friction and lack of smoothness in the running.

Mr. Dawson says, "I have found myself increasingly hampered in the exercise of the directorial function with ever dwindling prospects of obtaining on behalf of generous contributors and members the recognition to which I felt they are entitled."

This is followed by a veiled assault upon one Mrs. M. P. B. Hazard, who is charged as having sent out engraved cards using the title of "Hazard Memorial Museum of Comparative Oology," which had no official sanction. Later in this remarkable communication Mr. Dawson refuses "to quarrel with those of lesser vision," but condescendingly adds "Never-the-less if there are those who think it worth while to protest the action of the Board in forcing my resignation, they are accorded that privilege." We have so far seen no such protests.

And later to those addressed he says, "So far as material, birds' eggs, are concerned you have lost a good

deal;" and he then discloses a proposed organization of the members of the supposedly now defunct Museum of Comparative Oology, to continue as a de facto organization—"an institution in the making," under Mr. Dawson's leadership, and coaxes for contributions for a "War Chest," out of which there is supposedly eventually to grow the "International Museum of Comparative Oology," and winds up with the sentence, "I shall be grateful to you for a frank expression upon this critical and momentous occasion."

We are not the least surprised at the turn of events. The Museum of Comparative Oology, in its original conception was a splendid dream and should have realized into a monumental reality. Mr. Dawson was not the man to head such an enterprise, being fit neither by nature nor cultivation, for such a position. He lacked that element which is essential to the meeting, cultivating, captivating and keeping the good will of those with whom he came in contact. Was altogether too bigoted and dictatorial, individually affected in manner, fussy in disposition and extreme and stogy in language, both written and oral.

If Mr. Dawson could only read a dozen or fifteen of the communications out of several dozen that reached us, commenting on our article "Sand" in the December, 1922, Oologist, and would be willing to be chastened, and learn thereby, it would do him a vast amount of good in the remaining years of his life. A man to successfully fill that character of a position must concede to those whom he comes in contact with at least some slight degree of knowledge and intelligence, and also the right to express their opinions reasonably, even though they might differ from those of its "Director."

The fundamental underlying theory

of Co-operative Museum Building, is a splendid conception, but the swelling of an individual to such an extent as to make the idea and application of this theory secondary and the personal views, ideas, notions, likes and dislikes and vanity of the person take precedence over the Co-operative idea and over the very Museum itself will always result in disaster. A practical, level-headed, common sense application of this co-operative theory cannot but result in the up-building of a splendid institution, but a vain effort of one to emulate the toad in competing with the ox for size, always results in a blow-up, just as it did in the days of Easop.

Candidly, we are sorry to see this splendidly conceived institution stranded upon the rocks of possible failure, and we hope ultimately that the idea upon which it was founded may be carried to successful fruition by some one more fitted to manage the ship.

R. M. B.

#### WILD DUCKS MAKE

#### OAKLAND FAMOUS

#### Daily Sport of Youngsters in Mansions Nearby Is Feeding Wildfowl.

Venice has its pigeons and Oakland has its wild ducks. But the ducks are heeding the call of the wild in these warm, spring days and winging their way back to colder regions, whence they came.

So there is many a sorrowful young face and many an aching young heart in Oakland, for the daily winter pastime of the children of "feeding the ducks on Lake Merritt" is passing.

The duck season of 1916-17 has seen more thousands of wild duck than ever before take refuge on Lake Merritt, the great body of salt water in the heart of a great city. With almost human intelligence, the waterfowl flee to this place for safety, with

the first bang of the pumpgun when the duck season opens in California, on October 15.

On this body of water, the only salt lake in the world inside a city limits, the ducks rest secure throughout the hunting season. Surrounding the lake are the most beautiful residence sections of Oakland, and broad drives over which automobiles pass constantly. The lake is set in the midst of a park which is the playground of thousands daily. Yachts, motorboats and other pleasure craft ply back and forth.

Nevertheless, the Ducks rest unafraid on the portion of the lake reserved for them, bask on the lawns and even dodge through the legs of strollers.

Every morning the city authorities feed them and this is a signal for an outpouring of the youngsters in the homes round about. The Ducks are carefully guarded by the park police. They know it and they know, too, that woe would befall anyone who attempted to harm them.

W. W. Richards of Oakland, who has hunted big and little game all over the North American continent, has made a study of the Lake Merritt Ducks for years. He has developed some interesting facts. He says:

"The first Ducks to reach Lake Merritt in the fall from the north are spring, or pintails. They begin arriving in the latter part of August, and by September 1st there are tens of thousands of them in California. Most of these sprig come from the Klamath reservation near the California-Oregon state line.

"The next migratory flight consists of countless millions of Pintail, Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Shovelers, Gadwell, and Mallard. They arrive about the middle of October from the 'Flats' of Alaska, a bleak area of about

300 square miles of marsh in the vicinity of Circle City and Rampart. The freezing of their northern feeding ground drives them to lower and warmer latitudes.

"The next and last flight comes from the Yukon delta and the Saskatchewan country and consists of thousands and thousands of Canvasbacks and Red-heads. They arrive just as the hunting season opens.

"All of these kinds of Wild Duck can be seen on Lake Merriett. They know that no hunter's gun can reach them there. I have hunted Duck all over the country, but on no other body of water have I ever seen so many birds of so many different varieties, all dwelling together in peace with each other and with mankind in the heart of a city of 235,000 inhabitants, within a few minutes' walk of the city hall and surrounded by the constant activity of a great metropolis."—The Evening News, W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

#### CONCERNING DATAS

Nothing save the joy of my own home life has ever given me the happiness that I have found at times when, through professional activity, I chance to find that, for some one, life is sweeter and better just because I have lived—and—living, have spoken. Quite the same has it been the past thirty years, whenever I have chanced to find that something I have said, out of long and tried experiences, may have been suggestive to some younger brother; and he—to his credit—has been grateful for it.

Of this character, have been very gratifying experiences growing out of my own "boosting" for "Standard" Datas.

I feel quite sure that the publisher of the new price list will not be over-sensitive if I criticise the mighty-

interesting Golden-Eagle Data facsimilied in that price list. (This criticism touches just one point.)

When one has filed in his card-index several hundred datas, and wishes to refer, quickly, to any of them, it is often a time-saver to have the A. O. U. Number and the Set-Mark, together at the upper left hand corner of the data. I have had occasion to notice this a hundred times. Again, as to this same matter of data-filing, to some of us it seems positively imperative to secure uniformity of size for the filing. How fairly maddening it is to try to file a bit of flimsy one-by-two-inch paper, with its for-too-brief details, beside some over-large, but delightfully circumstantial data for a set of the same species. It just can't be done! I feel that a data blank should be at least just large enough to slip inside a number five envelope. That size is quite small enough. Indeed, I should recommend a thing that I by no means always practice—the use of documentary envelopes for enclosing datas; and even these protected by the legend: "Don't tear the contents." The data size I have indicated is just  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 6\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and this is plenty small enough. Indeed, it is often far too small.

To meet such cases, I would suggest that when data blanks are ordered, the stationer or printer be instructed to cut about a hundred sheets of the same length, but of a half-inch greater width. Then in cases where one wishes to add particulars, it can be done by filling in one of these fillers, beginning an inch below the upper margin, turning forward the half-inch over-plus and gumming this with fish glue, if you please to the top edge of the actual data form. This additum, then, as well as the data, should be signed. (Please sign your full name to datas; it might happen that some-

body else may have just your initials.)

A few words about paper stock. Words could hardly express my positive hatred of cheap, flimsy cotton paper for use in the making of data blanks. If I were a smoker, I surely would, when sending my order to the printer, go without smoking for a week, two weeks if necessary, and stipulate the very best of rag paper for the stock to be used. I suppose I have for some fifteen instances, during the past few months, taken time needed for other tasks to paste flimsy, nearly-worn-in-two little data forms to a backing of linen paper of the above indicated size.

Another word about over-large data forms; I am confident that some of the printed items on eight-inch datas, with over-wide margins, moreover, could well be spared; or at least run over onto filler sheets. The over-large datas do not file easily; sometimes cannot be filed, serially, at all, and they almost invariably come to one folded. Now if I were not, as one of my new, delightful California correspondents has denominated me, a "Man of God," I should be often tempted to swear, and to swear venomously, when I open a letter containing datas that I am anxious to examine, just because they come from fine men, when I open the letter and find the datas folded. When my vexation has sufficiently calmed down, I can only sigh deeply and consign the folder to that Heaven wherein nothing will ever be folded (save as all will be in a fold). To recapitulate: The use of datas always three-and-a-half by six-and-a-quarter inches will make all your correspondents your grateful debtor when they come to file your datas; while the use of over-size envelopes will obviate the danger so often otherwise occurring of tearing datas in opening the container. About just two very important items that

must find place in a scientific data: First, the legend, "Identity." Apparently even some advanced collectors do not sense the sense of that apparently guileless legend. Of course the identity is "Sure"—else you'd never be sending out the eggs. But, how was identity made "sure"? Is it proven by the eggs, by the region, in case of sub-species, or by the call, or the sight of the birds?—one of these four it surely must be, else the eggs are worthless. To illustrate what I mean by "sure." The fakir would as lief lie by saying "sure" as by crying "Nit"; while the use of this over-common word means nothing at all, as ordinarily used.

Lastly—In the lower right-hand corner of your data form should appear, with an inch of space beyond, the item, "Field Book."

For, at least in case of all valuable sets, the collector to whom your set will go must enter the title and the Field Book reference in his private record. Thereafter, be it ten, fifteen or twenty years, should he lose the given data, he can always secure a duplicate. In datas, as in all written literature, it is deeply true: "*Litera scripta manet.*" P. B. Peabody,

Blue Rapids, Kas.

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#### Collecting In San Diego Bay Region, Year 1922.

By Alfred Cookman, Glendale, Calif.

During the year 1922 I was a resident of San Diego, California. It was not convenient for me to make all the trips that I had planned and several localities were overlooked. High school teachers cannot get away from their institutions and friends are not always ready to accompany you when "Nature calls the birdman," and the lure of the wild-wood, the tule-bordered lake and the jagged cliffs speaks a "various language." However, I did wander away into the back country



to the base of Mt. El Capitan and Descanso, and along the shores of Coronado Beach and the inner harbor of San Diego. I made a flying trip last April to the Coronado Islands, Mexico, and spent a few hours among nesting California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus californicus*), Farallone Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*) and Western Gulls (*Larus occidentalis*). Nineteen species of birds were observed on the islands. Nearly all the eggs were advanced, and a great many nests contained birds in all stages of development. The Socorro Peterel (*Oceanodroma socorrensis*) were here, but no nests were discovered. The writer led several nature walks for the San Diego Museum of Natural History to the shores of Coronado, and the crowds that followed were folks interested in wild life and seemed anxious to know California birds. Saturday morning Nature Walks certainly stimulate interest and are well attended in San Diego.

Here is a list of the birds taken, year 1922:

- Two adult male Western Willets.
- One adult male Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawk.
- One adult male California Thrasher.
- One adult male San Diego Towhee.
- One adult male Cedar Waxwing.
- Three English Sparrows.
- One adult male California Jay.
- One adult male California Shrike.
- One adult male Killdeer.
- One adult male Rufous Humming Bird.
- One male Arizona-hooded Oriole.
- One adult female Slender billed Nuthatcher.
- One adult male Anthony Towhee.
- One four-week-old California Brown Pelican.
- Four sets of Western Gull eggs.
- Four sets of California Brown Pel.

can eggs.

Nest and set of Anna Humming Bird eggs.

Three infant Western Gulls, about two weeks old.

One Least Tern.

One set of Least Tern eggs—two.

One male Bank Swallow.

One adult male Ash-throat Fly-catcher.

A. Cookman,  
Licensee, Cal., Fish and Game.

#### THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY AT BOYD'S CREEK

Attracted by a group of ornithological specimens in my office window, a man entered and announced what interest his entire family possessed regarding all nature, but especially birds. He was a fellow with little schooling, raised among the "Knobs" of Kentucky, when the County of Barren was almost wholly timbered. After fifteen years of farming in Illinois, the family had returned to the land of the "penoroyal," dividing their residence between the old homestead and a town cottage.

On April 1st, this year, we visited the old farm, where the stork had delivered him just forty-five years ago. My new acquaintance proved himself extremely talkative, but very observing.

A five-mile journey, and we were among the giant chestnuts, beeches and oaks, where his boyish sentiments were cultivated, and years of experience had taught him much in wood-craft, too. One of the principal features on the trip was our intimate acquaintance with a pair of "Wood-cocks." For many years these birds had lived in a damp piece of timber just a few hundred yards from the cabin. The male was feeding among decayed chips and displayed little concern as we advanced. But, my Philo-tela Minor of Northern Indiana and

Illinois was not here. This was the nom de plume of the knightly Pileated Woodpecker, acknowledged among all natives the "Woodcock." My companion pointed to a huge, dead chestnut in which the female was excavating. Several holes, none less than seventy feet up, were designated as breeding places during previous springs. What a paradise for "Peckerwoods," as Kentuckians call them. In the immediate vicinity were Red Heads, Downy, Flickers and Red-bellied, all paired.

"Now, Abbott, let me show you where 'Buzzards' have hatched regularly for the last seven years," my guide ventured. Two of the sites consisted of huge, fallen logs, entirely hollow, and a Turkey Vulture was hovering around each place. The third nesting place was a crevice in an upright chestnut, about fifty feet high. A pair of Buzzards were perched in this tree.

Our tramping was interrupted frequently, while I listened to some narrative describing the discovery during some previous season of other birds' eggs, such as Whip-poor-will, Horned Owl, Cooper Hawk, Summer Tanager and some of doubtful identity, including Warblers, Vireos and Sparrows. On this visit we found several small flocks of Purple Finches, the males in full song.

Gerard Alan Abbott,

Glasgow, Kentucky.

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#### IT SPREADS

A letter from one of the well known bird students of the United States to the editor, contains among other things, the following:

"They are at it in Europe, I am told, and have made some dozen sub-species of Ravens. Long claws, and short claws, bills, etc. But I suppose business is dull and that something must be done to prevent dry rot."

Possibly in this country something

must be done to make those in charge of the expenditure of public money imagine that something is being done by those who are observing public money everytime an imaginary millimeter race drops into the hopper.

R. M. Barnes.

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#### Swallows.

Something I had never heard of before occurred this summer. A friend had two pairs of Barn Swallows nesting in his shed—each had five eggs; two pairs of Cliff Swallows came, threw the eggs out and using the nests for a foundation, built up their own in the usual way and raised their young. Never before had I noticed any especial animosity or competition between these two species, both usually minding their own business.

Chester S. Day,

27 School St., Boston, Mass.

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#### Bronze Grackle Mass Meetings.

In November, at Blue Rapids, Kansas, in twenty-foot willows along the Red River, the Grackles were swarming for several weeks, to the number of no less than four thousand. Flying in, just before sunset, they would alight and sing in tall trees on the south bank of the river. In about a half hour they would cross to the roosting willows, then swarm to the water's edge, fifteen deep—laterally—to drink, then betake themselves to the willows.

Strange inequalities in fatness, coloration and in even the locations of the sex-organs, and their condition appeared. Not a few of the Grackles had diseased feet.

P. B. Peabody.

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#### COPY

The Oologist is again in distress for copy suitable for the June, July and August issues, and we trust our readers and friends will respond to this notification.

R. M. Barnes.

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1 Oologist, Vol. XI, (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

WANTED—For analysis, 1 set each 337 and 339. Must be absolutely fresh, unblown and very carefully packed and sent special delivery parcel post as soon as taken. Write and make agreement now. Will give copy of Bent's Diving Birds to the one who sends me the two sets this spring. Paul G. Howes, 91 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. Cash if preferred to the book. 2-3-4

FOR EXCHANGE—Rare Sets of Eggs such as Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Aleutian Tern, Long-bill Curlew, Loon, Welches Ptarmigan, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and many others. WANT—Male and female skins of Richardson and Black Pigeon Hawks; Harris, Harlans, Zone-tailed, Short-tailed, and Red-bellied Hawks; Peals, Pergerine, and Aplomado Falcons; Mallard, Widgeon, and Ring-neck Ducks; Purple Sandpiper; Wandering Tattler; Buff-crested Sandpiper; Black Oystercatcher; Marbled Godwit; Velvet Scoter; Yellow-crowned Night Heron. K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

WANTED—Auk, Vol. 6, No. 1, or entire volume. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada.

Postal Permits, Precancelled Stamps and Slogan or Advertising Post Marks for sale or exchange. Correspondence solicited. W. E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 137, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

"NOT MERELY STUFFED," but perfect in plumage and condition and accurately mounted specimens of the following: Goshawk, Spruce Grouse, Prairie Chicken, Ruffed Grouse and Mountain Quail. Will exchange for sets. G. A. Abbott, Glasgow, Ky.

FOR SALE—Natural History Books and Magazines, Antiques, Curios, Minerals, Insects, Shells and other specimens from this locality, or will exchange for Coins and Stamps. Ralph L. Wheeler, Canaan, N. H.

WANTED—Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," volumes 2 and 7, also a Stevens Pocket Shotgun—44 calibre preferred. Harold W. Copeland, 122 Park Ave., Bridgewater, Mass.

**SCOUT MUSEUM**

We have just started a Museum and would appreciate any curios or specimens you might have. Send list with price, postpaid. D. C. Bartley, Scout Commissioner, Zillah, Wash.

ALLIGATORS FOR SALE—Can furnish them from one foot long up to six feet. Have fresh skins ready for mounting; can send them alive, mounted, or skins. Ask for prices. Also Curios, skins and mounted specimens. Ramon Graham, 3722 Ave J, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splingidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phlla, Pennsylvania.

WANTED—Prismatic Binoculars. C. S. Sharp, Escondido, Cal. Will give sets of 349 or part cash. How about it?

**EXCHANGE PRICE LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS' EGGS**

We have just published this work which it took a Committee of well known Oologists, who were elected by The Oologists of North America for that purpose, nearly two years to complete. It is a Volume of two hundred pages, well illustrated, by half tones, showing the advance methods that now obtain in Oology. It contains the following special matter.

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5. Directions for collecting and preparing eggs.
6. Copy of Standard Data Blank.
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**1923**

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

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VOL. XL. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE , 1923.

WHOLE No. 434

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# THE O O L O G I S T

## 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.

**We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.**

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**WANTED**—Back numbers of Ornithological magazines, especially Condor, also any books on Ornithology or Taxidermy. Egg cabinet also wanted. Write, giving prices. James Suthard, Madisonville, Kentucky.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Pahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

**JOHN LORANG**, Genesee, Idaho. Collector of Idaho Birds eggs, also Bird and Animal Skins for mounting purposes. For sale or exchange. A black Squirrel Skin Mounted.

**FOR SALE**—Auk, 1918 and 1920, volumes complete, \$1.50 each, prepaid. Wilson bulletin, 1920 volume, 90c. Biological Bulletin 17 and 39 also. Fred Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

**BIRD MAGAZINES AND BOOKS WANTED**—Nuttall Bulletin; set or parts; The Auk, Vols. 1 to 6, also Vol. 7, Nos. 2, 3, 4; Vol. 9, Nos. 3, 4; Vol. 11, No. 1; Vol. 14, No. 2; Vol. 17, Nos. 2, 3, 4; also any Vol. after 35. Cooper Club Bull. and Condor, first 3 Vols. Have many parts of Auk and Bird Lore for sale. Want Bent's Diving Birds, for which I offer \$7. for his Gulls and Terns, Ridgway's Birds, odd Vols., Coues' Key, Ridgway's Color Key; Audubon's Birds, odd Vols. or Plates. Books on shooting, Game Birds, Wild Fowl, Big Game, Game Coeks and Cocking; History of Guns; Prints for framing relating to Shooting Game Animals. All more noted Works on above subjects in any language, old or new. Prefer to buy or sell for cash rather than exchange. Send me your offers describing fully and name your price. Large Catalogues relation to above subjects and all Nature Study sent on receipt of 5 cents in stamps. S. N. Rhoads, Franklin Bookshop, 920 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Jun. 3t

**SHELL COLLECTORS and MUSEUMS**—A fine lot of the "Liguus" or tree snails from the hammocks of Fla. for sale, or will exchange for skins or eggs. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

**WANTED**—Books on Wisconsin Birds or up to date lists of same. Will pay cash. Address, Carl F. Wright, "Camp Mishike", Winchester, Wis.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Butterflies of New England for California Butterflies. T. Love, Collector, 105 Grove, Lynn, Mass.

**EXCHANGE or FOR SALE**—Skins of 478 and 481 A. O. U. No., Jack D. Baker, Redwood valley, California, Mendocino County.

**FOR SALE**—Ridgways "Birds of North and Middle America," Vols. 1 to 8 inc. Also back Vols. and Nos. of "Bird-Lore" and other bird magazines. Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Maine.

**WANTED**—A good pair of second-hand field glasses, medium sized and reasonably priced. Write and send price to J. N. Elliott, Lancaster, Kentucky.

**WANTED**—1 pair of adult Northern Ravens in good feather, either skin or mounted specimens, or if possible, in the flesh. State price or exchange desiderata. George M. Sutton, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species, A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Fine sets of 327, 330, 360c, 364, 405, 445, 479 and 551; also many common ones. Will collect mammal skins to order. Desire sets or bird skins. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Goss' Birds of Kansas—Ridgway's Bulletin 50, Vol. 8—Bent's Gulls and Terns. I want Auks, Bird Books and Magazines. Herbert A. Smith, 431 N. Van Buren Ave., Kirkwood, Mo.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—A collection of some ten thousand stamps, on separate sheets for each country. Want bird skins for all or part. Gus. Langelier, Cape Rouge, Que., Canada.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Fine personally collected sets of 332-339-343 and a few others. Will sell cheap or exchange for desirable stamps. George D. French, Ivoryton, Conn.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Snapping Turtle 1-41; Wood Tortoise 1-8; sets of Painted Turtles in June. German Baush Terlux 10 point Prism Binoculars. James O. Johnson, Southington, Conn.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—National Geographic Magazine, 1915 to '22, for Bird Lore and other magazines; also will take sets. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Ill.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No. 6

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1923.

WHOLE NO. 434

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

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Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## WE ARE LATE

An attack of ptomaine poisoning followed by a vicious assault from the flu, just at the time we usually make up The Oologist, laid the editor by the heels and put him to bed for a considerable time.

This is the reason the June issue is late, however taking into consideration the information concerning the price of rare bird books, the wonderful article and illustrations relating to the nesting of the Pink Footed Goose, and the notes from Lower California, North Dakota, Texas, California, New Jersey, etc., we do not believe we have often put out a more valuable issue of The Oologist.

We have just received an unusually interesting contribution relating to the Penguins of South Africa, accompanied by three good photographs, but outside of this one article our copy box, is really very low.—R. M. Barnes.

## "ORNITHOLOGIA AMERICANA"

Last month we told our readers of the sale of John Lewis Child's Library, and promised to tell them this month of the sale of the fine collection of books relating to the Birds of America, formed by Dr. William C. Braislin, of Brooklyn, New York, which we attended.

The sale was held Monday and Tuesday afternoons, April 2nd and 3rd, at The Anderson Galleries, New York City, and included 875 separate lots, ranging from single volumes to complete sets of many volumes, and large numbers of pamphlets and serial publications.

Dr. Braislin had gathered together one of the finest Scientific Libraries devoted to North American Birds in existence. It was specially rich in rare, unusual and little known items. The sale was attended by most of those that were present at the Child's sale, the bidding at once was spirited, and as appeared to the writer, almost reckless. Some of the prices obtained, which we thought might be of interest to our readers were the following:

Audubon's Ornithological Biography, 5 vols., published by Adam Black, at Edinburgh, 1831-9—\$37.50.

The same published by Judah Dobson and H. H. Porter, 1831., 5 vols., being the first American imprint of this work—\$12.00.

The same, 5 vols., 1832-9, by Carey and Hart, Philadelphia; Hilliard, Gray and Company, Boston, and Adam and Black, Edinburgh, of which no other set is known containing both the American printed volume—\$37.50.

Audubon's Birds of North America, 7 vols., 1840-44—\$410.00.

Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's Land Birds of North America, 1874, with 64 colored plates—\$45.00.

The same Water Birds, 2 vols., 1884, with colored plates—\$87.50.

Baird and Cooper Land Birds of California, 1870. Colored plates, 1 vol.—\$27.50.

Charles L. Bonaparte's American Ornithology, 1823-33, 4 vols—\$100.00.

The Nidologist, complete volumes, 1-4—\$20.00

John Cassin's Birds of California, Texas, Oregon, British and Russia, America, 1 vol., Philadelphia, 1856—\$40.00.

Cassin's Mammalogy and Ornithology of the United States Exploring Expedition, 2 vols., 1859—\$55.00.

The Natural History of Washington Territory, etc., by Cooper and Suckley, 1 vol., 1859—\$11.00.

Cooper Ornithological Club Bulletin and The Condor, complete—\$55.00.

Dall, Bannister and Baird's Birds of Alaska, 1869, 1 vol.—\$35.00.

Zoology of the Voyage of The Beagle, Charles Darwin and John Gould, 1 vol., 1841—\$50.00.

J. P. Giraud, Description of Sixteen New Species of North American Birds. Collected in Texas, 1 vol, 1841—\$130.

John Gould's Monograph of the Partridges of America, 1 vol., 1850—\$105.00.

Nest and Eggs of American Birds, Nos. 1 to 7 inclusive, by Ernest Ingersoll, 1879-81—\$40.00.

George Ord's New Geographical Historical and Commercial Grammar, etc., 2 vols., 1815—\$105.00.

The Suppressed Volume, prepared by Titian R. Peale, of the United States Exploring Expedition, under the Command of Charles Wilkes, 1848, 1 vol. This being the first copy ever offered at auction—\$410.00.

Ornithology of the United States of North America, by John Townsend, 1 vol., 1839—\$295.00.

This library also contained the most extensive collection of the works of Alexander Wilson, ever offered for sale at one time, and they brought the following prices.



American Ornithology, 9 vols., 1808-14. Part of which were the first impressions and part the second—\$200.

Poems by Alexander Wilson, 1816, 1 vol.—\$7.00.

The Foresters: a Poem by Alexander Wilson, 1848—\$4.50.

American Ornithology, 3 vols., Text, one volume folio plates, published by Harrison Hall, 1828-55—\$75.00.

American Ornithology, First Edition, edited by Ord., 3 vols., Text one folio volume, plates 1828-9—\$70.00.

Life of Alexander Wilson, by George Ord 1828—\$1.50.

American Ornithology, by Wilson and Bonaparte, 4 vols., 12 mo., Edinburgh, 1831—\$3.50.

The Foresters, second edition, 1838—\$2.00.

American Ornithology, with Notes by Jardine . T. M. Brewer, 1843—\$1.50.

\*Poems and Literary Prose of Wilson, by Grosart, 2 vol., 1876—\$7.00.

Alexander Wilson. Poet Naturalist, by James Southall Wilson, 1906—\$3.00

American Ornithology by Alexander Wilson and C. L. Bonaparte, 3 vols., 1832, Edinburgh Edition—\$20.00.

American Ornithology, Philadelphia Edition, 3 vols., 1871—\$10.00.

American Ornithology, 3 vols., London Edition, 1876—\$15.00.

American Ornithology, 3 vols., New York Edition, 1877—\$5.00.

American Ornithology, 3 vols., Philadelphia n. d. (1878), the latter four items being the Wilson and Bonaparte compilations.

Included in this sale was a very large number of local lists, pamphlets, and many Amateur Bird Journals either in complete series or scattered numbers, nearly all of which long since ceased publication.

The entire \$75 offerings made at the sale brought an aggregate of \$8,000.00.

The editor was fortunate enough to

secure among other things the following items.

The first fifty-nine volumes of The Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Science of Philadelphia, 1843-1907, including all of the colored bird plates published during that period.

A complete file of all of The Ornithological Writings of J. A. Allen.

A complete set of all the papers relating to birds with all accompanying colored plates from the Annuals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. 1824-1876.

Ornithology of the Voyage of the Beachy, by N. A. Vigors, 1 vol., 1839.

Observations on Nomenclature of Wilson Ornithology, by Charles A. Bonaparte, 1826, 1 vol.

Monographie des loxieux, with 51 colored plates of Cross-bills and Grosbeaks, 1850. By Charles A. Bonaparte and H. Schlegel.

North American Oology, by T. M. Brewer, 1857, 1 vol.

The First Known Directory of American Naturalists, 1865-6.

A Monograph of the Alcidae, by Elliott Coues, 1858. One of fifty copies of this publication which were published.

The rare first edition of Elliott Coues, Check List of American Birds, 1873.

D. G. Elliotts' Monograph of the Pheasants, 2 vols., 1872.

Illustrations of the Nests and Eggs of the Birds of Ohio. Howard and Mrs. N. E. Jones, 1866. 1 vol. This is one of the most perfect volumes of this great work in existence.

Notes on and List of Birds and Eggs collected in Arctic America, 1861-66. By R. McFarlane. (This little item is specially interesting to the writer because in the collection of eggs, which we purchased several years ago from Richard C. Christ,

were a number of eggs taken by this Expedition.)

The Birds of Canada, by Alexander M. Ross, 1871.

The Birds of Greenland, by Edward Sabine, 1819.

Avia fauna of the Galapagos Island, 1875.

Complete file of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories. 6 vols. 1874-82.

In addition to the foregoing we secured a large number of works of lesser importance and many pamphlets, Amateur Bird Journals, Separates, and the like which were essential in building up a modern library on the subject of American Ornithology.

R. M. Barnes.

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#### DATES AND NOTES OF RED-TAILED AND RED-SHOULDERED HAWKS

Mar. 24, 1921. Took a set of two Red-tail's eggs from a nest in a beech tree about 60 feet from the ground.

Mar. 27, 1921. I took a set of four Red-shouldered eggs from a nest in a beech tree about 40 feet from the ground and a set of two Red-tail's eggs, from a beech tree about 50 feet from the ground.

April 3, 1921. I took two sets of four Red-shouldered eggs and one set of three.

April 9, 1921. A set of three Red-shouldered eggs from a nest in a beech tree about 25 feet from the ground.

April 21, 1922. A set of Red-shouldered eggs from a nest in a maple tree, about 60 feet from the ground.

April 8, 1923. I took a set of four and a set of three Red-tailed Hawks' eggs, both from beech trees.

April 15, 1923. One set of five Red-

shouldered eggs in a beech tree about 50 feet from the ground.

Raymond Beardsley,  
East Claridon, Ohio.

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#### THE WINNERS

On the title page of the last May issue we printed a half tone of a little girl feeding two young birds, and on page 80, offered the first prize that The Oologist has ever offered since we took the management, to those who might be able to identify the birds.

Hon John Williams, of Washington, D. C., Hon. John E. Thayer, Lancaster, Mass., Mr. Maunsell S. Crosby, Rhinebeck, N. Y., Mr. James L. Ortega, Yountville, California, Mr. Alex. Sprunt, Charleston, S. C., have properly identified these young birds as *Polyborus cheriway*, Audubon's *Caracas*.—R. M. B.

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#### ALBINOS

Last fall I had sent to me what I classed as an Albino Meadowlark.

The bird was the same size as our common Meadowlark but pure white all over with the exception of a spot on the breast about the size of a quarter which was bright yellow. The eyes as near as I could tell were steel grey.

I am sorry to say I was unable to mount the bird. It had been badly misused and started to spoil.

A friend taxidermist reports having mounted an Albino Robin while I have in my collection a partly Albino Coot.

This bird is spotted with slate and white while the feet and legs are spotted with light green, dark green and tan. The bird has no frontal plate and has brown eyes.

I would like to hear of other Albinos.

L. W. Speer,  
Sac City, Iowa.



Nesting Cliff of the Pink-footed Goose, Spitzbergen. The Nest Can Be Seen at the Top of the White Splash Halfway up the Cliff.

—Photo by Major W. M. Cosgrove. M. B. O. U.

## THE PINK-FOOTED GOOSE IN ITS BREEDING QUARTERS

By Major W. M. Congreve, M. B. O. U.

The Pink-footed Goose is a well known winter visitor to the British Isles, but like all members of the Goose race it is extremely wary, and consequently more often seen and heard at a distance, than obtained by those who indulge in Goose shooting for sport and otherwise.

At present it is only known to definitely breed in the Arctic island of Spitsbergen, but it probably does so in Franz-Joseph Land, and possibly also in Iceland. It was during June and July 1922 that I met with this species at close quarters in Spitsbergen, and on that island it can be described as anything but rare, and is to be met with breeding on the slopes of many of the wider glacier stream valleys, on the sides of precipitous-sided gorges formed by glacier streams emerging from the mountains, and also on gradual slopes in the immediate vicinity of fjord or open sea. Their nests cannot normally be described as being particularly easy to find, owing to the fact that the sitting bird sits extremely close, while the gander on guard either leaves the immediate vicinity of the nest, when one is some distance from it, or else stands so motionless beside its mate that he is quite invisible except at very close range, amid the normal awful desolation of stones and weather-worn lichens and mosses, that cover the surface of Spitsbergen.

As a general rule their nests are more or less scattered but they are sometimes in colonies and consequently when a colony is discovered by the inhabitants of a mining camp or sealer, their eggs are taken wholesale for food. One cannot blame the inhabitants of such an utterly desolate

land for varying their imported food with fresh eggs when available, but it is trying, to say the least of it, when after many disappointments, an ornithologist discovers a colony, only to find nest after nest empty of eggs which have been taken wholesale for food!

It was a colony of this nature that I visited, with Messrs. F. C. R. Jourdain and B. W. Tucker on July 3rd, 1922 and from it over 100 eggs had been taken for food by Norwegian miners earlier in the summer. Fortunately for us four nests still survived, but three of them only contained respectively 2, 2, 1, hard set eggs, and it is a moot point whether such short sets are natural. However, the nest which is illustrated in this article had, owing to its inaccessibility, undoubtedly survived the onslaught of the egg eaters, for it contained five eggs. Never shall I forget the first view I had of this nest. It was about 20 feet down a vertical cliff bordering a boiling torrent, through which fell a considerable waterfall of turbid melted glacier water, and I came suddenly in full sight of it, on a level with my feet, across a 30 foot wide yawning chasm. On the nest and about 50 feet away from me was a Pink-footed Goose sitting tightly in a neat hollow on a herbage covered ledge immediately across, and about 15 feet above the roaring cataract; but, the really amazing sight was the gander mounting guard within a couple of feet of its sitting mate. It was not the first time I had seen a gander Pink-foot mounting guard, quite motionless, with widely set pink legs and anxious expression, but, what I had not seen before, was the priceless exhibition of a normally quite unapproachable Goose try and camouflage itself by turning over on its side by leaning



Nest and Eggs of Pink-footed Goose at the Foot of Cliff Spitzbergen  
—Photo by Major W. M. Cosgrove, M. B. O. U.

over with head and body nearly flat on the ground, and remaining thus with its mate, quite motionless, for at least half a minute while I was watching in amazement, felt inclined to laugh at one moment at the comical attitude of the gander and cry the next, because my camera had been left behind at our camp about a mile away!

The birds eventually flew away, and it was then quite easy to see that the nest contained 5 eggs.

Next day armed with camera I again approached the nest, and at once saw that the two birds were present. As bad luck would have it, there was a strong wind blowing up the gorge and the air was consequently filled with spray from the waterfall; while to add to my photographic difficulties, the sun was in an unfavorable position, and it was quite impossible to see the nest in the view finder of my kodak. The birds this time appeared much more restless while the gander refused to lie down as before, and the hen at once stood up over her eggs. All I could do was to set my camera at 50 foot focus, and point the lens in about what I thought to be the right direction.

The result is as given with this article, and is anything but as successful as could be wished. The nest was eventually reached, by means of a doubled 1-inch Alpine line held by my two companions and down which I slid to the nest terrace. It was made of the usual mass of Goose feathers and down, placed in a circular hollow in the moss, and was within 2 feet of the vertical drop to the boiling river below into which, I imagine, a young Goose would have no serious difficulty in diving, in order to be swept to more congenial surroundings, shortly after emerging from its eggs.

The photo of another Pink-footed Goose's nest containing two eggs was taken by Mr. B. W. Tucker and was situated among loose rocks and stones half-way down the side of the same gorge in which I photographed the pair at their nest with five eggs. It was on the opposite side of the gorge to the later nest and was reached without the aid of a rope.

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### SPRING

I have been very lax this spring but have noted the following birds. Spring has been backward and cold. April 6th, first Robin; April 10th, first Bluebird, Grackle and Bartramian Sandpiper. April 14th I took a trip to a tamarack swamp about eight miles from here, sunny in morning, and I walked back through a wet marshy snow storm. Saw First Prairie Hens in seven years, heard one or two calling. First Jack Snipe, Redtail, nest and two plain eggs in elegant bower nest in tamarack tree. First Flicker, one or two Prairie Song Sparrow, first Field Sparrow, several flocks of Warblers. I could not see them good, 1 Southern Downy, 15 or 20 Fox Sparrows, Blue Jays, Robins, Bluebirds, White-breasted Nut Hatch, Crow, first Red-winged Blackbird, several Bronze Grackles and Killdeers, first European Meadowlark, 4 or 5. Thought once I heard a Western Meadowlark. April 16, first Mourning Dove; April 21st, Bartramian Sandpiper; April 25th, Hairy Woodpecker been here all winter. April 27th walked out north by river, noted Bartramian Sandpiper, five or six Mourning Dove, first American Bittern, Jack Snipe, Fox Sparrows, first White-crowned Sparrows, probably 5 or 8, first Brown Thrashers, Robins, Blue Jays, Bluebirds, Crows, first Kingfishers. Meadow Larks, Grackle, Flickers; heard either a



Near View of Nest and Eggs of Pink-footed Goose at Spitzbergen  
—Photo by W. M. Cosgrove, M. B. O. U.

Hairy or Downy tapping, Song Sparrows. Fine day, cold, light north wind. I first heard the Purple Martin April 23rd or 24th.

George W. H. vos Burgh,  
Columbus, Wis.

#### ANOTHER PRODIGAL SON RETURNS

A communication received early in May reads as follows: "I used to take *The Oologist* years ago, and my first literary effort was published in it, as is the case with so many different beginners in ornithology. In this respect your paper has a different function from other bird journals and hence deserves the support of us all." And this accompanied by a subscription remittance.—R. M. B.

H. H. Bailey writes that he made a trip to Merritt's Island, the home of the Dusky Sea Side Sparrow, 460 miles, 80 of which was the roughest he ever traveled and he was successful in securing some specimens, and he hands us a clipping from a local newspaper in which this Sparrow is referred to as "a rare Blackbird." So much for newspaper ornithology, for which of course our friend Bailey is not responsible.

R. M. Barnes.

On December 27th a farmer boy brought a Sparrow Hawk to me for identification. The plumage was in high color. The bird was large and a fine specimen and alive. One shot had entered the fleshy part of the breast which did not seem to hurt it much for he was real lively. I tried to have the boy leave it with me but he seemed to think it was something rare and would get big money for it, so he grabbed the bird, stuffed it into a box and would not talk to me any more. He walked off and I have never seen him since. This is the first win-

ter record of the Sparrow Hawk in Minnesota, as far as I know.

Alza D. Brown,  
Pipestone, Minn.

#### IN LOWER CALIFORNIA

A letter from one of our collectors contains the following chatty news relating to that country, and its feathered denizens.

"It seems that the Revolution in Mexico brought about a great change in Mexico as to living conditions. I know when I was here fifteen years ago things were very reasonable. Now living is high. For instance, a small box of matches is 3 cents gold. You have to pay \$75 gold to go from here to La Paz, 140 miles by auto. Shot gun shells are 12½ cents each, gold. You pay 80 cents gold for a small can of peaches.

However, from all I hear this is the worst place in Mexico.

You are right in supposing that this country was four-fifths treeless, rocky hills. It's 99/100 that. This little valley is about all the agricultural land in hundreds of miles.

The weather has been ideal up till now (May 20, 1923), but it has started out to get real hot. One has to get up at daylight to hunt. As soon as the sun is well up clouds of gnats appear which are a great pest. When one stops to wrap a bird they make for your eyes which seem a favorite place for them.

All the winter birds have gone except a few White-crowned Sparrows, so there are no birds to speak of in the cultivated areas and one must hunt on the desert among the gnats.

We expect to leave here on the next boat for a cooler climate, to Lake Chapala, near Guadalajara, which is only about six hours from Mexico City. Mrs. Lamb doesn't feel able to make the hot arduous mule-back ride to the mountains, but in the fall we



hope to go to La Paz where we can work to the mountains and also some of the islands.

We are still treated very nicely here, though I have to manoeuvre around some every time I make a shipment. I hope you receive both shipments of birds in good shape.

Up to now have taken some 600 birds of 125 species. The past three weeks I have had no cotton, however, I needed a rest. Haven't taken any eggs except those of San Lucas Cactus Wrens and Cape Verdins.

Inclosed is a short list of birds that visit my back yard.

Western Gnatcatcher, San Lucas Cactus Wren, Texas Nighthawk, Bullock Oriole, Scott Oriole, White-crowned Sparrow, San Lucas House Finch, San Lucas Cardinal, Gilded Flicker, Gila Woodpecker, Audubon Caracara, Dwarf Cowbird, Sonora Redwing, Brewer Blackbird, Yellow-headed Blackbird, White-winged Dove, Mexican Ground Dove, Roadrunner, Redstart, Least Vireo, Audubon Warbler, Belding Yellowthroat, Yule Yellowthroat, Cooper Hawk, San Lucas Sparrow Hawk, Xanthus Hummingbird, Costa Hummingbird, Lower California Flycatcher, Clay-colored Sparrow, Western Flycatcher, Lutescent Warbler, Xantus Jay, McGillvary Warbler, Cassin Kingbird, Black Phoebe, Barn Owl, Barn Swallow, San Lucas Pyrruloxia. All these were in a yard fifty by a hundred feet in center of town.

I do enjoy my daily swim in the gulf in spite of the warning of my Mexican friends of "too many sharkees." Also they say "muchas culebras in el campo," which means lots of snakes, though I have seen neither snakes or sharks. In my invoice of birds I sent before I believe there are two or three named wrongly. I hope when I get to the moun-

tains and islands to have many desirable skins for you.

We still continue to like this country and are going to try and see more of it.

Wish you could join me in La Paz next fall for a while. That place is fairly accessible. You take the train to Nogales, Ariz., then to Guymas, Mex., and from there, there are frequent boats leaving for La Paz.

They say paladisino (malaria) is bad here but as yet we have been feeling fine, but I notice the less I do the less I want to do. If you know of any one that wants foreign skins, would be glad to have their address."

Yours sincerely,

Chester C. Lamb,  
San Jose del Cabo,  
Lower Calif., Mex.co.

#### BIRD NOTES FROM WARD COUNTY, NORTH DAKOTA

Never having had the opportunity to spend a collecting season in a locality so rich in bird life as the Des Laes valley, Ward County, North Dakota, I have fairly reveled in the delights of bird study and oology so far as my time and the season has permitted. The spring has been cold and backward and the birds have been slow arriving and getting started housekeeping, and I find the nesting dates much later than in S. W. Minnesota where I was formerly located.

On May 2nd I took my first set of Magpie (A-5) and on May 6th I took a fresh set of Long-eared Owl (A-5) and a set of Western Horned Owl (A-2). The Des Laes valley is deeply indented along the south rims with coulees extending back one to three miles and thickly wooded with elm, ash, poplar and a dense under brush of choke-cherry and red and black hawthorn. So far this season these coulees have been populated with vast

numbers of the common Crow and with Magpies but the past two weeks has added greatly to the bird life and I have observed many pairs of Sparrow Hawk, Krider's Hawk, Flickers, Wood Thrush, Towhees, Brown Thrasher, Catbird and every small pool has its pair of nesting Mallards or Pintails.

I have examined thirty-five of forty Crow's nests in the vain hope of finding a set of eggs in the brown phase and but one set of eggs has been heavily incubated, most of them being fresh or nearly so.

Having located the nest of a Marsh Hawk, I went out this morning armed with a camera wishing to obtain a good photograph of it and having no thought of collecting the eggs as I had all I cared for in my collection, but on arriving at the nest I found that the eggs were of a phase that I had never seen, being freely marked with beautiful brown splotches. This is the only set out of about a hundred I have examined, that had these markings. This afternoon I went out into the hills of the Coteau du Missouri to study the waterfowl, which nest abundantly in the numerous sloughs among those hills and incidentally searched through many acres of buck brush, hoping to find nests of Short-eared Owl or Prairie Sharp-tailed Grouse, but all I was able to find were two nests of Marsh Hawk and a nest of Pinnated Grouse. My wife found a nest of Mallard which we left for the edification of the nimrods of the coming season.

Every slough and pot-hole had its quota of pairs of various waterfowl and among them were noted Mallards, Pintails, Baldpate, Blue-wing Teal, Spoon-bills, Greater Scaup Ducks and one pair of White-winged Scoter. Several pairs of Eared Grebe, Coot and Pied-billed Grebe were seen. All of the Ducks seemed to be in pairs

except a number of lone drakes of the Mallard and Pintail, it thus appearing that they are the only varieties that have begun incubation.

We also saw numerous pairs of Bartramian Sandpiper, Lesser Yellow-legs and a few Willet and Wilson Phalarope. The patches of buck brush contain numerous clay-colored Sparrows and the grassy slopes resound with the ze-c-e-e-e of the Grasshopper Sparrow. Along the edges of the grain fields the beautiful Chestnut-collared Longspur and McCown's Longspur and Vesper Sparrow are numerous.

In the thickets of alder which line the shore of some of the sloughs are found many Rusty Blackbirds and Red-wings and the Yellow-headed Blackbird can be seen in the grassy bayous. So far I have seen not a single specimen of the Bronzed Grackle, which is so numerous farther east and south.

A few pairs of Arkansas Kingbird and Loggerhead Shrike are in evidence in the farm groves and the first Bobolink was seen today.

A. S. Peters,

Donnybrook, North Dakota.

May 20, 1923.

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#### SWANS

On April 19th while fishing through the ice I heard the familiar "honking" of Geese, although the sound did not sound exactly like these birds. I could not see the birds although they were not far away. I thought about it several times during the day.

The next day, April 20th, while sitting in my cabin I again heard the peculiar honking and this time I saw the birds. They were coming across the lake flying fairly high in a V-shaped flight varying it at times as birds of this nature do. They were a magnificent flock of Swans numbering from forty to sixty birds. I was

really too excited to count them as these were my first Swans in the wild state. Of course the species was impossible to determine as they only stayed in view a few minutes. The birds apparently wanted to light but the lake was entirely frozen over.

One of the natives here says that this is the first time he has ever seen Swans in the spring of the year, although in the fall oftentimes they light on the lake for a short rest, and sometimes an overnight stay.

I thought that a flock of Swans of this size should be recorded.

Carl F. Wright,

"Camp Mishike," Winchester,  
Vilas County, Wis.

April 21, 1923.

#### BARTRAMIAN SANDPIPER GOING THE PASSENGER PIGEON ROUTE

The time has come when laws must be enforced or this bird will be spoken of in bird articles just like the Passenger Pigeon is today.

The automobile is the birds' enemy.

A few years ago when none but the rich could own a car the birds had a chance as the hunters would hunt them in buggies. Now every one that could afford a horse a few years ago owns a car today. So the Plovers have no chance because a Tin Lizzie can be on top of a bunch of them before they can take flight. Also the automobile has come into play in the destruction of bird life, instead of a hunter killing one bird or maybe two when they flew up, he kills, that is if he is a good shot, three or four birds before they get out of shooting distance.

One hunter told me of a hunt he and a friend had a few days ago a few miles south of Ft. Worth on the rolling prairies. For one hour's straight run over the prairie the engine never stopped and their auto-

matic barrels got hot. They killed 68 and no telling how many they wounded. Left to die on the prairie.

That's killing more than one a minute and this kind of hunting was going on all around Ft. Worth during April and goes on every year, so how long do you expect the Plover to last?

Ramon Graham,

Texas Bird Notes, 1923.

Who are the State and Federal Game Wardens at Fort Worth and vicinity, that permit such slaughter. They should be removed and real ones appointed.—R. M. Barnes.

#### SPARROW HAWK'S BILL OF FARE

After preparing the skin of a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius sparverius*) which I collected near Goodyear, Solano County, this winter I examined the stomach contents and found this organ to contain in addition to other material a snake a full eight inches in length in perfect condition and in its entirety except that the head had been dismembered and somewhat crushed, which dismemberment was no doubt done by the bird before swallowing. I sent the snake to the University of California and Professor Storer advised me that this reptile was a gopher snake (*Pituophis catenifer*), a young individual possibly of last year's brood.

The other contents of this stomach consisted of two whole crickets, two large whole beetles, an angle worm, and remains broken up and partly digested of a number of crustaceous and aquatic insects. In fact this Hawk, a female, had so fully gorged herself that the snake literally popped out at me when the stomach burst open after I had touched my knife to it.

Emerson A. Stoner,

March 15, 1923.

Benicia, Calif.

## KENTUCKY

The Kentucky Ornithological Society was organized in Louisville, Ky., April 19th, 1923, with the following officers.

Pres., Dr. L. Otley Pindar, Versailles, Ky.

Vice-Pres., Brasher C. Bacon, Madisonville, Sec.

Treas., Prof. Gordon Wilson, of Bowling Green.

Its object being the study and protection of the bird life of the state.

The next meeting will probably be held in Louisville at the same time as the regular meeting of the Kentucky Educational Association.

## HARD LUCK

Much in The Oologist of late of good luck on field trips—why not a hard luck story now and then?

Here I sit in a sunny valley at 9000 feet elevation and watch the hills around the town, knowing that a hundred nests of Rocky Mountain Jay are in sight. I can see with my glasses two Eagle nests and can limit to a few hundred yards two Great-horned and nests. On the slope of Mt. Kendall I have seen a Rough-leg light in the same place a dozen times.

Why the hard luck? Those who live in the mountains know. Snow is anywhere from 3 to 30 feet deep and nothing but snow shoes would get a man across the first drift. I have the snow shoes but the hills are steep hereabouts and make any man grunt in summer when the footing is its best with no open ground, snow storms any day on two minutes notice and real danged of snow slides if one ventures out of the pines. I wish I were down again in Illinois where the woods and marshes are clear.

J. K. Shallenberger,  
Silverton, Colorado.

## RAMBLING IN NORTH DAKOTA

Yesterday I took a ramble of some ten miles through the deep wooded coulees along the breaks of the Des Lacs River in search of birds and possible nests. The season is rather backward this year and not many migrants have arrived. The Meadowlark, Robin, Killdeer and Song Sparrow are the most numerous of the spring arrivals. I also saw a few Northern Flickers, Slate-colored Juncos and several pairs of Marsh Hawks.

None of the larger Hawks appear to be here yet although the timbered coulees afford most excellent nesting places. I saw a single Richardson's Merlin. The Ducks are paired and seeking the small pot holes. Several pairs of Mallards and Pintails were flushed.

Crows are very much in evidence and are starting their housekeeping arrangement and the Magpies are likewise busy. I found several of their nests that were completed and lined ready to receive the eggs but none had been laid as yet although there were several nests high in slender tree from which a bird emerged as I approached and these might have contained eggs but they were far beyond the reach of a two hundred pound man.

There are hundreds of Sharp-tailed Grouse along the coulees and the edge of the fields and with a favorable season for nesting they should increase greatly this year.

This will be my first season in this locality but it should prove to be a wonderful place for a bird student and oologist as the conditions are ideal for all kinds of bird life.

A. S. Peters,  
Donnybrook, North Dakota.

## GAME LAWS

We have recently received information that the Provincial Government of Saskatchewan, Canada, has relaxed the game laws of the Province "Making it legal for farmers to shoot out of season Wild Ducks which are damaging the crops." And also a statement that many reports have been received from parts over that Province that the birds are causing much havoc in the grain fields.

Recently a paper at Peoria, Illinois published a silly scare headed interview with an alleged farmer, reciting that the Wild Ducks along the Illinois river have become so plentiful and tame this season that they are eating up great quantities of his corn in the field and unless relief came soon he would have to kill a few thousand of the web-footed Crows with a club

All of which is silly bunk and propaganda, pure and simple. A few thousand Ducks scattered over the millions of acres of Canadian wheat will do no appreciable damage and no farmer who is fit to be called such has any corn in the field in Illinois in April. This sporadic veiled attack upon the wild fowl emanates from that debased portion of humanity who are paying to see these birds increasing as the result of the elimination of spring shooting and whose fingers itch to pull the trigger every time they observe the growing confidence and tameness of the Ducks migrating at the season which in the vicinity of Lacon, where there are now thousands of migrating birds on the river, frequently goes to the extent of the wild birds sitting quietly and permitting a continuous auto traffic to pass within from thirty to one hundred feet of them without the slightest uneasiness or alarm.

The originators of this effort to kill Ducks out of season are the class who think murder and blood shed every

time they see a hen Mallard winging her way North carrying from ten to fifteen eggs, most of which will later in the fall be healthy, vigorous birds. Their desire to exterminate the mother, the eggs and the prospective flock of fall birds with one pot hot, in March, April or May outweighs their conscience (if they ever had one) and gives rise to an imaginary reason why they should be allowed so to do, including statements that the Ducks have become so numerous that they are pulling up all of the wheat in the vast Dominion of Canada, and ate up last year's corn crop in the Illinois fields in April.

We trust the Game Department of Saskatchewan will rescind this order. It is my opinion the door for lawful violation of a splendid law should be enforced—R. M. B.

## THE PILEATED WOODPECKER

As the editor wishes us to write our experiences of different kinds of birds, I will write what I have learned about the Pileated this year, with the good luck I had taking these eggs. I have had a good chance to learn something about them I never knew before. I began to locate these nesting sites about the first of April. I had always taken full sets by the 4th to 10th of April until this year. My first take was the 15th I think, and now today, the 24th, I've taken my 12th set and look to get that many more. I first began to climb trees when the bird would fly out of the hole thinking I would get a set of eggs, but no eggs. I always had to chip out a little of the upper part of the hole to get my hand in, then I thought the bird would quit the nest but I found out when passing a week later, when I rapped on the tree, the bird would stick her head out and the next rap she would fly out and if she returned in a few

minutes I always took a full set of eggs but if she didn't return never a full set, so they don't quit the nest when you put your hand in it before or after they lay. Now, I find out they don't lay every day, but two or three times a week, but you can always find the bird at home, and I believe they go to sitting on first egg layed, as I have taken some far advanced and others fresh in some nests, as this is the way I found them.

But what a risk a fellow runs to take them, nearly always in a dead rotten tree. Most of the time high. One day I climbed a dead ash tree sixty feet up and took a set and the next day passing through there the tree had fallen and broken into two pieces where the nest was. I wouldn't be penning these lines today if it had broken while my belt was around it.

I find that you can get a second set close to the first in two weeks, if you watch close, as I've taken a second set from the same bird, only ten yards from the first, but twice is as many times anyone should take any bird's eggs. So much for the Pileated, but hard to get.

G. E. Pilquist,  
Dardanelle, Ark.

#### NIGHT SINGING OF THE YELLOW-BREASTED CHAT

The writer would be more than pleased to hear from any observers from different points in the range of this species as to their experiences concerning the singing at night of these birds.

On the adjacent hillsides near my home in Richfield, N. J., this songster appears about May 8th and from that time until early August is heard daily singing when, of course, its music is dimmed by the reason of the moulting season. During the breeding and nesting periods every night the males

are heard from sunset to sunrise, they apparently being so elated with their mates and offspring that they seem to forget that night is the time for sleep and rest. Dr. Chapman, in his Warblers of North America, says:

"Heard at night, when especially, if it be moonlight, the Chat often sings freely, the performance takes high rank among the songs of North American birds," but I am led to believe from twenty years of observation that the environment in which the nest is located bears an important part on these moonlight sonatas. At numerous points in Northern Passaic County, pairs have been observed throughout their nuptial periods and the nightly concerts have been rather abbreviated as to those which I now hear nightly. At Butler, Midvale, Pompton Lakes and Hawthorne, where I had time to spend in intensive work, the night songs only consisted of a few snatches uttered probably once or twice during a night. But here in Richfield, the males sing sometimes for fifteen or twenty minutes at one time and they may be heard in similar periods throughout the night. Is it possible that the nearer they are located to the northern limits of their natural range in their respective faunal area bears any significance on their night singing? I would very much like to hear from observers in the southern New York counties along the northern border of New Jersey and adjacent Pennsylvania counties bordering on the Delaware north of the 41st parallel. Louis S. Kohler.



### TWO NOTABLE RECORDS

On January 30th, last (1923), I was watching a mixed group of Chickadees, Nuthatches (White and Red-breasted), Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, feeding on dormant wood ants, exposed by wood cutters splitting up a large dead basswood tree in a 20-acre wood-lot, located on the south edge of the town of Chili, Monroe County, New York.

It was an extremely cold day, temperature hovering around zero, with a stiff west wind and snow squalls.

I noticed a small bird in the underbrush, evidently keeping company with them, the first glimpse reminding me of a Purple Finch in fall plumage.

On closer inspection, I recognized the Gray-crowned Leucosticte (Rosy Finch). I have had skins of this bird on several occasions, but this was my first chance to observe a live bird. It stayed close around for half an hour, at times as close as fifteen feet, and there was no question as to identity.

Eaton did not find a state record for his "Birds of New York," and classes it as an extremely rare winter straggler.

On March 2nd, last, in another wood of about the same size, a mile north of the last, I heard a raucous squawk that was new to me, and on closer approach found a pair of Northern Pileated Woodpeckers quarreling with a male Red-headed Woodpecker. A party residing close by stated that they had been in the woods several days. It was again my first view of a live bird.

Ernest H. Short,  
Rochester, N. Y.

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### CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

In the hills north of the State Normal School at Montclair Heights, N. J., a Chestnut-sided Warbler nested in the spring of 1922. The nest was located about three feet from the

ground, in an alder bush, and when discovered on June 18th, had a brood of four ready to leave the nest. The young hastily left the nest as I approached within a few feet of them, and eluded all attempts to capture for the purpose of banding. Observations for a number of years in this particular location had led me to believe the species nested here, but this is the first nest I have located. On numerous occasions young, five to ten weeks have been seen, and for this reason was sure of my ground. During 1923 I intend to watch more closely and may be able to observe more of their home life here. Louis S. Kohler.

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### DECEMBER, 1922, IN RICHFIELD, NEW JERSEY

Unlike a number of years past, the weather during this month has been more than usually rigorous. The month was marked by two very severe sleet storms, which played havoc with our feathered friends and deprived them of their natural food for several long periods. The Crows, which usually are either observed in the adjacent hills or flying high overhead, have this month been haunting the fields and gardens in search of available food. Blue Jays are to be found on all sides. In the yards immediately about the residences the Juncos, Tree Sparrows and Song Sparrows roved about in small flocks, picking up whatever feed they could find to sustain themselves. Bird seed and cracked corn was placed in among the berry bushes, and suet, peanuts and pieces of raw meat at different points in the peach and apple orchards. Downies and White-breasted Nuthatches, and an occasional Chickadee enjoyed these tidbits. On the 15th a Cardinal put in an appearance and a Northern Shrike was observed over the rose beds of the nurseries here. These

latter two are very rare visitants to this particular locality, but the Blue-bird, which is found quite regularly throughout December here, was only observed on the 5th. The Sparrow, Marsh and Sharp-shinned Hawks were observed several times during the month, but not a Barred or Long-eared Owl has been seen. This latter condition is rather unusual; both of these species have not missed being seen for nearly twenty years past in this locality. On the 29th a Screech Owl was found nearly frozen, a note on which appears in another article in the Oologist. Louis S. Kohler.

#### AN UNTIMELY END

On December 28th a terrific ice and sleet storm prevailed in Northern New Jersey and enveloped every tree, wire and shrub with a coating of heavy ice. Just in the rear of my home in a hollow, dead chestnut a family of Flickers made their home during the spring of 1922, and in early December a Dark Phased Screech Owl used this hollow cavity as a shelter during the day and was seen about each night near the barn, where numerous mice were always present, owing to the abundance of grain for the live stock. This owl made numerous catches of these rodents and fared quite well on them. On the morning of the 29th, I happened near this hollow tree and looking up at the nest entrance saw at once it was sealed over with a sheet of ice about an inch thick. Thinking perhaps our little friend was imprisoned within, I climbed up and broke away the ice and sure enough the owl was within, but so nearly dead from want of fresh air that I carried him into the house to warm him and possibly resuscitate him. However, in spite of my kindly efforts, he expired on the afternoon of the 29th, and now is in the hands of a taxiderm-

ist, and when finished will hold forth in my museum. It is sad indeed to lose his services as a mouse-trap, but I am compensated by having him with me for all time in the cabinet.

Louis S. Kohler, Richfield, N. J.

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#### "WILL WOODPECKERS FLUSH BY POUNDING TREE?"

If she is in there, she will come out. Give that tree a rap or pound her good and Woodpeckers will always come out. This is what Sy Perkins said. But it won't work. I rowed my boat up to a dead tree with a hole in it and I pounded several times. "Nothing doing," said the farmer boy to me. "There's none there." I said "Well, let's see." I stood on the hood of the boat and could hardly reach the hole. I stuck my fingers down in the hole, but pulled them out much faster than I stuck them in, saying, "Darn that sharp-billed devil!" Then I pounded some more but the Woodpecker would not come out. So I palled some of the bark away and could touch the bird but she would not come out. So I pulled her out and found that it was a Red-bellied Woodpecker. There was a nice fresh set of four eggs in this hole that the farmer boy wanted me to pass up. If anybody tells you that a Woodpecker, Owls or any hollow nesting bird will come out when you pound on the trees, tell them not every time.

Ramon Graham,  
Ft. Worth, Tex.

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#### THE BIRDS REVENGE

"Why was I born?" Dr. Crane in The Pall Mall Gazette. It is supposed that the Storks had a grudge against the Cranes.—London Punch.



### NESTING OF THE GOLDFINCH IN 1922 IN NEW JERSEY.

During the breeding season of 1922 in Northern New Jersey, the writer was fortunate enough to locate three homes of the American Goldfinch (*As-tragalinus tristis*).

The first nest was found in Richfield, near Valley Road, on Van Houten avenue, on July 15th, in a wild cherry adjacent to the roadside and contained on discovery a set of two eggs. On the 19th this set was complete with five eggs, and fourteen days after the young emerged from the shells and the fond parents succeeded in rearing these fledglings until the time of flight when all disappeared from the vicinity. Bands No. 1706 to No. 1710 of the A. B. B. A. were placed on these nestlings before they left the nest. I placed these bands because those from the U. S. Department of Agriculture which I ordered several times did not arrive and up to the present have not been received.

The second nest was found on July 18th, in Little Falls, Passaic county, and contained a clutch of four eggs. This nest was located about twelve feet up in a pear tree in an orchard near the Browerton road. The eggs of this set were of a much paler blue than those of the first set and were slightly larger. They averaged .68x.55, whereas the first clutch averaged .625 x.50. As this second set was so nearly incubated I am led to believe they hatched in a day or two after, as when the nest was next visited, on the 25th, the young were well developed.

The third nest was located on August 1st, at Montclair Heights, in a clump of alders near the State Normal School, with the young ready for flight. The young took to the wing when I endeavored to clamber up to observe them. This brood consisted of six, the largest I have ever located.

I tried to capture some of them to band them, but was unsuccessful.

Louis S. Kohler.

### THE MEETING TREE.

A dense forest extends for miles each way along the north bank of the Trinity River, four miles east of Fort Worth. In the forest is a bare spot, say two hundred feet each way, and in the middle of this spot stands a dead Spanish oak.

While squirrel hunting at day break one morning, I came upon this tree; I sat down at the edge of the woods and watched the tree. At one time I could see dozens of birds of different kinds come and light in the tree, chirp around, say hello to each other and depart in search of their daily feed. As this was the only open space where they could meet and get the morning light, I have named it the "Meeting Tree." Everything from a Chickadee up to a Turkey Vulture paid this old tree a visit.

1922 notes.

Ramon Graham.

Ft. Worth, Tex.

### The Florida Gallinule In Philadelphia, Pa., In Winter.

I have in my possession the skin of a Florida Gallinule that was captured alive on February 12, 1913, by my brother, George, at Richmond, Philadelphia, Pa. It was an adult male and was a wounded individual left behind in the migration, as it was unable to fly but several yards, and in skinning it I found a number six shot, badly smashed, lodged in the big muscle of the right wing. It was quite emaciated, and its stomach contained about a thimblefull of freshly eaten sand and fine gravel; its intestines contained some greenish-colored liquid.

George captured the bird on a sandy beach along the Delaware River, at

the base of the six-foot stone dyke, and it sought to escape into one of the many holes in the walls. It was quite aggressive and pecked savagely at any one handling it. It had lived through most of the winter in the adjacent cat-tail marsh, subsisting upon a meagre fare of food, probably devouring anything eatable it could find.

This is my second record of the occurrence of the Florida Gallinule in winter at this locality. A friend of mine, George Patrick, found a frozen bird on December 17, 1910, in the cat-tail marsh.

Richard F. Miller,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

#### THE LOON IN PENNSYLVANIA AND IN NEW JERSEY IN SUMMER.

In my notes for October 1, 1912, I find the following entry: "Mr. Axe told me he mounted a big loon for Harry Smith, the liquor dealer, of Frankford, who shot it on July 5 of this year, on the Neshaming Creek, above Bridgewater, Buchs county, Pennsylvania. Mr. Axe said it was very lean and emaciated, and that the two webbs of one foot were severed at the toes, so that in swimming, he thought, the bird swam lop-sided and for that reason proved to be an easy target."

Mr. Edwin C. Axe was a well known Frankford, Philadelphia, Pa., taxidermist and an ardent sportsman. He told me that this was the only Loon he had ever seen in summer in Pennsylvania. It was probably a wounded individual left behind in the migration.

I have never seen the loon in summer in Pennsylvania, but during 1922 I observed two individuals at widely-separated localities on the New Jersey coast. One was seen on June 17th, on Two-mile Beach, Cape May county, swimming in the surf, a few yards from shore, and the other on July 2, on Island Beach, Ocean county.

Richard F. Miller,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

#### STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, of The Oologist, published monthly at Albion, N. Y., for April 1, 1923. STATE OF ILLINOIS.

County of Marshall—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. Magoon Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of The Oologist, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations.

Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor, and Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Illinois. Not a corporation. No stock has ever been issued. The Oologist is owned exclusively by R. Magoon Barnes.

There are no bond holders, mortgagers or other security holder, none have ever been issued.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of June, 1923.

(Seal)

FAY BALL.

My commission expires Feb. 16, 1927.

#### NORTHERN NEW YORK WINTER RESIDENTS

Leo J. Provost, of Plattsburg, New York, reports the American Robin, American Merganser, Golden Crowned Kinglet, Horned Lark, Pine Grosbeak, Evening Grosbeak, Juncos, White and Red-breasted Nuthatches, and a flock of about forty Starlings as wintering in his vicinity.

R. M. Barnes.

## THE O O L O G I S T

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1 Oologist, Vol. XI. (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

WANTED—For analysis, 1 set each 337 and 339. Must be absolutely fresh, unblown and very carefully packed and sent special delivery parcel post as soon as taken. Write and make agreement now. Will give copy of Bent's Diving Birds to the one who sends me the two sets this spring. Paul G. Howes, 91 Hope St., Stamford, Conn. Cash if preferred to the book. 2-3-4

FOR EXCHANGE—Rare Sets of Eggs such as Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Aleutian Tern, Long-bill Curlew, Loon, Welches Ptarmigan, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and many others. WANT—Male and female skins of Richardson and Black Pigeon Hawks; Harris, Harlans, Zone-tailed, Short-tailed, and Red-bellied Hawks; Peals, Pergerine, and Aplomado Falcons; Mallard, Widgeon, and Ring-neck Ducks; Purple Sandpiper; Wandering Tattler; Buff-crested Sandpiper; Black Oystercatcher; Marbled Godwit; Velvet Scoter; Yellow-crowned Night Heron. K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

WANTED—Auk, Vol. 6, No. 1, or entire volume. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada.

Postal Permits, Precancelled Stamps and Slogan or Advertising Post Marks for sale or exchange. Correspondence solicited. W. E. Snyder, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 137, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

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WANTED—Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," volumes 2 and 7, also a Stevens Pocket Shotgun—41 calibre preferred. Harold W. Copeland, 122 Park Ave., Bridgewater, Mass.

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We have just started a Museum and would appreciate any curios or specimens you might have. Send list with price, postpaid. D. C. Bartley, Scout Commissioner, Zillah, Wash.

ALLIGATORS FOR SALE—Can furnish them from one foot long up to six feet. Have fresh skins ready for mounting; can send them alive, mounted, or skins. Ask for prices. Also Curios, skins and mounted specimens. Ramon Graham, 3722 Ave J, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splin-gidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila., Pennsylvania.

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Lacon, Ill.

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1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS  
TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY , 1923.

WHOLE No. 435



# THE OOLOGIST

## 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 notices inserted for less than 25 cents.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**WANTED**—Back numbers of Ornithological magazines, especially Condor, also any books on Ornithology or Taxidermy. Egg cabinet also wanted. Write, giving prices, James Suthard, Madisonville, Kentucky.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Fahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

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**FOR SALE**—Ridgways "Birds of North and Middle America," Vols. 1 to 8 inc. Also back Vols. and Nos. of "Bird-Lore" and other bird magazines. Everett E. Johnson, Hebron, Maine.

**WANTED**—A good pair of second-hand field glasses, medium sized and reasonably priced. Write and send price to J. N. Elliott, Lancaster, Kentucky.

**WANTED**—1 pair of adult Northern Ravens in good feather, either skin or mounted specimens, or if possible, in the flesh. State price or exchange desiderata. George M. Sutton, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species. A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Fine sets of 327, 330, 360c, 364, 405, 445, 479 and 551; also many common ones. Will collect mammal skins to order. Desire sets or bird skins. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Goss' Birds of Kansas—Ridgway's Bulletin 50, Vol. 8—Bent's Gulls and Terns. I want Auks, Bird Books and Magazines. Herbert A. Smith, 431 N. Van Buren Ave., Kirkwood, Mo.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—A collection of some ten thousand stamps, on separate sheets for each country. Want bird skins for all or part. Gus. Langelier, Cape Rouge, Que., Canada.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Fine personally collected sets of 332-339-343 and a few others. Will sell cheap or exchange for desirable stamps. George D. French, Ivoryton, Conn.

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—Snapping Turtle 1-41; Wood Tortoise 1-8; sets of Painted Turtles in June. German Bausch Terlux 10 point Prism Binoculars. James O. Johnson, Southington, Conn.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—National Geographic Magazine, 1915 to '22, for Bird Lore and other magazines; also will take sets. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Ill.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No. 7

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1923.

WHOLE No. 435

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## AGAIN LATE

We regret our inability to get the July "Oologist" out on time. However, our illness referred to in the June issue developed an aggravated case of inflammatory rheumatism, which progressed until we were entirely and absolutely helpless, and we wound up by spending four weeks at the famous Mayo Brothers Clinic, at Rochester, Minnesota, and some of the surrounding hospitals. We are now pleased to say that at this writing we are again back in the office in Lacon, and able to do about one-half day's work out of each day.—R. M. Barnes.

## SPHENISCUS DEMERSUS

The Jack-ass Penguin of South Africa is an interesting representative of the Penguin Family and worthy of a little special mention.

On November tenth, 1921, the writer obtained permission to visit Dassen Island off the west coast of Cape Colony, and four hours only by steamer from Capetown.

The permission to land on the island is just unusual enough to create a feeling of obligation to the South African Government, along with the pleasure in the anticipation of seeing these weird creatures at close range.

One can only land there in the government boat or one of the little supply steamers run by the Guano Island Company, making the regular trip to provision the few men whose duties are associated with the Government Light House or with the company that has the guano and the penguin egg concessions.

It was a stormy trip both going and returning, and one to be long remembered for its discomforts. Lack of protection and the absence of any kind of accommodation on the boat or on the island were discounted from the beginning, however, as it was made provisional when the permit was granted, that nothing but the passage was included. As the transportation was gratis and the weather beyond the power of even a bird-lover to change, there were no complaints, and no disposition for the writer to be anything but happy.

Fortunately there were two other bird men in the party, and the three of us did not want anything beyond what was amply provided for by ourselves in advance. The trip was in all respects a success, from 6 a. m. till night, when we left the boat with our loot and accumulated data on the Dassen Island bird life.

As we sighted the island, and skirted along the shore before we came to the landing place, we could see that the penguins literally covered the strand everywhere. No wonder that the passengers on the occasional passing boats are struck with surprise at the unusual sight, and relate stories that are often classed with the proverbial fisherman's yarn. It was soon evident, however, that the tales are not exaggerated.

During the season of several weeks in 1921, when the Government concession permitted the Guano Island Company to take the penguin eggs, just under a million fresh eggs had been gathered and sold on the market all over the Union of South Africa.

Penguin eggs are considered more or less of a delicacy, probably because of the fact that they are something out of the ordinary, and the opportunity of indulging in the unusual diet a short period only. The white does not harden with boiling, but remains in jelly form. Mixed with the mellow yolk, however, it makes a stiff sort of paste. The pleasure of eating a penguin egg is increased by the surprise that it is not strong, or fishy, as one would naturally expect it to be.

The enjoyment of eating them is not due to an acquired taste. One either likes them and brags about it, or he doesn't like them at all, and that is the end of it. One cannot become a slave to the habit. Nature and transportation take care of that. They are, as a matter of fact, mostly used in cooking. Being larger than hens' eggs, and cheaper, if anything, the idea of economy easily creates a prejudice in the favor of the penguin product that would not otherwise be noticed.

When we came to anchor off the landing place the shore seemed to be completely covered for a mile both





Blue Penguins on Shores of Dassen Island, South Africa.  
—By L. L. Redick.

to the north and south, in the numbers shown in the illustration. On the open places, also, away from the shore, they were holding their solemn communistic concourse.

Everywhere above the line of high tide, the nesting places were to be seen. In some of the depressions, where an old bird was nesting, one or two almost fully fledged young were discovered. In others, incubation was still in progress,—mostly two eggs, but often only one. Some eggs were fresh, others ready for the little penguin to emerge from the shell.

The nests are burrows wherever these can be found or made. Rarely deep, but preferably just deep enough so that the stout weapon of the parent penguin can fairly command the entrance. In the sand, however, it is always possible to make a burrow, and then any kind of a depression will serve the purpose, no opportunity being lost to find a spot protected by the stubby vegetation or a rock. In a great many cases, however, no kind of protection whatever is possible.

Like the Little Penguin, described briefly in a previous number of THE OOLOGIST, the sitting bird will not flush. The best way to see whether she has young under her, or dirty, well-incubated eggs, or a white fresh one is to protect your hand with your cap, and grab her around the neck, and yank her off the nest. A fling of a few feet will not hurt her physically, and before she returns, you have the information you want as to the advanced state of her present marital accomplishments.

The first egg is laid two weeks or so before the second, so that one egg is generally pretty well advanced in incubation before the second one is laid. A set, however, properly consists of two eggs, and two fluffy young penguins with the militant parent

protector are the usual thing, and always an interesting sight.

The mother bird, if the burrow is short, comes to the opening of her lair, when intrusion threatens, growling, and snapping; pushes her overcurious young ones back with her flippers; lays her head and neck close to the ground, turns her head over first with one eye straight to the zenith, then reverses the action in a perfectly inane jack-ass fashion. Nothing can induce her to stand up, as nothing can induce those walking about on the strand to get down and grovel or crawl.

The Guano Island Company also have the concession for the guano made by the Dykers,—cormorants,—on the island. These are there also in limitless numbers, on another part of the island, and would well repay the photographing naturalist for a visit to this interesting place, if never a penguin were to be seen.

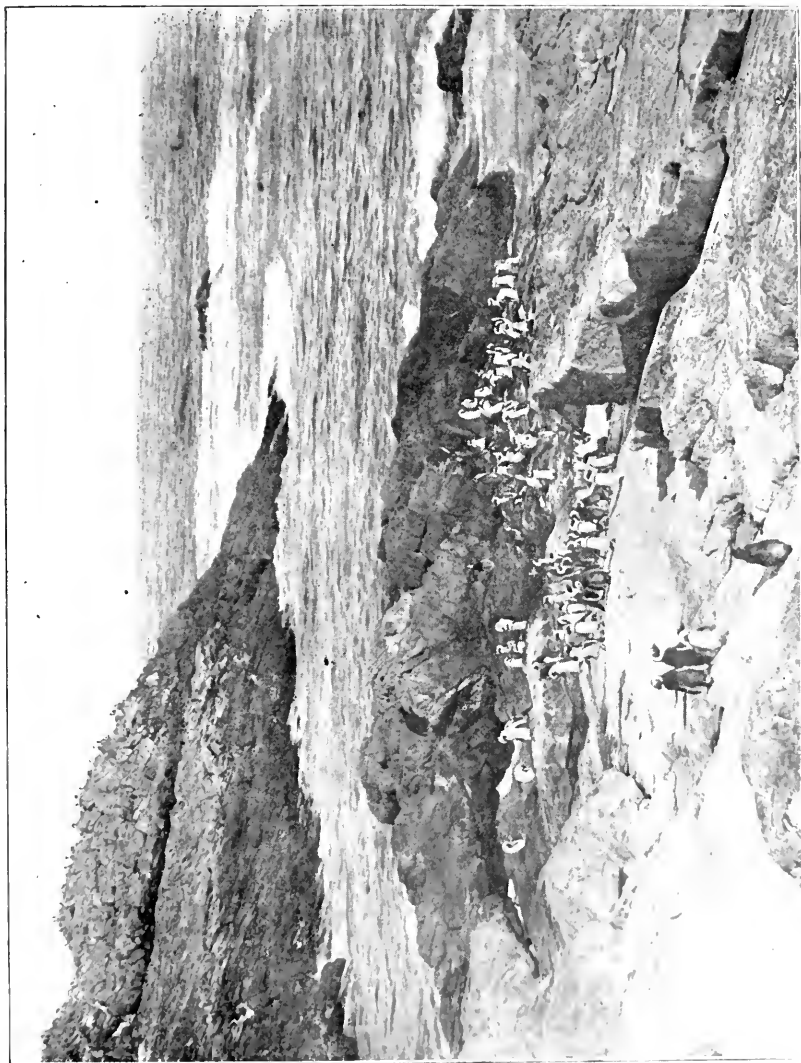
The penguin is a funny bird  
 Though it is feather and not furred  
 It cannot fly but walks on earth  
 With motions weird that merit mirth.  
 Though it has feathers and not scales  
 It beats the fish that swims or sails.  
 Its back is dark; its breast is white;  
 When on the ground it stands upright;

It stands around with penguin pals,  
 Or with the feathered beaux and gals,  
 In such a way, by dint of dress,  
 And posture, that I must confess,  
 It looks like man in evening clothes,  
 From stem to stern, from head to toes,

Although the while the weirdest  
 wail

Comes from our social penguin hale.  
 May this the explanation be?—  
 Is not a college penguin he,  
 Engaged in singing college glee?

KENNETH T. REDICK.



Blue Penguins on Southwest Point of the Island of St. Croix, South Africa.  
—By L. L. Redick.

## NOT MUCH ARCHITECTURE HERE

July 1st, we saw a female Indigo bird crouched on a little mass of grass, four feet up in some cane brakes, about twelve yards from the water's edge, along a large creek bottom. She was covering three fresh eggs in what proved to be a flimsy, shallow, almost transparent nest. Had the parent not been at home, I might have questioned the genuineness of the nest which bore no evidence of having been attached to or woven about the stalks which supported it. As the species had eggs in May, it might be safe to presume misfortune had befallen this particular individual. The urgency for some receptacle for the eggs might have prevented the time and pains usually devoted to nest building. A more substantial home may be built between now and the date of hatching. I shall endeavor to visit the spot again and ascertain if the nest is still slovenly.

GERALD ALAN ABBOTT,  
Glasgow, Ky.

## RARE WARBLER NESTS

It may be of interest to state that four sets of five eggs each with the nests, of the Townsends Warbler have been taken this June, by J. H. Bowles, of Tacoma, and F. R. Decker of Kiona, Wash., also three nests of young were examined, and the bird itself closely studied, its habits, etc. This took place in Chelan County, and where the Townsend Warbler was found breeding, no other tree Warbler was found.

F. R. Decker, Kiona, Wash.

## "HOW LONG WILL THEY LAST"

Mr. Barnes, you and I are "Old Timers," coming on the oological field in the early 80's of the last century. We have watched things come and go, and have some knowledge of the causes of bird destruction; hence we have certain facts and proofs of such matters.

Come here and sit down and let us ponder a subject while we watch



Blue Penguins. Parent and Young. South Africa.—By L. L. Redick.

this weird and ghostly, imaginary flight of 72,628,296 Chimney Swifts, the phantom shadows of a long line of prodgeny of a certain flock of 100 ancestors cruelly slaughtered, just a little over twenty years ago, for the pleasure of destructive instincts within some human hearts.

First, let us select a little introduction to the subject, and for this I find a fitting thought in the title quoted above ("How Long Will They Last"), which no doubt, you gave to the nine line item on page 155 of the November, 1922 OOLOGIST, in anticipation, perhaps, of possible destruction wrought flocks of Valley Quail by three shot guns carried by the members of a "business trip" party to Lower California, Mexico.

I saw the item, and reading between the lines, caught the meaning of your thoughts in the title you chose. But as nothing was said as to the numbers of birds falling foul of those three shot guns, we are left to speculate: If the guns were in the hands of poor marksmen, we glory in their inability to kill; but if in the hands of expert shots, as we fear was the case, we may well shudder at the possible destruction wrought those Lower California Quail. Every pair of Valley Quail killed by those guns, curtailed or checked future reproduction in an appalling measure!

Let us suppose that the hunters were "gentlemanly" sportsmen, and only killed enough birds to prevent ten to twenty broods that year. Just take a pencil and paper and calculate the possibilities of future prodgeny of these ten to twenty pairs, had they been left to reproduce their kind, allowing only one-half the eggs to hatch and come to maturity; and for the next ten years, deduct about twenty-five per cent for natural loss

to the increasing broods, each year, and see what enormous numbers have been swept away by three shot guns in the space of a few short hours of self satisfaction!

Any oologist would have been ashamed to have gone among those Valley Quail, in the breeding season, and carried away ten sets of eggs, although such robbery would not have checked reproduction in the least; for each pair of birds, thus robbed, would have set about to renewed housekeeping duties.

And now we will pass from the introduction to another feature of this subject, but before progressing beyond the borders of that Lower California prairie, where three gunners found it easy to flush "from one to fifty Valley Quail every three or four minutes," we will erect a substantial sign post, dedicated to the item referred to on page 155 of the November OOLOGIST, to stand for twenty years, and to bear, upon its four sides, that all who kill may be warned, this legend:

"IN THE LIFE OF THE BIRD, DOES  
ALL REPRODUCTION DEPEND"

and

"IN THE ABSOLUTE DEATH OF  
THE BIRD, ALL IS OVER FOR  
ALL TIME TO COME"

Robbery of a nest of eggs may be committed, but without destroying the means of reproduction, or checking reproduction itself. This is a simple statement which will permit of no contrary argument! It is a law of Nature, absolute in its function and unalterably stolid and unrelenting in its workings today as when it was first chronicled for Man's benefit, nearly 3,500 years ago. Note the following:

Deuteronomy, XXII Chapter, sixth and seventh verses:

6, "If a bird's nest chance to be in the way in any tree, or on the ground, whether they be young ones or eggs, and the dam sitting upon the young or upon the eggs, thou shalt not take the dam with the young (or eggs)."

7, "But thou shalt in anywise let the dam go, and take the young (or eggs) to thee; that it may be well with thee, and that thou may prolong thy days."

Man was given "Dominion over the fowls of the air" for his benefit, but the laws of Nature were set in motion first, the Scriptural passage, above, being merely a citation of that law, which, in itself, is a statement or declaration of the unalterable law of reproduction.

The foregoing lines have been assembled because of the possible destruction of certain flocks of Lower California quail at the present time; but now let us consider the phantom shadows of the millions of Chimney Swifts, of which we are thinking, and can see the long, imaginary line passing over and beyond the horizon!

I have this clipping from the "Society Column" of the Richmond, Va., "Dispatch" of May 21st, 1902:

"The Waynesboro Hunt Club had a novel shooting match on Monday evening of this week. The club has been holding shooting matches for several weeks, using the ordinary pigeons for targets.

"On Sunday evening the observant captain of the Waynesboro Club, Captain William McCray, who belongs to our Best Society (God save the Captain)\* and who is ever on the alert to take advantage of any new scheme in the sporting line, noticed about two bushels of chimney swallows taking refuge in a neighbors' chimney, whereupon he summoned James Craig, and together they concocted a plan by which to take captive the unsuspecting denizens of the air. By means of a large sack spread over the top of the chimney, and the application of dense smoke at the bottom, about 400 swallows were incarcerated.

"The originators of the plan were

so jubilant over their catch that they communicated the news to several members of the Staunton Gun Club, whom they invited, and Mr. William McDaniel, S. P. Davis and John Foxhall joined them Monday afternoon in a shooting match. The birds were liberated from a trap one at a time, and the sportsmen (?)\* declared they have never before undergone such a test of marksmanship as they were put to by the frightened swallows.

"Quite a number of spectators were present, including a number of ladies(?)\* and neither the attraction of the polo game, going on at the time, nor the impending storm, could drive them from the scene of excitement (Sort of intoxicating degeneracy).\*

"The match lasted several hours, and William McDaniel of Staunton, took the lead, killing thirteen out of twenty-four birds, followed by Dr. T. S. Richardson, who killed twelve out of twenty-four.

"A notable feature of the case is that the swallows that were so fortunate as to escape made direct for the shelter of the chimney from which they had been captured."

(The correspondent does not say that this brutal practice was again repeated, but no doubt, if the "Best Society" and influential citizens of Waynesboro so willed it to please the ladies, etc., there was another spasm of degenerate sport thrust upon civilization!)\*

\*Parenthetic marks and remarks mine.

Now, My dear Magoon, you and I have some Chimney Swifts' eggs in our collections; but in collecting these, we observed the law of reproduction cited in the Scriptural passage, previously noted. The Chimney Swift rears but one brood a year, and all the birds we robbed, did this immediately after being deprived of their first eggs which were secured for science.

I find, in my collection, ten sets, totaling forty-two eggs of this bird, the collection of which covers a period of forty years; and during that

time no birds were killed, nor was reproduction checked one iota!

I dare say that all the egg collections in the world contain less than 5,000 eggs of the Chimney Swift, possibly less than half that number; but get the lesson, now, from the slaughter of possibly 100 of these Waynesboro, Virginia, Chimney Swifts, on May 21st, 1902, and grant me the additional space in THE OOLOGIST to show the appalling figures for all who read may know what happens when any number of birds are killed:

- 1902, Had these 100 swifts been spared, they would have raised three young to the pair (the Chimney Swift lays four or five eggs), 150 offspring totaling with the old birds, 250 individuals. Allowing 25 per cent for natural loss by the next breeding season,
- 1903 would see 188 birds return, or 94 pairs to bring out 282 young, totaling with the old birds, 470 all told. Continuing the 25 per cent loss to old and young, would bring to
- 1904, 353 birds, 176 pairs to raise 529 birds, which with the old ones would total 881 individuals to lose 25 per cent of numbers in twelve months would bring to
- 1905, 661 birds or 330 pairs, to raise 990 young, or a grand total of 1715 to lose 25 per cent of numbers and bring in
- 1906, 1313 birds, 656 pairs for rearing, if left to reproduce, 1968 young, totaling with the old birds, 3281 individuals to lose 25 per cent by their next return would find in
- 1907, 2461 birds or 1230 pairs rearing 3690 young. Both old and young to lose the regulation 25 per cent of numbers on their return in
- 1908, 4,514 birds, or 2,228 pairs, raising 6,684 nestlings, all to lose 25 per cent of numbers would leave for
- 1909, 8,399 birds, pairing at 4,194, and rearing 12,582 young. All to lose the 25 per cent of numbers on their return in
- 1910, 15,520 birds, 7,760 pairs, with at the end of the season, 23,280 young, totaling with the old ones, 38,800 birds, all to lose the 25 percentage of numbers, would bring North in
- 1911, 29,100 birds, 14,550 pairs with broods, at the end of season, numbering 43,650 nestlings, which with the old birds losing 25 per cent of numbers would find in
- 1912, 54,413 birds or 27,206 pairs to nest in the chimneys and bring out 81,618 young, all with the old ones to lose 25 per cent of flock, would leave for
- 1913, 102,024 birds, 51,012 pairs, feeding upon injurious insects infesting Virginia, and bringing out broods numbering 153,036 young birds to be fed upon the same pests until all, with the old, leave for the South in September. After deducting 25 per cent of their numbers during this sojourn, they return to Virginia in
- 1914, 191,295 strong to wage war upon the billions of mosquitoes and other pests, until the 95,647 pairs rear their 286,941 young for aiding Virginians in waging war upon crop pests. After which, if they escape from such maudlins as posed in "best society" item in the "Dispatch", they will lose 25 per cent of their numbers and return in
- 1915, a flock of 358,687 birds pairing at 179,343, and eventually rearing 581,029 young; all together with the old ones to lose 25 per cent of numbers before returning in
- 1916, 672,587 birds, or 336,293 pairs, rearing 998,879 offspring, with the stated loss for both young and old, of 25 per cent, in
- 1917, 1,253,601 birds in 626,880 pairs would crowd the chimneys of "Ole Virginia" for rearing 1,880,400 young; and woe unto the mosquitoes of the Great Dismal Swamp, if this could happen and the hordes of Chimney Swallows, thus denied existence, be turned loose in that quarter, in the next year,

- 1918, 2,350,501 birds or 1,175,250 pairs would have lacked chimneys in the whole state of Virginia for constructing nests for the 3,525,750 nestlings.
- 1919, 4,407,189 birds, 2,205,594 pairs would have been hunting nesting quarters for rearing 6,610,782 young, and being successful and allowing the regulation 25 per cent for loss would have found in
- 1920, 8,263,494 birds pairing at 4,131,747, and rearing 12,395,241 offspring, which with the same ratio of loss as carried through each year's calculations, in
- 1921, 15,494,052 birds, representing 7,847,026 pairs would return for rearing 23,241,045 young; all with the old ones to lose 25 per cent of numbers would see in
- 1922, 29,051,319 birds, or 14,525,659 pairs, raising 43,576,977 young birds, which added to the old ones, would total the enormous number of 72,628,295 birds to cleanse the air of thousands of times their numbers in insect pests, by the close of 1922!

There are no imaginary or fancy figures in this calculation, the whole being based upon proper mathematics, allowing less than 60 per cent of the eggs to hatch and a further cut of 25 per cent of natural loss each year, without interference from violent or unnatural causes.

But Chimney Swifts are no more than holding their own, in the balance of Nature, which means that one individual dies for every one that the old birds hatch. What is the cause of this loss?

Oologists take no appreciative number of eggs, and this, too, without killing the birds! The number taken by the ornithologist and skin collector is insignificant compared with the millions hatched every year!

In some manner one Swift loses its Life as another is being born. If that Life were prolonged, the numbers of

Chimney Swifts would increase!

Where does the fault lie?

For a bird that lives entirely upon winged insects which come to destroy our trees, grass and crops, 72,628,296 birds is a mighty army of defence to be denied existence merely for the fun of deciding who is the champion shot of a Gun Club!

Let us go to Waynesboro, Virginia, and climbing to the top of that ensnaring chimney, write upon its four sides, in ghastly letters, that the town's "best society" may understand, this legend:

"In the absolute death of 100 Chimney Swifts, in 1902, the Fair State of Virginia denied existence to a progeny army of 72,628,296 insect destroyers of far more value to the Commonwealth than the heads of the men who planned to stay the progress of Natural Reproduction for a few hours of heartless sport!"

J. Warren Jacobs.

Waynesburg, Pa., Dec. 20, 1922.

#### CAN SNAKES CHARM BIRDS?

There is a popular opinion that serpents possess the ability of charming and thus capturing their prey, to what extent they have this, has never been determined, and it is still an open question.

For more than a full half century has the writer tried to determine the question for his own personal satisfaction. In all that time he has diligently kept his eyes open for a practical example of this power, but has never but once, seen it manifested. This case was so convincing that a record of it is worthy of a place in bird lore.

The summer months were in full swing—and the bird world was busy nesting. In a wide Mississippi bottom, lay a long stretch of wild pasture land, on this, the observer herded a drove of dairy cows, he had lit-



tle to do but round up the cows, occasionally and keep them from straying. This gave him plenty of time, as he rode from point to point, to study nature in all its wild features, and as a multitude of birds made this meadow their homes there were some chances for observation of what they were doing. There chanced to come under his eye a pair of meadow birds, kind not determined, nesting in a bunch of Blue Stem grass. The nest was lightly perched about one yard above ground, in the slender cones of dead grass, containing a clutch of four eggs. Marking the location and surroundings, a return visit was made later, and an astounding incident occurred.

Now, poised slenderly on, and over the nest, was suspended the body of a long slender Blue Racer Snake. The mother bird was circling about the same, several yards distant, uttering pitifully cries of distress. The male bird did not enter into the scene at all, only to add his notes of distress, as he flew from point to point, hardly in earshot distance. Riding to within a few yards of what seemed to be a coming tragedy at the nest, close observations were taken of what ensued.

The serpent paid no attention to the eggs in the nest but centered his glittering eyes on the circling bird, her cries becoming louder and more plaintive as she circled nearer and nearer the snake's head. The latter lay perfectly quiet, not daring from his precarious perch to strike. His eyes glittered like two shining diamonds, and his forked tongue shot out repeatedly as he watched and waited. Nearer and nearer drew the highly excited bird, and nearer and nearer the rider rode his mount—neither bird or serpent paid the least note of his near presence.

The scene was highly exciting to all concerned, and its conclusion held a most fascinating interest. The bird seemed to have lost all power of self control and circled at last, with only inches twixt her and her doom. At last, perching on a slender stem, almost in reach of the serpent's tongue, her wings hovering swiftly, her cries were still pitiful, she seemed to offer herself a willing sacrifice to the waiting enemy. The end seemed near, and to stop the tragedy the black snake—whip in the hand of the observer, swished strong to the air, come down on the body of the intruder, instantly the scene ended. The bird flew away, and the snake dropped to the ground and disappeared in the carpet of dead grass below. Later observations developed the fact that neither bird or snake ever returned, as the nest was forsaken by both, whilst eggs and nest both went to the discard.

Not since that day has ever come a chance to observe a further demonstration of the power of the "Snake to charm Birds."

W. H. H. Barker.

Harvey, Iowa.

## THE BIRDS THAT COME AND GO

Many students of bird life are well aware of the profound changes in faunal distribution that takes place from time to time, with no apparent reason or reasons. Prominent among these changes are the incursions of the Mocking Bird into New England, where,—the more curiously,—it is not a summer habitat but a resident.

As a boy I used to wade across a narrow inlet to a small island near my Wisconsin home,—and examine with great curiosity, the nests of the Bronzed Grackle that were smuggled

into grapevine tangles, at head-height, beside the trunks of trees. And, just once, did my juvenile eyes fairly bulge out as I climbed an ancient white oak, to a hollow, in which Grackles appeared to be nervously interested, to find there a succession of no less than four nests, one a'top another. Of re-incursions that are delighting my soul, these days, that of the Lapland Longspur is quite the most inspiring. For three years, and more, they have been totally absent.

But,—a month, and more ago I heard just one bird, high in air, in a town fifteen miles from my home. And, on Christmas Day, as a friend was driving me home from the same town, in his sedan, we ran into a flock of two hundred. Fine enough, that,—for one Christmas Day!

P. B. Peabody.

#### KILLDEER IN NEW JERSEY

At Richfield, N. J., one of the most regular breeders is the Killdeer. In 1920 a family of four were reared in the truck garden opposite my home, they being first observed on September 1st when the parents and young were seen flying low over and running about on the new plowed fields. In 1921 a family of three were reared and remained about the farm until the middle of October. I searched diligently for this nest but was defeated in my endeavors and when the young appeared knew they must have been hatched there. In the spring of 1922, along a hedgerow about two hundred feet from a highly traveled highway, a nest was found with five eggs, one of which had just emerged from the shell. This is the largest set I have ever found. These five youngsters were successfully reared here and remained until October 1st when they disappeared. I be-

lieve the same parents nested here for the three years as the foot-prints of one of the adults in each year bore an abnormally shaped mid toe on the right foot.

Louis S. Kohler.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,  
ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF  
CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,  
of The Oologist, published monthly  
at Albion, N. Y., for April 1, 1923.  
STATE OF ILLINOIS,

County of Marshall—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. Magoon Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of The Oologist, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations.

Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor, and Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Illinois. Not a corporation. No stock has ever been issued. The Oologist is owned exclusively by R. Magoon Barnes.

There are no bond holders, mortgagers or other security holder, none have ever been issued.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of June, 1923.

(Seal)

FAY BALL.

My commission expires Feb. 16 1927.



## THE OOLOGIST

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK; good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

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## 1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS—NESTS—EGGS  
TAXIDERMRY

VOL. XL. No. 8.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG. , 1923.

WHOLE NO. 486



# THE OOLOGIST

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 15 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

**We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. 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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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.8

ALBION, N. Y., AUG.. 1923.

WHOLE No. 436

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

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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.

## AGAIN LATE

With this issue we are able to catch up again with the regular publication scale of "The Oologist," which was interrupted by our siege of ill health. It is to be hoped that we will be able to keep up with this schedule, but of course that depends largely on the physical condition of the editor, which even yet is not of the best.—R. M. B.

## FURTHER NOTES ON THE NESTING OF THE GREAT GRAY OWL

Since writing my experiences with the Great Gray Owl in 1913, which appeared in January 15, 1915, number of THE OOLOGIST, I have seen little printed concerning this bird. Since that time I have found five nests of the owl and perhaps an account of them may be of interest.

In 1914, I made a very diligent search for a nest of the Great Gray Owl, exploring every likely piece of timber for several miles around Belvedere, but without success. I saw a couple of birds but was unable to find a nest and almost came to the conclusion that their nesting here in 1913 had been accidental and might not occur again. I think one reason for my failure was the fact that a useless homesteader had located in my best hunting ground and amused himself by killing every owl and hawk he could and tacking them to the side of his shack.

Next year I resumed the search, the homesteader had departed and prospects looked better as on a tramp through the woods on March 15th I saw three Great Grays. The first was sitting on a tree in a small Muskey, and a mile or so farther on I saw two more sitting in poplars, in an open field. The Great Gray Owl is not at all a wary bird and always permits a close approach. All that saves him from extermination in the settled districts is the fact that he is seldom seen away from the heavy timber which is his home.

In this case as I was looking through my glass at one of the birds about four hundred yards away it started to fly toward me. It came sailing along about two feet from the ground and finally lit on a fence post in front of me which I found afterwards to be just eleven paces dis-

tant. It stayed there, staring at me for about a minute and then flew to a small dead snag, and from there to the ground and then to a small stump about two feet high. The other perched in the top of a poplar about fifty yards away and both remained there as I walked on home.

On the 19th while passing through a heavy piece of poplar timber I found five old hawks' nests, none of them appeared to be occupied but on my return that way just before dark, I happened to pass close to one of them and saw a Great Gray Owl fly towards it and light on a limb beside it. I then saw that there was another Owl sitting in the nest. They were evidently about to start house-keeping and made a deep booming sound and the one on the limb a kind of a whistle. After about a minute the one on the nest flew away and its mate followed. I was elated and certain I had at last found another nest of the Great Gray Owl, but as will be seen later I was mistaken as regards that particular nest. The Owls had not yet decided which nest they would use. They were merely househunting.

On April 9th, I found a Great Gray Owl sitting on a nest about two miles away from where I had seen the pair on March 19th. The nest had been occupied the previous year by a broad-winged Hawk. It was in open Poplar woods about thirty feet up in the upright forks of a Balsam Poplar and contained three eggs. There was no nesting material added by the Owls except a few feathers from the breast of the sitting bird.

Passing on to the nest I had seen the Owls at on March 19th I found it unoccupied but found a Great Gray Owl sitting on another of the five old hawk's nests I had discovered that day about three hundred yards from where I had seen the Owls first. I



afterwards took a nice set of Goshawks from one of these nests so that afternoon tramp was well rewarded. April 11th I returned and took a set of two Great Gray Owl's eggs. The bird remained in the vicinity while I was climbing the tree and packing the eggs, and then returned to the nest and resumed setting.

The only note uttered was a whistle oo-ich of the Great Horned Owl. The nest was in an aspen poplar, about forty-five feet up. There was no lining material but a few feathers from the breast of the sitting bird.

On April 22nd I discovered a Great Gray Owl sitting on a nest from which I had taken a set of Goshawks in 1913 and a set of Great Horned Owls from in 1914. The bird would not leave the nest until I rapped the tree repeatedly and remained in the vicinity while I climbed the tree and took a set of three eggs. It hooted twice a deep booming whoo-oo altogether different to the Horned Owl. When I left it returned and resumed setting. This nest also was in heavy poplar woods in an aspen poplar. It was about fifty feet up and no nesting material had been added but a few feathers as usual.

On May 15th I took another set of two eggs, from a small nest of sticks which had been used by a Broadwing the year previous and in this case also no nesting material but a few feathers had been added by the Owls. The nest was about forty feet up in an aspen poplar.

This finished my nesting experiences with the Great Gray Owl, until 1922. In 1916-1917 and 18 I was in the Peace River Country, and although old Hawks' nest were very numerous in some localities, and I saw a few Great Gray Owls I found no nests occupied except in the case

of a few Red-tailed Hawks, and one Goshawk. No doubt this was due to the scarcity of rabbits. In a year of rabbit abundance there would be an influx of birds of prey and many of these nests would be occupied.

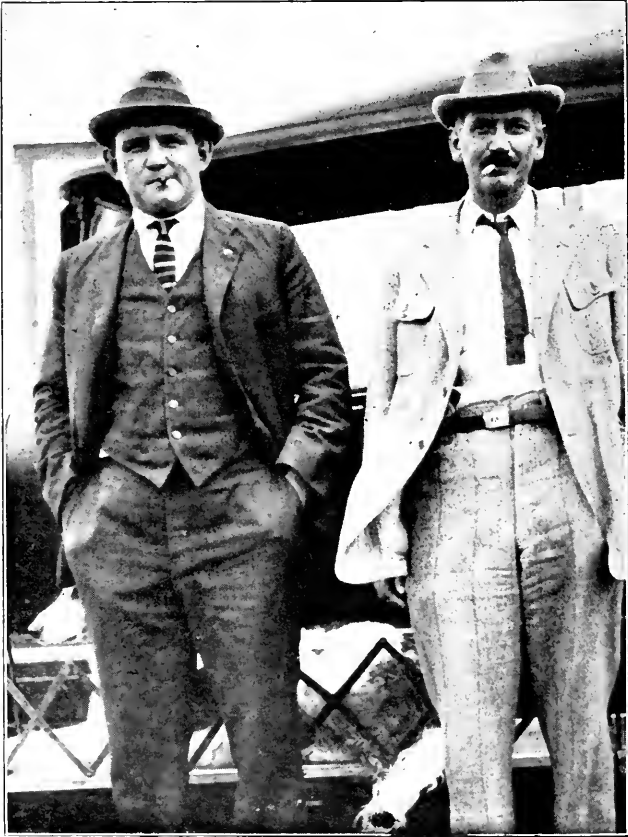
On April 20th, 1922, I climbed to a Great Gray Owl's nest near where I took the last one in 1915. It contained two eggs which I left. One Owl was sitting and I saw the other close by. On April 30th, I returned and took a set of three eggs. The nest was about forty feet up in the crotch of a Balsam Poplar and unlike the other nests had been newly built up with twigs, by the Owls.

It was lined with back strips and a few feathers and well cupped. The bird remained in the vicinity and its mate could be heard at a distance in the timber. A rather musical whistle was uttered frequently like oo-ih, sometimes very softly, and at others quite loudly. They also hooted several times, a deep booming Who-oo-oo-oo.

In Fisher's "Hawks and Owls of the United States," it is stated "The note of the owl is said to be a tremulous vibrating sound somewhat resembling that of the Screech Owl." I must plead ignorance to the note of the Screech Owl, but I have observed many Great Gray Owls both in the breeding season and out of it and have never heard this "tremulous vibrating whistle."

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvedere, Alberta, Canada





Richard C. Harlow (left) and A. D. Henderson (right)  
as they appeared at Belvidere, Canada, in the spring of 1923

## MY FIRST EGG COLLECTING

I have been a subscriber to THE OOLOGIST for several years and have enjoyed reading the stories, by the various Ornithologists and Oologists over the Country, about their experience collecting eggs and specimens.

I have never caught the egg collecting craze, but have amassed a nice collection of mounted birds which is now in the State Museum at Charleston, West Virginia.

Most of my collecting was done several years ago, as I have changed my occupation and my present one does not permit me to spend as much time as I would like to at my hobby.

As I have stated above I have never had the "Egg Craze," but will tell of a couple of experiences I have had collecting Hawk eggs, soon after I first began collecting.

One day in May 1913, my brother and I thought that we would go to the creek, about a mile away from home, to snare "White Suckers" as a few days before we had seen several nice schools in this Stream, and arriving at the creek we found that the wind was blowing, and that the water was rough for good fishing, so we gave up the idea of fishing and decided that we would hunt for Crow's nests in a strip of wooded land that lay close by the creek.

In this woods the crows nested every year and we were desiring a young crow for a pet. While strolling through the woods, we saw several nests, but all were uninhabited. Finally we came to a Pine Oak tree, which had what looked like an old squirrel nest in the forks about thirty feet from the ground, on getting to the tree a Hawk flew from the nest.

My brother climbed the tree and found the nest contained two eggs,

but having no way to get them down and not knowing what kind of Hawk eggs they were, we left them in the nest and returned home. When we got home we took a couple of small hen's eggs and water color paint and colored the hens eggs as near like the hawk eggs as possible.

Next we prepared to go back to the nest, taking a small bucket filled with cotton to carry the eggs, a small steel trap and a shotgun. On arriving at the nest the old bird on, who promptly flew, we took a couple of shots at her but missed.

After climbing the tree again we took out the hawk's eggs and put in the camouflaged hen's eggs, and set the steel trap in the nest and tied the chain to a limb. As it was getting late we did not visit the nest again that day.

The next morning my brother returned to the nest and found the old Hawk caught in the trap, which we identified as a female Broad Wing which I mounted and is now in my collection.

A few days after this we were in this same woods and found a large nest in a white pine which proved to be a Sharp Shinned Hawk nest, containing a set of fine eggs, like hen's eggs, in this instance being two large eggs. We took plaster paris and made a set of artificial eggs coloring them with water colors as near as possible like the real ones.

We took out the hawk eggs and put the artificial ones and set a small steel trap as in the first instance.

The old bird was not so easily caught as the first one, as she managed to push the trap out of the nest several times, but finally got caught by the neck. This hawk is also mounted and is now in my collection.

This was some of my very first collecting and as I had never seen a

set of eggs properly prepared, I spoiled both of these sets. I took a pen knife and drilled a ragged hole in each one large enough to take out a heavily incubated embryo.

These sets are spoiled so far as Commercial Value is concerned, but I will keep them as a memento of my first egg collecting.

Ligon Price,

Marlinton, West Virginia.

Pocahontas County.

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### BRIEF NOTES ON THE BLUE-GREY GNATCATCHER

Undoubtedly my desire to further my studies of the Blue-grey Gnatcatcher, originated in an adventure I had some years ago. At this time I was specializing in Bird photography. The back-waters or "houys" of the river, with their numerous Islands, of stunted trees and sedge grass, afforded a veritable paradise to the Ornithologist.

The river was high, at this particular time, and covered the Islands to a depth of about four feet. I was attempting to obtain a series of pictures of the Red-start, when I by chance, discovered the Gnatcatcher's nest. This was a rare treat for me and I determined to obtain the set of eggs, which I supposed were in it. The nest was located far out on a willow limb. I climbed as far out as I dared and was cutting the limb, intending to secure the set by this method.

I fear there was a smile of fond anticipation on my face as I contemplated the beautiful set that would eventually grace my cabinet, when a "crack" and ere I were aware of it, I was under water! Undaunted, however, I made for the nest, peacefully floating on the water,

only to find four youngsters blinking surprised like in it.

Through later years I have become intimately acquainted with this species. My records of migration show that this bird returns on the 27th of April, as an average. This dainty twitter can be heard frequently as they search diligently among the new leaves of birch and willow for unfortunate insects. I find that the pair hunt together and I am inclined to believe they spend a part of their honeymoon in selecting a nesting sight.

About a week after their arrival, they start nest building. Willows are invariably chosen as the tree in which to place their charming nest. The "cotton" from the willow catkins are obtained first, and are used in this locality for the greater part of the nest. These birds are diligent workers and the house is soon painted and lined with spider webs. But the most renowned artists of the world cannot camouflage quite like this bird. The bits of lichens used in "painting" the nest, continue to retain their color, due to the moist situation. The nest is the best imitation of a knot that I have ever seen.

The pretty little eggs are a treat to both oologist and photographer. But the nests are indeed difficult to find, and it takes a pretty good pair of eyes to locate them, unless they are found during the period the nests are in construction. Then one may easily find two dozen nests in a day. Undoubtedly, most amateur oologists possess one or more sets of this species, acquired through exchange, but by far the greater pleasure is lost, unless the set recalls scenes of stagnant water; water moccasins dosing on rotten logs; turtles sunning themselves; frogs croaking hoarsely; dragon flies darting hither and

thither; and the inevitable ringing notes of the prothonatory warbler, which one generally finds in these localities.

In spite of much reclaimed bottom land, the old Mississippi still offers a happy hunting ground for the oologist.

Theodore R. Greer,  
Aledo, Illinois.

#### A FEW BIRD PROBLEMS.

A cold, late spring caused our birds much trouble. The Robin appeared March 12th and Bluebirds soon after. Song-sparrow and Meadow Larks came about March 28th. At this time it was very cold, the ground frozen hard and some fine snow.

On April 11th it snowed, and on the 13th a Robin was discovered building a nest in a locust tree close by the house.

They began by carrying four white hen's feathers, six inches long, and were trying to twine them together into a nest, but they were stiff and would not lay in right. After much trying, they cast them out spitefully and they fluttered to the ground.

The next day was Sunday, cold and windy and the Robins rested from their labors; but on the 15th, the very next morning they began with those same feathers again, and repeated the attempts and then throwing them out; trying some twigs and rootlets also, they at last succeeded in keeping them in the crotch of the tree.

We concluded that it was a very hard task for a Robin to build without mud, and that the lack of it was a serious matter. The rain they needed did not come until on the 20th, then the nest was completed.

On April 25th I visited a swamp, where I had been told birds came

early. It was sunny, with a bleak wind, and we suffered with the cold. Trees were bare and leafless, herbage scarcely started, and nothing very inviting for early comers. We saw a few male Redwinged Blackbirds, Meadow Larks, Robins, a pair of wild Duck and one lone Bluebird. By the 28th the Robins seemed to have begun in a serious way to occupy their home, and we thought that there must be blue eggs up there. Anyway there was a crow that came early at 5:30 in the morning to investigate. The Robins had just passed by into the garden, when through my bed-room window I saw the thief descend, and perch near the nest. My appearance at the window and the lifting of the white curtains seemed to frighten him, and as he flew away another crow joined him. And the Robin life went on happily again.

Other birds arrived, the Purple Finches, Gold Finches, Chipping Sparrows, Baltimore Orioles, Red-eyed Vireos, Maryland Yellow-throats, and a Hummingbird, the latter seeking food in the bell bed, where not a single blossom was yet out, finally at evening was seen in the cherry tree where blooms were first appearing.

On May 8th a thundershower came, and then a drop in temperature, with snow on the 9th until roofs were white. The Robins, much surprised, but faithful sat tight all covered with snow under the leaflets twigs of the locust all through those snowy hours. More snow fell the next day. In spite of all set-backs, the Robins hatched and grew, leaving the nest, May 21st.

Leda W. Chace,  
Lawrenceville, Penna.  
Tioga County.

## ALFRED COOKMAN

Alfred Cookman, one of California's well known Ornithologists is now President of the Los Angeles California Nature Club, having something over three hundred members, and we are sure that THE OOLOGIST family will be glad to hear something concerning the field trips which this organization enjoys. The following is the first of a number of promised communications on this subject.—R. M. B.

**A Day Among the Oaks Near Mt. El Capitan, San Diego, County, Cal.**

There is one tree that stands out majestic, magnificent and alone—the live oak (*Quercus agrifolia*) of the foot-hills of California. I have camped beneath its branches in a canyon retreat and climbed out on the huge limbs to the nest of a jay, wren or woodpecker. I have classified several insect pests infecting the branches and bark such as the California Oak Moth, Cockerell's Kermes, Gall-like Kermes, Nautical borer and the oak ericoccus.

Leaving San Diego in an automobile for the River Bottom at the base of Mt. El Capitan for the purpose of studying the bird-life in this territory, Professor Valentine and I spent several hours among thousands of oaks, sycamores, poplar trees and willows in the very heart of birdland 10 miles north of the city of San Diego, 1922.

We first directed our course to the willows and parked the car. For two hours, we rambled in and out among these small trees close to the water's edge and observed willow goldfinches, California jays, crows, red-wing black birds, Traill's flycatchers, western black phoebes, brewer black birds, Killdeer, and the San Diego towhee.

We came out into an opening at the

base of Mt. El Capitan and discovered that a hundred yards to the left were oaks and sycamores in countless numbers. The cry of the California jay and a shrill call of the Sparrow hawk and the beating and tapping of the woodpecker lured us on in that direction.

Hundreds of Cedar waxwings were recorded and several turkey vultures were there. A dead horse had attracted the vultures and they had gathered for the feast. I always enjoy watching vultures feed. They are truly "self-appointed Boards of Health"—industrious scavengers and monarchs of the air. They are sure of themselves in any kind of weather. They nest among the crags and cliffs in the San Diego mountains.

The writer shot a Ferruginous rough-legged hawk. It was a monster male bird. Length 23.56, wing 16.70, tail 10 in. The "squirrel hawk" is pre-eminently a bird of the prairie. The bird is wholly beneficial and is one of California's most valuable species. The squirrel problem is one of the state's most serious problems. California loses approximately \$10,000,000 worth of grain and vegetable crops annually due to ground squirrels.

Wild pigeons were darting here and there as we approached the oak tree area. These birds are very wild. They come up from Mexico during their annual migration and linger awhile in San Diego County. They prefer the oak tree sections of the county.

The mourning dove, the San Diego towhee, the Gambels Sparrow, the California woodpecker and house finch were present in the oaks.

Wild flowers were everywhere. Wild barley and sage and cactus plants are characteristic growths. The road-runner, the meadowlark

and the cactus wren were recorded on this trip.

We circled in and out among the huge trees and wandered here and there among huge granite rocks, up steep inclines and down into ravines. At last, we came under the shadow of Mt. El Capitan towering like a mighty sentinel. Her dome penetrating the cumulus clouds in a field of blue sky. We sat down under a spreading oak, and opened our lunch. We were alone with the birds and the flowers.

The afternoon was devoted to bird-study and when the shadows of night began to creep over the hills and the sun vanished, and the air changed to a cool breeze, we left the oaks and cycamores and hurried to the car and in a few hours reached San Diego, having enjoyed a day long to be remembered. Thirty-eight species of birds were seen and several were taken for scientific purposes and added to my collection.

Alfred Cookman,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

#### NOTEBOOK NOTES

Do Blue Grosbeaks build several nests, and, like the Long-billed Marsh Wren, use them as a blind? In one field of about twenty acres I found nine of their nests, though none contained eggs or young; these nests were apparently fresh and none had any body scales in them, thus proving that they had not been used. Two or three pairs of Blue Grosbeaks were in the field flying about as if displeased at my intrusion.

A Yellow-breasted Chat, that lived near this field had learned to crow like a Bantam rooster, and was immensely proud of his accomplishment. First he gave three plain whistles as if to call attention, then, after

a pause, he gave his crow, a little crude perhaps, but unmistakable; as if satisfied with himself he always ended with several "chuckles."

Another Chat that I noticed cawed like a crow; this formed much of his song, and was used on every possible occasion.

A habit that many Chats have is that of singing while on the wing. The bird seems to choose two "bases," and flies back and forth between them; this performance usually being very ludicrous as the whole body seems to be kept in motion.

I have never observed any night singing on the part of Chats here.

While pumping water at my home one morning, a Goldfinch circled around me several times, and finally hung in the air above me and sang one of the sweetest thrills or songs I have ever heard one sing; it somewhat resembled the song of the Lark Sparrow.

Another peculiar incidence was connected with a pair of Blue-headed Vireos that were searching for lichens on the limb of a tree; from there they flew to another tree upon an outer limb of which was a lichen-covered nest that I supposed was their own as they were coming and going as if they were building on it. Close observation, however, disclosed the fact that the nest once belonged to a Wood Pewee, and that they were tearing it down for material with which to build one of their own. In three days the nest was entirely removed.

J. G. Lewis,  
Bentonville, Arkansas.



**THE FOOD OF YOUNG HAWKS**

We hear and read a good deal about the stealth and cunning of the Cooper's and Sharp-shinned hawks. We are told it is they who do all the chicken stealing and bird killing that we thought the larger hawks responsible for. I have set out to find out for myself.

I have had under observation for this spring and summer, a pair of red-tails, a pair of Cooper's hawks and a pair of sharp-shinned hawks. I maintained a close watch upon the first and the last named, to see just what they fed their young and learn much other things about them as I might. The Cooper's hawks nest was too far away and too hard to reach after one arrived at the site, to make very many trips out to see it, hence I have not completed data for this nest.

Before the eggs of the red-tails hatched, the parents fed on rodents—mostly the striped ground squirrels (Spermophile). After the young got out of the shells, the whole bill of fare was young chicken. At different times we found chickens to the number of seven. There were times when we could not go to the nest for a week or two, and it maybe there was other food fed to the young during that time.

On May 13th, this year, I found a nest of the sharp-shinned hawk, and made seven trips to see it during the time between then and the 8th of July. I expected to find all manner of birds were being fed to the young. I even had hopes of taking some of the freshly killed birds to mount for my collection. I am glad to say, that I found no evidence of a single bird killed. Locusts, large beetles and cicadas, with a mouse or two for desert, was the main type of food. Of course these are only

two instances, but, if we were to judge, we would reverse the reputation of these two birds somewhat, we think.

Ralph J. Donahue,  
Bonner Springs, Kans.

**BOB WHITE'S QUANDRY**

Few permanent residents, save the Goldfinch and Cedar bird, postpone their nesting like our Quails, many of which are not incubating at this advanced date, July 1st. Cold, damp weather, typical for spring climate in Kentucky, would be fatal to many quail chicks, which escaped this fate because their hatching occurs 60 days later in mid summer.

Reports obtained in the last fortnight from a score of Barren County farmers, discloses the average loss of one quail's setting to every ten acres of grass timothy and clover mowed. This county had several thousand acres of hay, and nine out of every ten nests were deserted while containing six to eighteen eggs a piece. Most sets are not exposed until the hay has been raked. Where wheels of the farm machinery passed over the nest, destruction of the eggs was complete. In many instances the mower had cut the growth without harming the contents of the nest; nevertheless abandonment had taken place. Meadowlarks' domiciles similarly exposed were rarely forsaken unless destroyed.

Bob Whites, despite their abundance here, and decided preference for settled areas and cultivated fields, do not appear to lose any of their sensitive traits. Today I saw seven fresh eggs on a grassy hillside, and although I refrained from touching the nest, if the little hen goes elsewhere to deposit the rest of her product, it will not surprise me.

Gerald Alan Abbott.

Glasgow, Ky.



THE NESTING OF A GREAT  
HORNED OWL

To one who is thrilled at finding such common birds' nests as the chewink or red-winged blackbird, the finding of a great horned owl's nest is indeed of mighty importance. The nest I am to write about was of the first of this species of owl I ever had the pleasure to examine or make notes on.

A neighbor of mine found the nesting site by accident, while looking for "good coon trees." This was on January 19th, 1923; and at that time there were but two eggs in the nest cavity. He reported the find and the location to me. The Sunday following or on January 21, my brother, Clyde, and I went out and found the nesting tree easily.

A large sycamore stands about two hundred feet to the north of the Kaw Valley Electric Line in the Little Kaw valley, west of Mahon station in Leavenworth County. This tree leans sharply towards the river and was likely bent into its present position by floods during its earlier years. Thirty feet from the ground—although much farther from the tree's base, occasioned by the angle at which the tree leaned—is a large cavity, twenty inches across and three feet deep. At one time the top of the tree must have broken off and, while the inner wood decayed, the outer wood grew up around it.

On this first Sunday, Clyde was almost up to the nest before the old owl flew off. I had my camera set awaiting the owl's exit, and was rewarded by a fairly good picture. The male soon came sliding through the woods from up the draw, and joined its mate in protestations in the form of beak clickings and deep "Whooo-Hooos" from trees around

about. Three large white eggs were in the nest this day.

We waited twenty-eight days to go out to the nest again. That was on February 17th. One young owlet was hatched, one egg pipped and the other egg in no way changed externally. The young chick was somewhat larger than a newly hatched chicken, and covered by patches of yellowish white down. The day was a cold and raw one, so we were at the nest no longer than we needed to be.

On the 25th of February the third trip was made to the nest. All three owls were hatched and grown somewhat larger than the one we saw on the 17th. Several parts of rabbits were in the nest cavity, also a freshly killed Bobwhite. I leaned over into the nest hole to examine the young more thoroughly, and while in this position I heard my brother call out, but not in time to prevent the parent owl from giving me a sharp blow over my right kidney as she flew by. I also felt a slight burning and found, when I reached the ground, that the owl's claws had found my flesh through my underclothes, my blue shirt, a painter's canvas jacket, my old coat and that portion of my overalls that reached up that far. I shiver to think what the result would have been had I been Adam or even Tarzan of the Apes.

The parent owls finally left the part of the valley where their nest was located, before we were through photographing and making notes, only to run into a flock of crows. In the space of a half hour, fully five hundred crows were swirling about the trees where the owls had taken refuge. An enormous flock of these black marauders, flying high over head, swung once around on hearing the clamor from below, but did not

descend to take part as I had expected. Their northward journey was resumed and the owls were apparently forgotten.

Our fourth visit was delayed on account of the muddy roads and bad weather until March 25th. My, these young owls had grown. Their bodies were covered with downy feathers, a little lighter in color than the parent birds. The wings and tail edges were edged with good sized pinfeathers. The old owl slid away before we got to the tree and, because the young could take care of themselves, was seen no more that day.

March 31st marked our fifth trip. At this time the young owls were nearly as large as the old ones. The bottom of the nest cavity was covered with the ejected pellets cast up by the owls; the whole thing becoming a very "smelly affair." Old birds not seen. A portion of a rabbit was in the cavity, also feathers that indicated a flicker had been killed.

Our last trip was made on April 7th. Only one young owl left in the nest at this time; others may have flown. Three freshly cleaned skulls of rabbits in nest. We did not go again for the trip was not a short one and there were other nests to watch.

This is the history of these young owls' beginning in this world. This study of the nesting of these birds reveals the fact that, in this instance at least, though there was a chicken farm within a half mile from the nesting site, poultry formed not a single part of the food fed to the young. As far as I was able to find out and discover, with the exceptions of the bobwhite and the flicker already spoken of, the food of the great Horned owl consists wholly of cottontail rabbits.

Ralph J. Donahue,  
Bonner Springs, Kansas.

## TRAPPING THE FEATHERED MARAUDERS OF THE FIELDS

Farmers whose crops have suffered unusually from the depredations of the crow might take courage by the reports of the methods pursued in the agricultural regions of France to get rid of this well-nigh universal pest. Every farmer knows that the favorite delight of the crow is to tear up and devour the sprouting corn, and that the crow is not particularly an easy bird to shoot, being gun shy and seeming to know by some peculiar power of observation or intuition when a man is armed.

How the French meet the situation in a variety of ways, chief of which are decoys and traps, is told in the *Illustrated World* by George E. Liscomb.

"The first method," says Liscomb, "consists in making use of the crow's nocturnal foe, the owl. The owl is particularly hated by the crow and when the hapless creature has lost its way and is partly blinded by the light of day, it flies helplessly about and is pretty certain to be set upon by a flock of angry crows.

"Taking advantage of this natural hatred, the French peasant builds an ambush in the fields and on a perch near by ties either a live owl or a stuffed one. If the stuffed variety is used, the farmer, concealed in ambush, simulates life in the decoy by jerking a cord attached to its limbs. When the black host arrive to worry their hereditary foe a liberal broadside from a double-barreled gun will rid the country of quite a number.

"Those farmers who prefer traps to shotguns make use of paper cones. These are first lined on the inside with birdlime. This may be produced by boiling the bark of the holly, from which is thereby obtained a sticky detaining substance. In lieu

of that, birdlime can be secured by boiling linseed oil for a long period of time.

"When ready the cones smeared with birdlime, are set in the ground. As a bait, meat, grain or nuts are employed. The unsuspecting crow in attempting to get the food pushes its head into the cone and, thus caught, immediately rises—imprisoned and blindfolded by the cone—in the air, almost straight upward, to a great height. It soon exhausts itself, however, and falls to the earth, where it may be captured or killed with ease.

"Other varieties of traps are also used. The crow does not seem to be a wise bird in all matters, for in the nesting season the female may be induced to alight upon a nest full of eggs that are not her own. Taking advantage of this fact, the farmer makes use of a spring trap. The trap may be baited with a dead rabbit or bird. It is declared that if the human scent is detected the trap will prove a failure. Strongly scented herbs should therefore be drawn across the trap and a pair of tongs used to set it and place it in position. To thoroughly complete the deception the French camouflage the traps by covering them with a coat of green paint."—San Francisco Chronicle.

W. A. Strong,  
San Jose, Cal.

#### Birds Like Old Homes

Birds have in common with man the "housing instinct," although of course in man the instinct is not so highly developed. Just how Mr. and Mrs. Bird, on their return to the North from their winter in the South find their old nests each spring is not known. Their ability to locate the "old home" is simply a part of their homing instinct. Without chart

or compass to point the way, the birds fly unerringly to their old haunts each spring.—Local Democrat.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.

The following I read in the Prairie Farmer, and consider it so good that I am copying it in part.

#### The Piasa Bird, an Indian Legend

M. S. Rowe

Now you may know all about the Piasa bird, or it may not mean much to you, or even be interesting, but I am sure that each one of you has at some time or other, had a strange word suddenly grip you—possess you day and night until you must know all about it. That is what the Piasa did to me! If it could exert such a spell now, I vividly believe that it would have carried me off, had I been so foolhardy as to have lived his day. About 20 miles above Alton, on the the Alton Way, which most of you automobile people know, is the dreamy town of Piasa, set down among the rich surrounding fields of Macoupin County. Here it rests on Piasa Creek, which ambles on and flows into the Mississippi. Going along the Alton way at this place we can look to the West and see the forest—a blue streak—on the Missouri side, but cannot discern the river. Now, near this little dot of a town, is a huge advertising sign board representing a book, and as we dashed by I saw, "Piasa Bird," and "page of history." When I was a mile beyond I wished that we had stopped and read it. Probably that would have saved me this burning desire to know all about it. That the word was of Indian origin, I felt assured, but could find no one that seemed to know anything about it. One ventured to remark that he "believed that he had read something in history about it—but did not know what it was any more."

This is the advantage of hunting up history. When a bird flaps its wings at you, as the Piasa did at me, you will never forget anything about it. You will know your page of history—not only for today's recitation—but also all your life. So I chased this strange elusive bird to the only hiding place it now possesses, the Indian Mythology of North America. The Indians had many legends similar to this, that describes the power of some fearful bird. So while the fancy is too wild and strange for any white man to believe literally, it would seem possible, if not probable, that there might have been a great and frightened bird, back in the time of the Mastodon, and Bisons, different and bigger and more ferocious than anything that history knows.

The Indian legend relates that this monstrous bird, as large as a calf, carried off the red men and devoured them. They were powerless against it. So, at last, a big Chief, Onatoga, prayed the "Great Spirit" to help him save his people from this frightful thing. In a dream he was directed to select 20 of the bravest of his brave, and letting one offer himself on a lonely cliff to the bird, the others were to stand ready with drawn bows and arrows.

It was considered a hopeless affair, so fearful were the Indians of this bird. But the "Great Spirit" had directed and Onatoga was a brave chief; so he chose to be the one on the cliff. The legend goes on to tell how he stood watching the bird circle toward him, and just as it was about to lift him from the ground 20 arrows pierced its body, and it fell dead before him.

In commemoration of this great event the Piasa bird was painted on the rocks, off to the west, from the little town of Piasa, where Piasa

Creek flows into the great river. This tradition runs through all the tribes of the upper Mississippi. This painting was 80 feet high or more on the Cliff and it as depicted with horns on its head like a deer, red eyes, beard like a tiger, face somewhat like a man's body covered with scales, and a tail so long that it was wrapped twice around its body. This object of terror was painted so high, and so vivid in red and green and black, that in the strong sunlight, sharp Indian eyes, trained to long distances, could use it for miles.

So we know why it was not strange, when Jesuit Jacques Marquette, come sailing up the Mississippi, with his little band of Indian guides from the south one beautiful June morning in 1673, that they were frightened, at such a sight; never having been so far up the river, and not knowing the legend, they mistook the picture for reality. They refused to go on and Marquette's first voyage was a failure.

\* \* \* \* \*

How the Indians managed to paint this picture so well upon the sheer face of the cliff is conjecture like so many other pages in history, it shows that when people want to do a thing badly enough there is a way. All the early accounts state that it was painted in a better manner than the Indians were capable of, and in such lasting dye that it withstood the weather and the continual firing of the Indians until 1848. All these years to the present day, it has been the custom for the Indians, to fire at it in passing.

History relates that a Dr. Russell went up the Mississippi in 1836, and near this spot discovered a cave where the bird was supposed to carry its prey. He states that he excavated and found human bones to the depth of three or four feet. That is all there

is to the Piasa bird. An Indian fancy, a myth, if you will!

### BOOKS RECEIVED

Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution 1921.—This publication contains the following paper, which will be of interest to Ornithologists. "Some preliminary remarks on the velocity of migratory flight among birds with special reference to Palaeartic Region," by R. Meinertzhagen.—R. M. B.

#### The Murrelet

No. 2, Vol. IV, May 19, 1923, of this most interesting Bird Journal published by the Pacific Northwest Bird and Mammal Society, is at hand and as usual is filled with fresh readable bird notes, direct from the field.

The leading article in this issue is on occurrence of the Plumed Egret—An Asiatic Species; *Mesophonyx intermedia*—in British Columbia, the specimen referred to having been killed at Burrad Inlet, in May, 1879, and until recently it was regarded as *Egretta candidissima*. This publication adds another real bird (not an imaginary sub species) to the A. O. U. list, and the "Murrelet" is to be congratulated upon being the medium through which this information is put on record.

#### The Summer Birds of the Adirondack In Franklin County, N. Y.

By Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and  
H. D. Minot

This is a re-print of this well known Bulletin, which originally appeared in 1877, and is put out by the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experiment Station, under the direction of Dr. Charles C. Adams.

#### Relation of Summer Birds to the Western Adirondack Forest

By Perley M. Silloway

Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin. Vol. 1, No. 4, March, 1923.

This is a splendidly written and arranged resume of the subject of which it treats, and is illustrated by many half-tones and a considerable number of colored plates. It will long be a standard on the subject. It has been our observation that whatever Silloway does he does well.

Attached to this as pp. 487-520, is a paper by Dr. Charles C. Adams, Director of the Roosevelt Wild Life Forest Experimental Station, on the relation of Birds to the Adirondack Forest Vegetation, which is likewise a real contribution to the Literature on that subject. It is illustrated by many half-tones and filled with information and suggestions of value.

#### The Summer Birds of the Alleghany State Park

By Aretas A. Saunders

This is Roosevelt Wild Life Bulletin, No. 1, No. 3, March, 1923. And the fact that A. A. Saunder's name appears at the top is an amply sufficient guarantee of both thoroughness, and Scientific accuracy, which is well borne out, throughout the entire paper, which consists of pp. 335-386. This likewise is illustrated by a considerable number of half tones and a few colored plates, and Contains a key for the identification for the Birds in the Field. It is a repository of information that the State does well to put within reach of its citizens.—R. M. Barnes.

#### Red Tailed Hawk

Carnegie Museum Leaflet No. 1

This is a little leaflet of four pages, prepared and illustrated by our

friend, George M. Sutton, and is on the order of the Audubon Leaflet.

**Bulletin of the Audubon Society of West Pennsylvania, April, 1923**

This is well gotten up publication, of fifty-two pages, illuminated with a splendid drawing of a male Cardinal, by George M. Sutton, and contains articles on "Field Identification of our Winter Birds," by Mr. Sutton. "Crossbill Visitors," by Byard H. Christy. "Fruit Trees for the Birds," by John L. Phillip. "Incidentals," by E. W. Arthur. "Suggestions to the Bird Student," by C. W. Parker. "The Great Horned Owl," by S. S. Dicky. "Evergreen Trees as a Protection for Birds," by George H. Parker. "Why Birds Need Nesting Houses, Bathing Pools and Feeding Stations," by T. W. Weisman. "The Purple Martin," by J. Warren Jacobs. "Young Night Hawks," by Leroy Homer. "The Starling in Southwestern Pennsylvania," by George M. Sutton. Audubon's Outings," by Helen Blaine. "Cemeteries as Bird Sanctuaries," by Jesse L. Jones. "Watch the Cats," by C. W. Parker.

It also contains a number of half-tone illustrations and a black and white drawing of the Starling, by Mr. Sutton. A facsimile of a letter from John Burroughs, and a list of members of this Audubon Society. All in all it is a very credible publication.

R. M. Barnes.

**ILLINOIS NOTES**

The following list of birds were seen on April 29th, 1923, near Texico, Jefferson Co., Ill., they are catalogued by the old A. O. U. list.

A.O.U.

No.

180 Whistling Swan—Found along side of R. R. in a pond; it was injured and unable to fly. Found dead two days later about 40 ft.

from the water; very rare.

228 Woodcock—I knew him by his Tuck, Tuck, as he started out about daylight. Very rare; the second one I have seen in 10 years in Illinois.

230 Wilson Snipe—Rare.

273 Killdeer—Common.

316 Mourning Dove—Common.

325 Turkey Vulture—Not common.

333 Cooper's Hawk—Not common.

368 Barred Owl—Common.

373 Screech Owl—Common.

390 Belted Kingfisher—Common.

406 Red Headed Woodpecker—Very common.

412 Flicker—Very common.

488 Crow—Very common.

461 Wood Pewee—Not common.

477 Blue Jay—Very common.

501 Meadowlark—Very common.

511 Purple Graeackle—Rare.

529 American Gold Finch—Common.

504 Vesper Sparrow—Not common.

558 White Throated Sparrow—Common.

560 Chipping Sparrow—Very common.

567 Slate Colored Junco—One seen.

583 Cardinal—Common.

598 Indigo Bunting—Not common.

611 Purple Martin—Common.

616 Barn Swallow—Rare.

636 Black and White Warbler—Rare. Authority of H. W. Henshaw's "Friends of Our Forests."

674 Oven Bird—Not rare, authority as above.

681 Maryland Yellow Throat—Common Summer Resident.

703 Mocking Bird—Very common.

721 House Wren—Very common.

731 Tufted Titmouse—Common.

736 Carolina Chickadee—Very common.

756 Veery—Very common.

761 Robin—Very common.

766 Blue Bird—Very common.

J. Earl Harlow.

Texico, Ill., June 10, 1923.

We are not certain that the "Veery" is correctly identified by Mr. Harlow.—Editor.

Richard C. Harlow, formerly of State College, Pennsylvania, whom we personally regard as the best field oologist in the United States at this time, together with George H. Stuart III, and Fletcher Street, of Pittsburgh, spent twelve days during the past spring collecting season at Belvidere, Alberta, exploiting the oology of that territory. During which time a nest of the Loon and sets of Yellowlegs, Buffalo-head Duck, Solitary Sandpiper, Grinnell's Water Thrush, Canada Grouse, Palm Warbler, Connecticut Warbler, Nelson's Sparrow, and other rare species were taken.

—R. M. B.

### CHECKMATING THE PARASITE

(From "The Oologist")

The writer has become mightily interested in the profoundly-complicated phenomena of Parasitism. It has filled me with amazement to find, on going through the 5,000 pages of my manuscript on the "Nesting Ways of North American Birds," that no less than two hundred North American species of birds are more or less parasitic,—(most of them, of course less so). Equally of course, there are quite a number of species that are mutually parasitic, e. g., the Cuckoos and the Brewer Blackbird. Of all the species that are frequent hosts of the Cowbird, I know of but a half-dozen, or fewer, that have caught the trick of embedding the intruded egg, or eggs. These are,—the Yellow Warbler,—pre-eminently,—the American Goldfinch,—just once, in my own experience; the Bell Vireo,—also just once;—and, there are others. Two birds with which I am familiar, nesting on the ground, have the more-or-less fixed habit of ejecting the obnoxious intrusion. These are, the Song Sparrow and the Bobolink; and I have fine negatives to prove it.

P. B. Peabody.

### KILDEER IN OHIO

May 21, 1922, I found four eggs of the Kildeer on a new Blue Limestone road near Dixon, Van Wert County, Ohio. The eggs lay in a slight depression near the barn. There were no weeds to shade or conceal the eggs, which were quite conspicuous amongst the blue limestone.

The sitting bird flushed when my horse turned slightly from the center of the road. The road was a much traveled one, and I was surprised that the eggs had not been broken.

May 27, 1923, I found another nest of the Kildeer near the Mercer County Reservoir, at Celma, Ohio. The four eggs were in a slight depression in the cinders and gravel between the rails and ties of an old railroad spur which appeared to be seldom used. The shells were chipped and the young were "cheeping" inside. Both birds were seen nearby.

During the month of May 1922, I flushed an adult Woodcock, in a small wet woods, southwest of Payne, Ohio. I was surprised to see her (?) carrying between her feet and legs one of the young which appeared to be fully two-thirds grown. She flew very slowly and with the greatest difficulty, rising not more than six feet above the ground, and flying about fifty feet before she settled in the brush and weeds. The young bird struggled a great deal and both birds scolded, chattered and remonstrated. The other three young flew up and alighted in the brush and weeds a short distance away. I was unable to find any of the birds after they had alighted.

Homer F. Pierce,  
Payne, Ohio.

### THE RETURN OF THE MAGPIE.

Several old-timers have informed me that the Magpie was formerly common in the Edmonton District, where they made themselves objectionable by attacking cayuses with sore backs, in the days when pack trains were no novelty in Edmonton; but from the time of my arrival in Alberta, in '98, until the fall of 1919, I never saw a single specimen in this part of the province.

On September 15th, 1919, I observed one lone straggler flying near the Pembina River, at Belvedere. In 1920 one made its appearance on September 1st, alighting on the back of one of my horses in the pasture, and on the 9th I observed four of them together. In a short time they became generally distributed over the district and remained through the winter. In the spring they all disappeared except one pair, which built a nest on my place at Lac La Nonne, and raised a brood of five young. One of these I took for a pet, but it did not live.

I found the nest on April 5th. On the 17th it appeared to be completed and the bird was sitting on the 23rd. The nest was in a thick clump of willows and was the usual roofed structure of sticks, described in the bird books. I observed that it had two entrances. On June 11th the young had left the nest and were perched on branches near it. During the nesting period the birds were very quiet and seldom seen. The family remained in the vicinity all summer and I often observed the six of them together. They seemed to be the only Magpies in the country, as on several motor trips to Edmonton, 60 miles southeast, and as far as 30 miles east, during the summer none were seen.

On August 25th I saw eight of them together, so they must have been joined by two more birds, and on Oc-

tober 23rd I saw eleven at one time. Since then I have seen Magpies nearly every day and they seem to be generally distributed over the district. An interesting question is, why did the American Magpie abandon the country for over 20 years and why are they now re-occupying it?

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvedere, Alta., Can.

### A NEWSY LETTER.

One of our collectors, who is now in Lower California, writes under date of February 25th:

"Mail is always welcome in this out-of-the-way place. The nearest railroad station is over 200 miles away. Mail goes to Gueymas, Mexico, where it stays until some boat takes it to La Paz, and then it comes the rest of the 145 miles on mule back. We had a very nice trip down the coast, and are now located in this place, in a very comfortable adobe house, one of the best in town. This town is about a mile from the Gulf of Lower California, and eight miles from Cape Lucas. The town is placed in a little valley about a mile wide and forty miles long. The principal industry is raising sugar cane, tomatoes and cattle.

About a mile from town is quite an extensive slough, which is ideal for shore birds and Heron. This morning I saw on the marsh Brewsters, Egret, American Egret, Reddish Egret, Blue Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron and others. The Herons are exceedingly shy, "May Maleto," as the Mexicans say. We have been treated nicely and have had no unpleasantness of any kind.

Every day or so some one brings in a bird, generally without a tail.

One young man sent me a bird taken forty-five miles from here, and the sad part of it was, and also the



wonderful part of it was, that it was tailless. Also it was a very rare bird from the type locally known as Beautiful Bunting from Miraflores. Have taken quite a few of the Cape birds and will soon send a shipment. Outside of a few mosquitoes, and some of the refinements of the State, I am very comfortable. Have an ideal place to work and have collected sixty species and noted over a hundred. Collecting is rather difficult, the birds being exceedingly shy, and long walks are necessary, and it is about all I can do to get nine or ten laid away each day, except Sunday, when I rest. Probably will be here about six weeks, then go up to the higher mountains. Don't know exactly where, but hope to remain in the Cape Region a year. Living is quite high here, which surprised me greatly, and good things to eat are hard to procure.

Opportunities for such desirable outings come only to those who have demonstrated their integrity, skill and ability in the line of such collecting.

The Editor.

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### THE BLUE GOOSE

Half a dozen rare Blue Geese were lately presented to the Royal Ontario Museum, Toronto. Their donors are the members of the St. Anne's Island Duck Shooting Club, on the St. Clair River. No less than fifteen Blue Geese were killed at the Club last fall.

The birds are the same size as the Lesser Snow Goose, and have red beaks and feet and white heads and necks. The back and body of the Blue Goose is the delicate blue grey shade seen in the fur of the blue fox.

The birds are very destructive, pulling the grass on feeding ponds right up by the roots.

Walter Raine,  
Toronto, Canada.

### FROM THE PAGE OF AN OLD DIARY, 1874.

From the page of an old diary of one of my brothers, for August 15th, 1874, I read the following: "Stayed at home and done up my chores and cleaned off and watered my horses, and it was half-past six o'clock, and then I took the gun and went down along the creek a hunting and I shot eight pigeons."

He helped draw up wheat and when he got that done he says "I took the gun and went down along the creek a hunting, and I was gone until six o'clock and got four pigeons."

Just think of it, twelve pigeons in one day. He says "It was a warm, pleasant day."

The gun he mentions is an old-fashioned double barreled muzzle loader, which I have in my antique collection at the present time. I was less than four years old then.

George W. H. vos Burgh,  
Columbus, Wis.



## NEWSPAPER ORNITHOLOGY

Seventeen Foot Condor Flying Away  
With Baby, is Killed.

Geneva, Switz., Apr. 14.—A large Condor flying away with the baby of Swiss peasants, was shot down by the father. He saw the Condor swoop down and lift the child into the air. The wounded bird fell so slowly the baby was slightly injured. The wing spread of the bird is reported as 17 feet, 5 inches.—Herald Examiner.

Again we remind

**YOU**

*Send in a story  
about your*

**Field Trip**

to the

**Oologist**

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,  
ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF  
CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,  
of The Oologist, published monthly  
at Albion, N. Y., for April 1, 1923.  
STATE OF ILLINOIS,

County of Marshall—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. Magoon Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of The Oologist, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations.

Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor, and Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Illinois. Not a corporation. No stock has ever been issued. The Oologist is owned exclusively by R. Magoon Barnes.

There are no bond holders, mortgagers or other security holder, none have ever been issued.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of June, 1923.

(Seal)

FAY BALL.

My commission expires Feb. 16, 1927.

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## THE OOLOGIST

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

FOR SALE for Cash—Bulletin Cooper Club & Condor, Volumes 1 to 6 inclusive, complete, except No. 6, Vol. 1 Oologist, Vol. XI, (1894) complete; Vol. X (1893) complete, except April, July and November. W. B. Sampson, 1005 North San Joaquin St., Stockton, Cal.

WANTED—To exchange bird and mammal skins for bird and fish books. Richardson's Fauna Borealis, and Bent's Diving Birds especially desired. Walter Koelz, Department of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

FOR EXCHANGE—Rare Sets of Eggs such as Dowitcher, Long-billed Dowitcher, Aleutian Tern, Long-bill Curlew, Loon, Welches Ptarmigan, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, and many others. WANT—Male and female skins of Richardson and Black Pigeon Hawks; Harris, Harlans, Zone-tailed, Short-tailed, and Red-bellied Hawks; Peals, Pergerine, and Aplomado Falcons; Mallard, Widgeon, and Ring-neck Ducks; Purple Sandpiper; Wandering Tattler; Buff-crested Sandpiper; Black Oystercatcher; Marbled Godwit; Velvet Scoter; Yellow-crowned Night Heron. K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE—Sets from New Zealand: Dove Petrel, Black Swan, Mutton Bird, Black Backed Gull, White Fronted Tern, Red Billed Gull, Gannet, Caspian Tern. From Australia: White Faced Storm Petrel, Sooty Tern, Silver Gull, Pelican, Coot, Little Blue Penguin. From Ireland: Moon Hen, Coot, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Razor Bill, Puffin, Guillemont. All collected by self. To exchange for good sets, with proper data. L. L. Redick, Newington, Connecticut.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 137, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

### EXCHANGE PRICE LIST OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS' EGGS

We have just published this work which it took a Committee of well known Oologists, who were elected by The Oologists of North America for that purpose, nearly two years to complete. It is a Volume of two hundred pages, well illustrated, by half tones, showing the advance methods that now obtain in Oology. It contains the following special matter.

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FOR SALE—Two large upright cabinets of 32 drawers each, one of oriental oak, and one of hard pine. Also my entire Natural History Collection of Thousands of Specimens. A good chance for a Museum. Address Dr. W. S. Strode, Laguna Beach, California, Orange Co.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have for exchange, for skins desired by me a number of Snowy Owl Skins, in all grades of plumage ranging from almost pure white males to the darkest colored summer females. If you can use these send me your list of duplicates. R. M. Barnese.

EXCHANGE—National Geographic Magazines for Bird Magazines, also will take sets. Send want list. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Illinois.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Spilgidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila. Pennsylvania.

WANTED—Prismatic Binoculars. C. S. Sharp, Escondido, Cal. Will give sets of 349 or part cash. How about it?

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# 1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS  
TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT. , 1923.

WHOLE No. 437



# THE OOLOGIST

## 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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR.

**DATA BLANKS**—I will print 500 Standard Data Blanks with your name on them for \$1.50 postpaid. Edward S. Coe abs. 233 Washington St., Malden, Massachusetts.

**WANTED** to hear from collectors having sets of eggs or Bird Skins to dispose of. Cash or exchange. C. F. Fahrman, 1011 Fourth St., La Porte, Ind.

Let me mount your trophies. Send stamped envelop for prices on mounting your specimens. No full price-lists. W. S. Gilfoil, Taxidermist, Omega, La.

**Buffalo Heads Mounted**—Very fine, full blooded wild bull heads, hides and robes for sale, or can furnish raw heads for mounting later. F. A. Patton, care So. Dak. Game Lodge, Hermosa, S. Dak.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

**BIRD MAGAZINES AND BOOKS WANTED**—Nuttall Bulletin; set or parts; The Auk, Vols. 1 to 6, also Vol. 7, Nos. 2, 3, 4; Vol. 9, Nos. 3, 4; Vol. 11, No. 4; Vol. 14, No. 2; Vol. 17, Nos. 2, 3, 4; also any Vol. after 35. Cooper Club Bull. and Condor, first 3 Vols. Have many parts of Auk and Bird Lore for sale. Want Bent's Diving Birds, for which I offer \$7. Quote Gulls and Terns, Ridgway's Birds, odd Vols., Coues' Key, Ridgway's Color Key; Audubon's Birds, odd Vols. or Plates. Books on shooting, Game Birds, Wild Fowl, Big Game, Game Cocks and Cocking; History of Guns; Prints for framing relating to Shooting, Game Animals. All more noted Works on above subjects in any language, old or new. Prefer to buy or sell for cash rather than exchange. Send me your offers describing fully and name your price. Large Catalogues relating to above subjects and all Nature Study sent on receipt of 5 cents in stamps. S. N. Rhoads, Franklin Bookshop, 920 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Jun. 3t

**SHELL COLLECTORS AND MUSEUMS**—A fine lot of the "Liguus" or tree snails from the hammocks of Fla. for sale, or will exchange for skins or eggs. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

Will exchange or pay cash for a few small native or foreign mounted birds needed to fill collection. Also skins if properly prepared for mounting. Send list and prices. L. W. Speer, Taxidermist, Sac City, Iowa.

**WANTED**—Am building a Museum and desire to secure through exchange or purchase, skins, nests, eggs or mounted specimens of North American Birds, sets of eggs with nests especially desired. Can use many common varieties. Also want Indian Relics, Shells, minerals and Butterflies. Brasher C. Bacon, 315 North Seminary St., Madisonville, Ky.

**EXCHANGE LIST**—Skins: F. Wood Duck; M. Farallone Gormorant; M. Sage Grouse; 2 M. Mallards; M-F, Gadwall; 2 M. Spoonbill; M-F, Eared Grebe; M. Western Grebe; F. Hooded Merganser; M-F, Bl. Cr. Night Heron; M-F, Caspian Tern; M-F, Ring B. Gull; M-F, Forsters Tern; M-F, Avocet; M-F, Wilson Phalarope. Eggs in Sets: Treganzas Blue Heron, 2, 3, 4, 5; R. B. Gull, 2, 3; Farallone Corm. 3, 4; Mallard, 5, 7, 8; Gadwall, 7, 8, 9; Cinnamon Teal, 11; Canada Goose, 2; Sage Grouse, 4; Am. Dipper, N.4; Coot, 8; Sand Hill Crane, 2. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Bird skins, including Hepburn Rosy Finch, Bohemian Waxwing, Merrill Song Sparrow, Merrill Horned Lark, Western Tree Sparrow, Hammond Flycatcher, and others, for eggs in sets. F. R. Decker, Niona, Wash.

I have for EXCHANGE sets of eggs of the following species. A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Fine sets of 327, 330, 360c, 364, 405, 445, 479 and 551; also many common ones. Will collect mammal skins to order. Desire sets or bird skins. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—A collection of some ten thousand stamps, on separate sheets for each country. Want bird skins for all or part. Gus Langelier, Cape Rouge, Que., Canada.

We need Volume 36, No. 11 of The Oologist. Whitman Davis, Librarian, General Library, A. & M. College, Miss.

**EXCHANGE**—I complete set of North Western School of Taxidermy lessons, value \$20.00; what have you? George Carpenter, 746 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.9

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT.. 1923.

WHOLE No. 487

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## APPRECIATION

During the last couple of months we have received a very large number of letters from our subscribers, extending to us their sympathy for our illness, and likewise congratulating us on our recovery.

These communications are so many in number we take this method of thanking our friends for their interest in our welfare.—R. M. Barnes.

## DEPRECIATION

The above Appreciation was dictated at home in Lacon during the first week in September at a time when we thought our troubles were over. How little we really do know! September 9th we started again for Rochester, Minn., and at this writing (Sept. 23d) are there yet, however, with the conditional promise of release by October 1st. This explains the lateness and paucity of this month's OOLOGIST. We truly hope to be home and able to get out a real OOLOGIST for October.—R. M. Barnes.

## CALIFORNIA ROADRUNNER

A bizarre freakish pair of birds are to be seen almost daily down Arch Beach way speeding along the road or across the lots. Always seemingly in a great hurry to get somewhere and yet no place to go. At the end of each little burst of speed the long tail is elevated over the back and a crest on the top of the head is momentarily flaked. They rarely fly. If pushed to great speed the wings are spread out, the tail opened which acts apparently as a rudder and a stop break. They become actually ground planes.

The usual route is down the street for a block or two across a stubble field of several acres, over a canyon and in a short time they will be seen coming up the opposite side still running and at intervals making a dash at a lizard or a grasshopper. Sometimes one only is to be seen, the female probably incubating. When the male is alone he often flies to the roof of our cottage, where he will make a queer chattering noise with his bill not unlike castanets. A post across the ravine is a favorite perching place, where he will sit for a while uttering a low cooing very like that of the Mourning Dove.

These strange birds are the California Roadrunners, scientific name *Geococcyx Californianus*, known also by various synonyms as Chaparral Cock, Snake Killer, Lizard Birds, Cock of the Desert, etc.

They are about two feet long, one-half of which is a long fowl-like tail. Color above olive brown, with a greenish sheen, buffy-white below. Toes two before and two behind. Nests in low bushes, composed of sticks and weeds, a mere platform. Lay from four to ten eggs deposited at different intervals. A nest may contain a fresh egg, a bird just hatched and then all sizes up to half grown young, the

main food however consisting of lizards and small snakes. The food of the young is principally lizards, which are pushed down the throat with the tail hanging out and gradually disappearing by gulps as the body is digested.

That they are destructive to families of small Quails is urged against them by some and also to small birds which they stalk like a cat. This latter fact has been verified by the writer. One day a bird was heard out in the yard screaming bloody murder. On hurrying out a runner was found making the feathers fly from a San Diego Towhee. On our appearance the bird was released and the runner disappeared into the bushes. These garish birds are distributed throughout the Southwest in the desert and plains country, Colorado, Texas, Southern California and Northern Mexico.

They delight to speed up in front of a fast team or galloping horse. Modern horseless carriages seem to give them a thrill, and they will give it quite a race for a while, but on looking back and finding the auto gaining will dash down a path or shoot off among the cactus and as far as the eye can see will continue running at top speed.

They belong to the Cuckoo family and are not far removed from the Parrots and Anis. All freakish birds. They are destructive to rattlesnakes, which when discovered they will circle so rapidly that the reptile becomes bewildered. Then its eyes will be picked out. It is also claimed that that will encircle a rattler with a hedge of thorns which it cannot crawl over and then dispatch it at leisure. We are from Missouri on this point.

A day or two since I discovered the nest of this pair of Runners at the edge of the canyon near my house, but the birds had departed. It was in a mahogany bush, three feet from



the ground, a number of egg shells on the ground and the nest a platform of sticks with only a slight depression in the center. I had no inclination to collect the birds or their eggs.

Several kinds of Humming Birds visit the flowers in our yard every day, Towhees, Thrashers, Mocking Birds, and several kinds of Sparrows come regularly to drink and be fed.

Dr. W. S. Strode,  
Lagune Beach, Calif.

July 31, 1923.

### NESTING OF THE RICHARDSON PIGEON HAWK

To describe the habits of this Hawk, it may be well to first give a brief sketch of the country here where I find this bird nesting.

The State Game Preserve, in the Black Hills of South Dakota, comprise ninety-one thousand acres, among the largest, well kept, protected and fenced game parks in the world, abounding in herds of both black and white tailed deer, elk, buffalo, big-horn sheep, ranging at large in near their wild state, in a pine covered mountainous and foot-hill country.

In this portion of the black hills are many deep and rocky canyons with a heavy growth of pine and other trees, so steep are the high hills and so dense the growth, the sun can hardly penetrate, always dark and gloomy, is the home of the Richardson's Pigeon Hawk. Here it builds its nest in the darkest and shadiest spot, well up in a pine tree, here it raises its young and carries on its work of destruction as the food of this bird in this locality, consists of ninety-five per cent of the Black Hills Ruffed Grouse.

In examining nests containing young I find a hat full of bones and feet of the Grouse and nothing else, and the

same is usually the case in the crops of old birds killed.

The nest is built entirely of sticks, a solid platform affair with little attempt at lining. The eggs, three and four, more or less spotted with light brown.

This Hawk is shy and keeps well to cover and well it stands in my range, seldom flying out in the open, then usually to attack its enemy, the Kriders Hawk, for seldom can a Kriders have a peaceful sail over the hill top without being attacked by one of these little pests. Like an arrow it appears from cover, pursuing the awkward-flying Kriders beating it from above and forcing it to cover.

It is quite useless to follow these birds when seen to enter a dense forest, as they simply vanish. What I shot I come on unawares and got them by a quick shot.

F. A. Patton,  
Artesian, South Dakota.

### A STORM MIGRATION

I have been a student of bird life for many years, but I saw the strangest sight on August 20, 1923, that has ever been my luck to see.

It had been threatening rain since 1 o'clock p. m. and about 5:30 p. m. it began thundering, and the wind was blowing quite a gale from the northwest.

While outside, standing underneath a large maple tree, I saw a few birds headed southeast, but they were but a few and didn't attract much attention. Upon looking up just a few moments later I saw a large flock of birds winging their way southward. I ran to the house for my field glasses to try and find out what species they were, and just as I returned to my lookout tree, the flock passed over

me. I estimated the flock at 500, and among them I saw Crows, Mourning Doves, Night Hawks (*Chordeles virginianus*) Whip-poor-wills and one Great Blue Heron, also a few Killdeer. They were flying as if their lives depended on leaving the storm behind. Up until this date there had been 25 or 30 Killdeer feeding in a cattle pasture about a quarter of a mile from my home, the pasture was prairie land, and there were two ponds in the plot. The Killdeers nested in this plot, and I found quite a few nests and later on saw the young. I visited this pasture on August 21, 22, 23 and 24. But I was unable to find a single bird until today, the 25th. I found the Killdeers as plentiful as ever. I suppose they, too, had been driven south by the storm.

The strangest thing of all was that a Great Blue Heron that has been using the ponds in the pasture has remained in them the past few days, just like he has for the past two weeks.

I have often seen a few birds fleeing ahead of a storm, but I have never seen so many at one time as in this instance. Why did they leave? And where did they go? Search me! I don't know.

J. Earl Harlow,

Texico, Ill.

Aug. 25, 1923.

Jefferson Co.

#### FREAK CARDINAL EGGS

My father and I went down to the nearest creek for a day's fishing on July 13, 1923. It rained most of the morning, and the fish bit well. After a long hard day we came in tired and happy, with nine good fish between us—which is a good day's bag for that stream with a fly rod. As a side line I might say that I had five of them while the veteran had only four.

However busy fishing we may be, I am never past stopping for a side excursion after some bird.

Late in the afternoon I came to a place where the stream had cut through a willow bar, and as I waded along the edge of the willows in hip deep water trolling my fly along the edge of the willows ahead of me, a Cardinal flew out of the willows just at my head. After some trouble in getting my footing solid enough to look above me, I found the nest about three feet above and over the water. While both adults watched me, I examined the eggs, and finding them odd I took them with me, carrying them in my hat for four miles. And, by the way, one was cracked when I found the nest, but I managed to save it, although it is a very unstable addition to a collection.

The eggs are all three different. In the first place, all the Cardinal sets I have seen this season were a pale bluish-white with regular speckling. The ground color of these eggs is a cream color, of rather pronounced hue. One is heavily spotted with reddish brown to the exclusion of the basic color. The second egg is very tight, with a fair marking of reddish brown about the large end only. The third egg has only three spots of reddish brown on its whole surface, two being small, and the third spot is almost one-half inch in diameter and irregular in shape. Oddly to say, three days later six feet of water came down the creek—no more nests for a while.

Johnson A. Neff,

Marionville, Mo.



### FAVORITE LAKE FOR BIRDS SAVED TO MINNESOTA

Swan Lake, a valuable and unusual body of water about 10,500 acres in area, located in Nicollet County, Minn., has been saved to the state through the efforts of the State Game and Fish Commissioners, the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture and landowners and local conservationists of the region. A movement to lower the level of the lake four feet, eventually draining it entirely, was successfully opposed and defeated at two hearings after an examination of the wild fowl and food plant value of the lake had been made by three representatives of the Biological Survey.

In deciding this case the District Court in Minnesota laid emphasis on the great importance to the public welfare of such bodies of water as Swan Lake. Its favorable location, its relatively shallow fresh water, and its abundant growth of vegetation suitable for cover, nesting sites, and food have made it an attractive resort for many kinds of waterfowl. Its margins and wooded islands are a valuable asset in the conservation not only of game birds but also of insectivorous birds useful to farmers. Among the water birds that breed on the lake are several species of ducks, including Mallards, Blue-winged Teal, Redheads, Lesser Scaup and Ruddy Ducks; Sora Rails, Florida Gallinules, American Coots, four species of Grebes, Black Terns, and Black-crowned Night Herons are also common.

At least fifty kinds of plants valuable as food for water birds grow in this lake, including practically all the best duck food plants of the United States. There is also an abundance of freshwater snails of several species liked by water birds. Lowering the level of this lake materially would

eventually cause the disappearance of its present kind of vegetation and gradually destroy its value as a water-fowl resort.

---

### NESTING OF THE MOURNING WARBLER

A short account of the nesting of the Mourning Warbler, (*Oporornis Philadelphia*) may perhaps be of interest to some of your readers who are not able to meet with this species during the breeding season.

While not by any means common in these parts it is of fairly frequent occurrence and though I usually see one or two pairs during the breeding season, this is the first time I have been fortunate enough to discover the nest. This however is not surprising when you take into consideration the nature of the country which consists of vast stretches of second growth bush in various stages and tangles of scrub, so that the finding of a nest is almost like finding the proverbial needle in a haystack, even though you may locate the area in which a particular pair of birds is nesting.

In this case it was purely a matter of luck, as I have been searching in the vicinity of the nest on several days and had not once caught sight of a Mourning Warbler or had any indication that they were around there.

It was on the morning of July 1st while walking along the edge of some second growth bush, that I caught sight of a Wilson Warbler and decided to spend a while watching it and for this purpose pushed my way into some bushes to hide. It was in doing this that I found a nest with four eggs which the bird had evidently just left as they were quite warm.

I immediately hid myself in an endeavor to discover the owner but

though the bird returned to the nest several times during the time I was watching, I was never able to catch sight of it owing to the thickness of the surrounding scrub, the same thing happening when I attempted to flush it from the nest, she always managed to slip away without giving me a chance of identification. The only birds that apparently showed any concern, were a pair of Alder Flycatchers and as the eggs though slightly larger than the general run of that species, were very similar to one type of egg that I have found and I was beginning to think that I must ascribe the nest to them, which was disappointing as they are fairly common here.

However, in spite of the mosquitoes which made watching anything but pleasant, I decided to persevere and ensconcing myself in the center of a bush close by, determined to satisfy myself beyond doubt.

Fortunately I had not long to wait, for in about fifteen minutes I was rewarded by the sight of a male Mourning Warbler flying into some dead branches about six feet above the nest where he was in full view for several minutes, the black on the breast being very conspicuous. A movement on my part, however, made him aware of my presence and at the sound of his alarm note, the female flew straight off the nest and joined him and for the space of half a minute. I had a clear view of the two of them together after which they flew down into some bushes a short distance away.

I then made a thorough examination of the nest and eggs. The nest was in a small haze bush growing in a tangle of briars and well hidden, it was about two feet from the ground and while not actually in a fork was attached to the side of one by some kind of plant down. It was composed entirely of broad flat grasses on the outside and

lined with fine grasses, but contrary to any accounts of the nest I have read, there was no sign of either hair or rootlets in the lining.

The eggs, four in number, and considerably incubated, agreed exactly with the description given in Chapman's Warblers of North America, as to markings, and were of the type shown under figure 103 of that work, the ground color, however, was not pure white, it having a distinct brownish tinge even after they were blown. The identification, however, was beyond doubt but in order to further satisfy myself I thoroughly searched the vicinity and succeeded in finding and identifying the nest of the Alder Flycatcher a short distance away.

L. S. Dear,

Fort William, Ontario.

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#### A TREE OF MYSTERY

While on a fishing trip this summer I was attracted to an over hanging elm tree near the river. Birds of all kinds would go to that tree and make all kinds of rackets, then fly away and come back again. This racket kept up until it attracted a large number of birds from all parts of the woods. I went over and sat down to see if I could find out all the excitement. I watched for thirty minutes but could see nothing but birds. First a Chickadee would fly at a certain part of the tree and let out a long line of bird talk, then came a Cardinal, a Wren, a Flicker and so on until the tree was a tree of music. Each bird seemed to understand the trouble but I could not see a thing or make out what the trouble was. I got as close to the tree as I could and circled it three times, but yet could see nothing. A Chickadee got a little game and pecked the unobserved thing that they were

teasing. All at once a large snake which was laying on top of a limb of the tree, began to hiss and show his tongue. This snake closely resembled the color of the tree and was in plain view to me all the time, until the Chickadee disturbed it but the snake could not be seen as it blended in with the bark of the large elm.

Ramon Graham,  
Texas Bird Notes, 1923,  
Ft. Worth, Texas.

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### GEORGE M. SUTTON

George Miksch Sutton, of the Carnegie Museum, who has recently been put in charge of the Series of Groups illustrative of Ornithology of that institution, left August 17th for a canoe trip to James Bay for the purpose of collecting specimens for an illustrative life group of the Blue Goose. He is to be congratulated on so splendid an outing.

R. M. Barnes.

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### A MONTANA LIST

I am sending a list of birds observed by me on a two day stay at a small lake near here. These birds, 62 species in all, were noted either at the lake or within a radius of one mile. This is a particularly favorable spot as a bird nesting ground. I found several species that I haven't found nesting in Montana before.

This is a land-locked lake, and for some reason some years ago the water raised about eight feet flooding back into the timber and killing it. Many of the trees are now broken off a few feet above the water, so it has made some rather peculiar nesting sites.

I found the Robin and Kingbird

nests on top of sticks standing in water. Northern Hairy Woodpecker, Trail and Western Flycatcher and White-bellied Swallows by the hundreds.

I saw one very curious nest of a Kingbird. One side of a stub had been broken off with a Woodpecker cavity in it and the Kingbirds had built in the cavity about three feet above the water. I also found a Holboell's Grebe nest on a tree that had fallen into the water.

These birds were observed at Blanchard Lake from May 28th to June 8, 1923.

O. O. U. Nos. 2, 5, 6, 7, 53, 77, 131, 132, 140, 141, 149, 152, 153, 166, 214, 221, 224, 229, 263, 273, 300, 332, 333, 334, 337, 360, 370, 373h, 375, 379, 390, 393a, 401, 401a, 402a, 404, 405a, 420a, 422, 464, 466a, 491, 497, 498, 510, 515, 560, 567f, 607, 614, 616, 619, 627, 652, 656, 675a, 681a, 687, 735a, 754, 761.

Harry S. Wilson,  
Columbia Falls, Montana.

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### G. A. ABBOTT

A note from Gerald A. Abbott says that he is leaving for Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, and continues "For the first time since the World War, we will be living among our own effects and my oological collection will be unpacked."

We congratulate G. A. on finally concluding to settle down, even if he does not take Horace Greeley's advice "and go West."

R. M. Barnes.



### A VANISHING GROUSE

According to a recent census taken by Professor A. O. Gross of Bowdoin College, and Commissioner W. C. Adams, whose report to The State Department of Conservation is now in course of preparation, a rather serious condition exists at Martha's Vineyard.

Of the fifty Heath-hens left on the Island today the majority are males. The reservation superintendent reports that the flocks placed under the care of the State of Massachusetts has fluctuated considerably from year to year. It has numbered into the hundreds during recent years and at other periods not far distant the drove has been almost depleted, as it exists today.

However, no previous investigation has revealed such an alarmingly small percentage of females among this peculiar species of isolated Grouse.

Let us hope some satisfactory plan will develop for perpetuating the noble fowls, which seem to be making a desperate fight against extinction.

Gerard Alan Abbott,  
Port Allegany, Penn.

### UNUSUAL NESTING SITE OF THE CHIPPING SPARROW

On May 20, 1918, at Charter Oak, Huntingdon County, Pa., I found a new Chipping Sparrow's nest in an old Hairy Woodpecker's winter-roost hole, about ten feet from the ground, in a dead upright limb on a living apple tree in an orchard. It was placed at the bottom of the cavity which was six inches deep.

A week latter I was chagrined to find the nest empty and deserted; the lining was mussed up and there were two English Sparrows' feathers in the

lining and I believe these pests despoiled the nest and chased away the Chippies.

Richard F. Miller,  
Philadelphia, Penn.

### FRIEND MORSE EMULATES "YE EDITOR"

While I was lying on my back with a broken hip, I had intended all along to give you some account of our trip to New Mexico. Mr. G. E. Pilquist and I toured through Texas and New Mexico, then returned through Oklahoma. We had a very pleasant trip going down and collected many fine sets but after arriving at Carlsbad, New Mexico I had only one and one-half days collecting when I had the misfortune to get a fall which laid me up for ten days before we started back. Mr. Pilquist, I think, intends to give you a detailed account of our trip, so I will not dwell on it.

I had my nephew, Mr. Edgar Lang, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, drive my car back as Mr. Pilquist does not understand anything about a car. When I reached home after four days enroute I called my doctor and had an examination. He was not entirely satisfied so ordered X-ray made of injury. This disclosed pelvis bone broken in two places, one low down in groin, the other higher up so I was ordered to bed on my back for five or six weeks anyway. This happened the 13th of June.

I am resting very nicely now and in a nice way to recovery, if I don't injure it again, if I do I will be a cripple the rest of my days.

Mr. Pilquist would not climb any more trees after I got my fall, but the nests were so profusely scattered about that he and my nephew's boy (12) kept me busy preparing speci-

mens. I could sit up on the edge of the bed and do this work and it helped some but Mr. Pilquist has had only three years' experience collecting and did not find all of them. I could go over the same ground and find as many following him right up, but I have been at it all my life, and I claim that I know how it is done, even though my hearing is impaired in old age.

Mr. Barnes, I have collected in 13 different states, and this particular spot beats any place I ever saw. I thought we would be a little late, but they had a heavy storm down there about ten weeks before we got there and this destroyed many nests so they were building new ones and most all sets we took were fresh, and I made fine specimens of them, small holes, you bet. I don't want anything else. I have taken some extraordinary fine sets and would like to mention them to you. I took here a fine set of five with runt egg of Grey-tailed Cardinal. In all my collecting I never took over five of the Red-headed Woodpecker. I took a set of six. I also found three sets of Western Mourning Dove, also took two sets of three White-fronted Dove in New Mexico, a set of 1 1/4 of Verdin fine nest with set. We took Bullocks, Arizona and Hooded Oriole, House Finch, Purple Finch, Western Lark Sparrow, found these nesting four or five feet up on horizontal limb out to the end along highway and field, a beautiful nest. We saved many nests, Blue Quail or Mexican Quail, White Neck Raven, Harris Hawk, two sets of three each, found six sets, but the others had young, Black Phoebe, Ark. Kingbird, Western Mocking Bird, White-fronted Dove, Western Mourning Dove, Western Grosbeak, Texas Night Hawks, Senora Red-wing, sets and nests.

I had climbed a cottonwood sapling for Arionza Hooded Oriole in topmost

limbs. I got my fingers into the nest, felt three eggs. My enthusiasm got the better of my judgment so the wind swayed me over. I could not lift my climber out of wood so went over all doubled up. The tree snapped off eight feet up letting me fall 14 feet in an irrigation ditch, thus the accident.

George W. Morse,  
Tulsa, Okla.

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### COMMISSION FAVORS KILLING OF ENGLISH SPARROWS

Harold Bryant, Fish and Game Board,  
Gives Reasons For Extermination

Harold C. Bryant, member of the California fish and game commission, has contributed a signed article in the teachers bulletin of the organization, dealing with the life, habits and destructive propensities of the European house, or English Sparrow, which is of interest to the agriculturists and horticulturists of the state.

Mr. Bryant who is an expert in ornithology, condemns the English Sparrow as one of the most ruinous pests that the growers have to contend with in California. In referring to the economic status of the bird, he says in his pamphlet that the United States biological survey "has examined the stomachs of thousands of house sparrows in collecting evidence as to the relation of this bird to agriculture and even in the few instances where the species has been known to prey upon injurious insects and weed seeds, the good so accomplished is found to be far overbalanced by the destruction of cultivated crops."

#### Destroy Growing Crops

"These birds," continues Mr. Bryant, "destroy fruit of every kind, buds on cultivated trees, shrubs and vines, and eat tender young vegetables as

they appear above ground. They also damage wheat and other grains whether newly sown, ripening, or in the shocks. A campaign of destruction against the feathered pests is not only justified but highly necessary if crops are to be protected and our native birds encouraged."

According to a report of the United States department of agriculture, published in 1889, the house sparrow was first introduced into San Francisco in 1871 or 1872, probably from the eastern states. Later some of the species were liberated in Stockton. By 1886 the English Sparrow was found throughout the bay region and well into the interior valleys, as in the vicinity of Stockton, Sacramento, Hollister, Napa and also Eureka. When protection was given song birds in 1901, this sparrow had become so abundant and was considered so destructive that it was black-listed and given no protection.

#### Vast Colonies Thrive

At the present time it may be found in vast colonies in practically every settlement from the Oregon line to the Mexican line, with the exception of portions of southern California. The bird first appeared in Los Angeles in 1908, but since then has been increasing in numbers. It was first noticed in Imperial valley in 1910 and has become numerous in all the towns of that region.

"The many places," says Mr. Bryant, in speaking of the extermination of the Sparrow, "the handling of the problem by the city may lead to the best results. The appointment of a man to supervise and carry out sparrow destruction to be recommended rather than a bounty system. Sparrow clubs, in which each member is required to show a certain quota of nests or birds each week or month, have been found effective in England.

San Diego has taken drastic steps to rid itself of the pest. The job of destroying Sparrows inside the city limits is given to one man. During the first month, this man handed over to the police department 323 dead Sparrows, for which he received five cents apiece. Later when the Sparrows became more difficult to obtain, he was awarded 10 cents apiece. From last reports Sparrows are well under control in the southern California city."—San Jose Mercury, W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

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#### SERIES OF EGGS OF THE KILL-DEER

Four eggs, at least one half incubated; ground color buff. Thickly marked over the whole surface with spots and dots of brown and pale drab, with several large spot and blotches of the brown on the large ends; form pointed oval. Measure 1.56 x 1.11, 1.61 x 1.10, 1.64 x 1.10, 1.65 x 1.11 inches. Nest a very small amount of pieces of grass and stubble, on ground, in slight hollow. Locality Columbia County, Columbus, Wisconsin. Date May 1, 1890.

Three eggs, badly incubated; creamy buff ground, thickly marked over whole surface with rather coarse spots and scrawls of black-brown and lilac gray, not much of latter, however; form long oval; measure, average 1.80 x 1.12. No nest material, simply a hollow on plowed ground. Locality, Columbia County, Columbus, Wisconsin. Date 1890.

Four eggs, incubation slight, dull creamy ground, thickly spotted and dotted with black-brown, and under markings of lilac, heaviest on larger ends. Two are more heavily marked than the others; pointed oval; measure 1.51 x 1.12, 1.58 x 1.10, 1.50 x 1.07, 1.46 x 1.03 inches. Nest of a few



straws, in a hollow on ground, in grain field. Locality, Columbia County, five and one-half miles southwest of Columbus, Wisconsin. Date, June 1893.

Four eggs, fresh, ground, clay or greenish cream color, heavily marked almost entirely around the large end, with specks, spots, scrolls and blotches, of grayish and black-brown, and under markings of lilac; shape pyriform. Measure 1.54 x 1.07, 1.50 x 1.05, 1.48 x 1.05, 1.50 x 1.08 inches. Nest on the ground in marsh, well built of bits of grass and rootlets. Locality, Columbia County, Columbus, Wisconsin. Date, May 31, 1896.

Four eggs, slightly incubated, rich creamy white ground color, quite heavily marked with the usual markings peculiar to Killdeer's eggs, of black, dirty brown specks and spots with under markings of lilac, show a few scrawls of the blackish color. Pyriform. Measure 1.50 x 1.05, 1.55 x 1.10, 1.58 x 1.05, 1.52 x 1.08 inches. Nest in hollow where there had once stood, on a long swell or knoll, in an upland pasture of virgin soil; bits of leaves and weeds, and dried dung and around edge bits of dead wood and dung. Locality, Dodge County, just southeast of Columbus, Wisconsin. Date, April 29th, 1897.

Four eggs, incubated, ground color of grayish cream, quite heavily marked with black, brown and amber, in coarse specks, spots and blotches, with finer under markings of lilac, scattered more or less over the whole surface, the heaviest markings nearest the large end; pyriform, measure 1.45 x 1.05, 1.42 x 1.08, 1.48 x 1.08, 1.50 x 1.05 inches. Nest slight hollow in ground, between two weed tufts, well lined with bits of stubble; mold oat field. Locality, Columbia County, Columbus, Wisconsin. Date, June 4, 1899.

Four eggs, slightly incubated, light creamy or buff ground color, well marked over the entire surface with black-brown scrawls, spots and dots peculiar to these eggs and undermarkings of lilac. Pyriform shape. Average size (cannot give measurements at this time, as the set is stored with my collection). Nest in large flat sparingly covered with gravel, placed in hollow in top of a small heap of pebbles, probably four quarts of same, no nesting material other than the pebbles. Locality, Lake County, Zion City, Illinois. Date, May, 1909.

While searching for nests in the large old upland pasture referred to under the date of April 29, 1897, all unknown to me I had been closely watched. I had wanted to get a photograph of a Killdeer's nest and eggs, and procuring a camera I retired to this pasture. While waiting about to get a good picture of the birds too, if possible, I noticed a team stop over in the road a half mile away, and the people gaze at me. Finally a second team came up and stopped, and all seemed to be watching me with a great deal of interest, even standing up in the seat of the rigs. Soon the first rig, evidently going fishing, transferred their poles to the other rig, and turning about, drove back to town as fast as their horse could go. By this time I became quite interested, and still more so, when a little later, I saw one of our neighbors come driving down the road pell mell. I thought, what the heck! He had the city marshal an old friend of mine, and his dog, an exceedingly intelligent animal. They stopped near the others and the marshal and his dog got out. Things were indeed getting interesting, and probably if I hadn't had on a rather tight fitting cap my pompadour would have pushed it off, but you couldn't see it made my

hair stand up for it naturally is that way. I sat down on a log and began to whistle, with my weather eye wandering in search of a gopher hole, while I waited for him to come up; for, thinks I, if he wants me he will have to come after me. He is a man who tips the beam at 290 pounds, could hold a 200 pound coil of wire out in front of him with his teeth, or a man in a chair; could hold a man out in either hand that weighed 250 or thereabout. Now I knew the record of that dog, too; a dog smart almost to human. I could easily have run away from the marshall, but the dog—I felt a few doubts. When he came up to me he began to laugh and said, "Some crazy fools came up and told me there was a crazy man down here and wanted me to come and get him." He then took his dog and left.

It seems a neighbor woman had been watching me and had told some people going to town that "a crazy man was down there wading in the water with pants rolled up, and bare-headed; he stayed in the 'Ox Bow' nights."

I had on light colored canvas leg-gins and light colored cap.

This same city marshal, one of the best in the country, afterwards became Stockyards Detective, Chicago, where while on a still hunt for two of the worst thugs Chicago ever knew, a part of a gang he had helped to break up, and who had sworn vengeance on him, was slugged and killed. Lewis Lieth was his name, and a braver and more conscientious officer never lived. His dog was poisoned through hatred, by a fellow townsman.

George W. H. vos Burgh,  
Janesville, Wis.

#### ADDITIONAL INDEX

Through some unexplainable oversight, the following was omitted from the 1922 index, as contributions by Emerson A. Stoner, of Benicia, California.

Sparrow Hawk vs. Western Red-tail .....	p. 22
Birds of a California Snow Storm..	p. 56, 57
Ground Nesting of the Brown Thrasher .....	p. 96, 97
Sparrow Hawk Banding.....	p. 152
R. M. Barnes.	

#### SCREECH OWL'S EGGS

In the May issue of *The Oologist*, I note Mr. Graham's article on "Timing a Screech Owl." In this case it was the Rocky Mountain Screech Owl. On May 8th I found the nest with one egg. Returned May 12 and found two eggs. Again I returned May 17 and knowing this to be my last possible chance to be in that district for weeks to come, collected the set. There were only three eggs which showed on blowing, one with very slight incubation, another with a marked increase, and the third, indicating about ten days' incubation.

James A. Neilson,  
Wheatland, Wyoming.



# THE OOLOGIST

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Barnard, Plant City, Florida.

WANTED—To buy Part 3 for July 1911 of THE AUK. W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED—To buy collections of Modern Indian Relics, or most anything in beaded buck skin pieces. Best prices paid for pieces that I need. Robert F. Backus, Box 13, Florence, Colorado.

WANTED—Back numbers of Bird Lore. Colored plates from Bird Lore. Issues of the National Geographic containing "Birds of Town and Country", and "American Game Birds." Lawrence Compton, 409 W. Webster, Pittsburg, Kansas.

WANT Cooper Bulletin and Condor. Vol. II, all but No. 1; Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6; Vols. IV to VIII incl.; Vol. XXII, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5; Vol. XXIII, No. 6; Vol. XXIV all but No. 3; Vol. XXV, No. 1. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada.

Rare Indian relic for sale. Plaster Paris mold of Silver Peace medal given to the Ojrbuay tribe by Pres. Jefferson, in 1801. Albert Lano, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

TO EXCHANGE—Sets from New Zealand: Dove Petrel, Black Swan, Mutton Bird, Black Backed Gull, White Fronted Tern, Red Billed Gull, Gannet, Caspian Tern. From Australia: White faced Storm Petrel, Sooty Tern, Silver Gull, Pelican, Coot, Little Blue Penguin. From Ireland: Moon Hen, Coot, Little Grebe, Great Crested Grebe, Razor Bill, Puffin, Guillemont. All collected by self. To exchange for good sets, with proper data. L. L. Redick, Newington, Connecticut.

WANTED—Sets of No. 11, 37, 60, 112, 135, 137, 183, 186, 207, 213, 217, 230, 253, 261, 264, 276, 301, 305, 309. E. S. Coombs, 233 Washington St., Malden, Mass.

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We have just published this work which it took a Committee of well known Oologists, who were elected by The Oologists of North America for that purpose, nearly two years to complete. It is a Volume of two hundred pages, well illustrated, by half tones, showing the advance methods that now obtain in Oology. It contains the following special matter.

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WANTED—Michener's "Insectivorous Birds of Chester County, Pa."; Jacob's "Summer Birds of Greene County, Pa."; Pennock's "Birds of Chester County, Pa."; Michener's "Birds of Chester County, Pa."; and Warren's "Diurnal Rapacious Birds." Will pay cash. State condition and price. Richard F. Miller, 2526 North Second Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE—Two large upright cabinets of 32 drawers each, one of oriental oak, and one of hard pine. Also my entire Natural History Collection of Thousands of Specimens. A good chance for a Museum. Address Dr. W. S. Strode, Laguna Beach, California, Orange Co.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have for exchange, for skins desired by me a number of Snowy Owl Skins, in all grades of plumage ranging from almost pure white males to the darkest colored summer females. If you can use these send me your list of duplicates. R. M. Barnese.

EXCHANGE—National Geographic Magazines for Bird Magazines, also will take sets. Send want list. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Illinois.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splingidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila, Pennsylvania.

WANTED—Prismatic Binoculars. C. S. Sharp, Escondido, Cal. Will give sets of 349 or part cash. How about it?

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R. M. BARNES.

Lacon, Ill.

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1923

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS  
TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XL. No. 10.

ALBION, N. Y., Oct. . 1923.

WHOLE No. 438



# THE O O L O G I S T

## 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

**We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. 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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**WANTED**—Various volumes and numbers of Western Ornithologist, Oregon Naturalist, Oologist, Museum, Petrel, Bittern, Bulletin Michigan O. Club, American Ornithology, etc. Robert W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takema Park, Maryland.

I do not want to exchange eggs, but would like to exchange letters with bird lovers anywhere. S. A. Grimes, R. 6, Box 391, Jacksonville, Fla.

**WANTED**—For Cash, well marked chickens, 339, 337, also 388, 387, 263, 273. Write first. B. W. Strike, 2 Abingdon, Whitton, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

In addition to eggs in sets I am making a cosmopolitan collection of singles. Must have accurate data thoroughly identified. Offer skins, eggs, or cash. A. W. Hanaford, R. R. 9, Box 1210, Los Angeles, Cal.

**BIRD MAGAZINES AND BOOKS WANTED**—Nuttall Bulletin; set or parts; The Auk, Vols. 1 to 6, also Vol. 7, Nos. 2, 3, 4; Vol. 9, Nos. 3, 4; Vol. 11, No. 4; Vol. 14, No. 2; Vol. 17, Nos. 2, 3, 4; also any Vol. after 35. Cooper Club Bull. and Condor, first 3 Vols. Have many parts of Auk and Bird Lore for sale. Want Bent's Diving Birds, for which I offer \$7. Quote Gulls and Terns, Ridgway's Birds, odd Vols., Coues' Key, Ridgway's Color Key; Audubon's Birds, odd Vols. or Plates. Books on shooting, Game Birds, Wild Fowl, Big Game, Game Cocks and Cocking; History of Guns; Prints for framing relating to Shooting Game Animals. All more noted Works on above subjects in any language, old or new. Prefer to buy or sell for cash rather than exchange. Send me your offers describing fully and name your price. Large Catalogues relating to above subjects and all Nature Study sent on receipt of 5 cents in stamps. S. N. Rhoads, Franklin Bookshop, 920 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pa. Jun. 3t

**SHELL COLLECTORS AND MUSEUMS**—A fine lot of the "Liguus" or tree snails from the hammocks of Fla. for sale, or will exchange for skins or eggs. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

Will exchange or pay cash for a few small native or foreign mounted birds needed to fill collection. Also skins if properly prepared for mounting. Send list and prices. L. W. Speer, Taxidermist, Sac City, Iowa.

**WANTED**—Sets with nests of North American Warblers; only first class sets wanted. Send for my exchange list. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa. 10t3

**WANTED**—Am building a Museum and desire to secure through exchange or purchase, skins, nests, eggs or mounted specimens of North American Birds, sets of eggs with nests especially desired. Can use many common varieties. Also want Indian Relics, Shells, minerals and Butterflies. Brasher C. Bacon, 315 North Seminary St., Madisonville, Ky.

**EXCHANGE LIST**—Skins: F. Wood Duck; M. Farallone Gormorant; M. Sage Grouse; 2 M. Mallards; M-F, Gadwell; 2 M. Spoonbill; M-F, Eared Grebe; M. Western Grebe; F. Hooded Merganser; M-F, Bl. Cr. Night Heron; M-F, Caspian Tern; M-F, Ring B. Gull; M-F, Forsters Tern; M-F, Avocet; M-F, Wilson Phalarope. Eggs in Sets: Treganzas Blue Heron, 2, 3, 4, 5; R. B. Gull, 2, 3; Farallone Corm, 3, 4; Mallard, 5, 7, 8; Gadwall, 7, 8, 9; Cinnamon Teal, 11; Canada Goose, 2; Sage Grouse, 4; Am. Dipper, N.4; Coot, 8; Sand Hill Crane, 2. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Bird skins, including Hepburn Rosy Finch, Bohemian Waxwing, Merrill Song Sparrow, Merrill Horned Lark, Western Tree Sparrow, Hammond Flycatcher, and others, for eggs in sets. F. R. Decker, Vienna, Wash.

I have for **EXCHANGE** sets of eggs of the following species. A. O. U. Nos.: 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 12, 16, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 30a, 31, 31a, 32, 37, 38, 40, 42, 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 58, 59, 63, 65, 70, 71, 72, 74, 75, 80, 81, 81.1, 83, 86, 86a, 104, 106, 107, 114, 114.1, 115, 115.1, 117, 120, 125, 127, 128, 132, 134, 135, 138, 140, 141, 142, 143, 144, 150, 160, 167, 169, 172, 172a, 172c, 174, 178, 179, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 190, 191, 192, 194, 194b, 196, 199. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Fine sets of 327, 330, 360c, 364, 405, 445, 479 and 551; also many common ones. Will collect mammal skins to order. Desire sets or bird skins. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—A collection of some ten thousand stamps, on separate sheets for each country. Want bird skins for all or part. Gus. Langelier, Cape Rouge, Que., Canada.

We need Volume 36, No. 11 of The Oologist. Whitman Davis, Librarian, General Library, A. & M. College, Miss.

**EXCHANGE**—I complete set of North Western School of Taxidermy lessons, value \$20.00; what have you? George Carpenter, 746 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.10

ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1923.

WHOLE NO. 438

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## INGERSOLL'S EAGLE EGGS

In this issue we publish a half tone of a Series of Seventy Golden Eagle Eggs, all personally taken by Albert M. Ingersoll, of Santa Diego, California.

The half tones gives but a faint intimation of the splendid and beautiful appearance of this most remarkable series, many of which it has been the privilege of the editor to view. We doubt very much if another equally extensive series exists in this country and certainly no other series of equal size, all taken by one collector, and still remaining in his possession, is known to us.

Our own series consists of twenty-five sets of two, and six of three, only one of which had the editor the privilege of personally securing.—R.M.B.

## NOTES ON THE WHITE-THROATED SWIFT

We can truly say that this bird is common to this part of our state in all localities offering cliffs of a suitable height and character. On the southeastern edge of Platte county and extending into Goshen county are the sandstone conglomerate crowned cliffs of the western rim of a stretch of country known as the Goshen Hole. These cliffs will average about 100 feet in height and are composed of a soft chalk rock crowned on the top 10 to 20 feet with a sandstone conglomerate. The chalk portions being the softer fall away often leaving the harder sandstone cropping over it for several feet. The sandstone conglomerate is full of small pockets and shelves which offer excellent nesting sites for the Prairie Falcon, Sparrow Hawk, Rock Wren and Say's Phoebe, while the face of the chalk portions is often almost obliterated by the nests of the Cliff Swallow and in the cracks our beautiful Swift finds a very safe and almost impregnable nesting site.

This 23rd of June three of us interested in trying to locate the nests of this bird spent a most arduous and almost unprofitable day in trying to secure nests. Time and again we would descend the 100 foot cliffs by means of ropes to find ourselves swinging several feet from the face of the cliff where the birds were seen to enter a crack, or where we could come close enough to the cliff to find the crack to be several inches wide and an unknown depth into the face of the cliff and no nest in sight or so far in the crack as to be unobtainable. Finally, after several attempts, we found a nest in a crack scarcely wide enough to admit an arm and not out of reach of the hand. It

contained a clutch of fresh eggs which when first taken were spotted very heavily with the stains of vermin. On cleaning, the eggs showed a spotless white, are elliptical in shape, and the average measure is .87 inches by .55 inches. The shells are of a chalky nature and are not glossy. One egg in this set showed a peculiar defect which showed in two small areas in which the shell failed to cover the skin. No Cliff Swallow's nest I ever looked into was so nearly alive with bugs as this nest and how the bird remained on the nest was a mystery to us. We captured the female by cornering her as she did not leave the nest until I put my hand in the crevice. The nest itself seemed to be supported in the crack by being jammed into the narrow portion and the old base was of a few buck brush twigs lined with Grouse and chicken feathers. Apparently the nest had been used for about nine seasons as after the first layer of sticks, feathers, and filth, came seven successive layers of feathers and filth, and over the last of which there was a fresh layer of feathers (Rhode Island Red chicken) and the eggs. Two weeks before this trip I had noticed seven or eight of the birds flying about the barn of a farmer living about one-half mile from the edge of the cliffs and presumably these feathers in the nest came from his yard, as he is the only farmer in the near neighborhood owning Rhode Island Red chickens. It was impossible to tell if the original twigs of buck brush had been cemented together as in the case of the nest of the Chimney Swift owing to the fact of decay. This nest was 60 feet from the bottom of the cliff and 50 feet from the top. We observed unobtainable nests in crevices from 25 feet from the bottom of cliffs to 6 feet of top, but no nesting sites seemed chosen on cliffs of less



than ninety feet in height. One nesting site was chosen in a crack only 10 feet below the nest of a Prairie Falcon.

The birds seem to arrive in this district about the end of April or early May and leave for the South in late August or early September as nearly as I can find out from residents in the localities where the birds are but I have not been in the districts to authenticate these dates. May 6th, the birds were in vast numbers about the cliffs as I found when searching for Prairie Falcon nests. August 24th the birds were still present on the sandstone cliffs of the North Laramie river, elevation 8,000 feet which would lead me to believe they would still be present on the cliffs of the rim of the Goshen Hole, elevation 5,500 feet.

No bird I know so delights the eye with its wonderful grace and speed of flight as this black and white aeronaut. If one has had a bullet pass close to one's head, one gets exactly the same impression when one of these birds come from behind you at close range. Their harsh twittering seems to be out of place in a bird so gifted in grace of flight. Few birds seem to embody the very spirit of restlessness as does the White-throated Swift as he skims and darts about the cliffs.

James A. Neilson,  
Wheatland, Wyo.

## BANK SWALLOWS

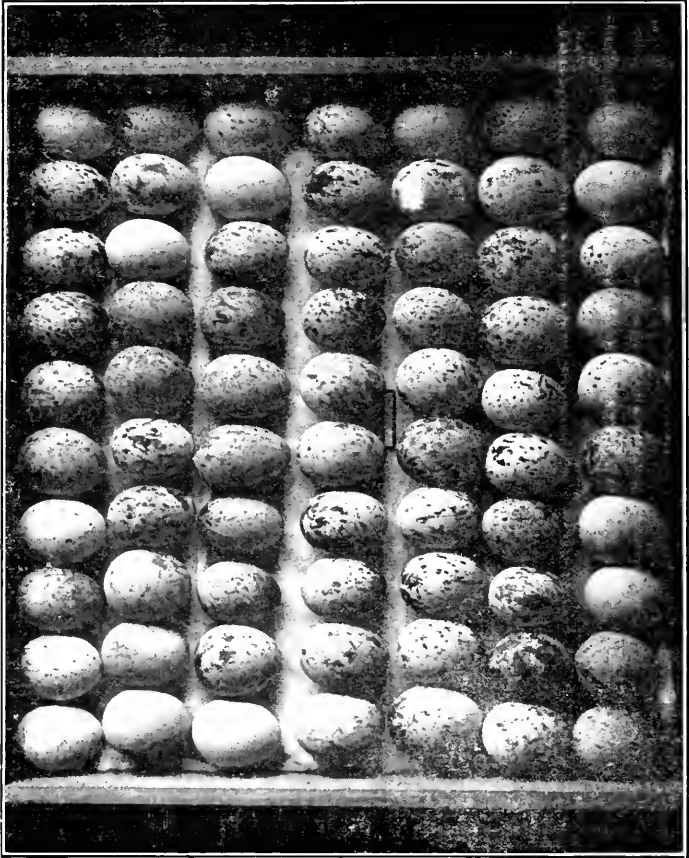
By chance, while hunting herbs, I found a small colony of Bank Swallow in a small gravel pit. There were perhaps a dozen pairs all told. I examined the nests, or rather burrows, and was greatly surprised to find they run way in, so I procured a long root and thrust it in each burrow and found them, yet unfinished, to vary from three feet to over six feet, and average three or four inches across; they varied in the direction back in the bank, which was a loose sandy and gravelly soil. They started usually straight back, maybe come to a stone or very hard place and then swerve to right or left, down or up, and then turn again a little further in as far as I could reach, so the back end must have been three feet below the entrance. Another almost from the start turned to the right and raised about two inches to the foot, run about a yard, only about six inches back from the face of the bank, then turned in and up a little steeper, yet not straight back, for a considerable distance. Any little obstacle seemed to change their course.

In no case was the nest placed back over twelve or fourteen inches from the entrance, always higher than the entrance, and placed in a hollow. Nest built of dry grass and lined with chicken feathers and Swallow feathers; they had to go over a half mile for the chicken feathers. I fail to see why they do so much digging as they only retreat a few inches back of the nest if frightened, and do not use the back tunnel for a store room.

George W. H. vo Burgh,

Columbus, Wis.





Series of Seventy Golden Eagle Eggs. All Personally Taken, by A. M. Ingersoll, San Diego, California.

NOTES FROM THE OZARK  
MOUNTAINS

Mrs. Neff and I have recently returned from a ten days' trip into the heart of the Missouri Ozarks, spending our time along the James River in and around the vicinity of Cape Fair. While the trip was not pre-eminently a bird trip, we still observed quite a sizeable list of birds of that region during the ten days which were from July 18th to 27th inclusive. Cape Fair is in Stone County, Missouri, about the center of a huge bend in the scenic James River. Our camp was situated on the bank of the James, the river on which the famous 125 mile Galena-to-Branson float is begun. Finding the river some two feet over normal, and muddy from a recent rain on its head waters, we spent most of our time loafing about camp and watching the birds that came along the banks and woods near our camp. Later as the water cleared out we fished some, and watched the floaters go by on their way to Branson. A few side trips of exploration were made along neighboring gulches and on to the bluffs along the river. It is a place that has many things to offer to the eye which seeks beauty. We never tired of the wildness and scenic beauty of the country, even though it is the Ozarks that are so famous as a joke elsewhere in our state and nation.

The drive overland from Marionville to Cape Fair is somewhere in the vicinity of thirty-five miles. For fifteen miles we drive south across more or less roughly rolling hills. Then for a distance we follow a small stream to its larger partner, cross the latter on a bridge, and drive for miles down the ridge running between the smaller creek and the James River.

Along this ridge road one encounters some of the highest points in the Ozark region, and the outlook is great. We rolled along on very fair roads through miles of forest, then through miles of tomato patches, for the raising of tomatoes is a staple industry there.

Because of the difference in topography between the sections traversed in reaching the camp site, our bird list is varied considerably; but is very fairly representative of our summer bird life. The Great Blue Heron was strangely absent on the James this summer; however, it was seen on the smaller creek on the 13th of July. Green Herons were abundant and very tame. We could place our boat within a few of them before they would even notice our presence. The Bobwhite seems to be more than usually common in the fields along the bottoms, and is very fairly proportioned over all the territory traversed. The Mourning Dove is very common throughout the territory covered, and could be heard every day from its seat in the top of some huge deadened tree. Turkey and Black Vultures were both fairly common, the former the more so, and were seen best from the top of the ridges, along the ridge road, where their soaring flight was a little more on the altitude of the road. Red-tailed Hawks were seen and heard every day screaming their war cry from the hills. Sparrow Hawks are common along the river, but were not seen this trip for some reason. Screech Owls were common nightly visitants and made the night hideous from a willow bar in front of the tent. Barred and Great Horned Owls are both resident there, but the shoal in front of the tent made such a noise that our ears could not catch their cry, as their range was some two or more miles away.

Belted Kingfishers and their neighbors, the Bank and Rough-winged Swallows, are less common than usual this season. The rivers have been out of their banks several times since nesting season began; and since the banks along the streams are not of any great height at any time, the high waters of this breeding season have kept the three species above mentioned from their usual nesting sites. Never before have I seen as few birds of either of the three species at this season of year on the rivers of this section.

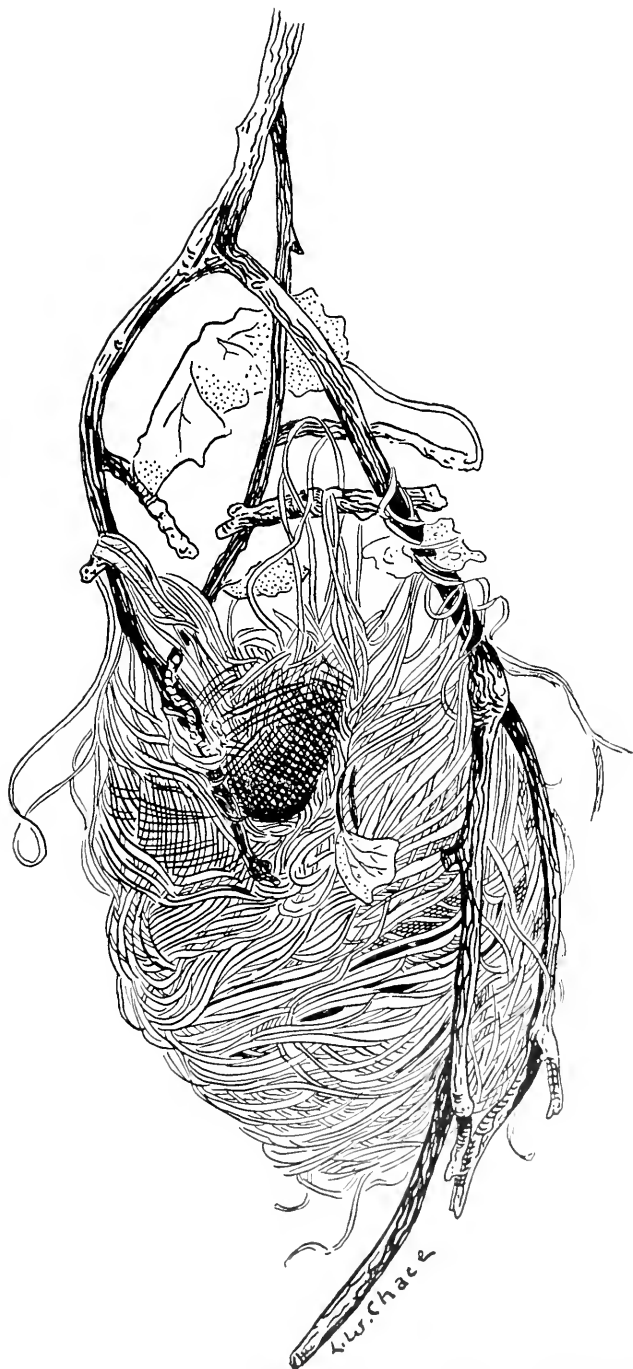
The Yellow-billed Cuckoo could be heard at almost any time and place along the river or among the hills. It is very widely and evenly distributed in this section. Of the Woodpeckers, we found that all of Missouri's most common species were there in quite an abundance. Hairy, Downy, Red-headed, Red-bellied, Pileated, and the Flicker. All were in fair measure regularly distributed throughout the territory covered in our drives. Nighthawks were seen occasionally flying across the skyline. Chuck-wills-widow seemed to be in great majority, as three or more different birds could be heard every night.

Chimney Swifts were a common sight in the air, and Ruby-throated Hummingbirds were very abundant in the vicinity of our camp. Of the Flycatcher family we saw many Kingbirds, Crested Flycatchers, Phoebes, and several Pewees, though not so many as the former three. A few Prairie Horned Larks were seen on the prairie section of our drive, but of course, none were seen along the wooded river bottoms. Blue Jays were seen all along the trip, but are not present in any great number at this season. Crows were abundant and very noisy; we could not fail to

find them, as the immature young birds kept up a continual clatter. Cowbirds were as usual common everywhere, as is common with most pests.

One or two pairs of Red-winged Blackbirds were seen along the smaller creek (by name Carney's Branch; it drains into Flat Creek, which in turn drains into James River just above Cape Fair) but they are not common this season even in their accustomed haunts where last season they were abundant. Meadowlarks were found common on the uplands, and not at all scarce along the bottom lands. The Orchard Oriole was not seen after we left the upland ridges and the level prairie region. A few Bronzed Grackles strayed across our path on the ridges. Goldfinches were common at every point of the trip. The English Sparrow occupies even the very most remote hollow trees in the depths of the hills. Chippys and Field Sparrows are also common along the river as well as on the uplands.

The Towhee was found abundantly along the river. Cardinals were present in amazing abundance, seeming to have produced well this season especially along the river. We seemed to find no willow thicket or ravine without its quota of Redbirds. Several pairs of Blue Grosbeaks were both seen and heard. All of them showed a preference for upland brushy pastures. The Indigo Bunting is more common than ever before; never have we seen so many of these gaudy little birds. Dickcissels are rather common on all parts of the trip, although more so in the real prairie regions than in the wooded sections. Purple Martins are common, for no native of the hills fails to have his small Martin box. Barn Swallows were seen at a few points



An Oriole's Nest. Drawing by Leda W. Chace, Lawrenceville, Pa.

en route to the river. Bank and Rough-winged Swallows were very scarce this summer, for the reasons mentioned before. One or two Migrant Shrikes were seen on the drive, but they are not abundant.

I had the interesting sight of lying under a papaw bush and watching two busy Red-eyed Vireos search its top for insects. They were at no time over four feet from my head, and I had an excellent view of these birds which are very abundant in all the woodlands of the Ozarks. A pair of Yellow-throated Vireos frequented the spring and its surrounding heavy woods and shrubbery. White-eyed Vireos were heard at intervals, but were loath to appear in open view. Of the three species, the former is by far the commonest.

Black and White Warblers are most abundant breeders along the two streams that we visited this season. They are a common sight in all the woodlands, even on the uplands, where they have strayed after nesting in the bottom timberlands. Yellow Warblers were not seen after we left the more open uplands, especially after passing out of the orchard sections. The Sycamore Warbler was seen once. It is not uncommon on the river. Louisiana Water-thrushes were abundant and tame. We had an excellent chance to observe them, with their wag-tail manner of teetering back and forth. One frequented the spring; we never went after water without finding him sitting on a rock in the spring branch teetering all about the narrow run until we got close enough for him to take alarm. A very companionable bird made us a visit in camp twice. This bird came up over the high bank and fed for some minutes about the camp fire, the Ford (for which he showed no concern), and all about the tent and breakfast table, showing no concern

for us even when just a few feet away from us. The Kentucky Warbler was common, but was hard to find because of its habit of frequenting low and damp places in the deep undergrowth. Maryland Yellow-throats and Yellow-breasted Chats were rather common, being more abundant along the smaller creeks and on the prairie region than along the deeper river. The Redstart is very common everywhere.

Mockingbirds, Thrashers and Catbirds are all abundant even along the river in the wildest place. The former is the least common of the three species. Without them this region would be to a great extent songless for most of the summer season. The creek bottoms and all along the river never failed from day light till dark to ring with the call of the Carolina Wren. It was present singly and in grown families; it overran the camp and the wooded bottoms. A few Bewick Wren were seen, but none along the river. Most of them were in the vicinity of dwellings along the road. One or two birds I saw which I am sure were Prairie Marsh Wrens, but there were so many Carolinas that we spent little time trying to find out which were which.

White-breasted Nuthatches were a most common sight; this region is very thickly populated in the creeping birds of that nature. Tits and Chickadees are also extremely abundant throughout the section covered, being about evenly distributed over all sections of the country hereabouts. The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher is a fairly common summer resident; a few of them were seen and heard on our trip; they frequent the higher woods and ridges more than the bottoms; they are also rather common in the orchard section.

Wood Thrushes are more common than usual this summer. One fine pair nested on the hillside behind our

camp, and such concerts as we did have all day long every day. Robins were not uncommon along the river, and were abundant elsewhere. Bluebirds were abundant everywhere, and a source of delight to watch and listen to.

Although the list is rather small, I feel that with a few more days on the river we would have increased it materially.

Johnson Neff,  
Marionville, Mo.

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### AUTUMN MIGRATIONS

One October day, I saw an unusual migration of Bluebirds, at least it seemed unusual to me. I had been attracted by the appearance of a Phoebe in the grapevine trellis outside and going to investigate, found other birds gathering in the many maples around our home, and also in the yellow willows bordering the brook.

Those in the willows proved to be Yellow Warblers and scattered around in other places were more. This was enough to excite my curiosity so I walked carefully through the thick carpet of newly fallen autumn leaves, and searched the treetops for birds. On a limb sat a Bluebird, its pink breast could scarcely be distinguished from the coloring of the leaves, and in the road was another busily engaged in threshing the life out of a moth.

Led on by these, I was guided across the road to the orchard, where I found many, many more. Suddenly up from every tree and fence arose small flocks of these Bluecoats all, seed-filled and preened for a southward flight. I stood in awe as I realized the unusual number, and I began to count as fast as I could, twenty, twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty,

forty-five and fifty, and still they congregated up there in the vastness of sky spaces. The call of the leader, which seemed to say "Come on, come on!" had died away, and only tiny black specks were visible to the eye, and soon these vanished in a mist of grey rain clouds. But while I stood gazing, a few stragglers arose, slowly flying, chirping plaintively, "Wait for me-e-e!"

The stillness that followed was oppressive. I was almost breathless, as I became conscious that I had seen what I probably would never see again. The fluttering of many wings, the din of chirps and calls was gone, only a memory remained. Then a little black cricket chirped out from beside a grey stone, and a lonely Woodpecker stirred in the old apple-tree, just to let me know that something was alive and breathing in that awful silence.

#### Our Bluebird.

God took a bit of heaven's blue,

Set with the grey of morning skies,  
And then He touched your breast a  
hue

He found amid His autumnal dyes.

Leda W. Chace,  
Lawrenceville, Pa.  
Tioga County.



## LATE SWALLOWS AT PHILADELPHIA

According to my migration records, covering 25 years, the average time the Barn Swallow leaves Philadelphia is September 16th, subsequent records are few. The latest dates I have seen the Barn Swallow in this region are: October 10, 1917, Aramingo, Philadelphia, one young bird of the year; October 3, 1915, Pensauken Creek, N. J., one bird. This locality is about six miles east of Philadelphia, October 2, 1906, Richmond, Phila-

O O L O G I S T—FIVE  
delphia, Pa., one bird. However, on October 10, of the latter year at this locality my brother George saw four Barn Swallows.

On September 30, 1907, at above locality I saw a flock of 30 Barn Swallows, but as a rule my several records later than September 20, have been of individual birds.

The Bank Swallow departs from Philadelphia, on the average about the same time as the Barn Swallow. I have but one October (3, 1915) record, that of a bird seen at West Palmyra, N. J., on the Delaware River, about six miles east of Philadelphia. My next latest records are September 30, 1905, one bird at Cramer Hill, N. J., on the Delaware River, two miles east of Philadelphia, September 9, 1906, four birds at Frankford, Philadelphia and September 25, 1921, six birds at Richmond, Philadelphia.

Richard F. Miller,  
Philadelphia, Pa.

## A LONG WINDED WHIPPOORWILL

During the spring of '22, I was out staying at my nephew's on the farm, trying in vain to recruit, after various physical misfortunes. During the evening of May 7th, after a fine bright day, I heard the first Whippoorwill calling, for this season, and such a call, Whip-poor-will, fifty or sixty times at a stretch, given very distinctly, and kept up for a long time. Again, during the moonlight evening of the 10th, I heard him repeating the call from sixty to near one hundred times. I heard him again on the 11th and 12th, both moonlight evenings. The last evening he moved farther east. The place where he was is a large woods, mostly oak with underbrush and various plants and vines.

George W. H. vos Burgh,  
Columbus, Wis.

## ORNITHOLOGICAL WORLD

In this locality Catbirds and Robins are on the increase, Bluebirds and Brown Thrashers retiring to the woods, Wood Pewees and Marsh Wrens, almost wanting. Flickers and Red-headed Woodpeckers, Bartram Sandpiper and also the Spotted and Killdeers on the increase. Purple Martins plentiful, Traill's Flycatcher and Great Crested plentiful; Yellow Warblers increasing, Song, Savannah, Swamp, Field and Vesper Sparrows plentiful. Kingfishers and Bank Swallows about as usual, Meadowlarks and Bobolinks more plentiful, Western Meadowlark getting well established. Screech Owls and White-breasted Nuthatches holding their own, though hollow trees and nesting boxes are scarce. By the way nesting boxes in the woods are too conspicuous. Blue birds are about as usual though hollow posts are mostly iron ones  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter.

George W. H. vos Burgh.





## DON JOSE C. ZELEDIN

Don Jose C. Zeledin, the most distinguished of Central American Naturalists, died in Italy July 16th, 1923, where he had gone on a journey. He was born in San Jose, Costa Rica, March 24, 1846, and was easily the most distinguished Central American ornithologist. His name lives with *Zeledonia cornata* and *Anomalous oseine*, and various other species of birds. He was the father of Costa Rican ornithology, and a personal friend of Spencer F. Baird, George R. Lawrence and other well known ornithologists.

He was blest with a personalty of great charm, and had a familiarity with the English language seldom obtained by Spanish American naturalists. This brought him with close relation with our countrymen of similar tastes.

He lived to become one of the wealthiest men in Costa Rica. But a few months previous to his death in conversation with me he expressed himself thus: "If I could have one more wish come true, it would be to live a day again in my ragged clothes and with muzzle-bore gun, amidst the forests of Costa Rica." He left a widow, but no children.

Austin Paul Smith,  
San Jose, Costa Rica.

An extended obituary of Mr. Zeledin appears in the October issue of *The Auk*.—R. M. B.

### THE RESULT OF BEING TOO SCIENTIFICALLY SCIENTIFIC

*The Auk*, Volume XL, October 19th, 1923, pp 716 has the following lament.

"As a fellow editor we sympathize fully with the editor of '*Bird-Lore*' in the appeal for commendation as well as criticism, which he has presented

in a recent editorial. 'Issue after issue,' he says, 'the editor through his own pen or that of his contributors, addresses an unseen, and, as a rule, unresponsive audience. An apparent or actual error is promptly called to his attention but he can assume that he has won the approval of his readers only by their failure to criticize.' And then in lieu of commendation from his readers, he proceed to tell us himself, what a thoroughly good magazine '*Bird-Lore*' is, and all that he says we would enthusiastically endorse."

The *Auk* is supported, sustained and kept going by the annual dues of the Associate Members of the A. O. U. Without this sustaining force there would be no A. O. U., nor any *Auk*. The Associate Members are nearly all non-professional ornithologists.

Elsewhere in this issue as a fellow member of the Cooper Club, we have called attention to the drift of *The Condor*. At least 95 out of every 100 persons who are interested in the study of birds, are interested as amateurs, and not over 9 out of every 100 persons have a sufficient education in the dead languages of the past to follow the various ramifications of our common bird names, like the Robin or Bluebird for instance, through the winding, misty paths of modern scientific ornithological literature.

The great majority of the members of the Cooper Club and Associate Members of the A. O. U. pay their dues regularly to keep the thing going, and scan each bi-monthly or quarterly publication anxiously for a few pages of bright, crisp everyday bird observations and some good old fashioned American names. At least they look hesitatingly, in the hope that some Latin name which by dint of hard application, they have learned

to associate with some particular bird, has not been changed since the last issue, and they likewise fearsomely glance through page after page of the current issue lest they find some well known bird friend has been ruthlessly slaughtered, split, quartered and divided and sub-divided into an endlessly confusing variety of imagery races and sub-species, since they last read anything concerning that particular bird.

No, Bro. Editor, The Oologist with all of its crudeness and lack of time on the part of its editor to give it the attention that it really deserves, receives hundreds of commendatory communications from its "silent audience" of subscribers every year. A very large number of these come from some of the best known bird students, observers and collectors in America; this because, we believe in giving to the common everyday individual who helps support this publication, something for his money that he can really read and understand.

It is more important to know a bird when you see it—know what its habits are, what it feeds on, where it nests, and where it goes for the winter, than it is to know each one of a half a dozen names that have been applied to this same bird, on which one was last used.

Science is supposed to be an abstract certainty in its last analysis. Yet in American Ornithology it is gradually degenerating into a positive uncertainty and a general changeableness, which truly appalls the layman, and which confuses the very best of our modern systemists.

Witness; the list of the so-called new species, sub-species and varieties of birds lately published in The Condor, and charged against the various originators thereof, and finally reduced to a score card basis, in which

each describer was credited with a certain number of successful descriptions, and with a certain number of unsuccessful descriptions, with which he has muddied the waters of our ornithological literature.—R. M. B.

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#### GETTING FARTHER AWAY

The editor of The Condor announces "The Phenomenon of Albinoism among the birds is now so well known that we doubt the value of printing further records of Albinos. Indeed, we do not invite further contributions to this magazine of such records unless they are accompanied by observations of some significance, such as upon the behavior of other birds towards aberrant individuals or upon the results of their breeding."

We fear The Condor is becoming so extremely and technically scientific that many of its readers will join the "silent audience" referred to in this issue in our comment upon the observations of the editor of The Auk.

To our mind the keeping of a continuous record of all known observations of Albinos would ultimately lead to some knowledge on the subject as to which species were most likely to be afflicted with Albinoism. And possibly the percentage of such individuals in the several species might be approximated, likewise the geographic territory in which such Albinoism might most likely be looked for, and this might possibly lead to some information or suggestion as to what was the cause: climate, feed or what?

The columns of The Oologist are open to those desiring to record individual observations of this kind. In fact we invite them.—R. M. B.

## ORIOLE INSTINCT

Not only the wonderful weaving together of grass blades, plant stalk shredded, and bits of string that goes into the making of the Baltimore Oriole's nest, but the instinct shown in the selection of some particular tree, one special limb and a branch adapted to holding the nest is marvelous to me.

This specimen nest was cut from an apple tree in October, the supple end branches were curved towards each other so taut was the weaving, although there were loose ends flying about. The cross branch, over which several strands were looped was cut in taking the nest, so there were originally four twigs as main supports, as well as the prongs. How came the Oriole to know that these twigs hung in the right position, to bend, converging to exactly the right distance, for a nest thirteen inches around and seven inches deep?

Truly the Unknown in the realm of nature extends to us wonders that make Arabian Night's Tales and other fairy lore of childhood very tame and commonplace.

I have noticed many Oriole's nests hanging from some outer tip of an elm branch, high in the air, but this is the only nest I ever found in an apple tree, and the only one built low enough to cut off. And the only time I ever saw a Wren enter one, was at this time, when one carried a handful of twigs and placed them endwise inside, like so many knitting needles inserted into a bag. What the purpose of this was in bird wisdom I am still guessing.

Leda W. Chace,  
Lawrenceville, Pa.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP,  
MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION,  
ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF  
CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912,  
of The Oologist, published monthly  
at Albion, N. Y., for October 1, 1923.

STATE OF ILLINOIS,

County of Marshall—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public, in and for the State and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. Magoon Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of The Oologist, and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations.

Publisher, Editor, Managing Editor, and Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Illinois. Not a corporation. No stock has ever been issued. The Oologist is owned exclusively by R. Magoon Barnes.

There are no bond holders, mortgagers or other security holder, none have ever been issued.

R. MAGOON BARNES,

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 9th day of October, 1923.

(Seal)

FAY BALL,

My commission expires Feb. 16, 1927.

## SYSTEMATIC BIRD STUDY

By Laurence H. Snyder, Cold Springs Harbor, L. I., N. Y.

The progress of any science is necessarily limited by the number of trained workers in that science, and by the available apparatus and facilities for research. Thus, in general, progress has been slow. To some extent, especially in experimental work, this has been an advantage, because the work done has been more carefully and accurately planned and carried out where facilities were limited. But as far as general knowledge of a subject is concerned, the more rapidly progress is made and the sooner accurate data and facts are accumulated, the more will scientists be able to make use of this general knowledge in advancing the experimental work and the practical applications of the science.

All progress in a science comes from the untiring efforts of those who give their time and energy to the advancement of that science. The dearth of available men and suitable research facilities has been the retarding factor. It is not necessary to discuss the money side of it now; it is the fact of few workers, not the reason for them, that concerns us here. Thus, progress in astronomy is slow because there are few trained astronomers and but few available observatories. In other sciences it has been the same way. So far it has been the case in ornithology. All the knowledge of birds which we have has been gained by the life-long efforts of a few who have carefully made and recorded observations. But bird study, which is of practical and economic importance, need not be under this handicap. Years of training are not necessary to study birds. Everyone with a real love of nature is a possible field

worker; all outdoors is the laboratory; every woods offers all the facilities necessary for interesting and instructive research.

The word **research** will frighten some. The very title **Systematic Bird Study** will scare many. But these are not ogres. Systematic bird study does not mean deep technical study; it does not mean learning a lot of scientific terms nor studying comparative anatomy. But it does mean a county-wide co-operative plan of making and recording observations in which anyone can take part. Let me outline such a plan.

First, it involves some central agency or "clearing house." Such an association as the National Association of Audubon Societies might be a possible central office. All data would be sent there for interpretation.

Second, it involves the co-operation of many observers in all parts of the country. Bird Clubs, Audubon Societies and individual workers can all contribute to the accumulation of data. If each club or worker would pick out a single species, and find out all there was to know about that species over a period of years, and then send in the data in condensed form, perhaps once in five years, our knowledge would grow by leaps and bounds. Many old facts would be verified or disproved, and many new facts learned. For example, let us suppose that a particular club picks out the robin. By observations on all available birds and nests in their locality they would proceed to find out the following facts: Date of arrival (average date over a number of years and the two extremes); sex which arrives first; habits on first arriving; time of mating; courtship habits; time of nest building; nest built by male or female or both; time of day at which nest is built; time of first egg; eggs laid on consecutive days or ir-

regularly; number of eggs; number of nests per acre in various kinds of land; length of incubation; habits during incubation; frequency of feeding young; and other facts about feeding; sex-ratio of young if possible; kinds of food; length of time young remain in nest; dates of changes in feathering; habits after leaving nest; preparation for migration; dates of migration; and many other facts which would come up. Nothing that might add to the knowledge of the species would be too trivial to note. Observations must be exact or should not be made at all. Records should be made at the time of observations, never guessed at or written down later from memory. Every available nest of the species should be visited at least once a day. Some observations will take hours of patient watching at a single nest. The work could be divided among the members of a bird club and would provide interesting and productive work. Observations to be valuable, would have to be on large numbers of birds, for a long period of time, and above all, accurate. Although each club or individual only contributed a few observations, the lumping of such data would give results of importance. Of course, the dates of arrival, nesting and departure would vary for different parts of the country, but the lives and habits would be comparable.

The Biological Survey is already starting a systematic plan of procedure by banding birds in all parts of the country. This, however, is mainly with the idea of studying migration. The lives and habits in the summer homes can be carefully and accurately studied in some such way as I have outlined.

## SAFE

Early in September the Press despatches carried a scare head announcement of a serious tidal wave which almost or totally destroyed one of the ports in Lower California, where our friend, Chester C. Lamb, had been writing from. Of course, this aroused in the minds of his friends apprehension, but it is now our understanding that Mr. Lamb was not injured in any way. For all of which we are duly thankful. He is one of the finest fellows with whom we have ever dealt.

R. M. Barnes.

## FISH HAWK KILLS ROBIN?

Newspapers are not the only publications that print distorted facts and lies about birds. Books frequently contains ornithological nature freaks, and about one of the worst lies about the Fish Hawk or Osprey I found in "The White Islander," by Mary Hartwell Catherwood, (pages 66-67), published in 1893, by The Century Company, New York City. It is as follows:

"A Fish-hawk was dragging a Robin through the water to drown it. Marie has seen the Hawk drop like a stone with its prey. The Fish-hawk, beaten off by the paddle, left the Red-breasted bird, and soared away indignant at killing prey for big unfeathered creatures, yet satisfied that its work was well done. The Robin was past fluttering when Henry lifted it out of the water. It was drowned and its neck was broken."

Richard F. Miller.

Philadelphia, Pa.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

"A Bibliography of British Ornithology from the Earliest Times—Supplement—Chronological List of British Birds, by H. Kirke Swann. F. Z. S. etc., Weldon & Wesley, Limited, 4 Arthur Street, London. Published October 1st, 1923. Price 5 Net."

This publication of 42 pages is all that its title claims it to be and will be of great service to those interested in the subject, in which it treats, and will be indispensable to those who endeavored to keep up with the various changes of names inflicted upon our numerous species and sub-species and varieties of birds.

The first division of this publication, page IX-XVII gives the date and original reference on which the different genera of birds is established, following this P. P. 132 is a Chronological List of British Birds giving the names (the Scientific and Popular) by which each of them are at present known and the authority on which the name is based. Pp. 34, is devoted to a list of Generic names which have been discarded, and pp 37-42 a similar list of Specific names; all of which will tend to further enlighten the student as to the cause of the apparently endless confusion into which bird names have fallen.

R. M. Barnes.

A Separate from "The Emu," Volume XXIII 1923 pp 4-18, entitled "Comparative Osteology of the Australian Mud Builders," by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt of Washington, D. C. is an exhaustive review of this subject, thoroughly Scientific—as is the doctor's habit when dealing with scientific subjects and exhaustive in detail.

R. M. B.

## American Forestry

October 19th, 1923, pages 624-30 contains a splendid article on the subject of "Grouse and Quail Exhibition in the Bird Hall of the United States Museum," by Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, illustrated by ten half tones of mounted specimens.

How in the world the doctor turns out so much and such splendid writing is a source of continual wonder to many of his friends.—R. M. B.



Will Exchange personally aken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK: good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

WANTED—To buy Part 3 for July 1911 of THE AUK. W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED—To buy collections of Modern Indian Relics, or most anything in beaded buck skin pieces. Best prices paid for pieces that I need. Robert F. Backus, Box 13, Florence, Colorado.

WANTED—Back numbers of Bird Lore. Colored plates from Bird Lore. Issues of the National Geographic containing "Birds of Town and Country", and "American Game Birds." Lawrence Compton, 409 W. Webster, Pittsburg, Kansas.

AUKS WANTED—Will pay cash for your back numbers which I can use. Please send list with prices. Herbert A. Smith, 550 Lee Ave. Webster Groves, Missouri.

Rare Indian relic for sale. Plaster Paris mold of Silver Peace medal given to the Ojibway tribe by Pres. Jefferson, in 1801. Albert Lano, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

BOOKS FOR SALE—Bendire's Life Histories North American Birds, two Vols.; Fisher's Hawks and Owls; Bailey's Birds of Virginia; Hatch Birds of Minnesota; Wintle's Birds of Montreal; Discoria's Ornithologist and Oologist; Capers' Oology of New England. Copies of Auk, Condor, Osprey, Oologist and many others. W. Raine, 59 Waverly Road, Toronto, Canada.

INDIAN RELICS—A fine line of Indian Relics for sale cheap. For particulars, write to Dr. Thos. Lorang, 109 East Liberty Ave., Spokane, Wash.

FOR SALE—A copy of A. C. Bent's "Life Histories, Gulls and Terns," also "Petrels, etc.," as issued, in paper covers. Make me an offer. H. M. Harrison, 519 Penn St., Camden, N. J.

WANTED—Michener's "Insectivorous Birds of Chester County, Pa.," Jacob's "Summer Birds of Greene County, Pa.," Pennock's "Birds of Chester County, Pa.," Michener's "Birds of Chester County, Pa.," and Warren's "Diurnal Rapacious Birds." Will pay cash. State condition and price. Richard P. Miller, 2526 North Second Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR EXCHANGE OR SALE—Ornithologist & Oologist Volumes 8 to 18, and 144 volumes and numbers of Ornithologist & Oologist, Bird-Lore, Auk, Osprey, Nidologist, Condor, Oologist, and North American Fauna and reports, bulletins, and other books on birds and mammals. Robert W. Whiting, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have for exchange, for skins desired by me a number of Snowy Owl Skins, in all grades of plumage ranging from almost pure white males to the darkest colored summer females. If you can use these send me your list of duplicates. R. M. Barnes.

EXCHANGE—National Geographic Magazines for Bird Magazines, also will take sets. Send want list. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Illinois.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Spillegidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila. Pennsylvania

WANT Cooper Bulletin and Condor. Vol. II, all but No. 1; Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6; Vols. IV to VIII incl.; Vol. XXII, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5; Vol. XXIII, No. 6; Vol. XXIV all but No. 3; Vol. XXV, No. 1. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

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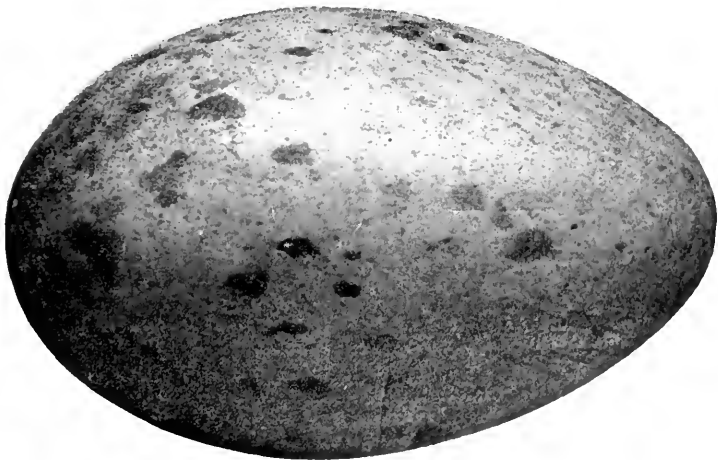
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VOL. XL. No. 11.

ALBION, N. Y., Nov. , 1923.

WHOLE No. 439

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# THE OOLOGIST

## 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.

We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. These columns are for the use of those desiring to make bona fide exchanges of such specimens for scientific collecting purposes only.—EDITOR

**FOR SALE**—One hundred sets of eggs, with full data, of the commoner varieties. Very reasonable. List on application. Henry W. Davis, 10 South Baton Rouge Avenue, Ventnor, Atlantic City, N. J. 11t2

**FOR SALE**—Eggs in sets of A. O. U. No. 123a, 216, 228, 264, 277, 328, 339b, 355, 364, 373d. A-1 condition. Number of eggs in each set and price by return mail. Henry W. Davis, 10 South Baton Rouge Ave., Ventnor, Atlantic City, N. J. 11t2

**FOR SALE**—Mounted Birds, Bird Skins, and Mammal Skins, at low prices Will exchange mounted specimens for skins I want. D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Georgia. 11t2

**FOR DISPOSAL**—Complete set of Bird Lore from Vol. 1 to Vol. 16, for \$32, prepaid. First eight years are bound with covers and advs., balance not bound. All in perfect shape; also Bird Lore, Volume four, complete 1902, for \$4. Fred M. Dille, Valentine, Nebr. 11t3

Miss Kite, White Neck Raven, Swainson's Hawk, Least Tern, Snowy Plover and many others in original sets, personal take. What have you to offer? R. L. More, Vernon, Texas.

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**WANTED**—Various volumes and numbers of Western Ornithologist, Oregon Naturalist, Oologist, Museum, Petrel, Bittern, Bulletin Michigan O. Club, American Ornithology, etc. Robert W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland.

I do not want to exchange eggs, but would like to exchange letters with bird lovers anywhere. S. A. Grimes, R. 6, Box 391, Jacksonville, Fla.

**WANTED**—For Cash, well marked clutches, 339, 337, also 388, 387, 263, 273. Write first. B. W. Strike, 2 Abingdon, Whitton, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

**SHELL COLLECTORS and MUSEUMS**—A fine lot of the "Liguus" or tree snails from the hammocks of Fla. for sale, or will exchange for skins or eggs. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

Will exchange or pay cash for a few small native or foreign mounted birds needed to fill collection. Also skins if properly prepared for mounting. Send list and prices. L. W. Speer, Taxidermist, Sac City, Iowa.

**WANTED**—Sets with nests of North American Warblers; only first class sets wanted. Send for my exchange list. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa. 10t3

**WANTED**—Am building a Museum and desire to secure through exchange or purchase, skins, nests, eggs or mounted specimens of North American Birds, sets of eggs with nests especially desired. Can use many common varieties. Also want Indian Relics, Shells, minerals and Butterflies. Brasher C. Bacon, 315 North Seminary St., Madisonville, Ky.

**EXCHANGE LIST**—Skins: F, Wood Duck; M, Farallone Gormorant; M, Sage Grouse; 2 M, Mallards; M-F, Gadwall; 2 M, Spoonbill; M-F, Eared Grebe; M, Western Grebe; F, Hooded Merganser; M-F, Bl. Cr. Night Heron; M-F, Caspian Tern; M-F, Ring B. Gull; M-F, Forsters Tern; M-F, Avocet; M-F, Wilson Phalarope. Eggs in Sets: Trenganzas Blue Heron, 2, 3, 4, 5; R. B. Gull, 2, 3; Farallone Corm. 3, 4; Mallard, 5, 7, 8; Gadwall, 7, 8, 9; Cinnamon Teal, 11; Canada Goose, 2; Sage Grouse, 4; Am. Dipper, N, 4; Coot, 8; Sand Hill Crane, 2. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

**ATTENTION**—We will collect any type of specimens in exchange for Lepidoptera, U. S., Foreign. Associated Butterfly Collectors, W. E. Dickinson, Sec., 573 Lake Drive, Milwaukee, Wis. 11t2

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We need Volume 36, No. 11 of The Oologist. Whitman Davis, Librarian, General Library, A. & M. College, Miss.

**EXCHANGE**—1 complete set of North Western School of Taxidermy lessons, value \$20.00; what have you? George Carpenter, 746 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

For two years I have been working on a collection of the Raptors (Accipitres) of the world. What have you for exchange? Only first class sets wanted. Ralph W. Jackson, Route No. 1, Cambridge, Maryland 11t3

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Bird eggs, bird and animal skins, mounted specimens, butterflies and moths of Northern Ohio, for those of other regions. Will sell at reasonable prices to those wishing mounted specimens for school, office or home decoration and have nothing to exchange. Will mount specimens sent by mail. C. F. Zuercher, Sugarcreek, O.

**WANTED**—Subscriptions for all Magazines, at greatly reduced prices. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.11.

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WHOLE No. 439

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

At last the Editor is on the job and we are endeavoring to catch up schedule with THE OÖLOGIST. It is hoped and believed that the December issue will reach our subscribers very early in that month.

We have for that issue a very perfect and very unusual plate of the very rare eggs of The Mexican Jacana.

It would please the Editor very much if renewals of subscriptions for 1924 would be mailed promptly, and of course any one wishing to send THE OÖLOGIST to a nature loving friend, either old or young, would not be refused the privilege of so doing, if the communication and remittance requested such mailing. In fact we appreciate every boost, for you all know that the publication of THE OÖLOGIST, is a labor of love and without financial gain to the present management.

Next year THE OÖLOGIST will travel along the well beaten path which it has traversed for the past forty years and more, probably no better, certainly no worse. The goodness of it depending upon the liberality of our readers in contributing copy. —R. M. Barnes.

## NESTING OF THE CASPIAN TERN AND THE SNOWY HERON

By Dr. R. W. Shufeldt, C. M. Z. S.,  
Fellow of the Amer. Ornithol. Union.

A number of our terns breed along the great stretch of coast of southern Louisiana which is washed by the waters of the Gulf of Mexico, and among them we meet with the Caspian or Imperial Tern (*Sterna caspia*). As to the nidification of this fine species, Coues stated in his "Key to North American Birds" in North America it is irregularly distributed, not only during the extensive migrations but also during the breeding season; known to breed at various points on the Atlantic Coast from Texas, in the interior, from Great Slave Lake to Lake Michigan, Nevada and California, but seldom observed on the Pacific Coast. Eggs 2-3, in hollow scooped in dry sand without nest, 2.65—2.75x1.80—1.90, broader and more elliptical than those of *S. maxima*, with smoother and harder shell; ground color pale olive-buff, evenly marked all over with small spots of dark-brown and lavender. Breeds commonly by single pairs. (Key to N. A. Birds, Ed. V., vol. II, p. 1005).

Quite recently Mr. Edward A. McIlhenny, of Avery Island, Louisiana, kindly presented me with a beautiful series of photographs of certain birds and their nests as they occur in southern Louisiana; among them is one of the nest of the Snowy Heron and another of a beach scene on the shores of the Gulf of Mexico, where some seventeen Caspian Terns had deposited their eggs—that is, there are about that many indicated in the picture herewith reproduced. Presumably the colors of these were as described above by Coues, and this likewise applies to what he stated about their form. The three beautiful sets in the lower right hand corner

of the cut distinctly show the excavation, in each case, made by the bird in which she deposited her eggs. In most all the others the eggs appear to have been laid direct on the hard sand, with no attempt to make a hollow in it. As thus deposited it is quite evident that these eggs are at the mercy of any bird or mammal that cares to feed upon them, and doubtless such depredations frequently happen.

I met with Caspian Terns breeding in the Floridas and Bahamas Islands as far back as the spring of 1864, and there were thousands of them, it being the days antedating those of the "plume hunters." A number of other species of Terns, Gulls, Skimmers, and others, resorted to the same localities for the same purpose. On Doublehead Shots Key the eggs of such birds were deposited in such numbers and in such close proximity to each other, that one had to be very careful how he stepped around among them lest he crush them under foot.

As will be noted in the accompanying illustration, the Snowy Herons had built their nest in the thick foliage of a "black mango tree," and deposited it in four bluish white eggs. The nest of this bird is truly a very rough and ready structure, rather after the order of a nearly flat platform, the basic portion being composed of very coarse, shortish sticks, with still shorter and more slender ones for the lining, there being no soft material whatever used for the latter. A great many lovely blossoms, apparently of the tree upon which this nest rests, are to be seen all about it—silent testimonials to the taste of the builder.

The description of the eggs of our American Herons left us by Coues are quite unsatisfactory and inexact, while he is correct when he states that the nest is always "a large flat rude structure of sticks." It is a well known



Eggs of Caspian Tern

Photo for Dr. Shufeldt.

fact that a clutch of eggs of any one of our smaller Herons contains a greater number of eggs than does a clutch of any of the largest species; in the latter they run from two to four and in the former from five to six.

In closing the present brief article, it will interest many ornithologists and others to learn that Mr. McIlhenny has established at New Iberia, Louisiana, "The Louisiana Gulf Coast Club"; it commands a reservation of some 100,000 acres, and has 75 miles of Gulf Coast line. It is the largest tract of land in the United States devoted to wild life conservation as well as to a resort for sportsmen. There are some wonderful publications issued by this Club, the illustrations of which are extremely interesting, and it undertakes to supply these gratis to applicants, requests being mailed to the Chicago office, 623 South Wabash Avenue. Those interested in the protection of our birds should surely send for these publications.

#### RECENT EXPEDITION TO LOS CORONADO ISLANDS, MEXICO

By Alfred Cookman, M. S., Department of Science, San Diego High School, San Diego, California

On April 29th, the writer and his wife and a troop of Boy Scouts steamed out of San Diego harbor for a cruise to the Coronado Islands, Old Mexico. There are four small islands located 25 miles southwest of San Diego and twelve miles off the Lower California peninsula in the Pacific Ocean. The largest island "Dead Man's Island" lies further south and North Island "Corpus Christi" is five miles to the north. The remaining two are mere mountain peaks barely protruding out of the sea.

The Coronado archipelago are the

protruding peaks of an otherwise submerged mountain chain that was once integral with the main land some time during the tertiary or quaternary periods. They are the famous breeding grounds of the California Brown Pelican (*Pelicanus californicus*), the Socorro Petrel (*Oceanodroma socorrensis*), the Farallon Cormorants (*Phalacrocorax auritus albiciliatus*), Brandt Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*), the Xantus Murrelet (*Brachyramphus hypoleucus*), the American Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) and the San Nicholas Rock Wren (*Salpinctes obsoletus pulverius*). Western Gulls are everywhere on the islands. They breed here in great colonies among the ice plants on the leeward side of the islands and among the jagged rocks near the summits.

On the way over to the islands several of the Boy Scouts became exceedingly ambitious to study the marine gardens judging from the frequency in which their heads were continually over the side of the boat.

We arrived on South Island at noon. Our little launch steamed into the cove in due time. A shout burst forth from the boys' throats. We landed on the leeward ledge at the south side of the cove. This is the only safe landing place on the island. Everywhere the surging sea is pounding away at the cliffs and it would be suicidal to attempt to land a skiff on the port side or at south point. Seal lions are numerous and they enjoy the rough, surging sea on the port side. They would go tobogganing into the sea when our boat would circle the island and when the captain blew the whistle. The adults would leave their babies on the guano-covered ledges under the stare of the noon-day sun.

Our first interest upon landing was



Nest and Eggs of the Snowy Heron

Photo for Dr. Shufeldt.

to visit pelican point and to see the brown pelican at home. The boys were wild to see baby cormorants and infant pelicans. It took us an hour to reach the point, scaling cliffs and crags, and dodging cacti bushes and looking out for rattle snakes. We were informed that the island was alive with Pacific Coast rattlers.

From one point, we counted 56 nests containing young pelicans in all stages of development. Very few nests contained eggs. I brought back nine sets of California Brown Pelican eggs (*Pelicanus Californicus*). They were all advance, but I managed to blow them with some degree of satisfaction. I also brought back a young pelican about four weeks old—No. 7773, male.

We returned to the launch late in the afternoon. The boys saw their first infant cormorant in an rookery near the water's edge. They are certainly queer looking birds. The nests are well placed on guano-covered ledges on the most precipitous cliffs. A young Brandt Cormorant looks like a young ladies black kid glove turned inside out and covered with axle grease.

On the way back to San Diego, we counted up our list of birds and found that we had recorded 17 species and 37 varieties of wild flowers. We will never forget the pleasant outing that we experienced on the Los Coronados Islands, Old Mexico. We arrived in the harbor as the golden sun was setting and the shadows of evening were creeping over the sea.



### GOOD WORDS

I am writing to show my appreciation of the "Oologist," and to congratulate you on some of the real fine articles of recent publication. I can assure you it is read here with great interest from cover to cover. There is only one fault, there is not enough, although for the money it gives the greatest value.

B. W. Strike,

2 Abingdon, Whitton,

Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

THE BIOLOGY OF BIRDS, by J. Arthur Thomson, published by the Macmillan Company, New York. Price \$5.00.

This volume of more than four hundred pages is a splendid contribution to the subject referred to by the title. It is illustrated with one colored plate and fifty-nine drawings scattered through the text, besides eight half-tone plates.

The text as the title would suggest is devoted to a careful analysis of the adaptation of birds to the various surroundings in which they are found; discussing the characteristics of birds, the external features, food, its capture and utilization, internal economy, haunts, migration, courtship, eggs, parental care and nesting, senses, instincts, intelligence, pedigree, evolution and birds in the web of life, and true the author has given exhaustive study to these subjects and has set forth very much that is interesting and that will be of use to the bird student.—R. M. B.



## K. B. MATHES

G. A. Abbott, now at Port Allegany, Pennsylvania, writes us the sad news, concerning the death of Mr. K. B. Mathes, well known to the Bird Fraternity and many years a staunch supporter of *The Oologist*.

"I write to tell you about the sudden and unexpected passing away of K. B. Mathes. Two weeks ago today I was a guest at his home in Batavia, N. Y., and enjoyed his hospitality very much. A few weeks ago he visited me in Port Allegany and we have been very much interested in each other's collections. Last Thursday, Mr. Mathes, while waiting to be served at a dining room table in Olean, N. Y., 27 miles from here, was a victim of a paralytic stroke. He was rushed to the Higgins Memorial Hospital and died Saturday. He has two sons in college, one daughter at home, and the other daughter was the librarian at the Dayton Ohio Public Library. Mr. Mathes was one of the most active men that I ever met. In addition to owning a business that involved the handling of thousands of seashells, he made articles for aquariums and souvenir novelties; he also manufactured machinery and preparations of his own invention. He travelled miles over ledges and rocky river beds with hammer and stone chisel collecting geological specimens. His method of preparing and mounting butterflies and insects was the most artistic and practical that I ever saw. He had beautiful cabinets of his own make and had a wonderful collection of paintings from the master artists and was just recovering from the financial setback he experienced during the World War. He showed me a beautiful piece of property which he had purchased and his plans, had he lived to carry them into effect, would have involved the

erection of a residence on the site with several fire proof rooms devoted entirely to his own museum. He was a man in the prime of life and apparently in good health."

G. A. Abbott.

## THE WOODCOCK IN MISSOURI

Either the Woodcock are increasing very much or I am a little more than usually lucky this summer. My father has lived in this immediate vicinity for fifty-four years. He remembers seeing an Ivory-billed Woodpecker within a short distance from where our home now is. He hunted Passenger Pigeons and Wild Turkeys all over the timberlands that are now the best of Marionville apple district, which is admittedly the leading apple township in the state. But in all that time he saw but one or two Woodcock.

For some five years I have heard of Woodcock being seen in our county. Chums of mine told of hitting one with a rock, but failed to bring me any sign of the bird to identify. Finally I saw many of them along the shores of Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. On October 19th, 1922, I was at work with a gang of Missouri Ag. College boys west of Columbia, Missouri. We were getting ready for our annual 'Barnwarmin', at which the only decoration is corn fodder and frost colored brush. Having a class I left the gang and cut across the woodlot, following a small woody stream. I flushed two finely colored woodcock along the stream. They were my first in the state.

This spring was very wet here, and as our land is not well drained it stood in water for many days. Being a bird-bander, and having some traps set, I went out one eve to look them over, and as I came along the chicken-

run fence, in an inch or two of water I flushed a woodcock. He rose up through the trees nearly fifteen feet straight up, and I saw him plainly. That was on April 3rd. Then again on April 15th I again flushed a woodcock within twenty feet of the same spot. This is within thirty yards of the house, too. Later the rains were gone, but there was a lot of water standing about on the top of the ground. I came through the same place and flushed the woodcock again from the chicken yard. This time it was very light, and the bird only flew a few yards. I howled for Dad, and we followed it up flushing it the second time that Dad might be convinced that it was a real woodcock. I am at loss to explain its presence here until that date—June 18th, as it should have been nesting. I suppose the great amount of marshy land, due to the heavy rains, attracted it for a longer time than usual.

Johnson A. Neff,  
Marionville, Missouri.

#### RED-SHOULDERED HAWK

On April 10, 1916, I started for the woods in search for nests and after about two hours walk I came to a farm house. The farmer was very friendly to me and upon telling him that I was searching for birds' nests, he began telling me that in the woods a quarter of a mile north there were a pair of hawks that nested there for the past ten years and he was sure that the nest was pretty well in the thicket, for he had seen the birds there a few days ago. I thanked him very much and at once started for the place.

I soon got to the woods where the hawks were and after a short search I noticed one of the birds flying above the tree tops and when I got to the

place where I had seen the bird I discovered a nest about forty feet up in a red oak tree. I now took my bird glasses and looking at the nest I could see a few feathers on the outside rim of the nest. I now put on my climbers and fastened my egg box and folding hand camera to my belt and slowly ascended the tree. On reaching the nest I found four white eggs, variously bloched and spotted with different shades of brown. The nest was made of sticks, lined with fine roots, grass, etc. I now climbed about five feet above the nest and took a photo of the nest and eggs. After this I climbed down to where the nest was and took the eggs, one at a time, and rolled each in a layer of cotton and put them in my egg box, and after I got to the bottom of the tree I also took a photo of the tree which contained the nest.

I was very glad to procure this set for red-shouldered hawks are considered as rare in LaPorte county.

C. F. Pahrman,  
1011 4th Street  
LaPorte, Ind.

#### CANADA NOTE

The Summer Birds have all departed except the Waterfowl. On a walk today I noticed only residents, Chicadees, Ruffed Grouse, and a Hawk Owl. Snowflakes have been here since the 19th and I saw a Redpoll and a Rosy Finch this morning.

My total score of game birds this season, is one Mallard, so that in a country which teems with ducks and grouse, I am not leaning very heavy on them.

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvidere, Alta., Canada.



## RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD      A BLACK AND WHITE WARBLER NEST

For two or more months during the Fall of 1910, a male Ruby-throat Humming Bird visited my yard nearly every morning and evening. The attraction was a dense growth of *Salvia* of Scarlet Sage of which the Hummers are very fond.

This little bird became quite tame and would perch on a rose bush or wire fence within a few feet of where I would be working and seemed to consider me as a part of the environment and not to be feared. A little later he grew to consider the grounds as his special territory and resented the intrusion of other birds or animals.

The presence of my little white French Poodle dogs he decidedly resented, and would fly down on their backs in a fury, frightening them not a little.

One evening a fine large Hummingbird moth flew into the yard and commenced getting its supper from some late flowering Perennial Phlox. The Hummer at once got busy and began investigations. Buzzing over the moth for a short time, he flew into a rage and made a fierce attack, uttering its little squeaky notes, as though it would say, "You are a bogus hummingbird. Get out of my yard."

The moth returned in a few moments to some flowers a few rods away, but was again attacked and driven away for good.

He was a fine large specimen in brilliant plumage and I would have liked to add him to my collection of scientific skins, but had no heart to take the life of this beautiful little visitor.

Dr. W. S. Strode,  
Lewistown, Ill.

One fine morning in May, this spring, I was trying very hard to locate one nest at least of several pair of Canadian Warblers that were nesting in a part of a large swamp. This part had had most of the larger trees chopped off and the new growth was mainly different bushes like blueberry and wild plum. To find the nest of a Canadian, as good a way as any, is to sit down somewhere near where the male sings the most and hope to catch the female going to the nest with building material. Such was my occupation when I noticed a small bird hopping about in a last years Crow's nest in a pine about 20 ft. up. Through the glasses the bird was identified as a female Black and White Warbler. At first I did not know what she was doing. She would go down into the bottom of the nest, which although flattened by use, was deep enough to conceal her. Then she would re-appear hopping around on top on the sticks, but when I saw her depart with her bill full it dawned upon me that she was getting material for her own nest.

After watching her for quite a while I went over to the bog I noticed she went to most, but could not find a nest. From behind a nearby bog I discovered, after a good long wait, that after flying down from the pine to the bog, she flew along, low down, about twenty feet to where the nest was concealed under the overhang on another blueberry bog.

She was just starting to line her nest and the material she was getting from the old Crow's nest was similar to what she would use ordinarily. A few days later I watched her still selecting material from the Crow's nest. Was unable to go to the nest at the right time being a few

days late, and then found her sitting on four of her own eggs (one slightly dented) and two of a Cowbunting. This parasite can find a nest to lay in even in a swamp.

The Black and White nest both where the ground is damp and where it is dry here. They are one of the first Warblers to come in the spring. A very common breeder, but finding a nest is pure luck as a rule. Never having seen one securing nesting material from such a source, made the sight of unusual interest, but as I have only seen a small percent of the Black and Whites in the world, do not mention this as a record, but rather as unusual.

R. I. Giles,  
Marlboro, Mass.

#### NESTING HABITS OF THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK

With the exception of the Sparrow Hawk and of the Redtail, the Broad-winged Hawk is the most abundant breeding hawk in this part of Alberta. It is of a retiring disposition and seldom seen out of the woods in which it breeds. I first became acquainted with it in the Spring of 1913 and recognized it immediately, chiefly from the description of its note as resembling that of the Wood Pewee, given in Fisher's Hawks and Owls of the United States. This note has rather a mournful sound and my rendering of it is Pick-ee or Chick-ee. Often this call of the birds is the first intimation you have that a nest is not far off, and it is usually easily found, after you have located one of the birds, in the breeding season.

The Broad-wing does not frequent such heavy timber as the Goshawk and the nests are usually at no great height from the ground. Those I have taken were from about fifteen to forty feet up, the majority being be-

tween fifteen and twenty-five feet.

Sometimes a new nest is built and at others an old nest is repaired and usually the nest used the previous year will be found at no great distance away. While a nest is being taken, both birds remain in the vicinity, flying from tree to tree, and calling Chick-ee or Pick-ee at intervals. They never offer to attack the climber like the Goshawk.

They are late breeders and I have taken eggs from May 17th to June 27th, but from May 20th to June 1st, just when the poplars are leafing out, appears to be the height of the breeding season.

Three eggs is the full equipment and I have never seen more in a nest. My first nest was taken May 23rd, 1913. It was an old nest, repaired, and there were several other nests close by. It was made of dead sticks with a few green poplars twigs laid around the edge and a lining of green leaves. It was about twenty-five feet up in a poplar.

Another nest taken June 3rd, 1914, was about thirty feet up in a Spruce, It rested on horizontal branches against the trunk, and was composed of dead sticks and lined with pieces of dry poplar bark and a few green spruce and poplar twigs with the leaves on.

I have examined fourteen nests in all of the Broad-wing and all have had this finish of green twigs and leaves. The nests are rather flimsily built and quite shallow. Of the fourteen nests examined by me, twelve were in Poplars and only two in Spruce trees.

A. D. Henderson,  
Belvidere, Alberta.



### BIRD NESTS I FOUND IN 1922 AND 1923

Mocking bird, 89; Brown Capped Nuthatch, 19; Red Headed Woodpecker, 19; Loggerhead Shrike, 16; Brown Thrasher, 15; Cardinal, 14; Blue Bird, 10; Red Eyed Vireo, 9; Yellow Billed Cuckoo, 8; Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, 7; Orchard Oriole, 6; Crested Flycatcher, 5; Carolina Chickadee, 4; Summer Tanager, 3; Flicker, 2; Screech Owl, 2; Carolina Wren, 2; Night Hawk, 2; Florida Meadowlark, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Ruby Throated Hummingbird, 2; Wingbird, 2; White Eyed Vireo, 2; Painted Bunting, 2; Ground Dove, 1; Blue Jay, 1; Bob White, 1; Pine Woods Sparrow, 1; Wood Pewee, 1; Chimney Swift, 1; Chuck-Wills-Widow, 1; Purple Martin and English Sparrow Nests were also found. Total 153.

#### 1923

Mockingbird, 68; Loggerhead Shrike, 14; Brown Thrasher, 13; Red Headed Woodpecker, 11; Red Eyed Vireo, 10; Blue Jay, 7; Blue Bird, 6; Brown Capped Nuthatch, 5; Cardinal, 5; Ruby Throated Hummingbird, 3; Crested Flycatcher, 2; Orchard Oriole, 2; Downy Woodpecker, 2; Summer Tanager, 2; Night Hawk, 2; Kingbird, 2; Ground Dove, 1; with Parent bird sitting on two egg, on ground, on October 7th; Fish Crow, 1; Yellow Billed Cuckoo, 1; Chuck-Wills-Widow, 1; Florida Grackle, 1; Carolina Chickadee, 1; Red Bellied Woodpecker, 1; White Eyed Vireo, 1; Florida Meadowlark, 1; Flicker, 1; Screech Owl, 1; Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, 1; also quite a few Purple Martins and English Sparrow's nests were found. Total, 167.

S. A. Grimes,  
Jacksonville, Fla.

### THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY

A Great Migration of Monarch or Milkweed Butterflies, *Anosia Plexippus*, at St. Louis, Mo., on September 23rd, 1923.

Looking through the window at 12:30 p. m., I saw a number of Monarchs headed southward. Going into the garden I was very much surprised to find the air filled with them, all going South, most of them winging their way between 20 to 40 feet above ground, but many higher up, hundreds of feet in the air, some mere specks in the sky or visible only against white fleecy clouds drifting slowly northwestward. Those higher up than the trees and houses and especially those at a great height did very little wing beating, but soared majestically in curves and circles, very much like a flock of migrating hawks. While the great mass was scattered without order, some passed in bunches and others came chasing each other as if in play. When those that flew low reached the houses, they rose almost straight up high enough to skip the roofs, very few flying around the houses. The greatest number passed between 12 and 1 o'clock at the rate of 25 in a minute, and between 1 and 1:30 at an average of 10 in a minute, which means that 1050 passed over my neighbors' houses within one hour. Stragglers continued, some as late as 3:30. I cannot tell when this grand spectacle had commenced, as it was in full force when I noticed it at 12.30. It may have set in when at noon, the sky cleared after an overcast morning.

The temperature at the time was 70° and the wind a very light southwest.

On the next day, September 24, the St. Louis Globe Democrat, said that billions of butterflies flew over St. Louis, reports coming from all parts

of the city.

Looking out for Monarchs on the days following this great wave I saw but few, though the weather was as favorable as on the 23rd, which means that the majority had passed South.

That Monarchs fly South in fall is well known and many are seen here every year though in varying numbers, but I have never seen or heard of anything like this migration and I would have hardly believed it that such a congregation were possible.

It has never been found out what becomes of the large number of Monarchs that go South in the fall, as comparatively few are seen in Spring. It must be that most of them succumb to cold, but the mildness of last winter may account for a larger return of them in Spring and the favorable summer for an unusually large crop of children.

The early cold spell of September 14, when frost occurred in the northern states, may have set the movement in motion and passing steadily southward the accumulation was perfected by continuous additions of those who were ready to join.

O. Widmann,  
St. Louis, Mo.  
September 29, 1923.

#### AN INTERESTING EXPERIENCE

For several years last past the Editor of *The Oologist*, has become increasingly interested in the Butterflies and Moths. Recently we started in to build up a representative collection of species local to the County in which our home is, and this may possibly later expand to include the more representative species found in North America. In the pursuit of this newly acquired hobby, we have of course had to lay a foundation with books devoted to that subject.

At the sale of the Child's Library in

New York, we sat by and saw Edward's "Butterflies of America," and Denton's "Butterflies and Moths," sell without any effort to acquire them.

Later we place an order for these two works with a dealer in books whom we have patronized for many years. He finally located Denton's for us, and reported at last that he had located a set of Edward's in London, and that it would reach us shortly.

After waiting several months word came that the copy of Edward's had been sold in London before his second communication had reached there. Ever since that this book dealer and ourselves have been on the look out for this work.

About the 1st of November we located a perfect copy of the three volumes of Edward's stored away in an old dusty barn in a nearby village, apparently having been unused and unpacked for many a year; with the result that they are now the property of the writer, in addition to a copy of Strecker's *Butterflies*, which were thrown in by the seller without charge for good measure.

R. M. B.

#### QUITTING

John D. Sherman, Jr., of 132 Primrose Avenue, Mount Vernon, N. Y., writes us that he is going out of the bird book business and will confine himself hereafter strictly to *Insect Books*. Now is a good time to buy *Bird Books*, of this dealer, at reduced prices.

R. M. Barnes.



## THE OOLOGIST

Will Exchange personally taken Florida sets for books. Want the last four volumes of AUK; good books on Butterflies, Moths and Insects; also good work on Southern Botany. Tell me what you have and price and will send you list. Oscar E. Baynard, Plant City, Florida.

WANTED—To buy Part 3 for July 1911 of THE AUK. W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED—To buy collections of Modern Indian Relics, or most anything in beaded buck skin pieces. Best prices paid for pieces that I need. Robert F. Backus, Box 13, Florence, Colorado.

WANTED—Back numbers of Bird Lore. Colored plates from Bird Lore. Issues of the National Geographic containing "Birds of Town and Country", and "American Game Birds." Lawrence Compton, 409 W. Webster, Pittsburg, Kansas.

AUKS WANTED—Will pay cash for your back numbers which I can use. Please send list with prices. Herbert A. Smith, 550 Lee Ave. Webster Groves, Missouri.

Rare Indian relic for sale. Plaster Paris mold of Silver Peace medal given to the Ojibway tribe by Pres. Jefferson, in 1801. Albert Lano, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

BOOKS FOR SALE—Bendire's Life Histories North American Birds, two Vols.; Fisher's Hawks and Owls; Bailey's Birds of Virginia; Hatch Birds of Minnesota; Wintle's Birds of Montreal; Discoris' Ornithologist and Oologist; Caperis' Oology of New England. Copies of Auk, Condor, Osprey, Oologist and many others. W. Raine, 50 Waverly Road, Toronto, Canada.

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FOR EXCHANGE OR SALE—Ornithologist & Oologist, Volumes 8 to 18, and odd volumes and numbers of Ornithologist & Oologist, Bird-Lore, Auk, Osprey, Nidologist, Condor, Oologist, and North American Fauna and reports, bulletins, and other books on birds and mammals. Robert W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have for exchange, for skins desired by me a number of Snowy Owl Skins, in all grades of plumage ranging from almost pure white males to the darkest colored summer females. If you can use these send me your list of duplicates. R. M. Barnes.

EXCHANGE—National Geographic Magazines for Bird Magazines, also will take sets. Send want list. J. Earl Harlow, Texico, Illinois.

WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

WANTED—Lepidoptera from the West and South West, especially Splingidae Saturniidae and Papilioes. Wm. Jay, 12 Westview St., Mt. Airy, Phila., Pennsylvania.

WANT Cooper Bulletin and Condor. Vol. II, all but No. 1; Vol. III, Nos. 1, 2, 5, 6; Vols. IV to VIII incl.; Vol. XXII, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5; Vol. XXIII, No. 6; Vol. XXIV all but No. 3; Vol. XXV, No. 1. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Canada.

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*Catalogue 16 on Application*

**JOHN D. SHERMAN, Jr.,**

**132 Primrose Ave.**

**Mount Vernon, N. Y.**



# THE OÖLOGIST.

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TAXIDERM Y

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WHOLE No.440



# THE O O L O G I S T

## BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wanted, Exchange, For Sale, Etc., inserted in this department at 15 cents for each 25 words for one issue; each additional word 1 cent. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents.

**We will advertise the skins, nests, eggs, or mounted specimens of North American Birds for sale for persons having a lawful authority under the law to deal in the same. 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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Miss Kite, White Neck Raven, Swainson's Hawk, Least Tern, Snowy Plover and many others in original sets, personal take. What have you to offer? R. L. More, Vernon, Texas.

**WANTED**—A Mounted specimen or skin of Passenger Pigeon. Will give good exchange, or pay cash. O. S. Biggs, San Jose, Ill.

**FOR SALE**—1,000 sets of eggs, about 600 varieties, 1-3 New List Price. All sets first class. E. A. Wheeler, East Randolph, N. Y.

**WANTED**—Various volumes and numbers of Western Ornithologist, Oregon Naturalist, Oologist, Museum, Petrel, Bittern, Bulletin Michigan O. Club, American Ornithology, etc. Robert W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland.

I do not want to exchange eggs, but would like to exchange letters with bird lovers anywhere. S. A. Grimes, R. 6, Box 391, Jacksonville, Fla.

**WANTED**—For Cash, well marked clutches, 339, 337, also 388, 387, 263, 273. Write first. E. W. Strike, 2 Abingdon, Whitton, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk, England.

**SHELL COLLECTORS and MUSEUMS**—A fine lot of the "Liguus" or tree snails from the hammocks of Fla. for sale, or will exchange for skins or eggs. Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida. Jun. 3t

Will exchange or pay cash for a few small native or foreign mounted birds needed to fill collection. Also skins if properly prepared for mounting. Send list and prices. L. W. Speer, Taxidermist, Sac City, Iowa.

**WANTED**—Sets with nests of North American Warblers; only first class sets wanted. Send for my exchange list. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa. 10t3

**WANTED**—Am building a Museum and desire to secure through exchange or purchase, skins, nests, eggs or mounted specimens of North American Birds, sets of eggs with nests especially desired. Can use many common varieties. Also want Indian Relics, Shells, minerals and Butterflies. Brasher C. Bacon, 315 North Seminary St., Madisonville, Ky.

**EXCHANGE LIST**—Skins: F. Wood Duck; M. Farallone Gormorant; M. Sage Grouse; 2 M. Mallards; M-F, Gadwell; 2 M. Spoonbill; M-F, Eared Grebe; M. Western Grebe; F. Hooded Merganser; M-F, Bl. Cr. Ring B. Gull; M-F, Caspian Tern; M-F, Ring B. Gull; M-F, Forsters Tern; M-F, Avocet; M-F, Wilson Phalarope. Eggs in Sets: Treganzas Blue Heron, 2, 3, 4, 5; R. B. Gull, 2, 3; Farallone Corm. 3, 4; Mallard, 5, 7, 8; Gadwall, 7, 8, 9; Cinnamon Teal, 11; Canada Goose, 2; Sage Grouse, 4; Am. Dipper, N.4; Coot, 8; Sand Hill Crane, 2. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scto, Oregon.

**ATTENTION**—We will collect any type of specimens in exchange for Lepidoptera, U. S., Foreign, Associated Butterfly Collectors, W. E. Dickinson, Sec., 573 Lake Drive, Milwaukee, Wis. 11t2

**FOR SALE or EXCHANGE**—A collection of some ten thousand stamps, on separate sheets for each country. Want bird skins for all or part. Gus. Langelier, Cape Rouge, Que., Canada.

We need Volume 36, No. 11 of The Oologist. Whitman Davis, Librarian, General Library, A. & M. College, Miss.

**EXCHANGE**—1 complete set of North Western School of Taxidermy lessons, value \$20.00; what have you? George Carpenter, 746 Lincoln Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

For two years I have been working on a collection of the Rantores (Accipitres) of the world. What have you for exchange? Only first class sets wanted. Ralph W. Jackson, Route No. 1, Cambridge, Maryland 11t3

**FOR EXCHANGE**—Bird eggs, bird and animal skins, mounted specimens, butterflies and moths of Northern Ohio, for those of other regions. Will sell at reasonable prices to those wishing mounted specimens for school, office or home decoration and have nothing to exchange. Will mount specimens sent by mail. C. F. Zuercher, Sugarcreek, O.

**WANTED**—Subscriptions for all Magazines, at greatly reduced prices. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XL. No.12.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1923.

WHOLE No. 440

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. BARNES, Albion, N. Y., and Lacon, Ill.

## TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. If it corresponds with the Whole No. above it denotes that your subscription expires with this issue. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

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.

## VOL. XL, 1923

With this issue of THE OÖLOGIST, we close Volume XL, the oldest Ornithological publication in the Western Hemisphere, but one.

We likewise close the year 1923, which, to the editor, has been the most annoying, unpleasant and unsatisfactory of our existence. It is to be hoped that the turn in the River will soon come.

THE OÖLOGIST will be published in the ensuing year 1924, and make its regular monthly visits to the Bird Loving Fraternity, and we appeal right now to our friends to help us to make it a better OÖLOGIST than we have ever had, and this can only be done by a united effort. We are truly in need of good copy right now.—R. M. Barnes.

## MEXICAN JACANA

(Jacana spinosa)

Since becoming acquainted with *The Oologist* several years ago, I have read with much interest from time to time of the various rare species and their nests and eggs that were collected and described from all parts of the country, but I have failed to find any notes whatever pertaining to this odd and very interesting bird, and I am herewith enclosing a photo of two sets of eggs that are in my cabinet.

In describing these sets I will state that although they were taken many years ago I do not believe the color has faded to any great extent.

Set One, four eggs: Three eggs of this set are about uniform in shape but the fourth is slightly more blunt and not running to quite as much point as the others. The shell of all four has a high gloss presumably from the fact that incubation was well advanced. The ground color in all is a beautiful yellowish olive, and over this is a network of very dark umber and black lines intertwining and running haphazard all over the surface.

They form blotches on the big end of two of the eggs and almost conceal the ground color. If the marking from about ten eggs of the Baltimore Oriole were transferred on to one of the Jacana it would have about the same appearance. There are also fainter shell markings in the form of small spots and blotches of warm brown and lavender. This set was collected by Mr. C. W. Crandall on the northern coast of South America, June 14th, 1898. Incubation was advanced. Nest was composed of twigs and aquatic plants on leaf of *Victoria regia* plant in swamp.

Set Two, four eggs: Two eggs of this set are about uniform in size but the remaining two are larger and

smaller respectively. The largest one has a tendency to run more to a point at the big end while the smallest egg is considerably more narrow than the others. The ground tint in this set is more dull and subdued and the shell has none of the luster as is noted in set one as incubation was fresh. The scrawls and lines are also much finer and are blended with the lighter shell markings so as to not appear so clean cut and distinct. The smallest egg is more densely marked around the center and one would think an insect's feet had been dipped in pigment and then allowed to run around continually until the color was consumed on the shell. This set was collected for Frank B. Armstrong at Tampico, Mexico, May 4th, 1900. Incubation was fresh. Nest was composed of floating trash collected together under curled lily leaf on fresh water pond near town.

I am hoping that collectors who are familiar with this specie will come to the front and let us become better acquainted with its habits.

Harold E. Meyers.

Medina, N. Y.

## AGE AND EXERCISE

Rutheven Deane, one of Patriarchs of ornithology writes:

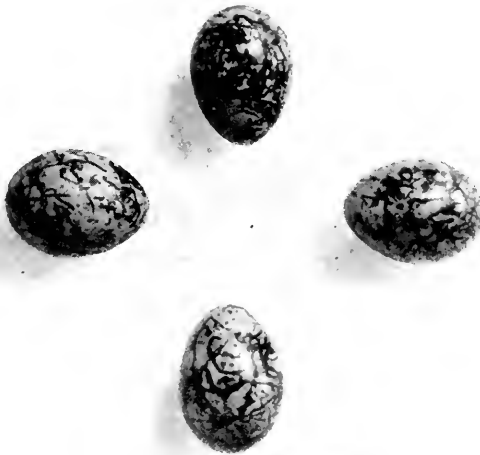
"I spent two months on the Maine coast, got a lot of exercise observing birds, motoring, photographing and played sixty games of golf, which meant, a tramp of 275 miles. After my return (to Chicago) I have had to retrace my steps to Cambridge to attend our annual A. O. U. which was a grand success and well attended."

This we regard as a fair record for a man seventy-two years of age.

R. M. Barnes.



**SET 1.**



**SET 2.**



Eggs of Mexican Jacana, in collection of Harold E. Myers, of Medina, N. Y.

## WITH THE BIRDS IN THE GEORGIAN BAY DISTRICT

It was with pleasant anticipation that I left the train on the 6th day of June of this year to change to a motor car which was to carry me to my destination, where I was to meet my friend, Dr. Harrington.

Each year we have spent a few weeks in June together on the south shore of Georgian Bay. Our object in visiting this part of the country has been, and is, the study of bird life.

My spirits were somewhat cooled by the information that there was still lots of ice in the Bay, and when a mile from the beach, this fact was brought home to us by the chilly air. The bay was covered with drift ice as far as the eye could see. Instead of seeing the usual large flocks of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, Common and Caspian Terns and an occasional Loon, there were only a few scattered gulls.

However, on arrival at the cottage we soon made ourselves comfortable. The next day the sun came out, and while cold along the beach, it was quite warm a short distance inland.

I won't try to describe our experiences in detail but will confine myself to a brief description of the country and some of the birds noted.

The country is rolling and very sandy. The ridges are mostly open, while the hollows are usually covered with thick brush, and in some places, quite swampy. The characteristic trees are White and Red pine, cedar, spruce, hemlock, birch and poplar. Elms are numerous along the river where there are lots of alder. Juniper is also very common. There is a fine beach where numerous shore birds can be seen in the fall.

The following birds were found nesting or gave evidence of it:

64 Caspian Tern—Fairly plentiful along the Bay. Nest on one of the Islands in Georgian Bay.

70 Common Tern—Lives up to its name. Nests in small numbers on one of the islands.

77 Black Tern—Common. Nests early in June on a small island lake. A set of four eggs was found on June 15th, 1921.

263 Spotted Sandpiper—Very common.

273 Killdeer—Common. Four incubated eggs on island where Terns nest late in July.

290a Canadian Ruffed Grouse—As many as seven hens with broods were seen in one day. A nest with five fresh eggs found at foot of a Maple tree, June 13th, which is very late.

316 Mourning Dove—Fairly common. Two nests with eggs found on June 6th. One was built on the trunk of a fallen pine.

388 Black-billed Cuckoo—One was flushed from one egg in an unusually frail nest in a scrub pine. This was the first time we had noted this bird here.

390 King-fisher—Breeds commonly in river banks.

412a Northern Flicker—Very common. One was found nesting in a two foot high stump, the eggs being laid on sawdust (?) on the ground.

417 Whip-poor-will—Common. Two fresh eggs on leaves beside log in woods on June 12th.

420 Nighthawk—Very common. Nests in open country any time in June.

444 King-bird—Nests commonly in bushes and on stumps along river.

456 Phoebe—Very common.

461 Wood Pewee—Very common.

463 Yellow-bellied Fly-catchers—One lone bird seen in deep swamp.

477—Blue Jay—Common. Five fresh eggs in nest in scrub pine deep



Florida Jay at Nest in Scrub Oak  
Photo by H. H. Bailey.

in the woods on June the ninth.

495 Cowbird—This bird is very plentiful and few warblers' nests escape them.

517 Purple Finch—Fairly common.

529 Gold Finch—Common.

540 Vesper Sparrow—Very common.

560 Chipping Sparrow—These are the two common sparrows.

563 Field Sparrow—Two nests with eggs were found on June the seventh. This is the first year we have noted it.

595 Rose-breasted Grosbeak—Fairly common. No nests found.

608 Scarlet Tanager—A pair were seen on the ninth deep in the woods and their incomplete nest was discovered.

613 Barn Swallow—Common.

614 Tree Swallow—One pair seen.

616 Bank Swallow—Very common.

619 Cedar Wax-wing—Breeds commonly in July.

624 Red-eyed Vireo—Common.

636 Black and White Warbler—Common.

645—Nashville Warbler—Rather common. Its song was heard several times before any of the birds were located, usually high up in the trees.

655 Myrtle Warbler—The commonest warbler. Nests in white and red pine or cedar. I have yet to find one of their nests without a cowbird's egg or eggs in it.

657 Magnolia Warbler—Uncommon. June the twelfth four fresh eggs were found in nest of grass stalks lined with hair and decorated on the outside with cob-webs. It was placed three feet up in the outer branches of a hemlock on the edge of a clearing.

659 Chestnut-sided Warbler—Fairly common in suitable localities.

667 Black-throated Green Warbler—Rather common.

673 Prairie Warbler—Common in other years, but scarce this year. A nest with three eggs and two of the Cow-bird was found in a clump of Juniper on the fourteenth of June. They were found with young in 1922, constituting the first breeding record for Canada.

674 Oven Bird—Very common.

681d No. Yellow-throat—Common. On the fifteenth of June a nest was located with four fresh eggs, situated in a grass tussock along the river.

686 Canadian Warbler—Fairly common in deep woods.

687 Redstart—Quite common.

722 Winlei Wren—Occasionally met with in dark swampy woods. This bird ranks with the best as a songster.

735 Chickadee—Common. A nest of young was found on the ninth of June.

759b Hermit Thrush—Rather common. A nest was found on the eighth of June with four recently hatched young. On the twelfth one was found with four slightly incubated eggs. It was made of leaves, bark and grasses, lined with pine needles and sunk well into the ground on the side of a bank amongst second-growth.

\* \* \*

The author of the foregoing neglected to sign his name to it. Will he please forward it, that we may give him the proper credit.

R. M. B.





**A CAREFULLY PREPARED SCIENTIFIC COLLECTION OF BIRDS' EGGS OF UNIQUE HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE**

When J. Warren Jacobs was a youth of 14 years, in the early eighties (1883), he began a collection of birds' eggs, little dreaming that he was more than a "nest-robber", a name in which several youngsters shared; and that, some day, he would be called upon to lay before the world, for its inspection or criticism, the results of careful and studious work, embracing a section of a magnificent collection of oological specimens from all parts of North America.

Mr. Jacobs denies, with justifiable proof, that, even as a boy, the term "nest-robber" fits his case. The acts, however, disapproved by his parents, he hid away his specimens, feeling that the disobedience was not antagonistic to an unprejudiced criticism, but rather a desire to show that an honorable and elevating influence accrued therefrom, especially when the incentive came from a conscience endowed with that inspiration of talents, the gift of the Creator in the birth of a soul.

Other boys sold, traded or destroyed their collections and dropped out of the game. New ones came on the scene, only to run the length of an insatiable craze for a few months, or a month at most; but it remained for young Jacobs to bear the post of lone sentinel, detached from the rest by continuous inspiration to hold such material gathered and do better work.

After a year or two, his mother became reconciled to the desire of her boy to stick to trips afield in quest of his favorite hobby which entirely disassociated him from the ever changing dispositions of his youthful

acquaintances. His father, like the son, had a will of his own which required a longer time to change from settled views, but the egg collection was tolerated nevertheless. That the favor was gaining sentimental ground with the father, was certain, for he was observed to bring traveling men and customers from his works to the house to see the collection of eggs.

To show the eggs to the public was not young Jacobs' intention, but when a director of the County Agricultural Fair, in 1887, mentioned the matter to the boy, a glass show case was supplied and a hundred species of sets of eggs were placed on display.

Naturally he hung around the exhibit, possibly a little proud of his own efforts, but more because of the varied comment he could hear from the crowd always around the case. Standing back, and being unknown to the majority of the throngs, he could enjoy the remarks of appreciation without blushing, and anon, permit a little smile to escape at some of the ridiculous and comic remarks. One old lady was sure the set of Caracara Eagle eggs were colored with "onion-peel stain", declaring to a companion that she had colored hundreds of Easter eggs in that manner. Another declared that she knew the boy to be of an artistic turn of mind, and tried to open the case to prove that the specimens had been faked with paint decorations. Occasionally some prepossessing lady, wearing the remains of a half dozen murdered birds upon her hat, raved at what she chose to term "wanton cruelty." Or, perhaps, a male "wiseacre", who reveled in slaughtering hundreds of birds for sport, would allude to such work as "unnecessary"; but for the most part, the comment was of a more intelligent strain, and along remarks of wonder and amazement; thereby

pleasing to the ears of young Jacobs.

The County Fair over, the eggs were again placed in the cabinet; and as far as Mr. Jacobs was concerned, the end of public exhibitions. Imagine his surprise, when, in the fall of 1892, he received a letter from Dr. B. H. Warren, State Zoologist, Harrisburg, and author of the fine book, "Birds of Pennsylvania," inquiring if a loan of a collection of eggs of the birds indigenous to the state could be arranged for display with other state exhibits at the coming Chicago World's Fair. The collection scanned, resulted in 139 of the species listed by Dr. Warren, as being available, although not all collected within the limits of the Commonwealth; but still being species known to breed within the state were permissible for display. From the Department at Harrisburg, a man was sent to inspect the collection and arrange for shipment to Harrisburg, where, with other state exhibits and material, it would be consigned to cars for transportation to Chicago.

Naturally, when he visited this great World's Fair, his first interest centered in his own exhibit, although he arrived at the Exposition on September 6, 1893, Pennsylvania Day, when the grounds were thronged with citizens from his own state. Going direct to the Anthropological Building in which, for lack of space in proper buildings, his collection was installed with Dr. Warren's collection of wild birds and animal of Pennsylvania, he found the exhibit, and with more than a nominal interest read the exhibitor's card which had been prepared and placed on the cases.

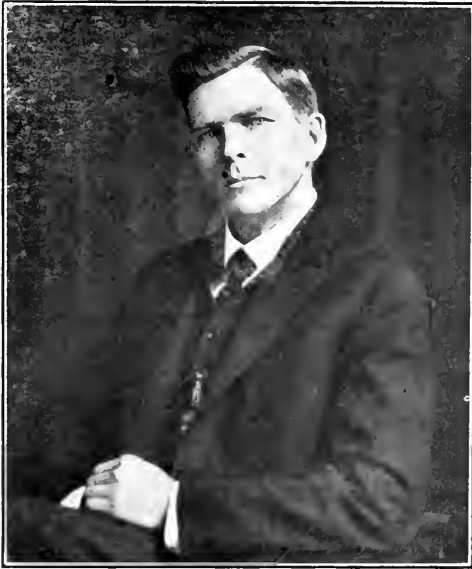
Interesting, indeed, were the hundreds of comments he heard, and sometimes, inquiry, of some sort, directed to him, lead to recognition which resulted in many chats with or-

nithologists and persons in general. While there he met, among others, A. H. Frost, a well known oologist of New York City, and several of the younger oologists of the day. A young man answering to the name of R. M. Barnes, one of the good oologists of the middle west, inquired as to where he could find J. Warren Jacobs, the exhibitor, and being told that he was speaking to his party, exclaimed in identical words of the Pennsylvania Executive Commissioner, A. B. Farquer, when he first met Mr. Jacobs, "I expected to see a much older man as exhibitor of this display of eggs." Mr. Barnes may recall questioning the wisdom of risking a collection of eggs in such exhibit; and while the event caused Mr. Jacobs to feel a little shaky in the matter, it is a fact that every egg came back to him, and is in the Museum of Applied Oology today, in as fine condition as before the World's Fair.

A snug little section directly east of the Pennsylvania exhibit, was installed by the State of Ohio—an educational exhibit—with a mounted bird and animal collection installed. Interesting, but less so than the pretty girl attendant, whose name he has forgotten, but the memory of her pleasant disposition and courteous ways, has often caused him to wonder if some lucky Ohioan didn't get a fine little wife.

Just beyond the Ohio section was a New York State exhibit, and there he found the very large display of Frank H. Lattin's, consisting of curio, sea shells and birds' eggs, the bulk of the latter, loaned by many of the readers of the Oologist, of which he was owner and publisher at that time. These eggs were of a souvenir character and were returned to their respective owners after the Fair. He met many persons there, who were

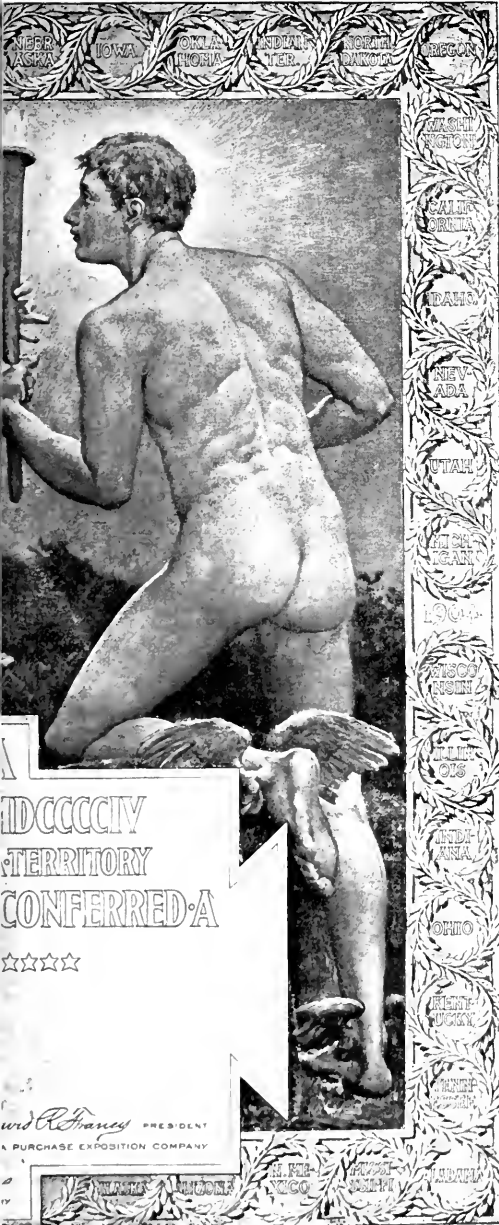
(Continued on page 198)



*J. Harry Jacobs.*

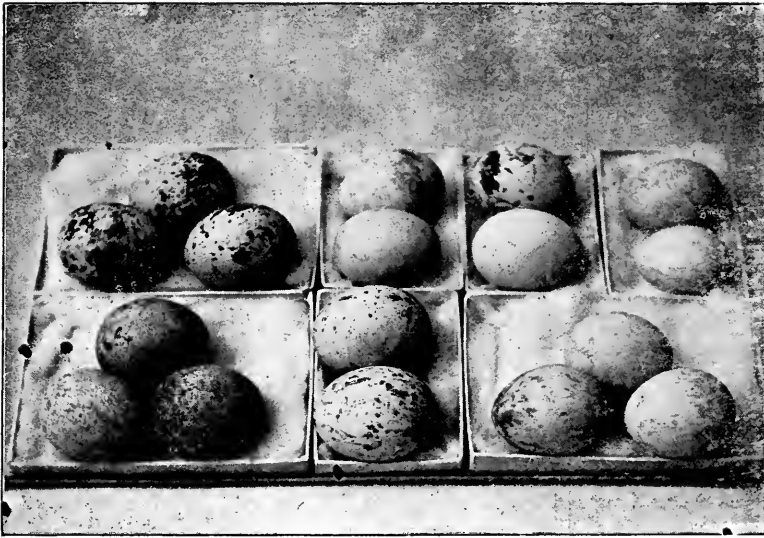
Director,  
MUSEUM OF APPLIED OOLOGY,  
Waynesburg, Pa.





Front and Reverse Sides of Gold Medal Awarded the J. Warren Jacobs World's Fair Exhibit, St. Louis, 1904.

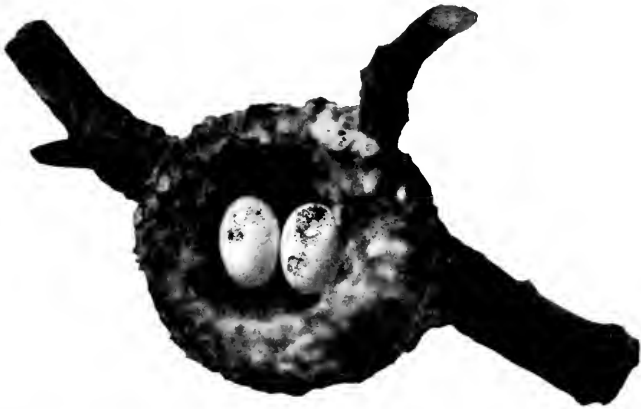




**EGGS OF RED-TAILED HAWK**  
**(*Buteo Borealis*)**

A part of the magnificent series of sets of eggs of this species in the Museum of Applied Oology.

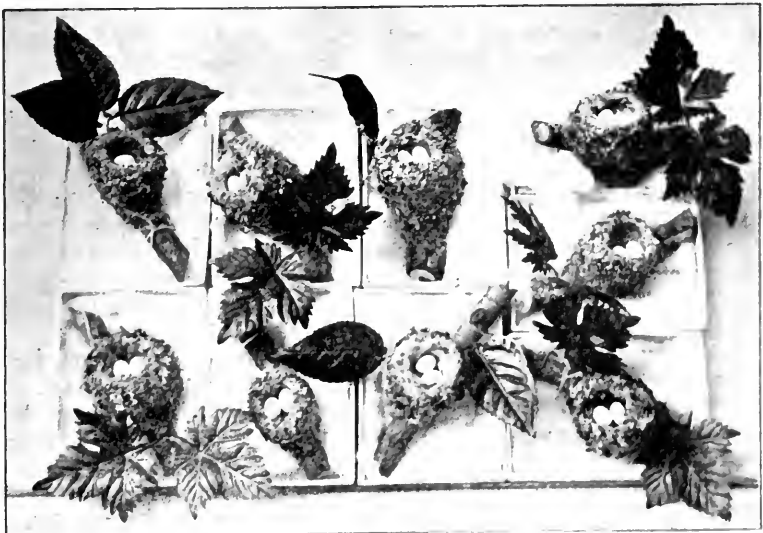
A small study group arranged to show variable size and relative distribution of markings. The fine, heavily marked set in the upper left hand corner was collected by Jacobs, Easter Sunday, 1887; and are prized very highly, not only for their tale of reminiscences of long ago, but also for their historical status, having represented the Red-tailed Hawk species in the Jacobs exhibit of Eggs of Native Pennsylvania Birds, at the World's Columbian Exposition, Chicago, 1893.



**NEST AND EGGS OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD**  
**(*Archilus colubris*) Natural Size**

One of two nests from the collection of J. Warren Jacobs, selected to represent the species in his exhibit of Eggs of Native Pennsylvania Birds at the World's Fair (Louisiana Purchase Exposition), St. Louis, Mo., 1904.

This set was collected in southern Greene County, Pa., June 7, 1900.



well known ornithologists and oologists in their day. Frank H. Lattin was there and a brief interview was had with him. Walter F. Webb, of Albion, N. Y., with an assistant, attended the exhibit, and many pleasant hours were passed in and about the exhibit. Mr. Jacobs just missed meeting A. M. Shields, the well known oologist of Los Angeles, California. Webb tried to call Mr. Shields, who had just left and was still in sight, but the noise of the throng intercepted his call, and Shields was soon lost sight of in the crowd.

Looking over the Lattin exhibit, Mr. Jacobs expressed the desire to purchase an Ostrich egg and a very fine imitation of the Great Auk's egg, but the rules of the Exposition prohibited selling anything from the exhibition cases, and Webb had to watch his chance to slip the Auk's egg from the case while no guards were in sight. That was none of Mr. Jacob's business, but he got the prized cast of the Great Auk's egg, just the same, and it still reposes in the collection of eggs, the only artificial egg in the Museum.

Aside from his own collection of eggs, the Lattin exhibit and a small demonstration collection exhibited by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, no other of the numerous World collections of eggs were to be seen on the grounds.

Many months elapsed after the closing of the Fair before his eggs were returned, during which time he felt some anxiety over the delay, and the Harrisburg authorities were jogged a little, whereupon the collection came to hand with a mild reprimand to him for his impatiences!

A brief description and list of this collection is given on page 165 and 168 to 71, "Catalogue of the Exhibits of the State of Pennsylvania, and of Pennsylvanians at the World's Colum-

bian Exposition, Chicago, 1893," published by the state. One of the cases in which the eggs were arranged, can be seen in the halftone plate following page 165, same publication.

The eggs back home and again replaced in the cabinets, was a comfort to him, and impressed him with a feeling that no future exhibits would be made, but in a few years, the state authorities prevailed upon him to make a similar exhibit at the Atlanta Cotton States Exposition, Atlanta, Ga., with a trip there to install the same. Lack of State appropriations, however, curtailed much of the exhibit plans, which included the Natural History displays.

After a large three days' exhibit, including the entire collection of North American Birds' Eggs, in 1896, at his home County Centennial, the eggs again went in repository in the Museum cabinets, hidden away from the public in general, until the fall of 1903, when a letter was received from Prof. H. A. Surface, then State Zoologist at Harrisburg, inquiring if an exhibit similar to the one at Chicago could be arranged for the coming St. Louis World's Fair. Disliking to run the risk of loss or damage to the only complete, privately owned collection of birds' eggs seen at the Chicago World's Fair, he hesitated further venture of these historical treasures. Investigation throughout the cabinets disclosed the fact that 159 species indigenous to Pennsylvania could be drawn from the study series without disturbing more than three sets comprising the section exhibited at Chicago.

Accordingly a collection, far superior to his exhibit seen at Chicago World's Fair, was selected from the study series, and such species as warblers, etc., having small nests, were not only represented in the regular display of eggs, but a nest



with its complement of eggs was also exhibited in a separate case. Altogether, about 225 sets, comprising the were in the display.

Nothing was left undone to make this display of the very best material at his command, but his purpose was to excell if possible, and place before the public a credible and educational display of oological specimens; but never did it enter his mind that he was laboring for a distinction unique in its character, and niche in the World of Ornithological Science as lasting as ornithological history itself. One day in mid summer, 1904, the mail delivery brought him an open envelope in which was a plain unpretentious card bearing the heading of: "International Jury of Awards, Louisiana Purchase Exposition," and stating that he had been awarded the highest class prize offered in the Department of Forestry, Fish and Game, —a Gold Medal. Was his hat off to the inspiration of perseverance which had been his companion all those years? I'd say it was! Did he feel the thrill all oologists experience when they make a first find of some rare and beautiful set of eggs? I'd say he did! Did he feel a disappearing humility from thrusts of an unappreciative community constituency, seeing in his work, no big money gain, and fit only to be trampled while the rabble all about him went head-long in their false Christian fellowship, greed, gambling and speculation? I'd say he did! Does he not now feel the justification of hurling the name of the stagnant and unappreciative town of his nativity around the world without turning his influence and talents to greed and deception, seeming the chief marks of merit of greatness there? I'd say he does!

If the reader has drawn a fair idea of Mr. Jacobs' felings from his des-

cription of finding his exhibit upon his visit to the Chicago World's Fair, he can imagine the new thrill he experienced when he visited the St. Louis Exposition, and saw, while yet some distance away from the Keystone section in the great Agricultural Building, a card erected upon the cases and reading: "Gold Medal Award, Department 121, Forestry, Fish and Game. Eggs of Pennsylvania Native Wild Birds."

The nests and eggs were arranged according to instructions he had supplied the state authorities, and occupied two eight-foot finely finished oak cases with clear glass tops and frosted glass side-panels, of which a series of twelve formed the cordon of an open quadrangle in which were shelved cases containing various Pennsylvania agricultural products, wild fauna and flora resources etc. The State's wild bird and animal collection were in upright cases facing the egg exhibit. A partial view of the section is shown on page 238, Vol. II, "Pennsylvania at the World's Fair, St. Louis, 1904," and the egg exhibit is described on page 242-5 of the same publication, the Pennsylvania official publication of the Commonwealth's interests at the Exposition.

This World's Fair was, by far, the greatest ever held, and nothing of similar character has since eclipsed it in magnitude.

While at St. Louis, Mr. Jacobs looked up Otto Widman, the well known Missouri bird authority; and also Philo W. Smith, one of the best known oologists of the middle West at that time. Several hours were passed with Mr. Smith, at his hotel, in which was his den and cabinets of eggs.

Mr. Jacobs thought too much of his prize collection to risk its traveling homeward in bumping express cars,

and obtained permission to visit the Fair in its closing days to pack the collection in suit case boxes for checking with his personal effects enroute home.

Every specimen safely back home, and again replaced in their respective cabinets, there reposing undisturbed, although an inquiry came for its arrangement and display at San Francisco; but the distance and inadequate expense consideration intercepted, thereby denying the throngs at that Exposition to view the wonders and beauties of the oology of Pennsylvania native birds.

In the closing days of the St. Louis Fair, he learned that the National Committee was refusing to distribute the various prizes awarded by the International Jury of Awards on the grounds that some had received graft and favoritism. While Mr. Jacobs was conscious of nothing of the kind being responsible for the favor granted him for this exhibit, still he believed that the investigators, straining efforts in search of substantiation of complaints, might eliminate such things as egg collections as non essential and revoke the award. But not so! The investigators held a more sensible view of this branch of ornithological science than do many of the more or less sentimentally brilliant bird scribes of the present day who rave at the oologist; and after an elapse of several months, a second announcement came to him that his award was among those allowed. Previous to this he had obtained an official award ribbon in lieu of the Gold Medal, which in itself is a beautiful piece of art work in silk and gold.

In March following the close of the Fair, he received the Diploma, and several weeks later, the Gold Medal came by register mail.

It might seem wrong for the recipient of such fine award and distinction of merit, to offer criticism regarding the prize so generously conferred; but being a bird man, and circulating among bird men who are capable to criticise a work and point out flaws—doing so without flowers—he deems it proper to point out a terrible error in the highly artistic design of the Diploma. The moment he unrolled this broad expanse of parchment, his eyes fell upon the unpardonable error of the artist in depicting the wings upon the ankles of the aerial messenger so placed that that mythical character must fly backwards, in an upright position, or lie flat upon his back to illustrate the principle of birds' wings in flight! At least a few Junior Audubon teachers and many of the Junior Club members could readily see this blunder of the artist!

Aside from a small demonstrative collection of eggs in the U. S. Department of Agriculture display, and a smaller exhibit from Brazil, S. A., the Jacobs collection of Pennsylvania birds' eggs were all that the World of Ornithological Science seemed willing to spare for use at that greatest of all World's Fairs!

All this historical worth of these eggs, of course, add nothing to their scientific value, and are unworthy any greater respect for scientific study, than properly prepared sets taken this year; but still, combined with the original incentive to gather and carefully record scientific data, requiring a set of large books especially made for the tens of thousands of records, the whole is greatly enhanced by the award which goes with it, and the fleeting years which steadily enrich the annals of ornithological science of the past.

### OZARK APARTMENT HOUSES

Every river valley has its deadened timber, and it is very hard to find a river valley or even creek valley in the Ozarks in which there is not a great deal of deadened timber, most of which is of great height and size. Along the Flat Creek and James and White River bottoms in Stone, Barry, and Taney County, Missouri, some years ago there were a great number of these huge sycamore trees which were veritable bird apartment houses. In the last few years they have much decreased in number on account of age, and many serious windstorms that have felled them in numbers.

My wife and I spent two days on Flat Creek, June 20 and 21, 1923, camping just beneath one of the largest of the remaining of these huge veterans. It stood like a silvery sentinel over the valley, towering far over any living tree in the valley. I judge that it is yet at least 125 feet in height, and is broken off so that the topmost part is nearly 20 inches in diameter. It had a main trunk, and two huge side limbs. The trunk at the ground must have been nearly eight feet in diameter.

Minute study with my binoculars showed that there were just 34 holes bored into the body of that tree, none of them lower than forty feet. They entered from every direction of the compass, and on all of the forks of the tree. As we loafed about our camp those two days I watched the tree until I located just seven nesting pairs of birds in that one tree. There were four pairs of Flickers, two of Red-headed Woodpeckers, and one of Sparrow Hawks, all living in very amiable companionship. As we walked up the road one evening we saw a Red-head tapping on one of the limbs. Mrs. Flicker stuck her head out of the hole and said something

that sounded like "Come in, Come in, Come in," to which Mrs. Red-head replied with something not liked, for at once there arose an unearthly clamor from both of the birds.

Some forty feet away was a smaller tree about 80 feet in height which held 24 holes, but it was so closely grown about by other living trees that I could not find out how many birds occupied it.

During the two days we identified 68 species of birds, and 28 nests, none of which we collected, as we were not hunting birds eggs.

Johnson A. Neff,  
Marionville, Missouri.

### BOOKS RECEIVED

British Birds, Volume XVII, No. 5. October, 1923, pp 98—101. "Some Observations on Cuckoos in 1923", by Edgar Chance. This is an interesting paper based on experiences of the writer during the season of 1923, and gives observations relating nine different eggs of this parasite species.

R. M. B.

### PRAIRIE WARBLER

A 1923 breeding colony of Prairie Warbler was found in Southern New Jersey, containing 20 nests; also a nest of Hooded Warbler, a nest of Black and White Warbler, and a Whip-poor-will's nest, four nests of Marsh Hawk and a Short-eared-Owl's.

T. E. McMullen,  
Camden, N. J.



## NIGHT SINGING OF THE YELLOW BREASTED CHAT

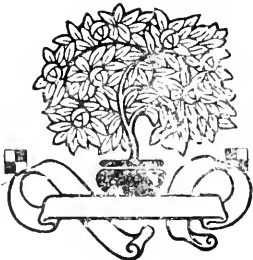
I read the article in June, 1923, The Oologist, by Louis S. Kohler, on the above subject. While not near Mr. Kohler, I thought that a few notes from my locality would be worth while. I have been on speaking terms for quite a few years, with the Yellow Breasted Chat, and I have watched and listened for the Song of the Chat, at all times, but I have paid particular attention to his night singing.

During the past season, there have been at least three pairs nesting within a quarter of a mile of my home, and their song was to be heard almost every hour. During the nesting period I have heard them sing on several moonlight nights, and their song was as long as during the day, but not as frequent, as during the day time.

I have noticed the night singing of the Chat for several years and have paid strict attention to their night singing. During the past season I heard a Chat singing very loud and frequent just before a thunder shower, and it was very dark and cloudy. He is a strange songster and one whose habits and songs I like to study.

I noticed a new call during the past season. It was the shiver of the screech Owl.

J. Earl Harlow,  
Texico, Jefferson Co., Ill.



## "Too Scientifically Scientific"

In our mail of November 15th, I find a communication relative to an observation printed in the October The Oologist, which reads as follows:

"Your description i. é. 'scientifically scientific' is very well put. Many a young bird student has found the plain simple facts regarding his own observations reproduced in the Oologist, which is the most democratic bird publication.

"How great a delight every 'advanced' ornithologist take in reviewing the days of his boyhood finds. The days which preceded his higher education and the trips which involved nothing in the way of surplus baggage. With undiminishing interest."



## AD WORDS

The "Want Ad" you kindly put in The Oologist, has been very satisfactory, in fact I have received many more letters of the list and prices than I have been able to answer.

James Suthard,  
Madisonville, Kentucky.

This is a decidedly valuable publication to anyone who plays at all in the field of Oology, and I am delighted to have it as an accession in my library.

Donald R. Dickey,  
Pasadena, California.

## GOOD WORDS

I much enjoy reading it. William Searl, The Manse Duddington, Edinburgh, Scotland.

\* \*

Don't stop The Oologist on me whatever you do. Thomas H. Jackson.

\* \*

With best wishes to you and a happy and prosperous New Year and success to your useful and interesting Oologist. Alfred L. Marshall, Weeping Water, Nebraska.

\* \*

I have taken The Oologist since its first issue, and am now seventy-eight years old, but enjoy the little publication as much as ever. C. L. Rawson, Putnam, Conn.

\* \*

Wishing a prosperous New Year and a good luck for The Oologist. Troup D. Perry, Savannah, Ga.

\* \*

The Oologist for 1918 has been of unusual interest for bird lovers, and none who are interested in the welfare of the bird life should be without this magazine. E. J. Wheeler, New London, Conn.

\* \*

You are doing a wonderful work with the paper, and we are all more indebted to you than we can ever repay, for the unselfish interest you have shown in it. Richard C. Harlow, State College, Pa.

\* \*

I enjoy the contributions to The Oologist. The papers are all written in the easy democratic way that makes them entertaining. The writers see something, and tell what they see. Geo. E. Osterhout, Winsor, Colo.

\* \*

As we do not want to be without The Oologist, or miss a single copy we are enclosing renewal of subscription. Pahrman Bros., La Port, Ind.

Enclosed find fifty cents for renewal of my subscription to The Oologist. It is a genuine pleasure to hand over this for "our" little paper. Ralph W. Jackson, Cambridge, Md.

\* \*

It is twenty years since I first subscribed for The Oologist, and it is a real pleasure when I receive it each month. Lucius H. Paul, Rochester, N. Y.

\* \*

I read portions of all other ornithological publications, but The Oologist I read from cover to cover. It grows more and more indispensable year by year. W. D. Richardson, Chicago, Ill.

\* \*

I still enjoy reading your magazine, and during the whole war, only one number has gone astray. I have dealings with many of your leading oologists, and have found them all thoroughly reliable. I collect eggs from all the world and wish there were a few more "oologists" like yours in other parts of the world. Wm. McLaren, Linwood Stranaer, Scotland.

\* \*

I think this month's Oologist is certainly fine. I enjoy the magazine very much indeed, and it is a very interesting little book. Otto L. Hastings, Bridgeport, Conn.

\* \*

Please allow me to congratulate you on bringing The Oologist through the war, with flying colors, and to wish you continued success. Albert F. Gainer, Nashville, Tenn. Jan. 12th, 1919.

\* \*

I am pleased with The Oologist, and with my ad in it, which brought the results I desired. I sold my kodak to a gentleman in Mississippi, and have several inquiries from several states since then concerning it. Johnson Neff, Marionville, Mo.

Your little magazine seems to hold its own very well, and takes on color with each succeeding year. B. F. Gault, Jan. 17th, 1919.

\* \*

It grows better each year. I certainly appreciate your splendid work. D. E. Olson, Titusville, Pa. Jan. 24, 1919.

\* \*



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**PLEASE!!**

**Send us copy**

**The Editor**

## 1924

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WANTED—To buy Part 3 for July 1911 of THE AUK. W. H. Workman, Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast, Ireland.

WANTED—To buy collections of Modern Indian Relics, or most anything in beaded buck skin pieces. Best prices paid for pieces that I need. Robert F. Backus, Box 13, Florence, Colorado.

WANTED—Back numbers of Bird Lore. Colored plates from Bird Lore. Issues of the National Geographic containing "Birds of Town and Country", and "American Game Birds." Lawrence Compton, 409 W. Webster, Pittsburg, Kansas.

AUKS WANTED—Will pay cash for your back numbers which I can use. Please send list with prices. Herbert A. Smith, 550 Lee Ave. Webster Groves, Missouri.

Rare Indian relic for sale. Plaster Paris mold of Silver Peace medal given to the Ojrbuay tribe by Pres. Jefferson, in 1801. Albert Lano, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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FOR EXCHANGE OR SALE—Ornithologist & Oologist, Volumes 8 to 18, and odd volumes and numbers of Ornithologist & Oologist, Bird-Lore, Auk, Osprey, Nidologist, Condor, Oologist, and North American Fauna and reports, bulletins, and other books on birds and mammals. Robert W. Williams, 206 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have for exchange, for skins desired by me a number of Snowy Owl Skins, in all grades of plumage ranging from almost pure white males to the darkest colored summer females. If you can use these send me your list of duplicates. R. M. Barnese.

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WANTED—By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield Maine: Bird Lore, Vol. XXIII, 5; Vol. XXIV, all; Journal Maine Ornith. Soc., Vol. VI, 4; VII, 1; Nuttall Bulletin, all; Oologist (Utica), all; Ornith. & Oologist (Semi-An.) Vols. I & II, all; Wilson Quarterly, Vol. IV, 1; Biol. Survey Bull., Nos. 6, 27, 34, 35, 37, 39; N. A. Fauna, Nos. 7, 19, 22, 27; Maynard, Birds of Eastern North America; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition; King, Economic Relations of Wis. Birds.

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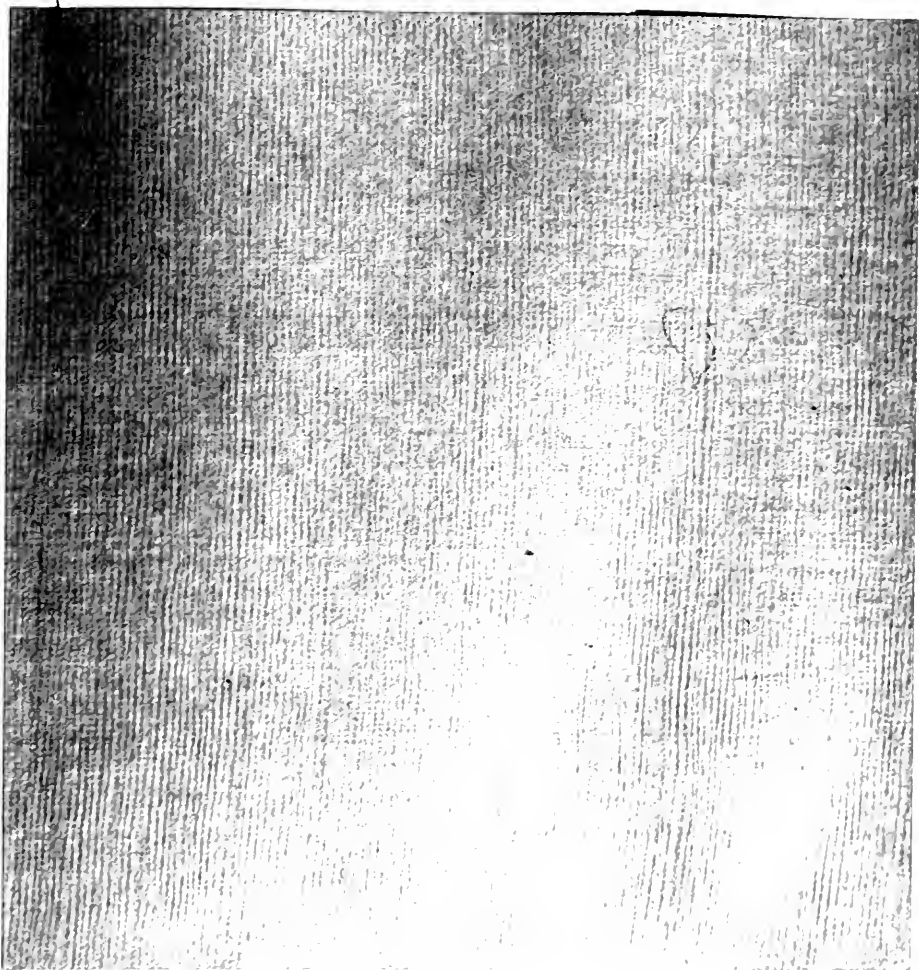












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