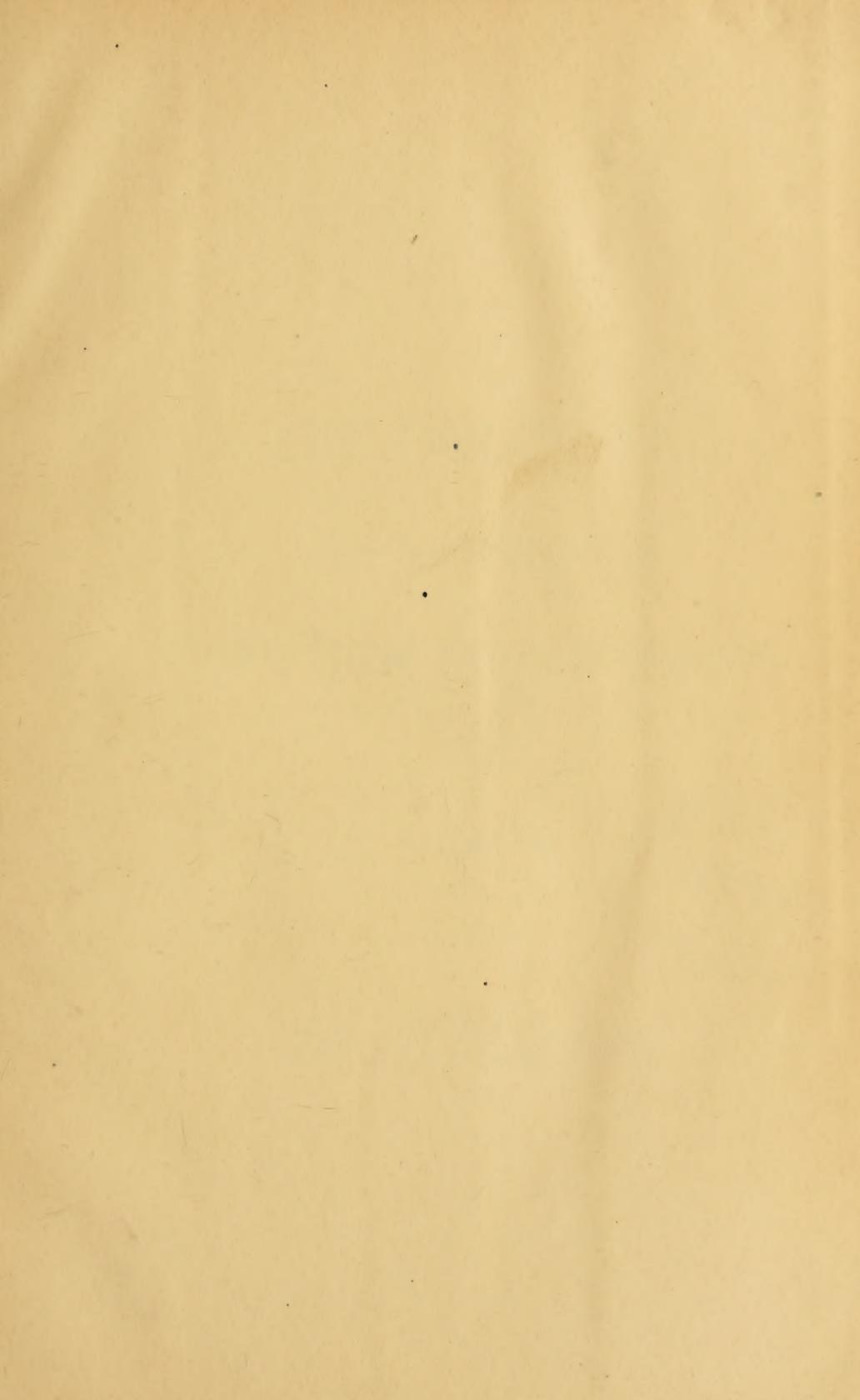




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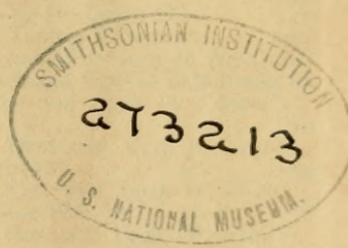
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THE OÖLOGIST,
FOR THE STUDENT OF
BIDRS, THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

VOLUME XXI.



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FRANK H. LATTIN, M. D. PUBLISHER.
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FOR THE STUDENT OF

PIPER, THIRLBY AND FOX



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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JANUARY, 1904.

WHOLE No. 198.

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

Leconte's Sparrow.

* From the author's proposed work on Southern Minnesota Ornithology.

Ammodramus Leconteii.

Leconte's Sparrow has long been

recorded in ornithological works as occurring in a few favorable and somewhat restricted localities in Minnesota. For a period of years they have been observed in Freeborn, Big Stone and Grant counties and recently in Steele county, while a number of distinguished ornithologists found these Sparrows and secured some specimens in the vicinity of Minneapolis. The Rev. P. B. Peabody found them breeding in the northern counties of the Red River Valley. According to various reports, in Iowa to the south they occur only as a migrant and in Manitoba on the north of us as a regular though rare breeder. A number of well known ornithologists of extensive observation have found them breeding in this Province in the vicinity of Reaburn. I first made my acquaintance with the Leconte Sparrow during the season of 1901, being introduced to a number on April 21st, on this occasion I did not secure any specimens so am not positive of the identity although it is doubtless correct for later investigations under the most favorable opportunities proved them as such.

Late in the afternoon of May 29th found me near a narrow strip of marshy land through which extends longitudinally a large ditch containing two large areas of land of a similar nature. These marshes formerly produced a luxuriant growth of various wild grasses, but lately have been drained and so closely pastured that now only a scant growth is perceivable while in some places it is nearly devoid of vegetation. The narrow connecting strip mentioned, however, has firmer soil (being slightly higher) and produces a good growth of rank grass.

While I was crossing this strip and particularly when near the ditch my attention was suddenly attracted to the chirping notes of a pair of small sparrows not far away. Soon I espied them restlessly flying about among the grass and small bogs. Upon critical scrutiny I arrived at the conclusion that they were none, other than the rare Leconte Sparrow and by their restless actions and continuous chirping decided that they must have a nest in the immediate vicinity. Immediately I commenced to search at first looking only in the most likely places, but finding nothing I returned and began a most thorough search spending more than an hour within an area six rods wide and about ten rods long contiguous with the ditch, although with the closest and most patiently applied searching nothing in the form of a nest could be found. Nearly discouraged at such a failure I withdrew some distance to a higher point for observation and awaited further results. Almost simultaneously the loud and excited chirping ceased, yet they were very uneasy constantly moving about either taking short flights or swiftly running on the ground from bog to bog, thus occasionally I would get a glimpse of them or hear an almost inaudible chirp. It was exceedingly difficult for me to keep the location of both birds for to my disadvantage the sun had already disappeared and now small things were rendered less distinct in the twilight. To keep pace with the fast approaching dusk it was absolutely necessary for me to move nearer so that I might be within observable distance. This of course I cautiously did and finally on the verge of darkness when nearly every thing was obscure I boldly ventured forth directing my steps toward a spot where I had seen the birds go several times but not staying long on any occasion, and where one of the birds was now.

I came so suddenly upon her that she had barely time to leave the nest which to my disappointment contained three young birds and an egg about to hatch. It was now too dark to measure or correctly note the composition of the nest, so I deferred further observation to a future date, and thrusting a stick into the soft earth not far away for a mark I decamped. Returning four days later on June 2nd I found four young birds well developed for their age occupying the nest, which I photographed, but upon developing the plate a poor negative was the result. The nest was effectually hidden in a thick growth of grass and well sunken in the mossy ground, it was composed entirely of fine dry grasses so arranged that the finer materials formed the internal lining and measured inside $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter. This family of young birds lived a comparatively short life for on the morning of the succeeding day June 3d. they were found dead in the nest the appearances evidently indicating that they were crushed beneath the foot of some "critter." On the preceding day, June 2nd after a short tour and search about the marsh I succeeded in locating another nest about sixty rods distant, containing one young bird about ten days or two weeks old. The location and composition of this nest were identical to the one above described and measured inside $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches deep by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. During the following two weeks I made many trips to this marshy area and spent many hours in fruitless search but on the 15th was amply rewarded for all my time and exertions involved in the enterprise, for after two or three hours of the most patient and critical searching I was so fortunate as to flush a sitting bird from its nest which to my delight contained five eggs. This nest was only sixteen paces from the

last one I found and evidently belonged to the same pair of birds, being an attempt to rear a second brood. The nest was placed in a luxuriant growth of grass intermingled with a variety of marsh weed, in this respect the location differed from those previously found, I did not then disturb the nest as I desired to obtain a photograph of the nest and eggs in their original situation, but not having my camera with me I could not do it, so had to leave it for the time being but I returned on the 17th for that purpose fully equipped with the necessary apparatus. I approached the nest cautiously and came up to about four feet before the bird left, then she hopped out and swiftly ran away through the grass but in a few moments joined her mate who was chirping vigorously and flying about uneasily.

Carefully parting the grass so a clear view of the nest could be obtained the camera was then brought into action and two plates were soon exposed, both, however, upon developing proved to be fair negatives, one of which is here reproduced in the accompanying half-tone. This nest was constructed of dry brittle blades and stems of grass with a few bits of green moss distributed around the rim, the lining consisted entirely of a species of fine round grasses.

The dimensions were inside $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter a cavity was excavated in the mossy ground $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep and 3 inches in diameter. All these nests were very frail structures, for after taking them up they would almost fall to pieces, thus are preserved with great difficulty. The five eggs were far advanced in incubation but with the free use of pancreatin and the utmost patience in their manipulation, three were finally successfully prepared for the cabinet, they measure respectively .71 X .55, .72 X .56 and .73 X .54 inches an aver-

age of .72 X .55 inches. Slightly larger than the sizes generally given. The ground color is grayish white, specked and dotted with brownish and lilac, over which are thick and heavily spattered large blotches of various shades of dull brown.

EDW. W. SPRINGER,
Owatonna, Minn.

Editorial Greeting.

To many of the readers of the OOLOGIST I need no introduction. During the past Fifteen years as a Collector, Writer and Dealer I have become acquainted either personally or by correspondence with many of you.

In assuming the duties and responsibilities incident to the Editorship of the OOLOGIST my first object in view is the success of the publication from the point of view of the subscribers.

Only in this way can we hope for ultimate success.

For this reason suggestions from subscribers will always be welcome. Many have already made suggestions. Some of these will be adopted.

It is the earnest wish of both Publisher and Editor to place the publication in the position it occupied 10 years ago.

Now as then it can only be done by the co-operation of the subscribers with us.

To give you an up to date Journal we must have financial support. If you have friends interested in the Birds, call their attention to the OOLOGIST. Tell them of the advantages offered by its Monthly EXCHANGE and WANT Columns, by its Question and Answer Column; by its helpful Suggestions and records of the experiences of other Collectors.

Advise them to send to the Manager for free sample copy and circulars.

This will advance the best interests of the OOLOGIST rapidly from every point of view.

We can give you a better Journal, your EXCHANGE and WANT Ads. will have a wider circulation. More Advertisers will be attracted and you will be kept better posted.

Our Subscribers can help in another way. Send me records of collecting trips and unusual finds; descriptions of home made tools and cabinets; records of your experience in using solvents in blowing eggs, or preservatives and insecticides for specimens.

These may be of value and if so we don't ask you to write for nothing.

Interesting photos of Birds and nests will also be acceptable if plain in detail.

There is a concerted demand for a new Check List and Standard Catalogue of North American Eggs. We will endeavor to supply this in serial form running through the '04 Vol. of OOLOGIST.

All Subscriptions, Advertisements, Manuscript and Suggestions or Complaints should be addressed to ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager, Chili, N. Y.

Dr. Lattin is a busy man professionally and has no time to devote to such matters.

I am here to take care of these matters and they will receive promptest attention if addressed to me direct.

Now another word. Every possible effort will be made to protect Subscribers from fraudulent advertisers, both in Exchange and regular advertising Columns.

To do this I must be promptly notified when any advertiser fails to meet his obligations. At any time my opinion as to the identity of any specimens you feel doubtful about will cost you nothing but the postage both ways provided you are a paid up Subscriber.

Typographically the Editor will endeavor to co-operate with our Printer to produce a creditable publication.

Assuring you that I shall devote all necessary time and trouble to the OOLOGIST and asking your charity when I make mistakes as every one does.

Faithful y,

ERNEST H. SHORT,

Jan. 1st. 1904

Chili, N. Y.

P. S. By the way,—I wish to thank my many friends and patrons for numerous good wishes and congratulations I have received during the past month. E. S.

Editorial Notes and Clippings.

BREEDING OF MYRTLE WARBLER.

The following extract from an article by C. J. Young in the "Daily Herald" of Guelph, Ont. we deem of enough general interest to reprint here.

"Of the nests, the Black-throated Blue was in a small maple sapling near a hardwood bush, found May 28th, when it contained four fresh eggs. This is the usual location for that species. The nest of the Myrtle Warbler was in a second growth pine, two other nests in small cedars, a fourth in a small spruce, each from five to twelve feet from the ground. With regard to this bird, I notice it has a decided preference for the vicinity of water in the breeding season, as three out of the four nests referred to were located on islands in the lakes hereabouts, the other was in a tamarac swamp not far from Sharbot Lake, and one I found some years ago was in a cedar alongside of Calabogie Lake, in Renfrew County. In each case the nest was largely built externally of twigs of spruce and hemlock (I have preserved two of them), and the lining consisted of feathers, which were in every case a prominent feature. The late Mr. McIlwraith mentions this, but Mr. Kells, of Listowell, has apparently not observed it, writing in the O. F. Naturalist Magazine, Vol. xvi., Nov. 7, of a nest he found as being lined with rootlets and hair. It does not therefore seem

that the features are invariably present, though undoubtedly they generally are; the opposite being the case with the Magnolia."—*C. J. Young in "Notes from Thicket and Swamp" Guelph Daily Herald, Dec. 14th, 1903.*

I note in September issue "Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club," pp. 83, a record of Four sets of 5 eggs of Red-shouldered Hawk taken by Mr. J. Claire Wood of Detroit, all found in Wayne Co. Mich.

In the Collection of Mr. W. A. Davidson of Detroit, there were three sets of 5 each taken by Mr. Davidson in '97, '98 and '99 from the same pair of birds in Ecorse Township, Wayne Co., Mich. and he spoke of another set taken by Mr. E. B. Schrage of Pontiac in '96.

Southern Michigan seems to be raising a family of *B. lineatus* given to laying sets of Five.

Up to this year I had never seen one.
Ed.

EXTRACTS FROM LATE ISSUES OF BULLETIN OF MICHIGAN ORNITHOLOGICAL CLUB.

Vol. IV., No. 2.

"As we go to press we hear from Mr. Norman A. Wood, as follows: Oscoda County, July 3rd. Started out at 6:45 this morning to look up *D. Kirtlandi* and had five males in my basket before 9 o'clock. No females found so I suppose they are setting very close—no nests found yet. Have found nest with two young of the Gt. Northern Shrike; young are full fledged, nest not very bulky, built in pine tree.

We shall expect a more extended sketch of this trip by Michigan's well known "warbler man" for our next issue."

Just after this issue had gone to press Mr. Wood returned home from his trip north in quest of the Kirtland's Warbler with gratifying success, having obtained a fine series of skins,

male, female, nestlings, full-fledged young, nest and eggs.

Mr. Wood also obtained some two dozen photographs of the birds (in life) and their nests. The material of this trip prepared by Mr. Wood and illustrated by the photographs, will be given to our readers in the third issue. The editor also hopes to be able to give a colored plate of the egg.

A. W. B., Jr.

Vol. IV., No. 3:

The papers on the Kirtland's Warbler promised to appear in this number have been deferred to a later issue. Mr. Wood has since made a second trip to Oscoda county in company with Prof. Reighard. Ed.

Owing to the universal interest of this subject to all Ornithologists I have reprinted these extracts in full.

All of us will look forward to Mr. Woods article with anticipations of a treat and the Editor offers congratulations on his rare find.

WM. WILKOWSKI, JR. Kalamazoo, Mich., reports three Purple Finch Dec. 7th. Is not this unusually late? Also records Pine Grosbeak from 1st to 6th of Dec. and states that none were seen after that date. He saw a flock of fifty Lapland Longspur on Dec 6th. Judged by W. New York standards that would be an exceptionally large flock. They have usually come to the editors notice in small numbers associated with the Snowflake.

Periodicals Received.

"Atlantic Slope Naturalist" Vol. I, No's. 2, 3, 4 and 5.

"Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club" Vol. IV, No's. 2 and 3.

"The Condor" Vol. V, No. 6.

"Notes from Thicket and Swamp" Daily Herald, Guelph, Ont. 3 issues.

Comments on articles specially noted will be found under Editorial Notes etc.

Question Column.

H. Steenstrup, Chicago, and others.

How do Collectors get their set mark?

Ans. There are many systems followed by Collectors in marking eggs. The most common is as follows—A Collector secures his first set of Song Sparrows in 1904 and he marks it this way;—1—; 1 because it is his first set of that species for the season; 4 because there were four eggs in the set. His next set would be 2-3, 2-4 or 2-5 according to the number of eggs in the set. Now this does very well for one year but suppose he goes over the same system next year and places his 1905 sets beside the 1904 takes in his Cabinet. Now we will suppose some one tips over two or three trays containing sets collected in as many different years. If the sets happen to be of the same size and order all three will be marked 1-4.

He then has three dates for 12 eggs all marked 581.

Will he ever be sure that he has separated them right? Hardly.

Again suppose he packs six or more of the sets to ship in exchange. (I have had as high as 20 sets of one kind). In this case the party who gets his eggs can never be certain that he has placed each set with its proper data.

Many advanced Collectors now mark this way,

For 1904—04 1-4, 04 2-4 etc.

For 1905—05 1-5, 05 2-5, 05 3-5 etc.

This is much better but it makes necessary a few more marks on the eggs and the fewer marks the better as every mark carries some risk of puncturing the egg as well as marring its appearance.

I consider the following method the best of all.

Get your Data blanks in the Check-book form and keep a record of all sets mark on the stubs. Then begin with your first take of a certain species

Marking all the eggs simply with the A. O. U. No. and the letter —a—.

Mark your next set of this species —b, the next —d—etc, up to Z.

This will take care of 26 sets of one species, now begin on Capitals thus A, B, C, etc.

Then if you collect a very large series as sometimes happens when you find a colony you can begin on the 53d. set thus a a, b b, etc. to z z. After that, 1 a, 1 b etc. then 2 a etc. to 2 z.

This system makes less confusion, requires fewer marks on the eggs and admits of more expansion than any I know of.

In marking a set of eggs always put the marks in the relative position to the blow hole on all the eggs of one set. If you mark the first egg to the right of the hole try to mark all of that set in the same position.

This often helps in sorting sets from different Collectors where some often happen to be marked alike.

The Editor.

Don't be afraid to ask questions.

The Editor will devote this Department to as full an answer as space permits

Franklin's Gull.

Few, indeed, of those who are familiar with the eggs of Franklin's Gull have any vivid knowledge of that erratic gregarious bird, whose summer home is in the middle northern area of North America, from Southern Minnesota northward. There are two known breeding places within our border—one in Minnesota, and one in North Dakota, where the birds sometimes breed; but some seasons not. In Autumn they swarm, in thousands about the larger Dakota and Minnesota lakes and marshes.

P. B. PEABODY.

The Pine Grosbeak.

BY A. B. KLUGH, SEC'Y WELLINGTON
FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB,
GUELPH, ONT.

On Nov. 5th '03 large flocks of Pine Grosbeaks (*Pinicola enucleator canadensis*) arrived and since that date up to the present (Dec. 15) they have been common.

Here this bird is an irregular winter visitor, but this year is apparently competing for a place as a winter resident.

These flocks have been composed mostly of females and immature males, the former in their smoky-gray uniform with orange on head and rumps, the latter showing all gradations of plumage from that of the female to the adult male.

The adult male is a remarkably handsome bird, having the head, breast and rump of bright carmine pink and the feathers of the back edged with the same color. When seen among the conifers, whose branches each bear a burden of snow, he presents a most beautiful picture.

The chief diet of the Pine Grosbeaks for some time after arriving was the seeds of *Solanum dulcamara* (Nightshade). They plucked the berries off the vines, and in eating them rejected as much as possible of the fleshy portion. A considerable part of their time was spent upon the ground, where they fed on the seeds of *Polygonum hydropiper* (Smartweed), and caught insects, which they greatly relished. I also noted them breaking open the galls on the Willow (*S. discolor*) and eating the insects within. Another favorite food of theirs appears to be *Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Ragweed). When feeding on this plant, they hop on to a stalk, which usually bends down with their weight, when they stand upon it and pick off the fruits. While feeding upon the ground,

the warmth of their feet melts the snow which then adheres to their toes in the form of icicles, and the removal of these with the bill, requires much nipping and tugging, and a sort of gymnastic performance.

A Scotch Cormorant Colony.

On the 6th of May we cross the woods to the White Lock (*Wigtownshire*) a lake of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles by $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile, where Islands have been the breeding ground of *Phalacrocorax Carbo* as long as I remember. We row out to the first small island, the birds flying off rather wild, there are 73 nests in various stages of building, but very few completed and only 7 eggs. The next island, rather smaller, has only 26 nests, but there are 17 eggs, one nest containing 4. We now approach the big "Scart island" as it is named, as quietly as possible and landing at its low end steal up behind a big cairn of stones. The smell of a Cormorant Colony is not soon forgotten, and some of us have recourse to our handkerchiefs. The birds here pay us no attention, most are sitting on their nests building round with large heather sticks while others are stealing from their neighbors' nests, near at hand some exciting tugs of war are going on, and many are flying in from the shore with pieces of heather or large sticks in their powerful bills. Now we raise a shout and they all fly off helter skelter, in great confusion, their wings flaying in the water, and then circling round, alight on the water at some distance. One or two have the presence of mind to take a stick with them. Here are 243 nests and 467 eggs, many containing full sets. Some are content with a few sticks loosely put together, but the "Marthas" build an elaborate structure $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet high by 22 inches, closely put together, of heavy sticks, well hollowed and lined with dry grass. Some of

the sticks are $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference and 2 feet long, the nests are all very close together, on flat rocks near the water's edge.

J. G. GORDON,
Corsemalze, Whauphill,
Wigtownshire, Scotland.

474 Horned Lark.

(*Otocoris alpestris*)

While I was out walking on Friday, March 28, 1902. I saw a nest with 3 eggs in. I did not recognize the eggs but I put them in my handkerchief, as I did not have my collecting box with me, and carried them home.

I found out from an oologist that they were the eggs of the Northern Horned Lark, so called because they breed up in Labrador and Newfoundland. This one had evidently staid behind to breed as it was the only one around.

The eggs are greenish-gray with pale brownish-gray spots, which form a ring around the thick end. They are about the size of an English Sparrow egg averaging .90x.64.

The nest was composed of grass lined with feathers and set in the ground. It was not hidden at all as you could see both nest and eggs very plainly quite a way off as there was no grass or weeds to hide it.

This is accidental, as this bird's eggs are rarely found so far south as Toronto. These eggs are invariably mistaken for those of the Shore Larks, but the Ornithologists here have decided that they belong to the Northern Horned Lark as the Shore Larks have not come up yet and the Northerns had gone up a few weeks in advance of the finding of this nest.

R. G. AUSTEN.
Toronto, Ont.

Cooper's Hawk, in Orange County, Cal.

While passing through a dense willow forest at the mouth of the Santa Ana Canyon in May of last year, in company with a young collector, I flushed several adult Cooper's Hawks from perches among the branches, and was not a little surprised, when he, on climbing to an old nest, held up a single, small, pale blue egg. He returned to the nest ten days later and took a typical set of four fresh eggs. He is 30 miles away and I do not remember the exact date, but believe them to be the first ever taken in this county.

H. H. DUNN.

Book Review.

COUE'S "KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS."

We are notified by the publishers; Dana, Estes & Co., that the long expected 5th Edition of Coues Key is now ready for delivery.

This masterpiece of Dr. Coues has been greatly delayed by his unfortunate death just as the manuscript was completed.

The work, published in two large volumes and profusely illustrated, is not only a complete analytical and descriptive Key of every Bird (living and fossil), known to occur between Mexico and the North Pole but it is also a key to their breeding habits and eggs as far as known.

This 5th edition revised is by far the most complete and valuable all around reference work for American Ornithologists and Oologists.

The nomenclature has been changed to conform to the American Ornithologists Union and it contains 200 life studies by Fuertes.

Either the Publisher or Editor of the Oologist will promptly fill orders for this work at the Publishers price.

Two Vols. cloth, Net. \$10.00



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A 16-page, bi-monthly magazine devoted to the study and protection of North American Wild Birds.

Edited by

REV. H. C. MUNSON, Buckfield, Me.

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It also contains short interesting
STORIES ABOUT BIRDS.

CHAS. K. REED,
STA. A. WORCESTER, MASS.

An Old Scheme Resurrected.

The publisher of the Oologist desires a lot of short, pithy, boiled down articles based on cold, unvarnished facts of your own practice, experience or observation upon any subject of value or interest "to the student of birds, their nests and eggs." We want you to send one of these articles during 1902 and we want you to write the same on the back of an ordinary postal card and mail to us. Give the article a short, suitable heading and at the end sign your name and address. Should you prefer to write on paper you can do so, but the paper must be a single sheet the size of a postal card and written on one side only.

To every subscriber of the OOLOGIST, fulfill our request by mailing us one of these "Postal Card Articles" during the balance of the year, 1902, we will reciprocate by sending gratis, a copy of "Penikese" or a coupon good for an "exchange adv.," in the OOLOGIST.

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Large enough without being unwieldy, neat type, all desirable spaces, a place to insert your name if you wish, a neat stub attached and well perforated. Bound in pads of 100 and covered. I am able to offer them at following reasonable rates *postpaid*.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMY.

VOL. XXI. No. 2. ALBION, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1904. WHOLE No. 199

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES.

Brief Special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order. Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at 1-3 list rates.

What's Your Number ?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's Oölogist. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

199	your subscription expires with this issue	
200	" " " " " "	Mar., 1904
205	" " " " " "	Aug., 1904
207	" " " " " "	Oct., 1904
209	" " " " " "	Dec., 1904
257	" " " " " "	Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

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.

WANTED;—A live Saw-whet or Acadian owl, in good condition and plumage. Address, stating terms. HERBERT K. JOB, Kent, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE;—Ninety first class sets, mostly western; some Indian Relics and fossils, for fire arms, scientific books or cash. E. ROWE, Redlands, Cal.

FOR SALE;—Ships papers of Brig Seaman dated 1806 signed by Thos. Jefferson Pres; James Madison Sect; State on parchment with U. S. Seal, 5.00. A note given in 1815 with impresson of 50c. stamp, 1.00. E. B. SHIEDLER, Hopkinton, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE;—Iver Johnson Safety Hammer automatic Double action revolver, 32 cal. new, a good one, for best offer of tobacco tags, paper backs, cigar bands, polar bear stickers coupons, etc. A. B. ROBERTS, Weymouth, O.

ALE;—This lot of good skins at these the lot for \$20.00 cash. 2 White Pel-3 Canadian Ruffed Grouse \$1.50, 1 Ruffed Grouse \$1.00, 3 Gray Ruffed Grouse \$1.50, 3 Red-shouldered Hawks \$1.50, 1 Hawk 75c., 1 pair Wood Ducks \$4.00, Hawk 50c., 1 Broad-winged Hawk \$1.50, Hawk 50c., 2 Great Horned Owl \$1.50, 1 Marbled Godwit 75c., 2 Yellow-bellied Grouse 50c., 1 Snowy Owl \$1.50, 1 Ring-billed Grouse \$1.00. If you only divide price by number of skins. A. B. ROBERTS, Weymouth, O.

FOR SALE;—About 150 new and second-hand books, for sale cheap or will exchange for tobacco tags and coupons. GEO. W. DIXON, Watertown, S. Dak.

FOR SALE;—Stevens Pocket Shotgun 18in. barrel 38-40, and 3 boxes cartridges. Will sell for \$13 cash or part exchange. Been used for 25 shots. H. SKALES, Mount Forest, Ontario, Canada.

NOTICE;—How to write names on iron tools and glass, indelibly, simple, both receipts for 10 tobacco tags paper backs, 20 cigar bands, or equivalent in Polar bear stickers coupons etc. A. B. ROBERTS, Weymouth, Medina Co. O.

WANTED;—For cash, 4 x5 or larger photos of any or all birds, mounted or alive, their nests and eggs, animals of any species as well as pictures of curious vegetable growths freaks etc. These are for publication and must be free from all copyright limitations will give cash or good exchange in eggs from this section. HARRY H. DUNN, 212 W. 11th St. Los Angeles, California.

FOR SALE;—Taxidermists look here for sale. Heads of Moose from \$10.00 to \$40.00, scalps from \$4.00 to \$8.00, horns and skulls, cheap, Moose, Elk and Deer feet and legs, for making novelties from 20c. to 50c. each. Wolf skulls 15 to 50c. each. Wolf feet to first joint of leg, make pretty mountings for paper knives 25c. each. 3 Fox skulls 25c. each, all goods O. K. small things can be sent by mail. C. P. FORGE, Taxidermist and Collector, Carman, Man.

COLLECTORS ATTENTION; We are getting up a Directory of all the "Collectors" in the U. S. It makes no difference what you collect, we want your name, and address in full. If you want to become known to your fellow collectors there is no better way than this. Please send a postal, giving name, address in full and your specialty. We enter your name, and address, free gratis. Also stating what you collect. Advertising space to all collectors, and publishers at reasonable rates. We will receive subscriptions for this Directory at once, but no cash remittances will be accepted until all names are in. At which time, due notice will be given all who desire same. Address all communications to DR. S. D. LUTHER & SON, Fayetteville, Ark.

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FOR EXCHANGE—Choice sets with full data, Chuckwill's Widow, Am. Oyster catcher, Swainson's Warbler, Wilson's Plover, Willet Royal Tern, Clapper Rail, Black Skimmer, Hooded Warbler, Summer Tanager, DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga. F. ff.

OOLOGISTS ATTENTION! Hand egg Blow-pipe. Very useful for all fresh eggs invaluable with "water blower" sent post-paid with directions for 50 cents. Nest stains ink and pencil marks instantly and permanently removed from eggs by using my solution, two dram bottle, 25 cents. DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga. F. ff.

FOR SALE CHEAP—Choice Southern Sets with full and accurate data, Chuckwill's Widow 1.00, Am. Oyster catcher 40 cents, Wilson's Plover 15 cents, Nighthawk 20 cents, Willet 15 cents, Royal Tern 15 cents, Brown Pelican 10c., Laughing Gull 5c., Bachman's Sparrow 1.00, Swainson's Warbler 1.00 Blue Grosbeak 20c., Clapper Rail 5c., Black Skimmer 5c., Boat-tailed Grackle 5c., Indigo Bunting 5c., Green Heron 10c., Yellow-breasted Chat 5c., Summer Tanager 20c., Mockingbird 5c., Bob-white 10c., Long-billed Marsh Wren 5c., Red-eyed Vireo 10c., Field Sparrow 3c., Cardinal 3c., Blue-gray Gnatcatcher 20c., Wood Thrush 10c., Maryland Yellow-throat 15c., Hooded Warbler 25c., White-rumped Shrike 10c., Kingbird 5c., Yellow-billed Cuckoo 10c., California Murre 15c., African Ostrich 1.00. Satisfaction guaranteed. Many singles very cheap. Nests with sets. DR. M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Green St. Augusta, Ga. F. ff.

FOR SALE—This collection mounted birds cheap. Listed below at \$66.95 the entire lot for \$50.00, 1 White Pelican \$5.00, 2 Snowy Owls 5.00, 1 Barred Owl 2.00, 1 Osprey 2.00, 1 Swainson Hawk black plumage 2.00, 1 White-fronted Goose 3.50, 1 Marbled Godwit 1.00, downy young 50c., 1 Canada Jay 1.00, 1 Gray Ruffed Grouse 2.50, 1 adult a cross bill 1.00 2 immature plumage 1.00, 1 DOWITCHER 1.00, 2 Sharp-tailed Grouse 3.00, 4 Prairie Hens 8.00, 1 Lesser Scaup Duck 1.00, 1 Hooded Merganser 1.00, 1 Mallard 1.00, Pied-billed Grebe, 1.00, 1 Horned Grebe 1.00, 1 Magpie 1.50, 1 Bufflehead Drake 1.50, 1 Yellow Legs 50c., 2 Canadian Ruffed Grouse 2.00, 2 White-tailed Ptarmigan 4.00, 1 Virgin Rail 50c, 2 Meadow Lark 75c., 2 Bartrams Sandpiper 1.00, 1 Pine Grosbeak 40c., 1 Black Polled Warbler 50c., 1 Redpoll 35c., 1 Snow-bird 35c., 1 Kingfisher 50c., 1 Richardson Owl 2.00, 1 Hairy Woodpecker 50c., Black-billed Cuckoo 50c., 1 Fox Sparrow 50c., 1 Bronzed Grackle 50c., 1 Red-winged Blackbird 50c., 2 wrens 50c., 1 Pectoral Sandpiper 50c., 1 Robin 50c., 1 White-breasted Nuthatch 50c., Young Sand Hill Crane in down 1.00, 2 young Horned Grebes 50c., 2 3-4 grown Bartrams Sandpiper 1.00. Take the lot at \$50.00 or buy what you want at the prices. CHRIS. P. FORGE, Taxidermist and Collector, Carman, Manitoba Canada.

EXCHANGE. I have fine sets of birds eggs, raptors especially, to exchange for rare Indian relics, U. S. coins, stamps or sets not in my collection.

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Taxidermist, Oologists, I leave in March for my third trip to the North, collecting. Parties wishing skins or eggs should write for list. J. D. ANTHONY, Waubeek, Iowa.

FOR SALE—For Cash only sets of 1-3, 1-4, 354b \$4.50; 1-2, 351 \$1.00; 1-3, 1-4, 354a \$4.50; 1-5, 367 25; 1-5 376 \$1.50. HARRY GORTON, 18 Edward St. Seelye Pendleton England. J3t

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FOR SALE—Cowe's Birds of the Colorado Valley. Second-hand, perfect condition \$3.50. Macouns Canadian Birds part 1, new 50c., Davie's Nests and Eggs 3d edition, perfect condition, cloth, \$1.00 all prepaid. BENJAMIN HOAG, Stephentown, New York.

MAMMALS! BIRDS!—Parties wishing fine mammals or birds from this locality let me know. I will collect to order A. No. 1. Scientific skins. Fine mounted specimens for sale cheap. Address G. F. MONROE, Taxidermist, Superior, Wis. ff

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THE MACMILLAN COMPANY ANNOUNCE

That until the supply is exhausted they will give a free copy of BIRD LORE for December, 1903, to all subscribers to Volume VI, 1904, of that publication. This issue contains the first two plates in the series designed to figure **in color** all the plumages of every species of North American Warbler, and should be secured by everyone interested in the study of these birds.

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Stems of same material as pipes.

Extra fine Tomahawk shape, length 16 in. (value \$3.50), stem mended on lower side but hardly shows, my price \$2.65; one Hammer Head Pipe, length 14 1/4 in., (value \$2.50), my price \$1.98; one Rectangular Pipe, curved, stem length 11 1/2 in., (value \$2.50), my price \$1.35. Can not be mailed safely. Address.

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Price per set.

Mississippi Kite, 2 fine.....	\$2 70
1 fine.....	1 25
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4 fine.....	60
Marsh Hawk, 5 fine.....	60
Broadwinged Hawk, 3.....	2 40

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Osprey beauties, 2.....	80
3.....	1 25
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Long-billed Marsh Wren, beauties.....	12
4 @ .08; 5 @ .10; 6 @.....	70
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Prarie Hen, 9.....	90

ERNEST H. SHORT,
Rochester, N. Y.

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Males unless marked fm.

	List	My price.
Calif. Condor.....	\$40	\$12.00
Am. Barn Owl.....	4.00	1.25
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Gray Ruffed Grouse.....	4.00	1.20
White-wing Crossbill, fm.....		.22
Snowflake, m. or fm.....		.12
Redpoll.....		.14
Horned Lark.....		.18
Calif. Jay, m.....		.28
Black and White Warbler.....		.18
Black-poll.....		.18
Black-throated green16
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Marsh Hawk (fine plumage).....	.50
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEBRUARY, 1904.

WHOLE No. 199

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

Patched Together.

BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER
AND OTHERS.

The Editor has just closed a pleas-

ant correspondence with Mr. C. F. Stone of Branchport, Yates Co., N. Y. in regard to the identity of two sets of Warbler's eggs and it has occurred to him that parts of Mr. Stone's letters patched up, would prove as interesting to many readers of the Oölogist as to him.

In regard to the sets Mr. Stone was in doubt about, following is copied from correspondence of Nov. 19th, 1903.

"I had come to an open space in dense bushes, (a bush lot surrounded by hemlocks), and noted two or three dense growths of beech sprouts from stumps.

I looked at one likely bunch putting my hand in the top where the leaves were matted and, with a loud flutter, away went a bird. I peered over into the nest which was hidden in the dense foliage. It rested on the dense and tangled leaves and sprouts, concealed all around but open to the sky. The female when flushed dropped to the ground and remained out of sight for two or three minutes, then I saw her coming back through the low bushes but she was so lively that a real good look at her was impossible. Here is a description of the female that I gained as she flitted in a most lively manner through bushes, high and low, or through dead limbs close to the ground.

Under parts from breast to within about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of end of tail a soiled yellowish, brighter in the rear. Breast dusky; throat dingy white, side of head and upper neck bluish ashy, upper parts uniform dark olive brown, tip of tail blackish on underside for about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch.

This Warbler's note or "chip" is peculiar, wholly different from any other warbler I've ever heard. It is strong, vigorous, alto-toned, musical, seems to approach the "chip" of the Maryland Yellow-throat yet different".

The eggs, four in number taken June 21st., 1903, contained small embryos. After comparing the set and

To return to Mr. Stone's interesting letter I would quote as follows:

"I was very fortunate with warblers this year as I took fine sets of Cerulean, Canadian, Pine, Magnolia and, rarest of all, a beautiful set of Blackburnian. I found two nests of Black-throated Green but they are extremely sensitive and deserted leaving one nest undone and the other with one egg. This particular place is very rich in warblers and I have great expectations for next year. Lots of Canadians, 12 or 15 pairs, Magnolia, 12 or 15 pairs; 3 or 4 pairs of Black-throated Green, Black and White, also 3 or 4 pairs La. Water Thrush".

I think all Oologists will agree that Mr. Stone struck an Egg Collector's paradise and I hope to be able to accept his invitation to "Come and see me" some time next season.

I have taken some rare sets of warblers, notably, Mourning, Nashville, Golden-winged, Cerulean, Black-throated, Blue etc., but Canadian, Pine, Magnolia and Blackburnian have always been among my unattainables.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

ODD AND RARE BIRDS.

WONDERFUL COLLECTION FOR THE SMITHSONIAN.

Specimens Gathered on a Recent Cruise on West Coast of Sumatra and Bay of Bengal. Dr. Abbott's Researches.

C. W. Richmond, assistant curator of the division of birds, which is located in the Smithsonian Institution, is busy arranging and identifying over 570 specimens of rare and curious birds from Dr. W. L. Abbott's collection, obtained from islands of the west coast of Sumatra, in the Bay of Bengal, on his recent cruise. There are strange, foreign pigeons, hawks, swallows, crows, orioles, owls and so on almost without number.

About six species of various colored

considering the nest and nesting site I unhesitatingly pronounced it a set of Black-throated Blue.

They are a creamy or buffy white boldly spotted with lilac and splashed with brown, no decided tendency toward wreaths at larger ends.

These eggs measure, .77x.58; .76x.57; .76x.56 and .75x.55; very large for this warbler and remarkably even in size.

They are by far the prettiest set of this bird that ye editor has ever been privileged to view.

Mr. Stone sent on for comparison another authentic set of this bird taken from a similar nesting site in Cortland Co., N. Y., in June 1899.

This set is remarkable in being so far from typical both as to eggs and nest. The nest is compactly and neatly felted and in shape and construction, except as to materials, it resembles many examples of the American Redstarts art.

All other nests of this bird that I have observed were loosely made and rough in outline.

The four eggs in this set are marked very similar to typical sets of Magnolia Warbler with ends well wreathed. They are also very small measuring .69x.52; .67x.52; .67x.57 and .66x.53. The ground color shows very little of creamy tint and the markings are more specks than spots. *No blotches.*

I have in my possession another set I took near Buckbee's Corners, Monroe Co., N. Y., last June, from an exactly similar nesting site and nest as Mr. Stone's set. They were badly incubated when found. Size of eggs is intermediate between the two sets described above, in fact about typical. Color creamy with a bluish tint boldly blotched with brown in light shades, heaviest at larger end but not decidedly wreathed. Very few lilac shell markings on these eggs. A pretty set only that the advanced stage of incubation rendered large holes a necessity.

ouckoos, of all sizes, are represented. Among these is the Ground Cuckoo, which is the largest, and is distinguished by an unusually long claw, that aids in walking.

Vari-colored and finely shaped kingfishers are present in large numbers. These birds, as, indeed, nearly all the others, present a gorgeous appearance as they lie side by side in the large, flat boxes in which they are being placed for safekeeping, their beautifully colored breasts facing upward.

There are three or four species of these birds. The most striking is the Stork-billed Kingfisher. It has a long red bill, from which it gets its name, an orange-colored breast and cobalt blue wings. A considerable number of these birds are in the collection.

Another species of the kingfisher is one belonging to the genus *Halycon*, an old Greek name. The kingfisher was thought by the Greeks to be a harbinger of good probably because of the superstition that its nests floated on the sea, and thus were a sign of calm weather.

There are several smaller and more brilliant kingfishers in the Abbott collection, which resemble more closely than the others the common European variety of this bird. There is one also which is peculiar on account of its having three toes instead of four.

Mr. Richmond has a number of swallows, or swifts, of the kind that build the famous edible nests, so highly prized as delicacies by the Chinese. These birds are grayish-white in color, and have very short legs. They never perch, but are continually on the wing, except when on their nests; and for this reason longer legs would be superfluous.

Their nests are built in caves, where they are easily accessible, if it is ever possible to discover the caves. Some nests are pure white and others brown,

the former being considered the most appetizing. They are made of certain kinds of seaweed, mixed with the saliva of the bird. The nests sell, among the Chinese, for a sum equivalent to \$40 per pound.

The contribution includes several specimens of a kind of crow, that resembles the American variety in color and form, but is much larger.

There are a number of birds that are well known throughout the East as Bulbuls, and are famed for their singing. They have brilliant yellow breasts and glossy, brown backs.

A kind of pigeon, known as the fruit pigeon, is represented by a large series. These birds feed on nutmegs. They are about a foot long from tip of bill to tip of tail.

Many gorgeously colored orioles are in the collection. Their colors are yellow and black, like the Baltimore orioles, but they are of an entirely different family. The American variety is sometimes called "new world oriole" in distinction from the true or "old world" oriole.

Besides all these birds there are Rails, Sandpipers, and many others that have not yet been identified. The collection, when mounted, will be a handsome addition to the Smithsonian exhibit.

Dr. Abbott, who is a resident of Philadelphia, has been collecting mammals, birds, insects and ethnological specimens ever since the year 1887, and has journeyed to many different countries and islands of the sea to accomplish his purpose. He has placed the United States museum under great obligations, and the work he has done has won an expression of most sincere appreciation. For two winters Dr. Abbott has collected specimens from islands in the east. Previous to his recent trip he visited the Andamans and Nicobars, and the account of the cruise, is given by C.

Boden Kloss, an Englishman of Singapore who frequently accompanies Dr. Abbott.

The cruises are made in the Terrapin a Singapore-built teak schooner, 67 tons yacht measurement, of which Dr. Abbott is the captain and owner. She is 65 feet long and 16 feet broad, and draught is 7 1-2 feet. She is provided with suitable equipments and the arrangement of the quarters is such as would be desirable for sailing in the tropics. The crew, five ordinary seamen, a "serang," or boatswain and a sailing master are Malays. Natives, it is said, are far more satisfactory in nearly every way on a small boat in the tropics; than are white men, even if the latter could be obtained. The Malays can put up with more restricted quarters, are less inclined to grumble under peculiar circumstances, or to be disobedient, are more at home in every way in their surroundings, and, most important of all, keep in good health and can stand the sweltering sun. A Chinese "boy" and cook are also carried.

The Terrapin is well provided with places for storing the numerous specimens which are collected on every voyage.

The schooner left Singapore on the trip before the last in October, 1900, cruised off the coast of Tenasserim, and among the islands of Mergui archipelago. A few days were then spent in the Malay peninsula, where several wild deer and pigs were obtained. After visiting High Island, where an unsuccessful search was made for skeletons of an animal known as the sellung, and where a number of birds and mammals were added to the collection, the schooner left for the Andaman Islands, which lie to the west of the Malay peninsula, in the Bay of Bengal. There are four large islands in the group and many smaller ones, They are excellent places for research

far students in Natural history. Below these are the Nicobar Islands, a smaller group.

The Terrapin cruised among both of these groups, stopping here and there to visit the natives and collect things of interest. To a lover of natural history and ethnology nothing more like a paradise could be imagined, it is said.

Hundreds of specimens were secured, every one of which is at present mounted or preserved in some way at the United States museum. Little trips into the interior were made, either on foot or in boats, and explorations made up small creeks or inlets. Photographs were taken, which to-day bring back pleasant recollections, and are very helpful to the curators of the museum in their study.

Not until April did Dr. Abbott leave the islands and sail toward Sumatra and for home,

On his more recent trip he returned to the same general region, though devoting his time to collecting among the little islands just west of Sumatra. The specimens which he secured here are still being unpacked and mounted in the museum. In a previous issue of the "Star" the domestic implements, weapons, decorations and many other articles, showing the habits and customs of the natives, were described. But these are but a small portion of the immense collection presented as a result of the cruise.

In fact, Dr. Abbott's last contribution has proved to be so excellent that, in reward for his unexampled services to the museum, it is said there is a movement on foot to confer upon him an honorary title in the institution. If no class now exists into which he could be placed it is supposed by officials of the museum that a new and separate one will be created in order that some recognition of his services may be made.—*Washington Star, August 1903.*

Editorial Notes and Clippings.

The series of three Photos of Belted Kingfishers by R. H. Beebe appearing in current number of American Ornithology are works of art considering the difficulties attending this work. The illustrations in this Number are fine and must be seen to be appreciated.

The interesting article on "Birds of the Galapagos Islands" by R. H. Beck, in the current number of the "CONDOR" is worthy of the attention of every Ornithologist and Oologist. The fine half-tones from photos taken on the Islands add greatly to its value.

Mr. Silloway also contributes an instructive article on the breeding of Montana birds including Townsend's Warbler and Ruby-crown Kinglet.

There has lately passed through my hands an unusual set of Olive-backed Thrush. It was taken by Mr. W. A. Davidson in Wayne Co. Mich., June 22d, 1890.

Nest six feet from ground in a bush, built of leaves, twigs, fine rootlets and strips of Cedar bark.

Sets of this bird from Michigan are very rare and this is an exceptionally fine set; very large measuring 1.00 x .69, 1.05 x .72 and 1.02 x .72, .99x.72 and beautifully marked with shades of light red, brown and lavender so profusely that the set looks like an undersized set of Sennett's Thrasher. Unfortunately one egg was slightly damaged in preparing the set but, both as to locality and beauty, it is unique in my experience.

ED.

The Editor has just inspected two fine sets of 5 eggs each, Mexican Cormorant, taken by F. B. Armstrong, near Brownsville, Texas, on the 16th of Oct., 1903. Incubation fresh.

How's that for a breeding date?

We note with regret the serious damage to the collection of Mr. F. T. Noble of Augusta, Me., during the fire on the morning of Jan. 7th.

The Collecting Habit.

Occasionally, we hear some unappreciative parents express regret, when their children begin to develop the tendency to collect.

Some will object to the small expense involved, or to the time which may be taken up in the collecting, or to the space occupied in the house by the collection.

Now, as an experienced parent, teacher and pastor, I want to enter my protest against such opposition to collecting. Young minds must become acquainted with the world in which they live, and especially with the works of nature, which are the works of God in nature.

And every child's mind will be better and happier if he can learn the facts of the world in ways which afford delight while learning. It is a secret known to all careful thinkers in child study, that whatever enters into the young mind with delight, makes a strong and enduring impression. This is the great secret of the Kindergarten.

Again, a second great secret, in developing a child's mind, is to remember his great desire to handle the things with which he is so delighted, and to possess them, as his own.

Therefore, when a child is old enough, let him begin to collect something, especially the works of nature, such as shells minerals, etc. And thus you will fix his mind in the things which delight him, and which arouse in him an active enthusiasm, which will go far towards sustaining his interest in his studies, in later years, when the more artificial methods of study and teaching must be taken up, in school.

As to expense, a habit of collecting

will tend to make a child need fewer toys, because his collection takes the place of toys, to a large extent.

A child educated without any expense, is likely to have a very cheap education, one which dwarfs his mind, rather than develops his many-sided manhood.

As to the space taken up by a little collection, almost any house can afford to spare the child a few shelves, or a home-made box, or cabinet. And it will help to train and systematize the child's mind, to feel that he has a place of his own, where he can keep his treasures, and for the good order of which he is responsible.

As to the time occupied in making collections, that can be regulated by the amount of time at the child's disposal. Naturally, his collecting time will come out of his play-time, and so will not be any time lost from study. But in fact, collecting is one good method of study, better because it pleases and entertains.

A small collection made by children, will often solve the hard problem of what to do with your children on a rainy day. And, even at other times, the time spent with the collection keeps the child out of mischief.

In every way, I believe in the habit of collecting, kept, of course, within reasonable bounds, as to expenditure of time and money. It helps to train the mind in many ways.

I have seen the practical good of collecting, in my own family, and in my own life. And so I would encourage the young folks to collect; and also the older folks, who will find, in collecting, a restful change, and an antidote for "the blues," and a help to him who would "look through nature, up to nature's God."

E. C. MITCHELL.

St. Paul, Minn.

Nest and Eggs of the Swainson's Warbler

DR. M. T. CLECKLEY.

(*Helinaia swainsonii*).—June 1st and 8th were 'red-letter' days for me from an oölogical standpoint. Jumping on my wheel and riding two or three miles from this city, I came to a swamp I had never visited before; and while looking carefully among the thick cane-brake, I heard *chips* of a warbler. Birds were singing and darting all around, and the 'swamp-flies' were making my life miserable, when I perceived a bunch of cane-leaves near the top of a cane-bush seven feet above the ground. On going closer, I saw a warbler on the nest, which immediately flushed and feigned lameness, rolling and chirping on the ground among the cane. I at once recognized the bird as Swainson's Warbler, and on peering into the nest saw, to my great delight, three white, unmarked eggs of a slightly pinkish hue and rather globular in shape. The nest was a typical warbler's, being made of leaves of the elm, cane in layers, pine needles, and lined with fine rootlets and grasses. I at once packed the eggs with the enthusiasm of having found such a rare nest—the rarest eggs I have ever found in this locality. Having read that this species of warbler nests in small colonies, I continued in the cane, stooping often to search the tops of the cane. I had not gone ten feet, when I came to another nest with a warbler on it, in a cane-bush situated five feet above the ground. The bird dropped and fluttered off. The nest was more compactly built and contained three fresh eggs, somewhat smaller than the eggs of the other set. Proceeding near the end of the cane-brake, I saw a warbler dart out from a clump of cane, and on investigating, I saw a neat little Hooded Warbler's (*Wilsonia mitrata*) nest with three creamy white eggs marked

with specks and spots of chestnut, and lilac gray wreaths. I had found one uncompleted Swainson's Warbler's nest, and on visiting the same swamp again in a week, I located two more sets of three eggs each of this warbler—the rarest of southern warblers.

Augusta, Ga.

Eggs of the Dwarf Screech Owl.

As I have now in my possession what is undoubtedly an egg of this rare bird, I have jotted down a description and full notes since the egg has never been described.

On the 25th of April 1901, Mr. F. O. Nelson removed a small owl which he thought was the Pygmy Owl from a cavity in a Cottonwood Stump 3 miles South of Meridian, Ada Co., Idaho.

There were four eggs in the nest, incubation well begun, but all but one were destroyed before reaching me. This egg while very nearly small enough for the Pygmy Owl, is so entirely different in shell texture and shape that I would unhesitatingly pronounce it an egg of the Dwarf Screech Owl. The shell texture and color is like the the Screech Owl types and in no way resembles the creamy, granulated, or roughened shell of the Pygmy and Elf Owls. The shape is more oval than the eggs of the Pygmy Owls, also. It measures 1.26 x 1.04. The smallest Screech owls egg I have, an egg of the Texan bird, measures 1.36 x 1.21 and they run from that up to 1.47 x 1.25 for Kennicotts' from Alberta.

The average given for Pygmy Owl is 1.12 x .95, Mine average 1.11 x .94.

However I have two eggs of the Flammulated Screech Owl, one from Mexico, measuring 1.24 x 1.08 and one from the Nevada line measuring 1.23 x 1.04.

Considering the resemblance in measure, shape and color with the

fact that Meridian is only 110 miles straight west of the type locality, (Ketchum, Blaine Co., Idaho), of the Dwarf Screech Owl I think there is little room for question that Mr. Nelson had the first authentic set of this bird taken in the type locality and I much regret that skin and balance of set were not preserved.

A Misleading Appellation.

NORMAN O. FOERSTER.

It would be difficult to trace back to the originator of the name "Preacher" for the Red-eyed Vireo. Since Somebody, almost every writer on the Red-eye has used that hackneyed term. We are all fanciful at times, and say and write things we would not even think of at other times. Certain it is that the author of this appellation must have been in a fanciful or playfully cogitative mood when he wrote his biography of the Red-eye. Take an ordinary person, who knows almost none of the birds along some country-road and when you come to the Red-eye's "pulpit" and hear "the clear, high tones of his rich voice" which are "a constant repetition of a few triplets, but so ingeniously arranged as not to become wearisome," ask him what the notes suggest. I have tried it often, but never yet received an answer that pronounced it declamatory or harangueful. On many occasions where I suggested "Preacher" the idea was ridiculed.

No doubt its "short sentences, its tiresome upward inflections, its everlasting repetitions, and its sharp, querulous tone" suggest certain preachers; but when these notes were likened to preaching no consideration was taken of the fact that the principal idea conveyed was a declamatory, style, sharp reiterations, pauses, and climaxes. As Torrey says, "whoever dubbed

this vireo the 'preacher' could have had no very exalted opinion of the clergy."

Mr. Cheney, as I have quoted above, says the notes are ingeniously arranged and not tiresome but Torrey calls them tiresome. It is natural that we should disagree in an appreciation of the song, but we ought not to be undecided on such a point as sharpness, "Its sharp, querulous note," says Torrey; but it is *not* sharp. If it were it might contain more of the elements that go to make up the preacher's style. Indeed the notes are mellow: heard from a distance they seem to voice the summer breeze itself, uncertain and tremulous, but never sharp; heard near by they are, I think, almost as mellow as the Rose-breasted Grosbeak's. Now watch "this lively, tireless singer, running rapidly after insects in the tops of forest trees, singing as he goes;" the notes are uttered with scarcely any effort, seeming to flow out and express in voice the contentedness what a bird-face cannot reflect. Certainly they are not sharp.

All in all, I think it would be wise to consider the term "preacher" rather as a poor pun than as a name given with any design at appropriateness. Due reverence to the ornithologists who use the miserable figure, but the unnaturalness of the term we need not therefore enshrine.

Evening Grosbeak in Central Iowa.

BY JAY G. SIGMUND.

Christmas day, while eating dinner at a neighbors, I was called to the door to see a flock of curious birds which were feeding on cedar berries in the trees in the yard. I saw at once that they were Evening Grosbeaks, (*Coccothraustes vespertina*) and was somewhat surprised as they were the first of this species I have ever seen in

this locality, although a friend of mine secured a specimen here two years ago.

There were about thirty birds in the flock, and they paid no attention to me but kept on eating their Christmas dinner in the storm, chirping cheerily the meanwhile.

As I desired to obtain a specimen for mounting, I had a gun brought me and fired into the flock killing one. The rest of the flock took flight, and I picked up the specimen I had shot but was much disappointed to find that it was too badly shot to be of any value as a mounted specimen. The bird shot was an adult female.

I afterward learned that this flock of Grosbeaks were in the habit of coming regularly to this place to feed having been seen several times previously, this winter.

Book Review.

Either the Publisher or Manager of the Oologist will furnish any book at the Publishers price.

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- American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 1.
- Condor, Vol VI, No. 1.
- Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VI, No. 1.
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VOL. XXI. No. 3.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1904.

WHOLE No. 200

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200	your subscription expires with this issue		
205	"	"	Aug., 1904
207	"	"	Oct., 1904
209	"	"	Dec., 1904
257	"	"	Dec., 1908

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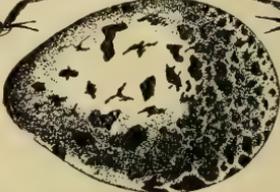
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 3.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1904.

WHOLE No. 200

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Breeding of The Mississippi Kite.

I have lately had the pleasure of inspecting what I believe to be the largest series of eggs of the Mississippi

Kite ever recorded as taken by one collector in the same locality and all in one month.

Of 15 sets, fourteen were taken by G. W. Stevens, between June 5th and 20th, 1903. Thirteen sets in Woods County, Oklahoma, on the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River and its tributaries, and one set in Pawnee County, Oklahoma, near the Arkansas River. The other taken by J. M. Rutledge is also from Woods County.

No. 1.—Two eggs taken June 5th from a white elm tree, one and one-half miles northwest of Alva, Woods County. Nest twelve feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few fresh sumac leaves. Incubation fresh. Size of eggs, 1.68x1.38 inches and 1.63x1.32. Birds at nest.

No. 2.—One egg taken June 10th from the horizontal branch of an elm tree, one and one-half miles northwest of Alva. Nest twenty-two feet from ground, composed of a few sticks, lined with fresh willow twigs with the catkinon. As this set was found in same locality as No. 1 and the egg was fresh, it may have been a second set by the same pair of birds. Egg small 1.58x1.27 inches.

No. 3.—One egg taken June 7th from forks of cottonwood tree, eight miles northwest of Alva. Nest twenty-five feet from ground, composed of sticks, with a thin lining of green cottonwood and sumac leaves. Incubation fresh. Birds at nest. Egg measures 1.57x1.27.

No. 4.—One egg taken June 7th from fork of white elm, two miles north of Alva. Nest twenty feet from ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few fresh sumac leaves. Birds at nest.

Incubation well begun. Size of egg 1.64x1.30.

No. 5.—Two eggs taken June 10th from horizontal limb of white elm, six miles southeast of Heman, Woods County. Nest twenty feet from ground, composed of coarse sticks, quite flat, a spare lining of green elm leaves. Birds at nest. Incubation half over. Size of eggs 1.67x1.30 and 1.70x1.33.

No. 6.—One egg taken June 10th from horizontal limb of elm, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, built like that of No. 5. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size of egg 1.57x1.31.

No. 7.—Two eggs taken June 10th from the top fork of cottonwood tree, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest thirty-five feet from the ground, built of sticks, laid on top of some old nest and lined with fresh cottonwood leaves and seed pods. Birds at nest. Incubation advanced. Size of eggs 1.50x1.26 and 1.68x1.38, an odd looking set, as one egg appears one-half larger than the other.

No. 8.—Two eggs taken June 10th from fork of cottonwood tree, six miles southeast of Heman. Nest thirty feet from the ground, built of sticks, lined with green cottonwood leaves. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size of eggs 1.54x1.31 and 1.72x1.29. This last egg is a freak, as it is positively pyriform in shape, instead of the rounded oval, typical of these eggs.

No. 9.—One egg taken June 10th from the fork of an elm tree, eight miles southeast of Heman. Nest twenty feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with cottonwood seed pods, which were ripe and bursting. Birds at nest. Incubation fresh. Size 1.59x1.27.

No. 10.—Two eggs taken June 10th from an elm tree, eight miles southeast of Heman. Nest eighteen feet from the ground, made of sticks, lined with fresh leaves of elm and

sumac. Birds at nest. Incubation begun. Size 1.59x1.30, 1.55x1.29. The eggs in this set are nicely matched as to size and shape.

No. 11.—One egg taken June 12th from upper forks of "Black-Jack" oak, two miles northwest of Walthall, Woods County. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with a few leaves from same tree, nearly fresh. Incubation fresh. Size 1.55x1.32.

No. 12.—One egg taken June 13th from "Black-Jack" oak, two miles north of Walthall. Nest nineteen feet from the ground, composed of coarse sticks and lined with fresh sumac leaves. Incubation begun. Size 1.73x1.41. *Very large*. Looks much like a rounded egg of Marsh Hawk.

No. 13.—One egg taken June 20th from fork of large limb of "Black-Jack" oak, at Pawnee, Pawnee County, Oklahoma. Nest twenty-five feet up a very flat structure of a few twigs, lined with small twigs with green leaves on. Incubation begun. Size of egg 1.62x1.34. This egg was very heavily stained and quite smooth from incubation. I think incubation must have been further advanced than Mr. Stevens' notes would indicate. Many of the stains on this egg would suggest markings, and I think it must have been an egg like this that gave rise to the statement in Coues key that the eggs are sometimes faintly marked. I never saw an egg of this bird that I thought was marked when deposited.

No. 14.—Two eggs taken June 10th from horizontal limb of elm, eight miles southeast of Heman, Woods County. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lined with green cottonwood leaves. Incubation advanced. Size of eggs, 1.71x1.33 and 1.68x1.41.

No. 15.—Two eggs taken by J. M. Rutledge from "Black Jack" oak, one mile northwest of Walthall, on June

12th. Nest fifteen feet from the ground, composed of sticks, lining not specified. Size of eggs, 1.63x1.34 and 1.55x1.30. Incubation fresh. A very pretty set. One egg was checked and mended again before it was deposited by the bird. I have noted eggs of Sandhill Crane and Brown Pelican that exhibited this evidence of nature's mending. The former had been broken entirely around the center and firmly joined without leaving any ridge on shell. In the case of this egg of Mississippi Kite it was a simple radiated dent, which was healed by an extra deposit of shell, leaving a network of fine lines showing.

The average size of the twenty-two eggs is 1.59x1.32. Davie's average, (10 specimens), 1.64x1.28. Coues Key gives average as 1.65x1.35; rather too large, but giving a better idea of the rounded oval shape than Davie's size, which is too slender. In common with all normal eggs of this bird they are white, with a greenish tint, caused by the inner shell tint showing through. Hold one of these eggs up to the light and the inner shell shows as a delicate pea green. Nearly all the eggs show stains from lying on green, wilting leaves.

While Mr. Stevens does not note any green leaves in nest No. 9, nor does Mr. Rutledge speak of them in nest No. 15, still the eggs in both cases show the stains plainly, indicating that they had certainly lain on green leaves at some time. This habit of lining the nests with green leaves seems to be practically confined to this bird, among our American Avifauna. The Cuckoos sometimes use a few green leaves with their catkins when they complete their nest, but these soon dry up and I have never seen any evidence of their replacing them.

Mr. Stevens' records indicate what I have seen stated as probable by other authorities—that the Mississippi Kite

constantly renews these leaves, and thus keeps fresh ones in the nest all the time. He found leaves under incubated eggs to be as fresh as those under freshly laid eggs.

These records do not indicate a tendency to pick out lofty nesting sites like the White-tailed and Swallow-tailed Kites prefer. Instead of finding them in the tops of trees forty feet or more from the ground his nests only averaged twenty-one feet from the ground, and if we leave out Nos. 7 and 8 we have an average of eighteen and one-half feet for thirteen nests. Full sets are said to be two or three eggs.

There is a record, quoted by Mr. Davie, of a set of three taken by Mr. J. A. Singley in Lee County, Texas, many years ago. This will have to stand as *very rare*. I have never seen a set of three. Mr. Stevens states that one-half of all the nests he finds never contain but a single egg and that he has repeatedly allowed them to hatch out sets of one and found nests containing one young on many occasions. I think it should be *one or two* eggs, *rarely* three.

We would expect the largest eggs to occur in the sets of one, but the opposite proves to be the case. Only one of the single eggs approaches the sizes indicated by the pairs.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

The Black-Throated Green Warbler in Summer.

It has never been the portion of the writer to reside or to make observations within the territory wherein *Dendroica virens* is to be commonly found as a summer resident, and therefore these brief notes pertain to the Black-throated Green Warbler in summer in localities where it is not accredited with being commonly found at that season.

I have never found this Warbler's nest, nor have I diligently sought it; but the bird itself I have observed in

summer in two localities widely remote from each other, in neither of which I had expected to find the species.

Formerly residing in the very county where the OOLOGIST is published, (Orleans County, New York,) I had known the Black-throated Green Warbler as a common migrant—one of the best known, but notwithstanding so good an authority on the birds of that section as the Rev. J. H. Langille had stated that he found it commonly in Tonawanda Swamp each summer, I was unable by explorations, either there or elsewhere to find a trace of *D. virens* at any time excepting during the migrations.

In July, 1901, I spent seven days of rest and recreation on Canandaigua Lake, southeast from Rochester, N. Y. Well, up towards the southern extremity of the lake, at Cook's Point or Linden Lodge, I found my place of sojourn and tarried there from July 9th to 15th. Leading back from the hotel, the highway climbs circuitously the rather precipitous hill and enters the woods—cool, inviting and picturesque—for now the wagon-road skirts the edge of a steep declivity and coniferous trees add denser shade to the already shadowy ravine.

Here the Black and White Warbler *Mniotilta varia* had been engaged in nesting, for twice I caught it in the act of feeding its hungry young. And here, day after day, the "wee, wee, su, see" so familiarly known to me as the ditty of the Black-throated Green Warbler could be heard by the most disinterested passer-by, would he but stop to listen; even though he might not be able to derive the enjoyment from these "grasshoppery" cadences that I did. The birds were often seen as well as heard. I did not find the nest, but never did I traverse that woodland road—and I traversed it often—that I did not hear this four-syllabled singer. The inference was plain

enough that a pair of these birds were breeding in that woodland ravine.

But not so remarkable is it that this Warbler should be found in summer just south of the 43rd parallel, as that it should be observed in the breeding season in latitude less than 30°.

Rather late in the afternoon of June 23rd, 1902, we were returning to Vincennes by row-boat from a day's outing up the Wabash. On the right bank, and therefore in the state of Illinois, (the river being at this point the Indiana-Illinois boundary line), while yet about two miles above Vincennes, the land rose rather abruptly from the river and seemed densely wooded—with deciduous trees mostly, but with some coniferous trees occurring.

As oars were momentarily rested and the boat drifted noiselessly not far from shore, there fell upon my ears the familiar song of the Black-throated Green Warbler coming from out the trees along shore.

In this *southern* section at the summer season, I refused to believe my ears when they told me of the song of a *northern* warbler, and I demanded further evidence. I did not have long to wait. Again came the notes and again, "wee, wee, su see," "wee, wee, su, see," very familiar notes to me, having long known them and I generally described them in this manner. And this in southern Indiana, at a latitude corresponding almost exactly with that of Washington, D. C. in the east.

We made no landing nor further investigation as the day was wearing to its close, nor was I able again that season to visit that locality. Not until now has this unusual occurrence been reported, and I believe this is the first record for the occurrence of this species in mid-summer from the state of Indiana. I understand that Mr. Charles Dury, of Cincinnati, O., has found this Warbler in that vicinity in the latter part of July, 1879.

CORNELIUS F. POSSON,
Vincennes, Ind.

Among The Great Blue Herons.

(ARDEA HERODIAS.)

As per agreement I went down to Salem, N. J., on the 13th of May, 1899, to visit a Heron colony. A friend met me in the city, and after enjoying the many points of interest and being refreshed by a "soda and cream" we drove six miles in the country for the night.

After partaking of an early breakfast next morning my friend and I drove over to a neighbor's and another friend joined us. A drive of fifteen miles brought us to a roadway leading into a woods, and after proceeding a mile farther we fastened our horse near the edge of a swamp.

A tramp of one quarter of a mile through bushes, briars and tricky sloughs brought us to the colony. My friend, Mr. Crispen, who was my host on this trip, had been there two weeks previously and secured about fifty eggs, but owing to a great many being heavily incubated he could only save thirty. It was anticipated that we would be in good time for the second laying, and the first set of three taken, which were fresh, was encouraging.

The trees were all within a stone's throw of each other and it was only a few minutes before a set of four fresh eggs were on the ground. Mr. Crispen, who did the climbing, went up and down the trees like a monkey. He took the eggs faster than I could blow them. We found sets of three, four and five about evenly divided, and after going up fifteen trees had sixty eggs. There were more nests, but we did not want to be classed as "egg hogs" so left the balance to breed.

Two sets of Flickers of seven eggs each found their way into our collecting boxes. The eggs of the Great Blue Heron are plain, greenish-blue, varying from elliptical to oval in shape, three to six, (rarely the later) in number. Average size 2.50x1.50.

The nests were built on the tip tops of pine trees, from forty to sixty feet from the ground. They were made of coarse sticks on the first layer, finer on the second and lined with a few pine needles.

As a climber Mr. Crispen beats anything I ever saw. He went up seventy-five feet to an Ospreys nest on our way to the Heron colony, and finding it empty, jumped into it, and while his legs hung over the side, sang three cheers for the red, white and blue. When he climbed the first Heron tree he put the eggs in his coat pocket, got into the nest and stood erect, while the breeze swayed the tree back and forth, making a survey of the surrounding country.

The day was an ideal one for such a trip, the air being cool and pleasant, while the sun shone out sufficiently to soften the breeze that constantly blew from the Jersey shore.

Birds could be seen on every side, while we drove leisurely along each bird as it came in view was called by name and its nesting habits discussed.

It was nearly dark when we reached home, so, after a hearty supper, we finished blowing the eggs and went to bed tired out.

Next morning Mr. Crispen drove into Salem where I took the steamer for Wilmington.

E. J. DARLINGTON.

QUESTION COLUMN.

G. M. S., Mankato, Minn.

No. 1. After selling three eggs from your six Hawks' eggs you could not call the three left a set.

Nesting of Cooper's Hawk.

(333 *Accipiter cooperi*.)

April 6, 1902, I found a nest of Cooper's Hawk built in a yellow birch tree 30 feet up, and nearly completed.

I watched it carefully and May 4th I visited the nest to collect the eggs, but there was no eggs there. I hunted around and found the female setting on a nest containing four eggs. The nest was built in a maple forty feet up and about forty rods from the first nest found, I collected the eggs. May 10th, I again visited the first nest and collected one egg laid by the same bird. Were my eggs a set of five, or 1-4 and 1-1?

Cooper's Hawk, is one of our most common breeders in this locality, of any of this family of birds.

Nests in April, May and June.

GUY H. BRIGGS,
Livermore, Maine.

Answer. If you took the one egg within 2 or 3 days of May 10th, it was probably the balance of your set of *really* 5 eggs. If a week or ten days later your bird might have been beginning a new set in first nest.

ED.

Was It An Escape?

In March, 1903, about three o'clock the afternoon of the 27th, I left my home for the purpose of cutting wood. But upon nearing the woods I noticed in a grove of poplar trees, a Grouse eating pople buds and as the house was near I returned for my gun; and upon returning to the grove, found the Grouse still there; and I at once began to wallow through the snow, which was from two to two and one-half feet deep.

Upon getting in range, as I drew my gun to fire, I heard a swooping noise, and the Grouse plunged into the snow at my feet. A large hawk barely missed the bird. I at once began to investigate the hole which the Grouse made and found him lying very quiet sixteen or eighteen inches below the surface of the snow. I took it up but it made no effort to get away. I took it home and released it but still

it made no effort to get away. And its eyes shone like two black beads. Do birds when in danger seek protection from man?

W. W. RADLEY, Waupaca, Wis.

I do not think your bird was seeking protection from you though he undoubtedly realized your immediate presence.

In an exposed situation like you describe the Ruffed Grouse would be aware of your movements some time before you reached the position you did and would have taken flight or flattened himself closely on the upper side of a limb for concealment and protection. Your large Hawk was the main concern of Mr. Grouse as neither of his methods usually available in attempting to escape man would be of any use against a hungry hawk in the winter.

In his terror of the Buzzard he dropped you out of the problem and sought refuge under the snow. I have seen them do this to avoid hunters with dogs who had them completely surrounded and, after burrowing some distance they will thrust just enough of their head up to watch proceedings. In such cases their eyes always take that set, glossy appearance.

Your bird was probably too badly terrorized as well as surprised to regain at once its natural wildness, but I don't think it would prove docile for any very considerable time.

ED.

Caution.

We are informed on good authority that certain parties are offering sets of American Three-toed Wood-pecker, Gt. Northern Shrike, Passenger Pigeon, and Lincoln's Sparrow from Water-down, Ont., Can.

As two of these birds do not breed there at all and the other two very doubtfully, we would caution all collectors to restrain their anxiety to fill these gaps in their collections until they have these sets properly identified.

The Editor has been *taken in* by some clever work in fixing up sets dur-

ing the past season and hopes to locate the party before long.

Editorial Notes.

Dr. R. L. Jessee, S.S.S., Stansell and Isaac E. Hess of Philo, Ill., are considering the formation of an Ornithological and Oological society of the state of Illinois.

They would like the address of every person in the state who is interested along these lines.

A True Albino and a Strange Freak.

An Albino Meadowlark.

Plumage: Above white; underparts and throat white with yellowish shade; feet white; bill white; iris of eye pink.

A Freak Crow.

Natural in every respect except the bill. The upper mandible being 1½ inches and the lower mandible 3 in. Both birds were shot in Oakland county, Mich.

OLIVER GARTNER,
Detroit, Mich.

This last must have been the result of some accident and would certainly interfere with the birds feeding. Has anyone an explanation?

ED.

Notice.

February OOLOGIST was mailed on February 23d.

All subscribers have the Editor's sympathy when they try to straighten out the botch on page 22, February issue, and we will all hope that friend Eddy will do better in making up future issues.

Publications Received.

Notes from Thicket and Swamp, Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 5, '04.

Bulletin of Michigan Ornithological Club. Vol IV., No. 4.

Nature Study, London. Vol. XIII, No. I.

Woman's Home Companion, Springfield, Mass., (Nature Study Class), Vol. XXXI, No. 2.

Notes from Thicket and Swamp, Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 19, 1904.

Book Review.

Where did Life Begin? G. H. Scribner, (new edition). Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York, \$1.20 net. An interesting statement of the most probable beginning and spread of life from the lower forms up. Nicely printed and attractively bound in cloth, *blue* and *gilt*.

Boll Weevils and Birds, by Prof. H. P. Attwater, Houston, Tex. A comprehensive pamphlet on the value of the insect eating birds in the great fight between the cotton growers of the southwest and the cotton boll weevil, and a plea for their better protection. Published by So. Pac. R. R., Houston, Tex.

What an old Patron says of the Oologist.

Pipestone, Minn., Jan. 7, 1904.

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A. D. BROWN,
Taxidermist.

Our Winter Visitors.

BY A. B. KLUGH.

[Read before the Michigan Ornithological Club Meeting of Dec. 5, 1903, held at the Detroit Museum of Art.]

To one whose specialty is *Fringillidæ* the winter is far from an uninteresting season, as it is then that we may look for most of the rarest birds of this family. The present winter has been marked by the early appearance of, and abundance of, certain species.

The first to arrive were, as usual, the Tree Sparrows. They appeared on October 21, for a month were very common, and since have been noted in fair numbers. At first they were to be found in the thickets, but the supply of food there must have become exhausted, as latterly they have frequented the weedy fields, feeding on the seeds of catnip, lamb's quarters and ragweed and the fruits of ragweed and blueweed.

On October 28 the Redpolls arrived, and have been common up to the present (January 16). Several large flocks, varying from fifty to one hundred and fifty, have been noted, but they have been seen mostly in groups of from two to five flying overhead. As far as my observations extend they have partaken of the same fare as the Tree Sparrows. I have noted mixed flocks composed of Redpolls, Tree Sparrows and Juncos, and in such cases when feeding two or three Redpolls would be perched on a weed-stem picking off the seeds, while some more Redpolls and some Tree Sparrows and Juncos would pick up the seeds which they shook off. The average length for *Acanthis linaria* is given as 5.45 inches and the minimum as 5.5. Of twenty-two specimens which I have taken only one reaches the minimum length, one is only 4.6 inches and the average 5.08 inches.

On November 5 came the Pine Grosbeaks. I first saw them in a thicket

along the river Speed, feeding on the seeds of the nightshade (*S. dulcamara*) and on the ground on smartweed (*P. hydrogiper*). While on the ground they would hop rapidly after, catch and eat insects. From the above date until December 8 these birds were very common, fresh flocks constantly arriving from the north.

Their chief articles of diet were the two seeds above mentioned, but I also noted them breaking open the oval galls on the willow (*S. discolor*) and eating the larvas within and feeding on the fruits of ragweed and blueweed and the buds of the spruce. Of the weeds on cultivated fields ragweed was their favorite. They would perch on a stalk of this plant, which would bend down with their weight when they would stand upon the prostrate stem and pick off the fruits.

The proportion of males in the bright carmine plumage has been about one in twenty, while that of immature males with head and rump yellowish, flushed in a varying degree with carmine has been about three in twenty. The proportion of old males is hard to estimate. My largest specimen, an old male, measures 9.2 inches, my smallest, a very dull immature male, eight inches, the average is 8.5 inches.

Snowflakes appeared on November 22 and have been seen frequently, sometimes in flocks of about two hundred since.

On December 26 I noted an American Goshawk and on January 11 four American Goldeneyes and four American Mergansers, two males and two females of each species.

What the remainder of the winter brings forth in the way of bird records I will communicate at a later date.

Guelph, Ontario.

BULLETIN OF THE Michigan Ornithological Club.

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
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VOL. XXI. No. 4.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1904.

WHOLE NO. 201

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.

*An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to
 the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region*

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*

J. CLAIRE WOOD,
 ADOLPHE B. COVERT, *Associates.*

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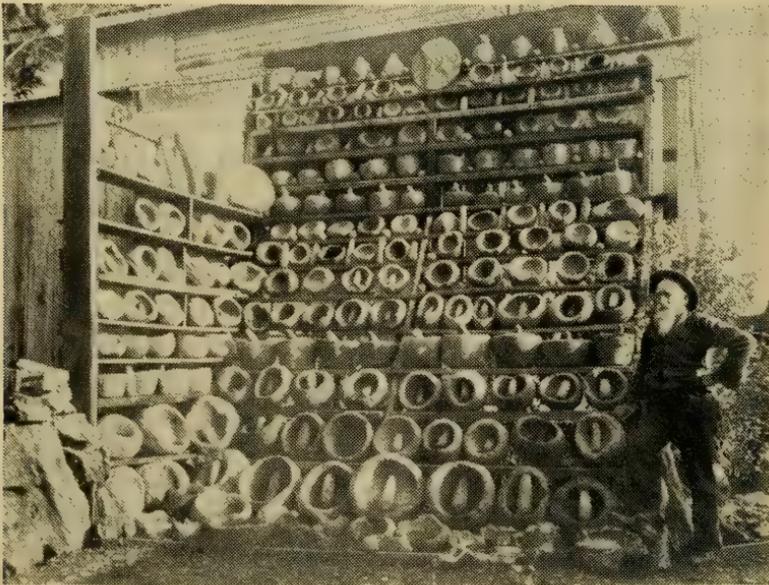
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 4.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1904.

WHOLE NO. 201

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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The Discovery of the First Known Nest of Kirtland's Warbler.

Probably few finds in recent years have attracted more interest on the part

of the American oologists than the discovery of the breeding area of Kirtland's Warbler in Michigan by Norman A. Wood, taxidermist to the U. of M. Museum.

The bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club for March appears as a "Special Kirtland issue" and it is here that Mr. Wood tells for the first time of his excellent success with this bird which has so long puzzled oologists. Speaking of American warblers



NORMAN A. WOOD.

Ann Arbor, Mich.

Discoverer of First Authentic Nesting of Kirtland's Warbler.

in the Auk for October, 1898, Frank M. Chapman says: "With the exception of several Mexican species just reach-

ing our border we can now write, rare nest and eggs unknown only of Kirtland's Warbler." At this time but seventy-five specimens were known to science—55 from the Bahamas, 20 from the United States. Since then a few more have been taken, but counting Mr. Wood's records, we now have a total of 31 from Michigan alone.

Mr. Wood struck a small colony and discovered two nests one of which contained one egg. Through the courtesies of the Editor of the Bulletin, we are able to present to readers of the Oologist a halftone of Mr. Wood and make a few quotations from his article—"Discovery of the Breeding Area of Kirtland's Warbler."

"Early in June, 1903, the Museum assistant, Mr. E. H. Frothingham, with a friend, Mr. T. G. Gale, went to Oscoda County Michigan, to fish the Au Sable river. On one of their short trips Mr. Frothingham, who is an experienced field ornithologist, heard a bird song which he did not recognize. Mr. Gale shot the bird. The skin was preserved and was found on their return to be a male *Dendroica kirtlandi*. When I saw this skin of Kirtland's Warbler, taken in northern Michigan, I concluded there was its summer home, and there it would be found breeding. At 4:45, on the evening of June 29th, I boarded the Toledo, Ann Arbor and Northern R. R. train, bound for Roscommon, in the extreme north of that county. I arrived at this old lumber town at 6 a. m. June 30th, after a tedious night's travel, due to two changes of cars. After some inquiry I found that my objective point was thirty-five miles to the northeast, and that the best way to reach this point was by the river. The South branch, one of the main feeders of the Au Sable, runs near the town. At 7 a. m. I was on board a row boat on a sixty mile run down the river.

"It may be imagined with what de-

light I beheld the first nest of this rare bird ever seen, and with what eagerness I dropped to my knees beside it to make a closer examination of its contents. There were two young birds' perhaps ten days old, and a perfect egg; this proved to be the only egg found.

"This egg was a delicate pinkish-white, (since the contents were removed it has faded to a dull white,) thinly sprinkled with shades of brown spots forming a sort of wreath at the large end. This egg is .72 x .56 inches or 18 by 14 mm., and contains no embryo. The nest was built in a depression in the ground, at the foot of a jack pine about five feet tall, and was only five feet from the road. It was partly covered with low blueberries and sweet-fern plants. The nest is two inches inside diameter and the same in depth, very neat and compact, and is composed of strips of soft bark and some vegetable fiber, thickly lined with fine dead grass and pine needles. A few hairs from horses mane or tail complete the lining.

"As I sat near the nest the female came and alighted on the branch of the jack pine just back of the nest. She was not at all shy. Once she came with a worm in her mouth, but she would not feed the young while I was so near. The male also came, but not so close. Both birds were very restless and uneasy—only a few seconds in a place—which made it very difficult to take photographs of them.

"I made Fraser's on the North branch, Crawford county, my headquarters for a few days that I might be near this colony of Kirtlands. I saw (July 9th) a third female and too a male, but I wished to locate all the nests I could, so I did not shoot the females. I made a second trip to the nest and found both parents feeding the young. After watching them a

short time I tried to locate the boundary of this colony on the east. A short distance east of the nest I heard another male singing and tried to locate his nest, but failed to do so. In fact the jack pine is so thick, the ground so covered with old logs, tree tops and vegetation, that it was only by the closest kind of work I could hope to find them, and even then only by watching the male and flushing the female from the nest."

Mr. Wood also describes at length the song of the bird, his trip down the rivers, nature of the country, flora etc making the most complete life history of the bird yet written. In conclusion he says:

"I still consider this bird as rare, and only to be found breeding in small colonies, and only in the jack pine plains in favorable localities. All that I found were on the first and second terraces north of the Au Sable river. One pair was only one-fourth mile from the river, and the farthest two miles. All of these birds were near some road that was used by teams or stock, and they seem to prefer such places for nesting and breeding. They sing constantly in June and July by the roadside, so they may be easily found by driving through the plains at this time. I did not find a bird over one-fourth mile from a road, or under conditions other than those described. This history of the Kirtland's warbler is in the main copied from my field notes, written with the birds before me."

NORMAN A. WOOD.

In this same issue of the Bulletin is also a valuable article by Chas. C. Adams on the "Migration of Kirtland's Warbler" which is illustrated by maps.

Mr. Wood has the congratulations of the whole of the oological fraternity and the Bulletin is to be congratulated upon producing the articles and halftones in so neat a manner.—ED.

The Cal. Vulture in Douglas Co., Oregon.

June 1, 1903, I saw two Cal. Vultures. They were at a great height and I could not have identified them if I had not often seen them in Los Angeles County, Cal. I saw several of the great Vultures during the month of June. The birds that I saw were about thirty miles from the coast. Is it possible that there is a colony on the coast of Southern Oregon? We know that they straggled to the Columbia at an early day. Would like to hear through Oologist from some California Ornithologist in regard to them.

GEORGE D. PECK,
Salem, Oregon.

Is the observing of thirty-three different species of birds in one day, not a good record for month of February? Can any of your readers north of 38 degrees report a similar record? On February 28th this year, I observed the following: 1, Red-bellied Woodpecker; 2, Blue Jay; 3, Slate-colored Junco; 4, American Robin; 5, Bluebird; 6, Carolina Chickadee; 7, Cardinal; 8, Song Sparrow; 9, Tree Sparrow; 10, Downy Woodpecker; 11, Mourning Dove; 12, Meadow-lark; 13, American Crow; 14, Tufted Titmouse; 15, Cedar Waxwing; 16, Killdeer; 17, Towhee; 18, Fox Sparrow; 19, Bronzed Grackle; 20, Canada Goose; 21, Carolina Wren; 22, Phoebe; 23 Brown Creeper; 24, Red-winged Blackbird; 25, Hairy Woodpecker; 26, Red-tailed Hawk; 27, Prairie Horned Lark; 28, Cooper's Hawk; 29, White-breasted Nuthatch; 30, Purple Finch; 31, White-crowned Sparrow; 32, Mallard; 33, Flicker.

CORNELIUS F. POSSON,
Vincennes, Ind.



Photographed by H. C. Higgins, Cincinnatus, N. Y. June 6, 1902.

NEST AND EGGS OF BLACK-THROATED BLUE WARBLER.

More about the Eggs of Black-throated Blue Warbler.

The set of eggs of the Black-throated Blue Warbler sent you by Mr. Stone for comparison with the set taken by himself, (see *Oologist* for February, 1904; pp. 22.) was one of my own collecting and it may be of interest to your readers to have other comparisons made. My first find of this Warbler was at Cincinnatus, N. Y. on June 11, 1895. At the time I was in an open tract in a piece of woods on a side hill grown up to bushes, ferns and small saplings with here and there a fallen log and brush pile, when I was attracted by the alarm notes of this Warbler and a short search revealed the nest, which was built on a fallen limb resting in some low beech saplings. It was placed 18 inches above the ground and was composed of rotten bits of wood, vine bark and flowers from

weeds and partially covered with cocoons. The lining was small black roots and hair. The female was shot to make sure of identity.

All of the several nests I have examined in this locality were almost an exact counterpart of this nest and almost invariably rested upon fallen dead limbs but concealed by weeds or bushes. I think the nest which was sent you by Mr. Stone was rather more compact than when found from the fact that it had been tightly wound with thread. There were four eggs in the above described nest. One unfortunately was broken. The other three, which were slightly incubated, measured .63 x .52, .66 x .53, .62 x .50 which, you will note, were considerably smaller than the set which I sent to Mr. Stone. They also are unlike any of the other eggs which I have examined. There were no brown markings but the eggs are covered

with small blotches of pale lilac well scattered over the entire egg.

My next find was the set sent you by Mr. Stone. It was taken on June 5, 1899 and the bird too well seen for any mistake to have occurred. The following day I discovered a nest containing three young birds and one egg. On June 11, 1901 I examined a nest of badly incubated eggs and upon my next visit to the nest found the young hatched. My next find occurred on June 6, 1902 and I am sending you a photograph of the nest. (See cut page 54.) It was in an open place in the woods among weeds which completely concealed it from view and was placed one foot up in one of the weeds but you will notice in the photograph that it rests upon a fallen branch as I mentioned above. In order to photograph the nest, I was compelled to break off some of the leaves which hid it from view. The eggs in this set measured .73 x .54, .73 x .53, .72 x .53, .74 x .53—not quite as large as the eggs taken by Mr. Stone. The markings, which are entirely brown, are confined to the large end of the egg in the form of a wreath. On June 9, 1903, I discovered a nest situated 22 inches up in a fork of a beech bush in woods well grown up to underbrush but the four eggs which it contained were too far incubated to take, but I remember the set as more blotched than any of the previous sets and it was by far the prettiest set I had seen.

Your speaking of typical sets of Magnolia Warbler causes me to say that I would hardly know just what to consider a typical set of this species. I have seven sets in my collection and have taken others and find them very variable in style of markings. I have those that closely resemble eggs of the Chestnut-sided Warbler, those marked in the form of a wreath and one set with the eggs so heavily blotched that the entire large end is covered and re-

minds one of the heavily marked eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk.

H. C. HIGGINS,
Cincinnati, N. Y.

Judging from my experience with some 20 sets from Maine and New Hampshire, I should call Mr. Higgins' last set nearest typical of Magnolia Warbler as the heavily blotched type has always predominated.

EDITOR.

The Connecticut Warbler.
(*Geothlypis agilis*).

This species of the Warbler family received its name from Alexander Wilson, one of the fathers of American ornithology, from the fact that he discovered his first specimen in the State of Connecticut, but it is only a rare summer visitor in that locality. In its general appearance and life habits it closely resembles its near relative, the Mourning Warbler, but it is a little larger in size; the wings also are longer, and more pointed; and the colors of its plumage of a duller hue. At the period of the spring migration it ranges over a wide extent of eastern North America, north to the Maritime provinces, and across southern Ontario and west into Manitoba; but it does not appear to migrate beyond the low, wooded districts of that province, certainly not beyond the foot-hills of the Rocky mountains. This species was first added to the list of the Warblers of Canada by Mr. W. E. Saunders of London, who took a specimen near that city in September, 1883, and afterwards found it tolerably common in that vicinity, and also noted it at Point Pelee. Mr. McIlwraith noted it on several occasions at Hamilton and believed it nested in Ontario; where it is probably a more common summer resident than is yet known. He says it is a widely distributed species, but is nowhere abundant, though it seems to be more common in the west than in the eastern portion of its habitat. It is of shy,

retiring habits frequenting low, swampy places, and keeping near the ground.

In the early settlement of this province the early settlers—had they been so disposed—were more likely to acquire a knowledge of the nesting habits and life history of this as well as various other species, than is possible now; for with the clearing up, and drainage of the swampy woodlands the summer haunts and homes of many species of our wild birds have been very much changed, and some species that were formerly common in some localities, are now altogether absent, though in other localities still in a state of nature, they may be more abundant than in former years. In more recent years, since I have devoted more special attention to the song notes of our forest birds, and by this means identified them, rather than by a near approach, or the inspection of their lifeless forms, I cannot say that I have detected the presence of this wandering ranger of the low-land wood in the vicinity of Listowel, or any other locality that I have visited, but I believe that in former years I have met with it not only as a spring migrant, but also as a summer resident, and that, at least, on one occasion, I found it's nest. It is now nearly twenty years ago, when, on a day in early June, I was strolling in a tract of swampy woodland, a mile south of the town, a little bird flew up almost from my feet, and disappeared in some brush nearby; and on looking down I discovered a nest containing six eggs. This was near a large turned-up root, but quite exposed, and sunk in the moss and mould, and composed largely of fine rootlets. The eggs were of a white hue, dotted with a circle of reddish brown towards the larger end; altogether much like those of the Mourning Warbler, and from the glimpse that I got of the bird at that time I took it to be that species;

but from my since acquired knowledge of the nesting habits of the latter species, I concluded that it does not nest in that manner, or position. Not knowing the rarity of these specimens I soon afterwards gave them to other parties.

The Connecticut Warbler is five and a half inches in length, and the color of the male bird in his spring plumage is, on the upper parts, of an olive-green hue; becoming ashy on the head; while the chin, throat, and breast are ashy gray, and there is a shading of olive on the sides; the lower parts being yellow. The wings and tail are also glossed with yellow, but otherwise they are unmarked. The lower mandible and the feet are of a paler color, but there are no decided markings anywhere.

Mr. E. Thompson-Seton, who has done much towards enlightening the public on the subject of the Faunal life of Canada, in relating some of his observations of bird life in Manitoba, gives an interesting account of the haunts and nesting of the Connecticut Warbler there; the substance of which is as follows:

"A few miles south of the Village of Carberry is a large Spruce bush, in the middle of which is a Tamarac swamp, where Pitcher plants grow in wild profusion, but in general it is a dark, gray waste, interspersed with tall tamarac trees, whose boughs cast little shade. The chief bird notes heard in a ramble through this primitive wilderness, were those of the Crested Flycatcher, besides these the only notable sounds were the "Beecher"-like notes oft repeated, of some Warbler. This was much like the song of the Golden-crowned Thrush, but differed in being in the same uniform pitch, from beginning to end. Guided by this sound," says Mr. Seton, "I found the bird high in the Tamaracs. It was not shy, so it was easily secured, and it

proved to be a male Connecticut Warbler. As I went on a small bird suddenly sprang up from one of the grave-like mounds. It seemed distressed, and ran along like a Plover when alighting, but on seeing that I would not be decoyed away, it ran round me in the same attitude. Recognizing that it was the female Connecticut Warbler, I shot it, and then sought out the nest in the moss. This was entirely composed of dry grass and sunk level with the surface of the mound. The eggs, four in number, measured .75x.56 of an inch. Before being blown they were of a delicate creamy-white hue, with a few spots of lilac purple. brown and black, inclined to form a ring at the large end. This nest with the parent birds were sent to the Smithsonian Institute museum, Washington."

Dr. Coues, in giving the range of this bird, says:

"Eastern United States, not commonly observed in the spring, abundant in the fall in some localities, a shy inhabitant, of brushwood and thicket. Distribution, migration and breeding habits still imperfectly known."

—*W. L. Kells, in Guelph Daily Herald. "Notes from Thicket and Swamp," Feb. 5, 1904.*

Hairy Woodpecker in Illinois.

Back in 1900 (April 24th to be exact,) I was homeward bound, after spending a day with the Hawk's in Salt Fork timber. In the last row of trees bordering the woods, stood a small, dead sapling stump. Five feet from the ground I noticed a small, round hole, while freshly scattered chips lay on the ground below. "A Downy," thought I, "at least two weeks too early for a full set." Thinking it useless to chip in and ruin a future Downy home, I turned to retrace my steps. A slight rustle arrested me and as it seemed to originate in the stump, I de-

cidied to investigate. A long twig inserted in the hole received such a thump that I could feel the force at the other end. "A Nuthatch" quoth I, and while chopping away at the entrance, I reviewed the many accounts I had read of plucky little "carolinensis" remaining at her post until pulled out. Eight inches down I came to the bottom of the cavity and was surprised to find a Hairy Woodpecker, with flashing eyes, ready to defend her four pearly treasures. She clung with pugnacious desperation when I lifted her off the eggs, and exhibited no terror whatever. During a more extended acquaintance with "villosus" covering the intervening seasons, I have found this to be a habit while incubation was taking place. While covering a complete set of eggs, (my experience tells me,) it is next to impossible to flush a female Hairy from her nest. When the young were hatched however, mama and papa "villosus" are especially active and an observer can hardly approach near enough to tap the tree before a parent Hairy appears at the entrance. How many of my readers have passed one of those likely-looking, freshly-cut cavities after giving a careless tap with the hatchet, only to be surprised upon the next visit to hear the sharp, metallic "chink" of the elder, and the chirping chorus of the hungry young Hairy Woodpeckers clamoring for food?

May not these habits of "villosus" partly explain why Lattin lists their eggs at 50c and why we so seldom find sets of 393 in the exchange lists?

ISAAC E. HESS,
Philo, Ills.

King Rail, A. O. U. No. 208.

(*Rallus elegans.*)

June 14th, 1903, I was out driving in the vicinity of Fisher, Ill., and visited

a small swamp, hoping to add a few new sets to my collection. The swamp was a small one, being not over an acre in extent. Numerous Red-wing Blackbirds hovered overhead, chirping their continual con-ger-ee, and making the cold chills run up my back, when I suddenly started a bird, somewhat larger than a pigeon, and shortly found a nest containing seven eggs of a buffish color, sparingly spotted with rusty brown. Not knowing the bird and therefore not knowing whether the set was complete or not, decided to leave it until a later date and return, which I did the eighteenth, and finding only nine eggs, took them. The nest was composed of weeds and lined with fine grass, a flat platform like structure, about a foot in diameter, located in a clump of willows, about a foot from the ground. Later the eggs were identified by Dr. Jessee, of Philo, Ill., as those of the King Rail.

S. S. STANSELL,
Philo, Illinois.

Editorial Notes.

So much good material along that line has accumulated that we publish this as a special Warbler Number.

Now that the breeding of the Connecticut and Kirtland's Warblers has been ferretted out and described, Bachman's Warbler occupies a unique position and we trust for authentic data in regard to its breeding and eggs from some Collector in the Central South before long.

We regretfully announce the death of R. F. Anderson of Aylmer, West, Ontario, Canada, last June by drowning while out boating in pursuit of his hobby.

Mr. Anderson was well-known as an enthusiastic student and Collector in several branches of Natural History.

We also regret the loss of another of the best known of North American

Oologists, Mr. J. B. Canfield of Bridgeport, Conn., whose accidental death by asphyxiation has just been reported to the Editor. Mr. Canfield was a careful and conscientious collector and leaves a fine collection.

Publications Received.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 3.
Notes from Thicket and Swamp.
Guelph Daily Herald, Feb. 26, '04.
March 5, '04 and March 12, '04.
Condor, Vol. VI, No. 2.

Review.

Additional notes on the Summer Birds of Flathead Lake. P. M. Silloway. Being Bulletin No. 18 of University of Montana. Biological Series No. 6. A supplement to Biological Series, No. 1, giving notes on nesting of species not noted in No. 1, a full revised list and some fine half tones from photos.

On February 28th a friend and I went in search of Great Horned Owl's eggs. We read in "Davies Nest and Eggs," that the last of February or the first of March is the time to look for them. On entering the woods we saw an owl leave a large oak tree. I climbed up and imagine my astonishment to see three young owls, snapping their bills at me. According to this eggs should be looked for about the last of January or first of February. Is this not exceptionally early?

C. W. PRIER.

The twenty-seventh of February there was found by the section hands of the West Shore railroad, a young Red-throated Loon nearly starved to death, (it did die the next day,) in a marsh near Port Gibson, Wayne Co., New York.

H. K. Sedgwick.

Interesting Reading

For Ornithologists, Oologists,
and Naturalists.

- All goods sent postage or express prepaid.
- North American Birds Eggs. The new egg book. Hundreds of beautiful illustrations and plates of eggs and nesting sites... \$2 50
- Coue's New Key to N. A. Birds, 2 vols. ... 9 50
- Chapman's Color Key to N. A. Birds ... 2 45
- Brown's Scientific Taxidermy and Modeling ... 3 50
- A Flying Trip to the Tropics. Wirt Robinson. ... 2 00
- Oologist and American Ornithology, full year. ... 1 00
- Best Steel Climbers. Without straps. ... 1 65
- With four straps. ... 2 50
- Cut-the-Lining Egg Drills. Best you ever used; if not, return and get your money. Sample, 25c. 4 selected sizes. ... 1 00
- Blowpipes, 15c., 22c., and 30c. Best. ... 40
- Data Blanks. Pads of 100. ... 10
- Morse's Data Blanks. Per 100. ... 35
- Lead Pencils. Very soft; best for eggs. ... 10
- Groove-billed Ani, 1-7. ... 1 48
- White-tailed Kite (extra fine) 1-4. ... 10 00
- Western Horned Owl, 1-2. ... 95
- Swainson's Hawk, 1-4. ... 80
- Long Crested Jay, 1-4. ... 2 00
- Arizona Jay, 4-4, \$1.00; 3-6. ... 1 50
- Cassin's Auklet, 3-1. ... 30
- Tufted Puffin, 2-1. ... 25
- California Brown Pelican, 1-3. ... 60
- Duck Hawk, 1-1. ... 1 38
- Red-bellied Hawk, 1-3. ... 2 50
- Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1-13. ... 2 50
- Bobwhite, 1-9, 45c.; 1-14, 70c.; 1-13. ... 65
- California Clapper Rail, 1-6. ... 1 30
- California Chickadee, 2-4, 90c.; 1-6. ... 1 50
- Vigor's Wren, 1-6. ... 1 50
- Palmer's Thrasher, 3-4. ... 1 25
- Crested Flycatcher, 1 5, 40c.; 3-6. ... 50
- Prothonotary Warbler, 2-5, 45c.; 2-6. ... 60
- American Egret, 1-3. ... 75
- Red-shouldered Hawk, 3-2. ... 40
- Great Blue Heron, 2-4. ... 50
- Fulvous Tree Duck, 1-20. ... 6 00
- Black-bellied Tree Duck, 1-8. ... 4 00
- Green-winged Teal, 1-8. ... 2 00
- Valley Partridge, 1-14. ... 1 00
- American Redstart, 2-3, 15c.; 5-4. ... 20
- Cassin's Sparrow, 1 3. ... 50
- Rusty Song Sparrow, 2-4. ... 45
- Western Flycatcher, 1-4, 25c.; 5-3. ... 20
- Arkansas Goldfinch, n-3. ... 25
- Lead-colored Bush Tit, n-5. ... 1 80
- Wood Pewee, n-2. ... 25
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo, 2-3. ... 15
- American Coot, 1-15. ... 70
- Western Red-tail, 2-4, \$1; 1-1, 20c.; 3-3. ... 70
- Cedar Wax-wing, 2-5. ... 25
- Barred Owl, 1-3. ... 1 00
- Marsh Hawk, 1-2, 20c.; 1-3. ... 30
- Cooper's Hawk, 1-2, 20c.; 1-4. ... 48
- Rough Winged Swallow, 1-5. ... 70
- Blue-fronted Jay, 1-1. ... 30
- Pinon Jay, 1-1. ... 40



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Western Grebe.....	\$ 12	Turkey Vulture.....	30	Bicolored Blackbird.....	03
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Pied-billed Grebe.....	04	Cooper's ".....	12	Western Meadowlark.....	04
Cassin's Auklet.....	40	Harris's ".....	20	Ariz. Hooded Oriole.....	10
Murre.....	13	Red shouldered ".....	15	Hooded ".....	12
Calif. Murre.....	12	Fla. ".....	20	Orchard ".....	03
Razor-billed Auk.....	15	Red-bellied ".....	30	Brewer's Blackbird.....	02
Western Gull.....	12	Golden Eagle.....	3 00	Fla. Grackle.....	00
Short-billed Gull.....	60	Gyrfalcon.....	3 00	Bronzed ".....	02
Laughing ".....	10	Apomado Falcon.....	1 00	Gt. Tailed ".....	04
California ".....	12	Am. Osprey.....	35	Boat.....	04
Bonaparte's ".....	60	Am. Long-eared Owl.....	15	House Finch.....	02
Royal Tern.....	12	Screech Owl.....	15	St. Lucas House Finch.....	09
Forster's ".....	04	California Screech Owl.....	18	Arkansas Goldfinch.....	04
Common ".....	04	Kennicott's ".....	35	McCown's Longspur.....	30
Sooty ".....	12	Rocky Mt. ".....	20	Oregon Vesper Sparrow.....	08
Black ".....	04	Flammulated ".....	90	Vesper ".....	02
Noddy ".....	15	Pacific Gt. Horned ".....	55	Henslow's ".....	45
Fulmar.....	25	American Hawk.....	90	Sharp-tailed ".....	08
Leach's Petrel.....	10	Burrowing ".....	08	Western Lark.....	02
Fla. Cormorant.....	09	Calif. Pygmy ".....	80	Gambel's ".....	06
Farallone.....	12	Roadrunner.....	08	White-throated ".....	12
Brandt's ".....	10	Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	04	Chipping ".....	01
Brown Pelican.....	10	Hairy Woodpecker.....	18	Clay-colored ".....	12
Calif. Brown Pelican.....	20	Gairdner's ".....	12	Brewer's ".....	12
Am. Merganser.....	35	Red-cockaded ".....	45	Field ".....	02
Red-breasted Merganser.....	12	Baird's (Tex.) ".....	10	Gray-headed Junco.....	35
Black Duck.....	15	Nuttall's ".....	30	Black-throated Sparrow.....	12
Widgeon.....	12	Pileated ".....	50	Bell's ".....	25
Shoveller.....	12	Red-headed ".....	03	Rufous-winged ".....	90
Pintail.....	12	Californian ".....	15	Song ".....	01
Am. Scaup Duck.....	25	Lewis's ".....	15	Desert Song ".....	12
Am. Golden-eye.....	20	Led-breasted Sapsucker.....	45	Heerman's Song ".....	03
Barrow's Golden-eye.....	35	Flicker.....	01	San Diego Song ".....	05
Northern Elder.....	20	Gilded Flicker.....	18	Rusty Song ".....	08
White-winged Scoter.....	75	Whip-poor-Will.....	15	Towhee.....	05
Surf Scoter.....	65	Nighthawk.....	50	White-eyed Towhee.....	18
Ruddy Duck.....	18	Western Nighthawk.....	15	Spurred ".....	07
Canada Goose.....	70	Scissors-tailed Flycatcher.....	04	Green-tailed ".....	20
Whistling Swan.....	90	Kingbird.....	02	Cardinal.....	02
White Ibis.....	12	Couch's Kingbird.....	30	St. Lucas's Cardinal.....	20
Least Bittern.....	05	Cassin's ".....	08	Gray-tailed ".....	12
Great Blue Heron.....	12	Giraud's Fly Catcher.....	40	Texan ".....	08
Reddish Egret.....	12	Sulphur-bell'd ".....	50	Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	04
Little Blue Heron.....	05	Gt. Crested ".....	05	Black-headed ".....	05
Black-crown Night-heron.....	12	Ash-throated ".....	08	Blue ".....	08
Limpkin.....	30	Phoebe.....	02	Indigo Bunting.....	04
Clapper Rail.....	05	Wood Pewee.....	06	Lazuli ".....	07
King.....	08	West's Wood Pewee.....	07	Sharpe's Seed Eater.....	15
Virginia ".....	06	Western Fly Catcher.....	15	Dickcissel.....	04
Sora.....	04	Acadian ".....	05	Lark Bunting.....	08
Purple Gallinule.....	10	Least ".....	05	Scarlet Tanager.....	10
Florida.....	05	Little (now Traill's) do.....	05	Summer.....	10
Am. Avocet.....	18	Traill's (now Alder) do.....	05	Barn Swallow.....	02
Eng. Snipe.....	10	Skylark.....	05	Bank.....	02
Dunlin.....	12	Prairie Horned Lark.....	08	Cedar Waxwing.....	04
Red-backed Sandpiper.....	1 00	Desert ".....	10	White-rumped Shrike.....	04
Spotted.....	05	Mexican ".....	20	Loggerhead.....	04
Whimbrel Curlew.....	12	Am. Magpie.....	05	California ".....	03
Lapwing Plover.....	06	Yellow-billed Magpie.....	18	Red-eyed Vireo.....	04
Kildeer.....	06	Fla. Blue Jay.....	08	Warbling ".....	08
Ring ".....	10	Long-crested Jay.....	45	Yellow-th'd ".....	10
Wilson's ".....	12	Calif. Jay.....	08	Black-cap'd ".....	30
Bob-white.....	05	Arizona Jay.....	30	White-eyed ".....	07
Valley Partridge.....	06	Northern Raven.....	40	Hutton's ".....	50
Sooty Grouse.....	30	Am. Crow.....	02	Black and White Warbler.....	20
Ruffed.....	12	Florida Crow.....	12	Prothonotary ".....	10
Gray Ruffed Grouse.....	20	Fish Crow.....	12	Parula ".....	10
Willow Ptarmigan.....	35	Pinon Jay.....	80	Yellow ".....	02
Rock.....	20	Starling.....	05	Magnolia ".....	18
Prairie Sharp-tail Grouse.....	18	Bobolink.....	08	Chestnut-sided ".....	07
Sage Grouse.....	20	Cowbird.....	01	Pine ".....	18
Chacalaca.....	15	Dwarf Cowbird.....	03	Ovenbird ".....	07
White-winged Dove.....	04	Red-wing Blackbird.....	01	Kentucky ".....	30
Mexican Ground Dove.....	09	Sonoran Redwing.....	15	McGillivray's ".....	30

Maryland Yellowthroat.....	06	Leconte's "	65	Carolina Chickadee.....	07
Yellow-breasted Chat.....	03	Crissal "	30	Calif. Bush-tit.....	05
Am. Redstart.....	04	Cactus Wren.....	06	Verdin.....	12
White Wagtail.....	05	Rock "	20	Russet-back Thrush.....	06
Meadow Pipit.....	03	Carolina "	08	Wood "	02
Sage Thrasher.....	20	Bewick's "	08	Wilson's "	04
Mockingbird.....	02	Vigor's "	08	Olive-back "	15
Catbird.....	01	House "	03	Hermit "	12
Brown Thrasher.....	02	Parkman's	05	Am. Robin.....	01
Sennett's	06	Western House Wren.....	04	Bluebird.....	02
Palmer's "	12	Long-billed Marsh Wren.....	02	Western Bluebird.....	04
Bendire's "	20	Slender-bill Nuthatch.....	25	Mountain	04
St. Lucas'	40	Plain Titmouse.....	18	Ring Pheasant.....	10
Californian "	07	Chickadee.....	06	English Partridge.....	08

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERM.Y.

VOL. XXI. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1904.

WHOLE No. 202

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1904.

WHOLE No. 202

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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Passing of the Passenger Pigeon.

BY J. W. PRESTON.

It is a matter for regret when so fine a bird which once was so plentiful as

to be a feature of the region it frequently becomes so scarce that it is a rarity. I well remember when "Wild Pigeons" were as common as Turtle Doves. Notoriously gregarious they flew often in vast flocks, which moved over the country, back and forth from feeding ground to roosting place or in the migrations. The movement of these flocks was similar to that of the American Golden Plover, yet more swift and with less of that undulating motion.

I have spent much effort studying the flight of birds, have often timed some of our fleetest species. That denizen of the wooded lakes, the Loon, when coming from a feeding ground will mount up far above the woods, and then from that risky height, with closed wings, dash through space at an incalculable rate of speed, or the Balded Eagle when falling upon its prey attains terrific velocity. But no bird of my acquaintance can take its start and accomplish a mile in as little time and with the grace and ease of the Passenger Pigeon. Every movement begin of that constant, watchful alertness and unrest natural to the bird.

One who has seen the movements of these birds in spring and autumn fights will not forget the elegant ease of motion and the grand sweep when they circled round and over a grove, into the depths of which they plunged soon to emerge and whirl again and again before alighting in the top of some large tree. Then while contending for a choice perch, they would continually be changing position and fighting each other, making little excursions from the main flock only to

return again. With so many birds together, uttering their wild note, with much fluttering of wings, these gatherings were attractive and full of life. Then in an instant at some intrusion, they would with rush of beating pinions, depart as quickly as they came.

During the autumn they become very flat on the acorns as well as grain. I have seen immense numbers of them swarm into fields where they almost covered the grain shocks and did much damage, but their natural food seemed to be largely acorns in this locality. I remember once to have crept through the underbrush until close upon a company of perhaps one hundred, among some trees in an open place in a grove, some were on the ground and some on trees, where they were resting. Certainly they were as trim and graceful as any bird could be. There the sun gleamed on the resplendent plumage which shone again. During the spring of 1882 I collected eggs of this species in the white oak forests along the Iowa River in Johnson County. Again in 1887, near Lake Itasca, Minn. and later on the Red River, but these resorts were abandoned.

Uniformly I have found them nesting in remote forest places where shelter was good. Here they lose much of their fear and may be approached quite closely, yet the intense energy and activity is noticeable and really they make quite a good deal of fuss about the amusingly, shiftless style of nest they are building. They certainly lose many more "sticks" than are made to stay in place at the forking of some horizontal branch, from four to thirty feet from ground, and as far out from the tree or sapling as may be.

This nest is so flimsy that the bird might be convicted of "criminal carelessness" toward the young bird or "squab," for if the egg does not

anticipate the accidental downfall the offspring is more than likely to do so. Here in lies a chief factor in his decrease; this, with the encroachments of the ever-lurking Crow, which destroys eggs and young.

Upon this slight structure is deposited one creamy white, smooth, shiny egg, which may be easily seen from below. I have not taken a set of two eggs. Before me is an egg kindly presented by my brother, the Rev. H. L. Preston, collected by him in April, 1873, an early date for this latitude as those other sets were taken in May. This egg is elliptical, wrought to the faintest suggestion of a point at one end, being almost equal ended, the outlines are very even. Incubation was advanced. The measurements are 1.40 x 1.05.

One summer day in 1900 while I was driving along the dusty road a fine adult male of the species flew close by me and alighted in a small willow, where he sat looking about for a little time, then flew swiftly out across the fields and he was gone, the last one I have seen, and this creature of the passing time, like his native groves, has disappeared.

An Egg Collecting Trip in Frankiin Co., Indiana.

The morning of May 21, 1902, equipped with a complete set of oological tools, I started out for the White Water River, which is about four miles from my home, (Oak Forest, Franklin Co., Indiana.)

It was a bright, beautiful May morning, not a breath of air stirring, the green grass covered the ground, the trees and flowers were in their full bloom and splendor, the birds were singing sweetly from every bush and tree, while the females were busily engaged in their household affairs.

The object of this trip was to secure

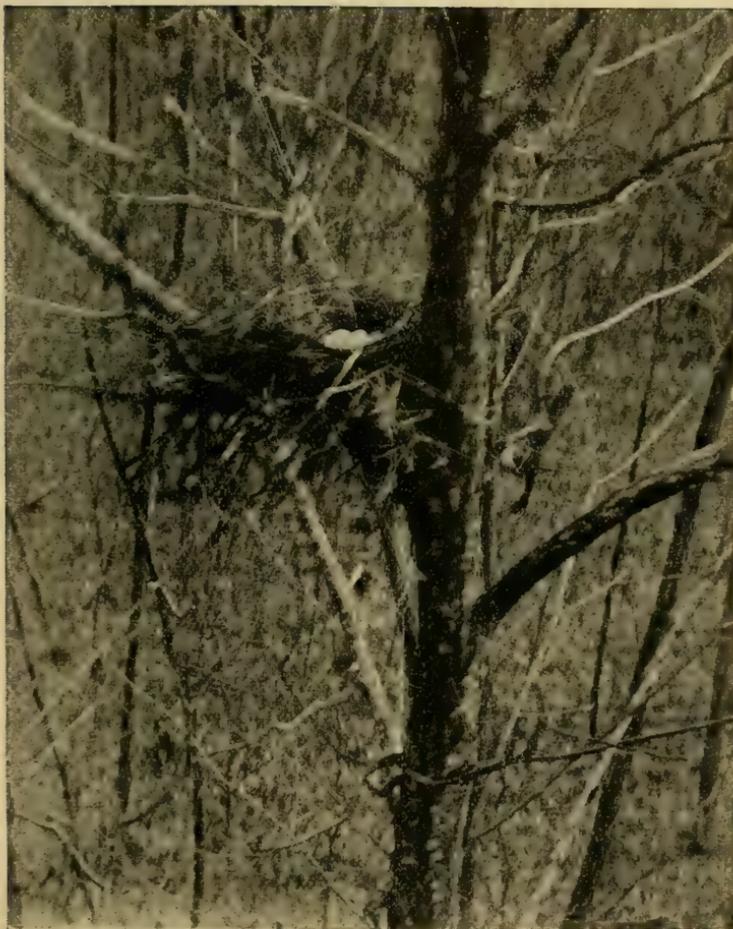


Photo by L. S. Horton, Hyde Park, N. Y.

NEST AND EGGS OF COOPER'S HAWK 45 FEET FROM THE GROUND, PHOTOGRAPHED
FROM THE TOP OF ANOTHER TREE, 15 FEET AWAY ON A CLOUDY, WINDY DAY.

an egg of the Least Bittern (*Ardetta exilis*) of which I observed a pair building a nest a few days before, and upon arriving at the nest which was located near the river in some tall grass, the female was flushed and the nest contained but one egg, which is now in my collection.

In the same locality a short distance away I came across an American Coot's nest with ten spotted eggs, one of which went into my collecting box, the remaining ones were left in the nest, as my collection consists only of single eggs.

My next find was four nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) which appeared more like mouse-nests than anything else I could compare them with, and only one of the nests contained five eggs, one of which I preserved.

I next strolled down the river bed where I discovered a nest in the sand bar with four spotted eggs of the Spotted Sandpiper, the single one which I preserved was slightly incubated. In a bank near by I observed a Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) fly from a hole, and after about one hour's digging I secured seven glossy white eggs, and as the bird would not return to its spoiled nest I took the entire set of these eggs. While at this work I observed the female Spotted Sandpiper return to its remaining three eggs and proceed incubating as if nothing had happened.

The next two nests I found were one of the Yellow-breasted Chat with four eggs and one nest of the Cardinal Grosbeak, but as I had eggs of these two species already in my collection I left them undisturbed. I also found the Bank Swallow nesting in the same bank where the Belted Kingfisher's were procured, but the nests were high up on the steep face of the bank so I could not procure them. Upon the green grass under the welcome shade



JAMES F. HONECKER, OOLOGIST,
Oak Forest, Indiana.

of a large elm tree I sat down to eat my dinner. After resting some time I started out again for new material. I next came to an old Sycamore stub, when a rap on it flushed a Red-headed Woodpecker from a hole. From a set of six pure white eggs one was taken. On a grassy hillside I found a nest of four eggs of the Killdeer, one egg went along with me leaving three in the nest for its owner.

Entering the woods I discovered a nest of the Cooper's Hawk having an egg of this specie I paid no further attention to this nest; and after walking about three miles I didn't find a single nest nor egg. As by this time the sun was sinking low in the west, reflecting its golden sunbeams on the distant hilltops, I was nearing home when I had the pleasure of finding a nest of the Bob-white under a large stone, leaning against an old stump. The

nest was placed on the ground, lined with fine grass and feathers, and contained four beautiful white eggs, one of which I preserved. I now arrived home, and it is needless to state I was tired and hungry, but I will never regret the trip. The eggs were then prepared for the cabinet. I was well pleased with the results of my collecting trip. I have collected many more eggs but the above is the result of one day's work.

JOSEPH F. HONECKER.

Oak Forest, Ind.

Collecting in Northern Indiana.

It was a lovely day, late in the month of May, when our little party started from home, going to one of the lakes so common in this state. We carried everything necessary for a week's camping and collecting, and I may add that in the end we were not disappointed.

The sun had not yet risen over the eastern horizon, when we reached a thick swamp, which however, was not our destination. A good hour's wading and struggling with the rushes and briers was still before us, and streams, too, often intercepted us. Therefore it was indeed gratifying when we reached the spot selected for our camp, and by the time the necessary arrangements had been completed it was noon. All agreed that it was useless to start collecting that day as, the heat was terrific and birds were all quite, with the possible exception of some Bob-white which would occasionally send out its clear musical note across some distant meadow.

The next morning everyone was astir early, and anxious for the start. By the time the sun rose, we had left camp several miles behind, directing our way toward a rather large lake which was situated near the center of the swamp, and was known for the

large flocks of Shovelers that yearly nested there. Birds were already flitting from tree to tree, flowers blooming in greatest profusion everywhere, and in short everything was as beautiful as nature alone can make it; we too were in the best of moods, proceeding gaily, when a whirl of wings directly in our path startled us, but as it is only a stray Bob-white, let it alone. Alas! a shot from someone had already brought the bird fluttering to the ground, where a short search among the weeds revealed the victim. But what a strange Quail, why, it is no Quail, but a Wood-cock, and what a large, fine specimen at that, of the bird that will so soon be unknown. A nest must be near, and all instinctively turn to a small clump of willows, where the nest is sure to be found. But what is our disappointment when a half hour's search reveals nothing, and we must proceed. We hope for better luck later, however.

The sun was shining brightly when we reached the lake, and all were eager to embark, and search the grassy islets and shores for the treasures they are sure to contain. Small dark spots are dimly visible along the distant shores, which our glasses reveal to be Ducks. But we are aware of the Shovelers habits. No nests are to be found there. Therefore we must proceed directly to the small islets, and this we do. A few late Martins (Bank Swallows) are still skimming over the water, and a solitary Heron can be seen fishing on the distant shore. Killdeers can be faintly heard from all sides, but can not be seen, so we must imagine them running along the shore, feeding on the small molloscs and crabs abounding. But the islets are already reached, and how eagerly does everyone search every tuft of rushes and weeds passed. What was it that so silently dropped into the water a few yards ahead. And with

such a dull splash as to be scarcely audible. Ah! at last. How we fairly skim over the water in our eagerness to reach the spot, and carefully parting the rushes what is our joy to find eight dull, bluish eggs snugly lying in a nest of softest down. A photograph is first secured and then the prize. We already feel rewarded for our exertions, but are still pleased to continue until six beautiful sets are securely packed in the boxes, just one set for each, and the rest are not disturbed. We now turn toward a different shore, where hundreds of blackbirds keep up an incessant screaming. It is an easy matter to secure all the eggs desired, nests being found in nearly available spot. The heat warns us that it is noon, and landing, we are glad to rest an hour, after which we slowly proceed toward the camp. For the purpose of making as many new finds as possible we divide into two parties, each pursuing a different route. We were nearing the same clump of willows passed in the morning, when we decided to search again. This time we were more successful. After a short search the nest was found. In a small depression lay four large ashy-gray eggs, thickly spotted with purple and brown. We could easily see that the nest had not been occupied during the day, and this showed that it was very likely the one belonging to the bird shot in the morning. Perhaps not. Any way they are the rarest set found yet. The sun warns us of the coming dusk, and we must proceed rapidly as we are still far from camp. A few sets of Cardinal and Chat eggs are all we find, and we reach camp to find our friends already awaiting us.

L. E. MILLER.

[The set of Wood-cock was undoubtedly a second set owing to some accident to the first eggs or young. The Wood-cock lays her eggs early in April and if the first attempt results in her raising a brood I do not think that they nest again that season. I found

a half incubated set on May 20th, 1897, but an investigation soon located the party who took the first set from the same pair four weeks earlier.—ED.]

Nesting of the Black Tern.

CHARLES W. BOWMAN.

The lake region of North Dakota offers special inducements to this tern, which is here found in great abundance, both as migrant and breeder. The first birds arrive from the south about the first to the middle of April. A few solitary individuals are usually seen a few days before the bulk of the species are with us. They make no noise upon their first arrival, but soon become noisy enough to suit the most fastidious, seeming to incessantly utter their harsh notes which soon grate upon the ear.

About two weeks after their first arrival the nesting site is chosen, and nest building is begun. This site usually consists of a grassy slough or marsh of any size from one to one hundred acres in extent. The Terns seem to like best those sloughs in which patches of grass and open water are interspersed, carefully avoiding those bodies of water which are heavily overgrown with rushes. The chosen situation is usually occupied by from one dozen to fifty pairs of birds, and they invariably return to nest year after year in the same spot unless molested, providing the surroundings remain the same.

The nests are usually on small patches of open water, which is closely surrounded by a growth of grass, which may vary in depth from a few inches to several feet. They are some times frail structures consisting of but a handful of grass, which rests upon the surface of the water, but they are often more substantial affairs being placed upon a pile of drift or an old muskrat house. By the time that incubation is completed they are generally much de-

composed from contact with the water. The remarkable protective coloration of the eggs, and the inconspicuousness of the nest, cause them to be easily overlooked, and if the actions of the birds be taken as a criterion the nests will not be easily found by the inexperienced collector, for they are very vociferous even at a long distance from the nests. These are never placed close together and are often fifty or one hundred yards apart. Any intrusion upon their domestic affairs is most fiercely resented by the terns, as the intruder nears the nest, they make repeated and lightning like dashes at his head, often giving that member a smart tap with their sharp bill.

The eggs are two or three in number, and are generally more pyriform in shape than those of the other gulls and terns, but they much resemble these in colors and markings, which are of endless variety. They average in size about 1.33 x .95 inches.

Soon after nesting time the birds lose their handsome black and silver suit, which they have worn through courtship and early married life, and as their appearance is no longer a matter of much moment, they don a coat of the most fantastic pattern, in which black and white equally predominate; but in the early autumn they depart for the sunny south land, and here their plumage becomes almost white.

Rallus Virginianus.

VIRGINIA RAIL IN A BAY WINDOW.

On November 19, 1903, some boys captured a Virginia Rail; the snow was 12 to 14 inches deep and snowing hard at the time. The little fellow had waited a few days too long before taking his southern trip and had to drop by the way. A party gave him to me the next day to mount as he supposed he would have to die. I took the Rail home and Mrs. K thought it wicked to kill such a pretty

bird and I did not like the idea so we concluded to let him stay in the conservatory. At first he was a little shy and would not eat and at night would fly all around the house until after the lights were out when he would quiet down and rest for the night. He would eat some in the day time and began very soon to get accustomed to his new home. But every evening for ten days he would fly around the house as long as the lights were burning, then after that he became perfectly reconciled to his new home and would go to roost as soon as dark on some plant, perfectly contented, and now he is very regular in his habits; has one particular place for roosting high up in the plant room and takes his bread, milk and meat every day. Will come and take food from my hand, works in the roots of plant jars as though he was after worms, goes in an earthen dish and bathes almost every day, and seems to enjoy life in the Bay Window.

ALMON E. KIBBE,
Mayville, N. Y.

Editorial Notes.

NOTICE.—We are sending a copy of this issue to a number who were subscribers to the Oologist for some time but who dropped it during the period of irregularity caused by the growing pressure of Dr. Lattin's other duties.

Many of these undoubtedly dropped it solely for that reason.

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ERNEST H. SHORT,
Mgr. Oologist, Chili, N. Y.

Mr. Philo W. Smith, Jr. of St. Louis writes us that he will put his fine Collection of Eggs and Skins on exhibition at his Hotel during the World's Fair.

This and his very reasonable rates (see ad.) will doubtless induce many Ornithologists and Oologist to make their headquarters with him.

R. T. F. LACONA, N. Y.

Your bird with dull brown back, gray-brown head and throat and white outside feathers showing in tail when flying is doubtless Slate-colored Junco.

F. W. K., CLEVELAND.

Jan. 15 to Feb. 15th in West Fla. would do for eggs of Bald Eagle, early nests of Sandhill Crane etc. but is too early for the bulk of Fla. birds. March 1st to April 15th would catch the bulk of shore and water birds, Herons, Ibis; etc. There are still "Gators" to kill if you get well south,

Publications Received.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club. Vol. V, No. 2.

This is the expected Kirtland's Number with exhaustive articles by Norman A. Wood and Chas. C. Adams. The cuts of Nesting Sites are dissapointing owing to lack of detail but we all know the difficulties this work offers the photographer.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 4.

Journal of the Maine Ornithological Society.

Vol. VI, No. 2.

An extra large issue containing much that is interesting but especially so to readers of the Oologist is the article on the Yellow Palm Warbler in Maine by O. W. Knight, B. S. giving

the history of 9 authentic breeding records and a good half-tone of nest and eggs.

Atlantic Slope Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 6.

The Amateur Naturlist, Vol. I, No. 2.

Book Review.

"Odds and Ends" by Oliver Davie; author of "Nests and Eggs", "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy; etc.

A collection of short sketches and poems tastfully bound in one volumn.

As a rule Naturalists are too practical to write good poetry but there are surprises in store for the reader of the Scotch dialect poems in this volumn. A number of typographical error's but otherwise nicely printed.

In the front appears a good reproduction of Autograph letter from Ex-President McKinley and a good half-tone of the authors portrait.

See adv. in other columns.

Review.

"The Haunts of the Golden-winged Warbler."

Being No. III of Gleaning's from Nature by the well known Ornithologist, J. Warren Jacobs.

A treatise on the Habits, Nesting and Eggs of this bird in the vicinity of Waynesburg, Penn.

Nicely printed tastfully bound and beautifully illustrated from photos.

It exhibits the same pains taking care in research and preparation as the previous issues of this series and the color plate conforming to Ridgway's "Nomenclature of Colors", (a work now out of print); adds greatly to the value of the work. Mr. Jacobs is to be congratulated on the continuation of this interesting series and we hope there may be a sufficient edition to meet the demands of his brother Ornithologists.

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ALAMEDA, CALIF.

THE OÖLOGIST.

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMV.

VOL. XXI. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1904.

WHOLE No. 203

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES.

Brief Special announcements "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order. Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at 1-3 list rates.

What's Your Number ?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's Oölogist. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

203	your subscription expires with this issue
205	" " " " Aug., 1904
207	" " " " Oct., 1904
209	" " " " Dec., 1904
212	" " " " Mar., 1905
217	" " " " Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Choice southern sets with full accurate and standard data. Chuckwill's-widow. Am. Oyslercatcher, Wilson's Plover, Willet, Royal Fern, Brown Pelican, Swainson's Warbler, Hooded Warbler, Clapper Rail, Black Skimmer, Summer Tanager, etc., for A. I sets with data. DOCTOR M. T. CLECKLEY, 457 Greene Strest, Augusta, Ga. My t f.

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WANTED.—Back numbers of the Oologist until further notice we will allow the prices quoted below for the numbers noted. No others wanted. You may select in payment any specimens catalogued by either of us. This offer does not apply to Instruments, Supplies or Books except by special arrangement. For 50c, worth will allow you a years subscription to Oologist. For 25c worth we will send you a coupon good for an exchange. Notice. Copies must be clean and whole.

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For Apr. 1885; June 1889; June 1890; Aug. 1891; June 1892; Jan. 1893; May 1896, Jan. Feb. Mar. and Nov. 1897; Dec. 1898; and May 1898 we will allow 5c. per copy. No others wanted. These can be sent by mail for 1c for each 4 oz. postpaid. Address. ERNEST H. SHORT, Chili, N. Y. Mgr. Oologist.

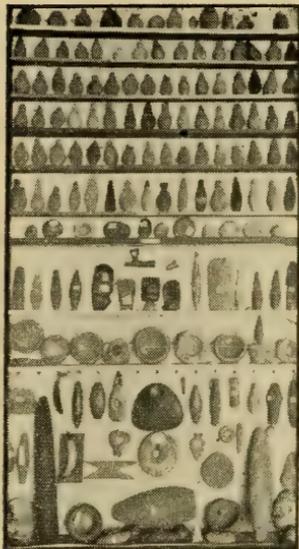
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1904.

WHOLE No. 203

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to

OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of BirDs, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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12 lines in every inch. Seven inches in a column, and two columns to the page.

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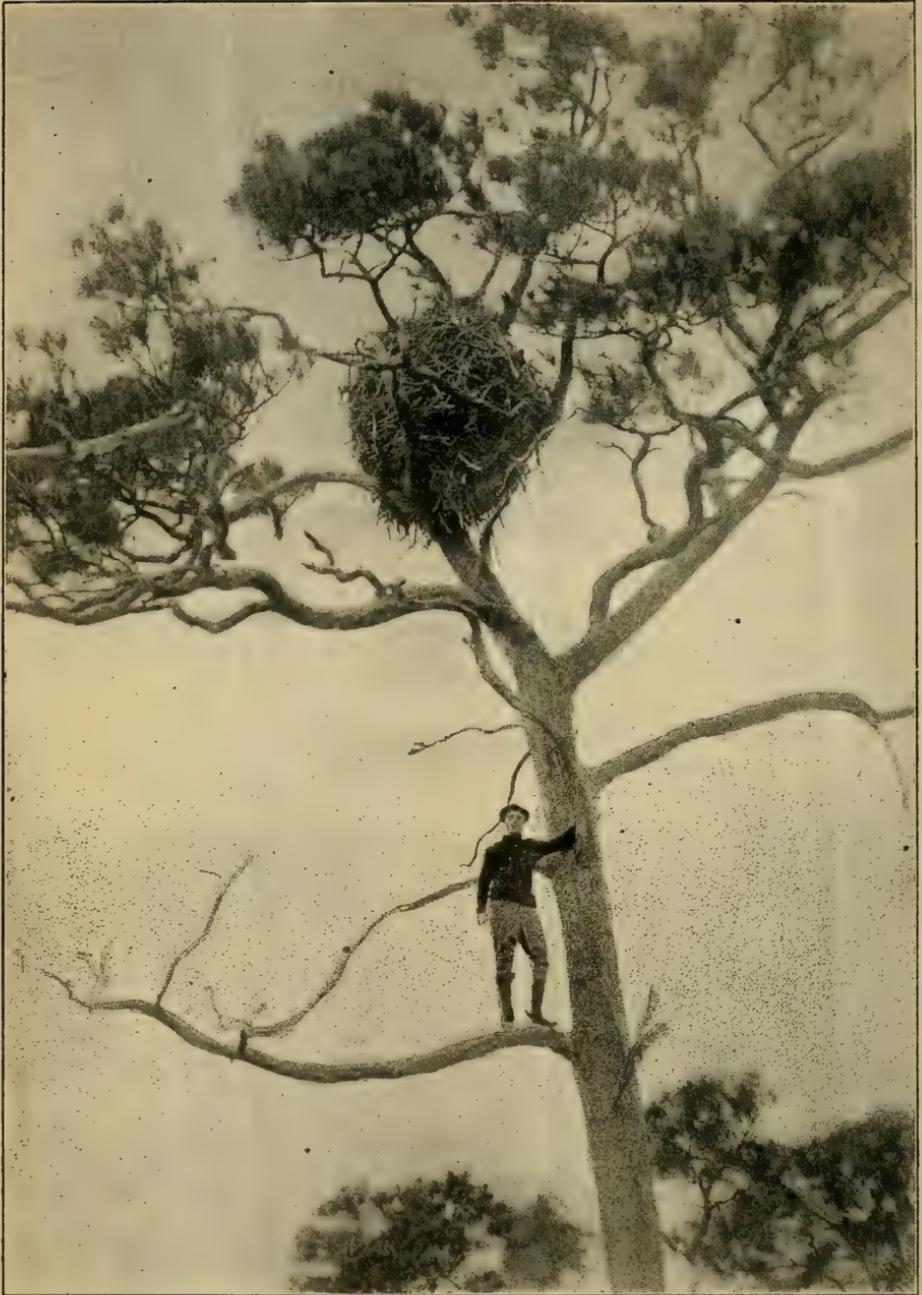
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

A Season with the Bald Eagles.

I have been disappointed so many times in visiting these nests that the past season I concluded to be in time

and made my plans to start out with my launch up and down the coast about November 15th which I dare say to you northern people seems very strange. The Bald Eagle begins business down in this Section very much earlier than on the west coast of Florida. I have found them nesting on the west coast with young birds only about two to five days old as late as March 4th, here the latest I have found eggs was January 7th. Well after making my plans as before stated I was notified while sojourning at Asheville, N. C. that a hurricane had swept over Palm Beach and torn up things generally Sept. 15th so I hurried here and the enormous amount of work getting my place in order made it impossible to get out before Dec. 10th when the first nest was visited and as the launch pushed her nose upon the shore within one hundred feet of the nest and no Eagle in sight I began to lose heart fearing that the thing that had happened there the year previous and had spoiled my fun, had been repeated. "Old Uncle Abe" had been shot. All these thoughts ran through my mind in a very short space of time for the very moment we arose to get out and see what was doing to my surprise again off flew my friend, I then said to my partner, (who for short I'll call Minnie) "I'll bet we are too early for eggs, because the birds don't make the fuss they usually do when eggs or young are in sight." Well as I never miss a chance to climb an Eagles nest (notwithstanding I'm starting on my second half century ride) I strapped on my climbers and climbed to the beautiful nest but 35 ft. high in a most symet-



MR. RYMAN CLIMBING TO NEST OF BALD EAGLE IN FLA.

rical large pine tree and the nest was so very large some six feet in depth that I made three fierce attempts to get my hands over the rim far enough to ascertain what was to reward me for such laborious effort getting up to a nest so near the ground. The Bald Eagle as a rule builds in very tall trees and quite near the top as the accompanying picture will show. The nest was so large, I should say about 7 feet across, that I could not get around and on top of it as I do in most cases, but I was there to find out what was in that nest, I had not come twenty miles for my health alone, and while Minnie was calling "be careful now," as my body was at right angles with the trunk of the tree, I grew desperate, almost made up my mind to burrow through as I have done in some cases, but I was finally astonished and rewarded by putting two beautiful eggs in my pocket and if I had only had a glass of ice water at that time I would almost have been willing to trade the set of eggs for it "say! the're beaut's" "say! Minnie, say we go up to that other nest, but a few hundred yards away," "all right; its a go," off I went and to my astonishment some scoundral had nailed cleats on and I have no doubt had taken eggs from that nest, it had every appearance of being in condition such as are found when containing eggs, lined with fine lining of bark and some spanish moss. Well—so far so good lets start home, no! lets get a guide while here and go out in the woods and shoot a deer or two first and its possible we may find another nest or some rookery of other birds. Very well. All arrangements made off we start by day break next morning after driving twelve miles through a charming paradise for game we pitched our tent at half past three o'clock. "Say we go out a little while" says the guide, very well off we start Within an hour three fine deer jump-

ed up within twenty feet of the guide and after a cannonading for several minutes it seemed to me, I ran toward him and saw three as fine deer as I ever saw getting through space good and lively—how many did you kill George says I; well to make it short we didn't take any deer to town that night, nor did we find another nest out there but met a hunter who had just shot a fine large Bald Eagle, which I'm always sorry to see during nesting season. Well I was anxious to get back home as I had been out in the Everglades but a few days before and found a fine Eagles nest with the bird on and she would not leave the nest and I concluded she was merely holding her claim and was not ready for business as yet, but when I found the two eggs above mentioned and they were somewhat incubated I said this nest needs my attention so Minnie and I with my colored man to help pole the boat started and when there another surprise met me. No bird appeared about the place and I must say I felt a little discouraged. Never the less as my love for climbing to Eagles nests is so great I concluded to go up. Here in a dense cypress swamp was an immense nest in the top of a slender cypress tree fully 60 feet high and not a limb except those that support the nest. Another tree of similiar size was about six feet away which I concluded to climb and when even with the nest I would swing over to the nest and help myself. When nearing the top I heard some chirping and discovered the Eagle circling overhead but not making the usual fuss, but when I finally got to the top I saw the prize two fine ivories that looked fresh. How am I to get them is the question now. The nest is about 8 feet across, I swing over and step one foot on edge of nest and wonder how I am to get those eggs. A thought finally struck me. I took a

stick from the nest about 5 feet long and about an inch thick with a crook at one end and with that I reached over as far as I could and pulled them to the edge of nest when I gently took them in out of the wet, packing them carefully in hunting coat pocket with plenty of Spanish moss to keep them breaking in my descent, before starting down my partner Minnie says stand out and let me get your picture standing on nest, and when coming from the swamp in water two feet deep and saw grass above my head she took another fine view of me holding one egg up in each hand. Well I began to see it was evidently high time I got after the rest of the nests I had planned to visit a year ago, and also to find more. My son had come to spend the holidays and he and I had always for several years past hunted together. We concluded to visit a nest we took a pair of young Eagles from the year before. We started one bright morning early; Minnie with us of course; she by the way took the pictures, all of which; some nine or ten are very fine she also did the rifle shooting, when necessary; being a fine "amazonian" shot. We found our nest, and a beauty it was in a large pine tree some 60 feet high, the picture is shown herewith with my boy about half way up. Walter Raine is the possessor of the fine set of eggs. I find as I get to writing there is much to say and space I fear already used up but the most interesting finds come later and which will be given in another article or so with photo. of nest with Eagle perched nearly and with collector climbing to nest, also of nest containing an unusual set of 3 eggs.

Yours truly,
J. J. RYMAN,
Palm Beach, Florida.

Michigan Randoms.

A set of four eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk on April 1, 1904, in Royal Oak Tp., Oakland Co., beats my previous record by four days. April 15 to 20 is the best time to look for sets of this Hawk here. My latest record is two fresh eggs on May 18, 1902, in Van Buren Tp., Wayne Co.

Made the acquaintance of a pair of Bald Eagles in Monguagon Tp., Wayne Co., on March 13, 1904. Nest in fork of large white oak limb and just ninety-five feet four inches above the ground. Tree eighteen feet around the base and main crotch seventy-five feet up. Nest six and one-half feet in total exterior depth. It contained three eggs incubated about five days.

Visited a colony of Common Tern on June 14, 1903. This was on Middle Sister Island, Lake Erie. Total number of eggs on Island were 273-1, 248-2, 297-3, 38-4, 10-5—1166 sets or 2462 eggs. One of the sets of four was undoubtedly the product of a single bird, but the remaining sets of that number and those of five could be readily separated into two sets per nest, thus increasing the number of breeding pairs to 1213. Three Crows and a Cooper's Hawk left the Island soon after our arrival. Numerous little heaps of egg shells scattered throughout the woods and a number of partly eaten Tern tells the story.

Was much interested in the question of set marks in January number. The following system has been adopted by a number of collectors and is a good one as it imparts an idea of the breeding abundance of the species. My last set of redstart for 1903 is marked 143-4. This indicates a set of 4 and the 143rd ever found by me. The first set of 1904 will be marked 144 and so on. I also add the season set mark to large eggs. The last set of Red-shouldered Hawk for 1903 is marked 624-7, being

my 62nd set ever found, the 7th of the season and consisting of 4 eggs.

Wish to endorse Mr. A. D. Brown's statement in March number. As an exchange medium the Oologist has no equal, and never had during its existence. I base this opinion upon personal results. Have been a subscriber since 1885 and tried all other ornithological publications as they appeared. It should receive the support of all collectors and bird students.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

Some Tree Climbing.

Artemas Ward has observed that wicked people work harder for a tropical hereafter than do good people for a seat in heaven. This is applicable to the Oologist on the grounds of current opinion proclaiming nest robbing a sin unpardonable. As accorded by the majority he is a sinful being with the added appellation of crank. Little things like this do not trouble him, however, and he is so unkind as to also entertain some ideas respecting crankism but shifting all the honors upon the shoulders of the opposition, which tends not to conciliation. That he delights to study things like eggs demonstrates mental derangement further proved by his idiotic craving for lots of fresh air and rambles in meadow and wood and appreciation of everything in nature's realm. In the interest of the birds the majority has appealed to his humane sensibilities but so callous is his heart that, upon returning to a locality where eggs were taken the week previous, his illusive optic fails to perceive birds sitting around with the tears of heart rending grief trickling down their feathered cheeks. Somehow they appear to him to be joyously hustling building material with the practical business like intention of depositing another set soon as possible. So you see, his case

is hopeless but why not accept him as an evil to be tolerated?

Accepting the opening hypothesis as referable to the Oologist his heavenly possibilities are not encouraging. He always views an occupied hawk's nest with criminal designs upon its contents and expends more labor in the ascent than he ever will to ascend the Golden Stairs. Like many others, labor that is pleasure is no labor to him. Did the every day routine of business necessitate an amount of physical exertion equal to his field work he would succumb to despair in short order.

On February 28, 1904 the ear-like feather tufts that adorn the intellectual end of a Great Horned Owl were visible above the nest. It required no great mind to comprehend that the remainder of Madam was present even if out of sight but all the acoustical ingenuity that could be devised failed to secure a more satisfactory view of her person, in fact, she could not have adhered closer to the nest had she been glued to it. This nest was in a great white oak and just 84 feet above the ground as measured on March 15, 1903 when I took a set of two eggs from it.

This is Mike's second year of Oological tendency. The valve that let loose his pent up enthusiasm was a view of my collection. He early confided the information to possess a set of owl's eggs, taken by his own hand, was the goal of his monumental ambition. Consequently I paid Madam an informal call on March 1st accompanied by Mike and my complete climbing outfit. The tree was a forest patriarch, as intimated, but a much smaller one grew near by and a limb of this reached within fifteen feet of the nest. Mike had the choice of two courses—either struggle up the rough barked monarch or ascend the smaller tree and scoop the eggs. I enquired his preference. He preferred an elevator but since I had

neglected to bring one along centered his affections upon the smaller tree which, by the way, was not so very small after all. It would have been an easy climb for an old hand but presented 84 feet of difficulty to Mike. It was his second experience with the irons and first tree of any size. He worked slowly up the trunk some 25 feet, then paused to rest and looked down. I asked if he felt a wild exhilaration of spirits; a sort of glad joyous freedom. No, his feelings did not seem to tend that way; they tended toward an insatiable yearning for *terra firma*. Things also began to assume a different aspect. The distance to the ground already looked as far as had the nest when viewed from said ground. When the first crotch was reached he had to gaze upward to the nest before he could believe himself less than a hundred feet in the air. This crotch was 35 feet up and formed a bulge in the trunk. Fortunately he could clasp his fingers through the crotch but this brought his face tight against the tree. This did not prevent the use of his legs, however, and he walked up until his knees touched his chin. Thus he posed for sometime with rear pointing straight out into the billowy atmosphere; then his legs walked down again for he dared not let go and reach for a higher hold. The perspiration dripped from his marble brow and life became a serious thing. Owl's eggs began to lose their charm and he wanted to come down but, spurred onward by an attack upon his pride, he made another attempt and conquered. The nest was easy by comparison except that the earth receded at an alarming rate. At last he was opposite the nest and not until then did Madam vacate. "Two beauties," was his gladsome cry. He let down the string for the scoop. The lower end dangled 30 feet above the ground. I then remembered having used a hundred feet of it during

the winter. Mike possesses a nature philanthropic and a patience infinite. I heard him sigh as he sadly contemplated the dangling end but, without a word, he descended to where it would reach. To reascend that 30 feet, burdened with the pole and scoop, was not like floating with the current. He arrived, however, and reached with the scoop—it fell short by five feet. Here is where a profane man would have said things but Mike is not profane. He dropped the scoop and by the time he had covered the 30 feet I had it attached to a longer pole. This second upward climb was more difficult than the first owing to the length and weight of the pole but he did it all right. Here he encountered another difficulty—he could not coax the eggs into the scoop. He chased them about the nest for a full half hour with the temperature below freezing and a strong wind blowing. "I must give up," he finally wailed and just then an egg rolled into the scoop followed by the other. When he lowered them I found the side of one jammed in but said nothing until he reached the ground an hour later. He was so exhausted that he could not speak and laid down in the snow until I induced him to sit up. As the fatigue wore off his enthusiasm returned until it blazed with old time splendor for he actually had a set of owl's eggs and of his own taking and would not part with it to-day for the best set of Golden Eagle ever laid.

The reader must not think the above a development of imagination for it is an actual truth in every detail except the name of the chief participant but then, you see, I meet him every day.

Here is one more of his experiences as a conclusion. Some time last summer he borrowed my climbers to investigate the nesting site of a Woodpecker but for reasons that were sufficient he failed to do so. On the way he saw a bird that, from his description, was

probably a Crested Flycatcher. This bird was seated upon a limb beside a nest the size of a foot ball and hanging pendent like a great pear. Where had he seen such a nest before? It was in Johnson's Natural History but the birds were called weavers and were said to inhabit Africa. Was he on the verge of a great ornithological discovery? Could it be possible he was about to add a new genus to the North American Avifauna? The tree was small, his elation unbounded and he was soon on a level with the nest. Here he made a great discovery that nearly deprived him of breath—it was made entirely of paper. Quickly working out the limb he looked it over but could find no opening and eagerly tore a hole in the side. Whoop! Eureka! H——! It was a hornet's nest.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

Warblers.

On looking over Short's "Birds of Western New York," I notice that he does not mention the Black and White Warblers as breeding, also Red-breasted Nuthatch.

Last June I was lucky enough to find both species breeding here. On the 5th of the month, I found a nest of Black and White Warbler containing four young a few days old and an addled egg. On the 7th, C. F. Stone, Verdi Burtch and myself went to the "Big Gullie," (a local name of a large gullie about a quarter of a mile from where I live,) in search of Canadian and Magnolia Warblers nests. Mr. Stone was in luck from start to finish. He took 2 or 3 sets of Magnolia, a set of Yellow-breasted Chat and a set of 5 Sharp-Shinned-Hawk.

About all that Mr. Burtch and I got was a good soaking as it rained nearly all day, but I saw a pair of Red-breasted Nuthatches feeding their young, and called Mr. Burtch's attention to

them. We only saw three young. They had only been out of the nest a short time for they could fly only a short distance at a time.

Up near the head of the gullie I found another nest of Black and White Warbler containing 5 young about a week or ten days old. So I think the time to get fresh sets would be the latter part of May.

I found a Canadian Warblers nest containing 2 fresh eggs which I left for a full complement, but on going back 4 days latter I was disappointed to find the nest contained only the 2 eggs with incubation commenced.

CLARENCE N. DAVIS,
Branchport, N. Y.

Self-Explanatory.

FEBRUARY 25, 1904.

EDITOR OF OOLOGIST:

I would like to call attention to one W. J. Wirt, Albion, N. Y., who has been practicing fraud in the trading of eggs. Two years ago I caught him on spurious abnormal sets. He sent me a runt set of Phoebe, and wrote up a data for Wright's Fly-catcher collected in Arizona, for this job he got 2-2 Whip-poor-will. Later he sent me the best job of all—a set of three eggs of Robin (as he called it) with a *well marked runt*. The "*marked runt*" is a normal specimen of Clay-colored or Chipping Sparrow. This set he claimed to have taken from a Robin's nest, and when I accused him of fraud he pretended to be awfully hurt and sent me an affidavit which he wrote himself and signed his wife's name to and also a party named *Robert Short* as "eye witnesses" to the collection. He got more bumps from me and finally he said he was going out of the egg business altogether and was going into the farming and stock raising business.

I had previously secured several good abnormal sets from him and was much chagrined to find him to be a fraud.

A. E. Price, Grant Park, Ill. and Gerard A. Abbott, Chicago, Ill., also got nipped by him.

This is the first time I have seen his exchange notice in the OOLOGIST since he entered the "farming and stock raising business."

Yours very truly,
J. WARREN-JACOBS.

Waynesburg, Pa.

[As the publication of such matters as these is the most unpleasant duty the Editor encounters he held this communication for further investigation. This only resulted in a torrent of complaints, some of them worse, from other prominent Oologists and some damaging evidence, including some unequivocal statements in regard to sets examined by the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C., therefore the Editor sees no better course than to publish the above as a warning. —Ed.]

That New Edition of Lattin's "Standard Catalogue."

In the next issue of Oologist we run the A. O. U. Numbers, revised to data, with temporary Exchange values for all eggs of N. Am. Birds as far as it is possible to set any value.

All advanced collectors are requested to mail the Editor a list of any changes in values they think advisable giving reasons if possible. Due credit will be given.

We desire that this fifth edition shall be the *Standard* and solicit the cooperation of all to that end.

This new edition will contain 149 new species and subspecies, 300 changes in nomenclature and as many changes and additions to values.

Mr. C. W. Prier of Appleton City, Mo., reports a set of 5 Red-tail Hawk taken April 3d, this year. Ye Editor has examined the eggs and there is no

question as to identity' In another issue we will give half tone of a set taken this year by A. E. Price of Grant Park, Ill. These sets are the first I have heard of in 10 years of this size.

While beating an open glade in the great Cedar Swamp near Scottsville, N. Y., on Decoration Day this year, the Editor observed a pair of Passenger Pigeons feeding a single young bird not yet able to fly more than a few rods.

This is the first time I have noted them breeding and no records have come to my notice for Western New York for 20 years.

Review.

North American Birds Eggs by Chester A. Reed.

This work, now ready for delivery is a triumph of the printer's art and is in many respects the best work on N. Am. eggs ever published.

333 pages and index, profusely illustrated both with figures of the eggs and 70 plates of nests and eggs in situ.

Owing to the fine quality of paper used the illustrations make a fine showing.

The binding is both tasty and strong, an important point with works of reference.

The only adverse criticism the Editor would suggest is the omission of the figures giving ordinary range of sizes for each species. An average size, only, is given.

As the work has been brought fully up to date it is for the time being the only up to date complete check list available.

Publications Received.

Nature study, Huddersfield, England. Vol. XIII, Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 5.

American Ornithology, Vol IV, No. 5. Condor, Vol VI, No. 3. The Amateur Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 3.

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Cedar Waxwing.....	20
White-rumped Sandpiper.....	75
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Least Sandpiper.....	25
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	35
Red-headed Woodpecker, young male.....	30
Pine Grosbeak, male.....	50
Pine Grosbeak, young male.....	35
Pine Grosbeak, female.....	25
Snowflake.....	15
Bullock's Oriole, female.....	25
Prairie Horned Lark.....	30
Indigo Bunting.....	20
Purple Finch, female.....	15
Song Sparrow.....	75
Bluebird, young male.....	15
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	15
Chickadee.....	15
Hooded Warbler, pair.....	75
Canadian Warbler, male.....	25
Black-throated Green Warbler, male.....	20
Black-poll Warbler, female.....	15
Red-tail Hawk, young in down.....	75

I have only the above skins left and they ought to go quick at prices quoted.

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The above are all the mounted specimens I have left.

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DeKay, Ornithology of New York, 392 p 141 full-page col. pl., containing 308 birds in natural colors 4to; this rare and magnificent work usually sells from \$15 to \$20 per copy.....

—Mammals of New York, with Introduction to Natural History Survey, 4to, 348p, 33pl.....

—Reptiles and Fishes of New York, 2 vol., 4to, 524p, 102pl.....

Emmons, Insects of New York, 4to 326p, 47 col. pl., hundreds of colored figures.....

DeKay, Mollusca and Crustacea of New York 4to, 355p 53 col. pl (411 col. fig.....

Torrey, Flora of the State of New York. Full description of all the indigenous and naturalized plants hitherto discovered in the state; with remarks on their economical and medicinal properties. 2 vols, 4to, 1072p, 160 pl.....

Hall, Palaeontology of New York, I, Organic Remains of Lower Division of N. Y. System, (Lower Silurian) 4to 361p, 100pl, 536 fig.....

—do do, vol. II Organic Remains of Lower Middle Division. (Middle Silurian) 4to, 370p, 104pl, 510 fig.....

—do do, vol. III, Fossils of Lower Helderberg Group and Oriskany Sandstone 2 vols, 4to, 531p, ills. 120 pl.....

Emmons, Geology of Northern New York 47p, 17 pl. (9 col.) 116 ills.....

Hall, Geology of Western New York, 4to 705p, col. map, 54 pl.....

Mather, Geology of Eastern New York and Long Island, 4to, 708p, 46 col. pl. and maps, 35 ills.....

Vanuxem, Geology of Central New York, 4to, 306p, 80 ills.....

Beck, Mineralogy of New York 4to, 560p, pl, 33 tables, 533 fig.....

Emmons, Agricultural of New York; comprising an account of the classification, composition and distribution of the Soils and Rocks, and the Natural Waters of the Different Geological Formations, together with a condensed view of the Climate and the Agricultural productions of the State, 4to, 372p, 22pl and 33 fig.....

Do do do. This volume is devoted mainly to the composition of the inorganic parts of vegetables, 4to, 394p, 42 col pl.....

Do do, Fruits of the State, 4to, 2 vols, 340p 100 col .pl.....

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New York, Natural History Survey.

I have a set of 22 vols. of this rare and elaborate work in original binding and "good as new." It is in the best condition of any "original binding" set I've ever owned and if not sold I shall reserve the set for my private library, but now offer it at less than the regular price of a fair set in ordinary binding. The 22 vols. are as follows: Geology 4; Palaeontology, 5; Mineralogy, 1; Agriculture, 4; Entomology, 2; Zoology, (Mammals, Birds, Reptiles, Fish, Mollusca and Crustacea) 5; Botany 2. I ought not think of selling this set for less than \$75. The volume on Birds in this volume alone is worth \$75. The set goes, however, at..... 55 00 FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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A MONTHLY PUBLICATION DEVOTED TO
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMRY.

VOL. XXI. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1904.

WHOLE No. 204

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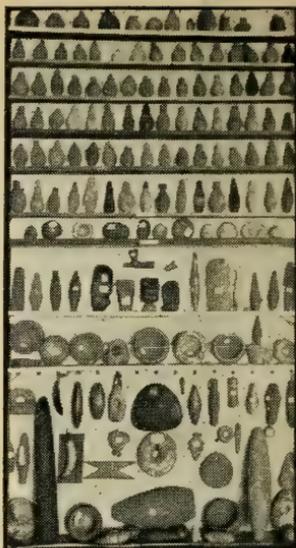
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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1904.

WHOLE NO. 204

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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An Ornithological Iron-clad.

Number One of the A. O. U. is not such a very interesting bird from the standpoint of the scientific ornithologist but in the trite language of my erstwhile friend Josh Billings, he is "an amosin' cuss." I have gotten more downright hilarity out of watching the western Grebe than any other bird in the catalogue. He always reminds me of an Iron-clad Monitor under full steam, with nothing of him but an elongated neck and a mere speck of dark gray back sticking up out of the water. Below the long railroad bridge crossing Lake Pen'd Oreille (pronounced Pond deray) in northern Idaho this bird is a constant resident. They breed in the sedgy marshes surrounding the lake and in the winter season fish in the channel. For the lake has a channel and a current being only a widening of the Clark's Fork of the Columbia. Any day you may sit on the bridge and see from fifty to one hundred of them disporting themselves in the limpid water. They are not gunned very much, in fact it does very little good to gun them for like Johnny's woodchuck, they can get home faster than a gun can shoot. This is a fact that I had to acquire by stern experience. I wanted a few of them for mounting and took out my Smith for that purpose. After firing away about a ton of shot, and every time the shot got there the bird was over in another county, I concluded that as far as Mr. L. C. Smith and his justly famous gun was concerned, I would go hungry for Grebe a long time. I finally secured a few however by laying for them with a 22 rifle. Its about the most amusingly provoking thing in my experience to see one of these fellows tip up at the report of your gun and calmly disappear beneath the water. It is all

done with such an air of deliberation and sang froid that you cannot get really angry. When he comes up it is always just out of range and he goes paddling away with a sort of grim chuckle that tells more plainly than words how much he enjoys the triumph.

It has been my pleasure to act the spy upon these birds while home building. It seems in other parts of the country they insist on anchoring their domicile out in the water three or four feet from the shore. Occasionally they do so here too, but most generally the nest is placed upon some little hummock or a deserted muskrat home out in the marsh, sometimes many yards from the shore. One day I was beating up the quarters of a colony of red-wings that were habiting a big marsh not far from here and while sweeping the tules with my glass I allowed the binocular to rest for a moment upon one of these little islands. My eye was attracted by a movement upon the island. At first I thought it to be a muskrat foraging but upon closer inspection I saw that it was a pair of western Grebe house building. For a better view, I crept closer.

The architecture seemed to be planned by the lady of the household and the principal occupation of the master was to gather the building material which he did with a great deal of zeal in the labor. With a continual chattering he would waddle in a top-heavy manner to the edge of the hummock and sieze upon floating bits of tule and drag them to the nesting site where they were raked with bill and toes into position by Mrs. Grebe. Noise seemed to be necessary to the proper arrangement of the nest for they both kept up a continual and not at all unmusical chatter, grading at times into a sort of grunt.

Many days after, I visited this same

spot and found the house keeping fully established with three eggs to their credit. Upon seeing me approach the nesting bird hastily covered the eggs over with moss and dried tules and slid into the water, swimming away with one eye looking over her shoulder at the intruder of her home. I carefully uncovered the eggs using a long stick for the purpose and inspected the nest and contents. There was very little attempt at nest building, the tules being merely laid together and a depression hollowed out by the weight of the bird's own body. The eggs differed none from the ones usually found in the collections of every oölogist excepting that they were much stained with the grasses upon which they lay. I was being watched with jealous eyes by the parents at some distance. I returned the covering and silently retired. Watching the hummock from a safe distance the birds soon returned and investigated the damage done. Satisfied with the result the hen snuggled down into the nest again where I left her. Weeks after I had occasion to return that way and found a fluffy brood of nine careening around in the open water. A shrill whistle sent every one of them to the bottom as quick as a flash of light. For a long time I waited for them to reappear in vain. At last tired with waiting I sought another part of the pond some hundreds of yards distant. To my surprise here were my truants. For an experiment I fired my shot gun at them, and at the report of the gun the water was entirely guiltless of bird life, so I said the youngsters can get under the protection of the water as expeditiously as their elders.

This is about all I can think of about the Western Grebe. Often when tired of my professional duties and out of harmony with things in general, I saunter down to the long bridge

and sitting on a pier quietly smile at these happy-go-lucky fellows fishing in the deep blue water. Then go home and think that the old world is not such a bad place after all.

CHAS. S. MOODY,
Sand Point, Idaho.

Turkey Vulture in Illinois.

Through the varying seasons of many years, the stump of a gigantic sycamore tree has been rotting away—gradually melting back to the mother soil on a bank of the Salt Fork Creek.

The shell is yet solid but through a strange action of the elements, the heart is eaten out to its very roots. The form left is that of a wood-curbed well with the top three feet above the surface and the bottom six feet below.

Into this opening I peeped last summer and discovered in the strang retreat, a mother Vulture and two youngsters that looked very much like cotton balls in the great dark hole.

I would have enjoyed watching the first futile attempts of the young buzzards to get out. A later visit however, proved they had accomplished the feat and I was forced to acknowledge the mother cleared of a charge of an error of judgement. A more typical nesting site I found in a mammoth oak tree in Lynn Grove. A violent storm of long ago had torn off a high limb seven feet from the ground, leaving a wound that time could not heal. It ate and grew and spread until the ground level was reached inside. I had visited this tree many times each season, and always wondering why "Cathartes aura" had not chosen it for a residence, I was never able to resist peeping into the roomy tree cave. Finally on May 8, 1903 my faith in "aura's" judgment was rewarded. At my approach a Vulture flopped out of the entrance revealing a pair of beautifully marked eggs. On the

dates of April 27, 1898 and May 27, 1898, I found sets in positions very similar to the one just described. Both were in the bottoms of hollow living trees, the cavities reaching to the ground level. On June 9, 1903, I visited a lonely timber pond in another grove. In the center of the pond grew a large water-oak. Long since its life had flown and now it stands a shining naked monument, stripped by lightning bolts of its outer garments. A Vulture appeared from somewhere within its recesses and I climbed up to investigate. Twenty feet from the ground (or rather from the water) I found a cavity where the only opening was toward the sky. Two feet down in this safest of nesting places, two young buzzards lifted their heads and hissed at the intruder. I may have been the first unwelcome visitor at this hidden home that had been in use, perhaps for many years.

Thus I find the Illinois Vultures, and birds of a practical bend, not heeding fixed ancestral rules, but taking possession of advantageous sites, whether on the surface, above the level or below the surface of the ground.

ISAAC E. HESS,
Philo, Illinois.

Nesting of the Slate-colored Junco.

May 17, 1903 as I was going down the bed of a large gully looking for nests of the La. Water Thrush I flushed a bird from the bank beside me. Supposing of course that it was a La. Water Thrush. I hardly glanced at it but turned my attention to the nest and when I looked at the eggs I knew at once that I had found something new to me. Putting the eggs back I turned my attention to the bird and found that she had flown down the gully and was now making her way cautiously towards me and was soon but a short distance away in a

small tree nervously working to the top branches and chipping. I had a very good view of her and saw at once that she was a Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) but to be sure I went back up the gully a short distance and she soon went back on the nest.

Approaching cautiously I had a very good view of her for about a minute when she left the nest again.

The nest was situated on and among the exposed roots of a tree and under the overhanging bank about 4 feet from the bottom of the gully. It was composed of dead leaves and grass lined with dead grass. The materials and structure of the nest were much like a nest of the Song Sparrow though the location was more like a Louisiana Water Thrush.

The eggs were four in number with a greenish ground color sparsely spotted with reddish brown. They reminded me somewhat of the Field Sparrow's eggs in color and markings but were much larger. Incubation was advanced and I left them in the nest. This is the first authentic record of this Junco nesting in Yates County, though Mr. C. F. Stone and I have before this seen them here in June which would seem to be good evidence that they do so.

VERDI BURTCH,
Branchport, N. Y.

Since receiving this I have seen a set of 4 very pretty eggs of this bird in the collection of Mr. C. N. Davis taken this spring a few miles from Branchport. They were found in a sod field in hollow in the soil. The bird is never very particular about situations for nesting. They are not rare in the hills of Chautauqua, Alleghany and Steuben counties, N. Y., and doubtless occur regularly in Yates.—*Ed.*

Suggestions.

Will not the editor who has already effected such a marked improvement in the Oologist raise a protest against the wanton destruction of birds in nesting time. Suppose the collector who flushed a Woodcock off her nest

and killed her had found instead of eggs four young birds dead with cold and hunger would not it have marred the pleasure of the collecting trip. Contrast this with J. Warren Jacob's statement in his excellent treatise on Golden-winged Warbler that he never found it necessary to take the life of a bird to pursue his investigations and yet he has given us a life history seldom excelled.

And if Mr. Honecker had removed the full clutch of Spotted Sandpiper instead of leaving the parent to incubate a misfit of 3 the possibilities are that in a few days the old bird would have had another full set of 4 and one more young *Actitis Macularia* been spared to the world as well as three more eggs to a scientific collection.

A. E. PRICE.

Moth Proof Cabinets.

So many owners of collections are constantly fighting moth and dermestid pests that it might be of interest to note that neither will enter a box built of *cedar*. This was a well known fact to our grandparents, for in the olden houses remaining today we always find the cedar closet for hanging the furs and woolen clothing in, and the cedar chest for blankets.

Build your next cabinet out of cedar and watch the result.

HENRY B. KAEDING.

A Robin's Nest.

On June 23, 1902, I found a Robin's nest made completely of binder twine, no mud at all used in the construction of the nest. It was in a maple tree twelve feet from the ground. It was lined with fine grass. There was plenty of mud during the month.

O. H. PEASE,

Hope,
Kan.

Large Sets of Great Horned Owl in a Cold Berth.

I have taken many sets of Great Horned Owl but never until this spring have I seen in this locality a set of more than $\frac{1}{2}$.

On February 25, 1904, I took a set of $\frac{1}{4}$ perfectly fresh, the thermometer did not go above 4 degrees above zero any time during the day and it had been zero weather for a week previous. They were about 50 feet up, big nest of sticks, etc., and a few dry leaves which were coated with snow and ice. The old bird left nest when about half way up. On going back on March 21st for second set was surprised to get set of $\frac{1}{2}$ Red-tail Hawk in same nest that is very early for Red-tail here. Have you ever known of authentic set of $\frac{1}{4}$ Great Horned Owl east of Mississippi? My experience has been that they are about equally divided between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$.

The set of $\frac{1}{4}$ were taken in McHenry County, Illinois where I do most of my collecting.

C. M. ELDRIDGE,
Chicago.

At the Fair.

An egg 12 inches long and 10 inches in diameter with a shell nearly one-quarter of an inch thick will be exhibited among the treasures of natural history by the government at the world's fair, St. Louis. It is an egg of the *Aepyornis Maximus* and was recently purchased in Paris by Dr. E. W. True of the Smithsonian institution. Specimens of these eggs are very rare, having sold in London as high as \$1,000.

Compared with other eggs some idea of its immensity may be had. It will hold the contents of six ostrich eggs, or 148 hen's eggs, or 30,000 humming bird's eggs. Little is known of the birds from which these eggs come.

Most of the eggs are found in the sands and swamps of southern parts of Madagascar. One specimen was found afloat on the ocean, after a hurricane, bobbing serenely up and down.

—R. F. Greene in *Editorial Notes, Phil? West, Vol. 26 No. 3.*

Albinos.

Mr. C. W. Prier, of Appleton City, Mo., reports a set of English Sparrow, containing 3 Albino eggs.

Mr. Verdi Burtch of Branchport, N. Y., has a set of five perfect albinos of this bird. The editor secured a very fine set of four Albino Bluebirds from a pair of birds that had a first set of normal blue eggs destroyed by the untimely freeze April 20th, this year. The set of Albinos were laid May 8th to 11th in the same nest and are a pure, glossy white. Would pass for a large set of Downy Woodpeckers.

Abnormalities.

Mr. Verdi Burtch has two nicely spotted sets of Wilson's Thrush. On June 11th while out for a Yates county tramp with Mr. C. F. Stone, the editor found a set of Indigo Bunting containing two spotted eggs. One of these was heavily *wreathed* with cinnamon spots at larger end.

Review.

Discovery of the Breeding Area of Kirtland's Warbler. A pamphlet issued by the University of Michigan, being excerpt from Bull. Mich. Ornithological Club, Vol. V, pp. 3-13.

It puts the Kirtland's Warbler matter in convenient form and the plates are more distinct and show better detail than they did in the Bulletin.

Publications Received.

- American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 6.
- Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 6.
- Collector's Note Book, Vol. II, No. 1.

A NEW EDITION

—OF—

Lattin's 'Standard Catalogue' of North American Birds Eggs

Owing to changes and additions to the A. O. U. check list and the inevitable shifting in the relative value of the eggs of many of our birds, advanced collectors are asking for a new edition of the above work. That the prices may be the *Standard* as heretofore all collectors are requested to make suggestions and criticisms relative to temporary prices following the A. O. U. No. of each species as listed below. Prices will then be adjusted as seems fairest to all and a new edition will be issued. Address, Editor OOLOGIST, Chili, N. Y.

1	.....\$	35	63	.....	40	118	.....	25
2		50	64	.....	40	119	.....50c	*25
3		25	65	.....	30	120	.....	25
4		15	66	.....	5 00	120a	.....	25
5		35	67	.....	40	120b	.....	50
6		10	68	.....		120c	.....	35
7		1 50	69	.....	10	121	.....	75
8		5 00	70	.....	08	122	.....	25
9		*1 50	71	.....	10	123	.....	1 25
10		2 00	72	.....	15	123a	.....	1 00
11		*75	73	.....	2 00	123b	.....	35
12		50	74	.....	12	124	.....	1 25
13		20	75	.....	30	125	.....	50
13a		1 00	76	.....	1 00	126	.....	25
14		2 00	77	.....	10	127	.....	60
15		3 00	78	.....	50	128	.....	1 00
16		1 25	79	.....	35	129	.....	1 50
17		3 00	80	.....	12	130	.....75c	*25
18		3 00	81	.....		131	.....	2 50
19		2 50	82	.....	5 00	132	.....	20
20		2 50	82.1	.....	3 00	133	.....	40
21		3 00	83	.....	3 00	133a	.....	50
22		4 00	84	.....	5 00	134	.....	1 00
23		4 00	84	.....		134a	.....	3 00
24		5 00	85	.....	60	135	.....75c	*50
25		5 00	86	.....	2 00	136	.....	*25
26		4 00	86b	.....	2 50	137	.....	75
27		35	86c	.....		138	.....	*20
28		75	87	.....		139	.....	50
29		50	88	.....		140	.....	25
30		20	89	.....	1 00	141	.....	30
30a		20	90	.....		141.1	.....	*35
31		35	91	.....	1 50	142	.....	35
32		25	92	.....		143	.....	35
33		\$12 00	92.1	.....	2 50	144	.....	1 00
34		1 25	93	.....	3 00	145	.....	35
35		50	93.1	.....	3 00	146	.....	1 25
36		2 50	94	.....	3 50	147	.....75c	*60
37		50	95	.....		148	.....	75
38		1 50	96	.....	5 00	150	.....	1 25
39		5 00	97	.....		151	.....	75
40		40	98	.....	3 00	152	.....	1 00
40a		1 50	99	.....	3 50	153	.....	2 00
41		1 50	100	.....		154	.....	*40
42		75	101	.....	3 00	155	.....	*1 00
42.1		2 00	102	.....	50	156	.....	5 00
43		1 25	103	.....	2 00	157	.....	2 50
44		1 00	104	.....	3 00	158	.....	50
45		3 00	105	.....	25	159	.....	25
46			105.1	.....	2 50	160	.....	1 00
47		60	106	.....	2 50	161	.....	1 50
48			106.1	.....	2 50	162	.....	2 00
49		30	107	.....	3 00	163	.....	*50
50			108	.....	5 00	166	.....	2 00
51		20	108.1	.....	3 0c	167	.....	2 50
52		2 00	109	.....	3 50	168	.....	50
53		30	110	.....	3 00	169	.....
54		30	111	.....	2 00	169a	.....
55		1 50	112	.....	5 00	169.1	.....
56		25	113	.....	1 75	170	.....
57		5 00	113.1	.....	5 00	171	.....	*1 00
58		20	114	.....	5 00	171a	.....	2 50
59		35	114.1	.....	5 00	171.1	.....	1 00
60		2 00	115	.....	35		.....
60.1			115.1	.....			.....
61			116	.....			.....
62		3 00	117	.....			.....

172.....	1	50	243.....	35	303.....	4	00		
172a.....	2	50	243a.....	3	00	304.....	5	00	
172b.....	2	50	244.....	5	00	304a.....			
172c.....	4	00	245.....			305.....	25		
173.....	3	50	246.....	3	00	305a.....	35		
174.....	2	00	247.....	2	00	306.....	5	00	
175.....			248.....	3	00	307.....	1	50	
176.....	4	00	249.....	1	25	308.....	2	00	
177.....	1	75	250.....	3	00	308a.....	50		
178.....	2	00	251.....	2	50	308b.....	40		
179.....	*1	50	252.....	*30		309.....	75		
180.....	2	50	253.....	*2	50	310.....	1	00	
181.....	4	00	254.....	3	50	310a.....	1	50	
182.....	1	50	255.....	2	50	310b.....	2	00	
183.....	2	50	256.....	4	00	310c.....	1	00	
184.....		35	256a.....			311.....	40		
185.....	3	00	257.....			312.....	1	00	
186.....	*50		258.....	40		312a.....			
187.....	75		258a.....	40		313.....	50*		
188.....	75		259.....			314.....	1	00	
189.....			260.....	*25		314.1.....			
190.....	75		261.....	50		315.....	10	00	
191.....	15		262.....	3	00	316.....	03		
191.1.....	7	50	263.....	15		317.....	1	00	
192.....	2	00	264.....	1	50	318.....	35		
194.....	40		265.....	3	00	319.....	15		
194a.....	1	00	266.....	2	00	320.....	30		
194b.....	50		267.....	*30		320a.....	30		
195.....	25		268.....			320b.....			
196.....	35		269.....	15		321.....			
197.....	15		269.1.....	2	50	322.....	75		
198.....	35		270.....	4	00	322.1.....			
199.....	12		271.....	*40		323.....			
200.....	15		272.....	2	00	324.....	90	00	
201.....	12		272a.....			325.....	75		
201a.....	1	00	273.....	15		326.....	75		
201b.....	1	00	274.....	1	50	327.....	10	00	
202.....	12		275.....	*25		328.....	4	00	
203.....	25		276.....	*30		329.....	4	00	
204.....	5	00	277.....	1	00	330.....	10	00	
205.....	6	00	277a.....	75		331.....	35		
206.....	3	50	278.....	50		332.....	1	50	
207.....	1	00	279.....	3	00	333.....	25		
208.....		20	280.....	35		334.....	2	00	
209.....			281.....	1	50	335.....	50		
210.....	50		282.....			336.....	*40		
211.....	12		283.....	5	00	337.....	50		
211a.....	35		283.1.....	2	00	337a.....	1	00	
211b.....	35		284.....	3	00	337b.....	60		
211c.....	20		285.....	*25		337d.....	5	00*	
211.2.....	50		286.....	75		339.....	35		
212.....	15		286.1.....	5	00	339a.....	50		
213.....	*30		287.....	1	75	339b.....	1	00	
214.....	10		288.....	2	00	340.....	3	00	
215.....	3	00	289.....	10		341.....	1	00	
216.....	3	00	289a.....	15		342.....	1	50	
216.1.....			289b.....	10		343.....	1	50	
217.....	20		291.....			344.....			
218.....	30		292.....	75		345.....	5	00	
219.....	12		292a.....	75		346.....	2	50	
220.....	*15		293.....	75		347.....	*60		
221.....	08		293a.....	35		347a.....	2	50	
222.....	1	50	294.....	12		348.....	2	00	
223.....	75		294a.....	12		349.....	7	50*	
224.....	75		295.....	30		350.....			
225.....	50		296.....	2	50	351.....	2	00	
226.....	50		297.....	1	50	352.....	4	00	
227.....	*1	75	297a.....	75		352a.....	6	00	
228.....	2	00	297b.....	1	50	353.....	5	00	
229.....	25		298.....	1	50	354.....	6	00	
230.....	1	50	298b.....			354a.....	6	00	
231.....	2	50	298c.....	3	00	354b.....	10	00	
232.....	2	50	299.....	3	50	355.....	4	00	
233.....	3	00	300.....	30		356.....	\$4.00	*1	50
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235.....	2	00	300b.....	75		357.....	3	00	
236.....	3	00	300c.....	40		357a.....			
237.....	3	00	301.....	1	00	358.....	8	00	
238.....			301a.....			358.1.....	*50		
239.....	5	00	302.....	\$1.50	50*	359.....	3	00	
240.....	3	00	302a.....	2	50	359.1.....	*25		
241.....	2	00	302b.....			360.....	25		
242.....	2	00	302c.....			360a.....	25		
242.1.....			302d.....			360b.....	30		
			302.1.....			361.....			

362	1 00	402	50	463	1 00
363	5 00	402a	1 00	464	20
364	75	403	1 50	464.1	
365	35	403a	2 00	464.2	
366	35	404	1 00	465	15
367	\$1 00	405	1 50	466	15
368	1 50	405a		466a	15
368a	2 00	406	10	467	15
368b	2 00	407	2 50	468	75
369	6 00	407a	40	469	1 00
369a		407b		469.1	
370	10 00	408	35	470	
370a	*5 00	409	30	470a	
371	5 00	410	35	471	60
372	3 00	411	1 50	472	
372a		412	05	472a	
373	40	412a	03	473	
373a	50	413	10	474	*15
373b	50	413a	20	474a	1 00
373c	40	414	50	474b	50
373d	2 00	414a		474c	25
373e	60	415		474d	30
373f	1 50	416	1 50	474e	35
373g	3 00	417	1 50	474f	50
373h	3 00	417a		474g	75
373.1	3 75	418	3 00	474h	1 00
373.2		418a	3 50	474i	75
374	2 75	418b	3 50	474j	
374a	5 00	419	2 50	474k	
375	1 25	420	40	474l	
375a	1 00	420a	40	474m	
375b	5 00	420b	75	475	15
375c		420c	50	476	50
375d	2 00	421	40	477	05
375e		422		477a	20
376	\$6 00	*3 00	15	478	1 00
377	*1 00	423	75	478a	75
377a	3 00	424		478b	1 00
378	15	425		478c	1 50
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379	2 50	427	60	479	1 00
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379.1		429	50	480.1	
380	2 50	430	50	480.2	1 00
381	2 00	431		481	20
382		431.1		481a	
382.1	3 00	432	1 00	481b	
383	1 00	433	75	481c	
384	75	434	60	481.1	
385	20	435		482	1 00
386	1 00	436	2 00	483	1 00
386a		437		484	1 50
387	10	438		484a	
387a	20	439	1 50	484b	
388	15	440		484c	
388.1		440.1		485	2 50
389	5 00	441		485a	3 00
390	20	441.1	5 00	486	1 50
390.1		442		486a	1 50
391	2 00	443	10	487	60
392		444	04	488	05
393	50	445	50	488a	35
393a		446	1 00	489	35
393b	1 00	447	08	490	35
393c	75	448	25	491	7 50
393d	1 00	449	2 00	492	2 50
393e	75	450	1 50	493	15
393f		451	2 00	494	25
394	25	452	15	495	03
394a	35	453	25	495a	10
394b	1 00	453a	1 00	496	40
394c	20	454	25	497	05
394d		454a	1 00	498	02
394e	40	454b		498a	40
395	1 50	455	1 00	498b	
396	25	455a	1 50	498c	12
396a		456	04	498d	
397	1 00	457	15	498e	10
398	2 00	458	50	498f	06
399	1 00	458a	10	499	10
400	1 50	459	1 50	500	10
401	2 50	460	2 50	501	10
401a		461	12	501a	50
401b		462	20	501b	10
		462a		501c	15

502		542a		581m	15
503	2 00	542b	15	581n	
504	1 50	542c	20	581o	
505	35	543	1 00	581.1	
505a	25	544	1 00	582	3 00
506	06	544a	1 00	583	75
507	06	544b	2 50	583a	
508	10	544c		584	15
509	1 00	545	1 50	585	1 00
510	05	546		585a	
511	06	546a	20	585 pt	2 00
511a	15	546b	20	585 pt 2	
511b	04	547	50	585 pt 3	2 00
513	15	547a	1 50	585 pt 4	
513a	15	548	2 00	585b	2 00
514	4 00	549	25	585c	2 00
514a	4 00	549.1		585d	2 50
515	1 25	549a		586	35
515a		550	25	587	15
515b		550a		587a	50
515c		550b		588	75
515d		550c		588a	20
516		550d		588b	25
517	25	551		588c	
517a	35	552	05	588d	25
518	1 00	552a		588e	
519	05	553		589	
519b		554	50	591	50
519c	35	554a	1 00	591a	1 00
520		554b	15	591b	10
520.1		557	1 50	591c	15
521	5 00	558	35	592	60
521a	5 00	559	75	592.1	60
522	5 00	559a	75	593	05
523	2 50	560	02	593a	1 00
524	2 50	560a	10	593b	1 00
524a		561	35	593c	30
525	5 00	562	35	593d	30
526	5 00	563	03	594	1 00
527	1 50	563a	20	594a	35
527a	1 50	564		594b	1 50
529	06	565	1 00	595	10
529a	10	566	1 50	596	15
529b	15	567	50	597	25
530	10	567a	50	597a	25
530b	50	567b pt	75	598	08
531	25	567b	1 50	599	15
532		567c	75	600	
533	1 50	567d	75	600a	
534	50	567e	75	601	12
534a	1 50	568	1 50	602	50
535		569	1 00	603	1 00
536	75	570	1 00	603.1	
536a		570a	1 00	604	10
537	1 50	571		605	20
538	35	571.1		606	2 00
539	1 00	572		607	
540	05	573	40	607.1	75
540a	15	573a	50	608	25
540b	20	574	75	609	1 50
528	*35	574a	1 00	610	25
528a		574b		610a	1 50
528b		575	1 00	611	15
529	06	575a	1 50	611a	
529a	10	576	2 00	611.1	
529b	15	578	1 00	612	04
530	10	579	3 75	612.1	
530b	50	580	2 00	612.2	
531	25	580a	2 00	613	05
532		580b	2 25	614	15
533	1 50	580c		615	40
534	50	581	03	615a	
534a	1 50	581a	35	615.1	
535		581b	25	616	03
536	75	581c	08	617	25
536a		581d	10	618	1 50
537	1 50	581e	25	619	10
538	35	581f	50	620	35
539	1 00	581g		621	1 00
540	05	581h	1 00	622	08
540a	15	581i	1 50	622a	08
540b	20	581j		622b	08
541		581k	40	622c	
542	2 50	581.1	40	623	1 50

624	10	681e	50	728	1	25
625	1	682		729		35
626		682.1	1	730	00	50
627	20	683	08	730a		
627a	30	683a	10	731		50
628	30	684	50	731a		50
629		685	1	732	50	75
629a	1	685a	85	733		50
629b		685b	65	733a		
629c	75	686	1	733b	50	
629d		687	15	734		2
630	1	688	2	735	00	15
631	15	689		735a		60
631a	1	690	2	735b	50	35
631b		691		736		15
631c	1	692		736a		50
632	2	693		737		1
632a	2	694		*10		50
632c	1	695		738		
633	25	696	1	739		
633.1	30	697	1	740	50	1
634	1	698	75	740a		25
635	1	699	*10	740b		75
636	50	700	*75	740c		75
637	25	701	3	741	00	75
638	1	702	1	741a	25	50
639	70	703	05	741b		75
640		703a	05	742		60
641	1	704	02	742a		75
642	75	705	03	743		25
643	1	706	03	743a		15
644	2	707	20	743b		
645	1	707a	20	744		1
645a		708	35	744.1		50
646	2	709	50	745		75
646a	75	709a	2	746	00	40
646b		710	2	746a	00	75
647		710a	20	747		
648	25	711	30	748		2
648a	25	711a	2	748a	00	2
649	2	712	2	749	00	2
650		713	1	749a	00	
651	2	713a	20	750		
652	05	713b	20	751		25
652a	50	713c	20	751a		35
652b		715	50	752		75
653		716	20	753		50
654	1	717	75	754		1
654a		717a	60	755	50	06
655	75	717b	1	756		12
656	1	718	12	756a	00	1
656a	2	718a	12	757		50
657	50	718b	50	757a		
658	2	719	50	758		15
659	20	719a	25	758a		40
660	1	719b	25	758b		15
661	75	719c	25	758c		
662	2	719d	25	759		1
663	1	719e	35	759a	50	1
663a	3	719.1	35	759b		00
664	2	720	35	759c		35
665	2	721	70	760		1
666	1	721a	10	761		*25
667	50	721b	10	761a		03
668	2	722	10	761b		10
669	5	722a	1	762		04
670		722b	1	763		
671	50	723	1	763a	00	2
672	3	724	00	764	50	2
672a	3	725	05	765		*75
673	30	725a	12	765a		*10
674	20	725b	12	766		
675	1	725c	15	766a		05
675a	1	725.1	12	767		
676	35	726	1	767a		10
677	75	726a	1	767b	25	
678		726b	1	768	50	
679	2	726c	1			12
680	1	726d	25			
681	15	727				
681a	25	727a	40			
681b	1	727b	75			
681c	25	727c				
681d	15	727d	75			

BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.*An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region*ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*

J. CLAIRE WOOD,

ADOLPHE B. COVERT, *Associates.*

Each issue of the Bulletin is filled with notes fresh from the field and museum. A large corps of field ornithologists are among its contributors, which makes the Bulletin indispensable to all students interested in the bird-life in the region about the Great Lakes. The prospects for 1904 point toward a greater increase in size and general interest.

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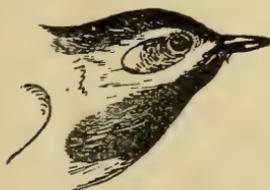
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OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERM.Y.

VOL. XXI. No. 8.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1904.

WHOLE No. 205

WANTS, FOR SALES AND EXCHANGES.

Brief Special announcements "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 25 cents per 25 words. Notices over 25 words charged at the rate of 1-2 cent for each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 25 cents. Terms, cash with order. Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at 1-3 list rates.

What's Your Number ?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's Oölogist. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

205	"	"	"	"	Oct., 1904
207	"	"	"	"	Dec., 1904
209	"	"	"	"	Mar., 1905
212	"	"	"	"	Dec., 1905
257	"	"	"	"	Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

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.

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- Prairie Hen, 1-9, 1-7, 1-13, 1-14 08
- Sharp-tailed Grouse, 1-10, 1-11, 1-12 25
- Marsh Hawk, 1-7, 1-5 15
- Cooper's Hawk, 1-4, 10
- Red-tailed Hawk, 1-4, 1-2, 5-3 18
- Swainson Hawk, 1-4, 2-3, 1-2 20
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- Swamp Sparrow, 1-5 10
- Arctic Towhee, 1-4 25
- Tree Swallow, 1-4 05
- Barn, do, 1-6 26
- Loggerhead Shrike, 1-7 04
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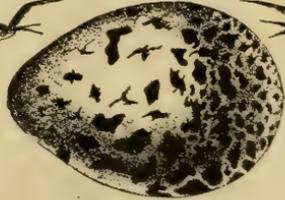
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Bronzed Grackle.....	25
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White-rumped Sandpiper.....	75
Killdeer.....	30
Least Sandpiper.....	25
Red-headed Woodpecker.....	35
Red-headed Woodpecker, young male.....	30
Pine Grosbeak, male.....	50
Pine Grosbeak, young male.....	35
Pine Grosbeak, female.....	25
Snowflake.....	15
Bullock's Oriole, female.....	25
Prairie Horned Lark.....	30
Indigo Bunting.....	20
Purple Finch, female.....	15
Song Sparrow.....	75
Bluebird, young male.....	15
White-breasted Nuthatch.....	15
Chickadee.....	15
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THIS PAPER IS PRINTED at the Book and Magazine Publishing House of A. M. EDDY, Albion, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 8.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1904.

WHOLE No. 205

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OÖLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND
TAXIDERMISTRY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and Items of Interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Single subscription.....50c per annum
Sample copies.....5c each
The above rates include payment of postage.

Each subscriber is given a card good for a Want, Exchange or For Sale Notice. (This card is redeemable at any time within one year from date thereon.)

Subscriptions can begin with any number. Back numbers of the Oölogist can be furnished at reasonable rates. Send stamp for descriptions and prices.

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12 lines in every inch. Seven inches in a column, and two columns to the page.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

My Song Sparrow.

Three years ago late in the spring of the year, my boy and I were walking

beside a muddy brook, overlooking the fields near the town of Malden, Massachusetts, and, as we were looking for birds' nests, I heard what I supposed was a Song Sparrow, that had young birds. I told the boy we would try the same place next spring earlier, and see if we could discover the nest.

Early the next spring my wife and I went down to the little brook and discovered under one of the three tussocks of grass, a black hole, which I supposed was the work of the bird of the previous year, on visiting it later I found a nest and five eggs inserted in the black hole, or so called, the cellar of her home.

The next fall I tore the nest out and the following spring, which was last year, I discovered on Lexington Day, the 19th of April, a nest and four eggs, which did not resemble the nest or eggs of the previous year as they were more like the Swamp Sparrows.

On consulting Mr. Webster, the Naturalist, he pronounced them the Song Sparrow. I shall watch the same cavity this year with much interest.

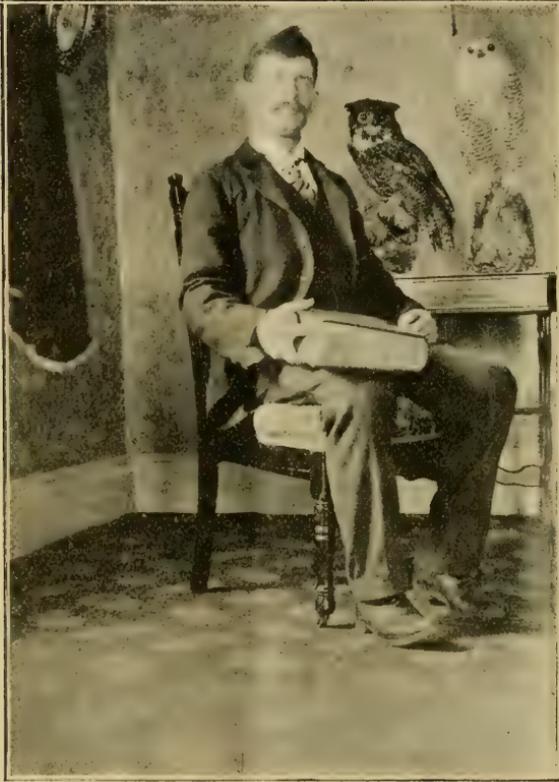
EDWARD S. COOMBS,
Malden, Mass.

From Ohio.

Owing to the stirring up our Game Wardens gave the milliners last year, I am thankful to say, I have seen more flowers and less of birds used on ladies hats this winter.

If the Wardens in other states would follow the example of the Ohio Game Commission in such work as they did last year it would mean the stoppage of the slaughter of our birds to decorate hats with.

O. DAVIE, JR.,
Columbus, O.



Who! Who! Who! and Who?

Woodcock in Hard Luck.

In our locality April 13th is usually the time to look for full sets of Woodcock eggs. This year as in others was no exception, although if you remember on that date and the next day we were visited by a tremendous snowfall to the extent of about 8 inches, which was partially melted by the sun and froze hard again during the night, and two days later another snow-fall occurred. Saturday morning found me on the Cattaraugus Reservation, which is an ideal locality for the nesting of this bird. The ground was completely covered with about 5 inches of crust covered snow. In company with a couple of Indian boys, we immediately began our search for the Woodcock or their traces. We soon found the tracks of a pair where they had been feeding or trying to, around partly frozen water holes. We flushed the birds and began looking the ground or rather snow over carefully for the nests, but found none in that vicinity, but on following the back tracks of a single bird, which evidently were made the previous day, we found after following those tracks at least a quarter of a mile, the spot where the bird had evidently started on his walk to the water holes. On examining the place nothing but a slight depression was found, appearing somewhat more dirty than the otherwise clean snow. We were beginning to think that the bird had taken this place, which was a small clump of bushes as a refuge from the snow storms, when it was suggested, that perhaps after all the nest might be under the hard frozen snow. No sooner suggested, than we all were down on our knees, taking turns at melting the snow with our breath. After a few minutes we were rewarded by the sight of one egg, and by continuing we found a fine set of four eggs, the first egg lying directly in the middle and on top of the other three eggs, and being separated by a layer of at least an inch of snow. From this I take it that when the first snow storm came, the bird had only three eggs laid and had a hard time keeping on the eggs for any great length of time, as the Woodcock lives on worms in the soft marshy ground, and consequently could not remain a long time on the eggs, or the vast amount of falling snow made the bird continually shift until by constantly moving the eggs were covered with snow, then the next day the other egg was deposited as before mentioned, when the last snow-fall occurred, which the bird could not withstand and finally deserted nest and eggs. We found several more sets in the same way on that day, and in each case the eggs were found as described.

They are beautifully marked and colored from light to dark shades and vary greatly in size.

EDWARD REINECKE, Buffalo, N. Y.



Photo of Woodcock on nest taken by Edward Reinecke, April 13, 1902.

It admirably illustrates the effect of protective coloration in natural haunts of the bird. Only the closest scrutiny will bring out the bird in the picture and it would be even more difficult to pick her out in reality with a constantly changing light and the natural blending of harmonious colors.

A Sunday Morning Ramble.

As we are not all blessed with a lot of worldly treasures, we cannot always pick the days that we best like for a stroll in the woods, but must take that stroll whenever we can get it. So that is why I am here to record a "Sunday's Ramble."

On April 17th of the present year, I found myself up early and on my way to the depot to board an electric car for a chain of sand hills at Lynnhaven Inlet on Chesapeake Bay, ranging from one quarter to half a mile in width. One side being fringed by a small stream along the bank of which, in some places, the sand is very steep, but in other places spots of

wooded land, with marshy damp soil is found, while on the hills we find only scrub pine, farther from the beach, scrub oak becomes plentiful, and much of the sand is grown over with grapevines and briars. Here we find Cardinals but no nest, may be they escaped my notice as I did not search very long for them.

My little friend, the Carolina Wren is also here for I can hear the song of at least three at once, but they keep pretty well out of sight. Perhaps they are nesting by this date, but have not found any eggs. Without moving any further I can hear the pleasant song of a Pine Warbler as he swings gently, to and fro, on the topmost bough of a small pine. Here is his

mate with a mouthfull of material that she is carrying to a pine near by. A nest, nearly complete; perhaps a set for some future day.

The next is the song of a Maryland Yellow-throat coming from a part of the marshy border of the stream. No nest as yet for the season is not far enough advanced for our summer visitors to begin nesting, but then I can enjoy his song as he flits nervously about and utters it at intervals of a few seconds. Here goes a Belted Kingfisher flying as if mad, also another, uttering his discordant notes; as he flies within a few feet of where I am standing, my attention is attracted by the always pleasant notes of the Carolina Chickadee, coming from a small cluster of pines to my right. Search as I may there is no nest to be found, although it must be under way of construction somewhere near, even if there are no eggs yet.

Imagine my delight, when upon rapping on a stump, Mrs. Brown-headed Nuthatch thrusts her head through the neat entrance to her nesting shanty, but picture my disappointment when I see but two eggs, fresh and warm, laying in a nest of pine seed leaves and feathers. I leave them for the uneasy pair that are flying around my head and giving vent to their displeasure.

Many Rough-winged Swallows are flying around over the water and sand, with now and then a specimen of the White-bellied, only a migrant, but very commonly observed at certain times of the season. Now we behold a fine specimen of the Southern Hairy Woodpecker drumming away at leisure on the limb of a dead pine some thirty feet distant. Flickers are numerous flying here and there, they appear to be very restless.

Boat-tailed Grackles and Red-winged Blackbirds are frequently seen and heard to utter their discordant notes.

Crows are common, both the Common and Fish, one nest found but not examined, it being too high for a climb.

We note the Field, Chipping and Grasshopper Sparrows all pretty common; the first two remaining with us throughout the summer season, while the Grasshopper leaves us very shortly for the north. One Red-shouldered Hawk observed soaring away at leisure far above the top of the tallest of the pines, while several Sparrow Hawks are mated in different parts of the tract before us. They may have nests in some of the old Flicker's nests later in the season.

In addition to the above we observe several Mockingbirds, two Mourning Doves and Turkey Vultures soaring away far above. Towhees are frequently observed, with a few Bluebirds. Several varieties of Gulls are plentiful and a few Ducks are seen. While on returning home by the same route, a nest of the Osprey, placed on the broken end of a pine stump about fifty feet high is located; nest occupied last season and is in repair for the present. A little farther and we find Meadow-larks by the dozen, probably not so common later flying around over the fields. Chimney Swifts are abundant, having been arriving steadily from the south for the last half month.

R. P. SMITHWICK,
Norfolk, Va.

From A Worcester, Mass., Newspaper.

RIGHT OF SEARCH BILL IS BROUGHT INTO USE.

CLOSE TIME MENTIONED IN CHARGE.

The right of search law passed at the last session of the legislature was given its first trial in Worcester yesterday, when chief deputy John F. Luman of Palmer and Deputy commissioners D. F. Shea of Ware, and A. D. Putnam of Spencer visited Charles K. Reed's

taxidermist's store and workshop on Thomas street.

They found 69 partridges, 27 quail and half a dozen pheasants, some of them mounted, and the skins of others ready for mounting.

Mr. Reed was summoned to appear in Central street Court this morneng on the charge of having game birds in his possession in the close season. The charge of having game birds in possession with intent to sell will also be brought against the defendent.

The attention of the Massachusetts fish and game commission was directed to Mr. Reed by a New York organization for the protection of birds. The New York society discovered an advertisement for quail Mr. Reed is running in the Oologist, published in Albion, N. Y.

Mr. Reed's explanation is that he is running the advertisement to buy scientific skins of the birds from taxidermist's to mount and send to St. Louis to the World's fair, where he is showing a collection. He maintains that he does not buy the game birds. He says he has no knowledge that such a practice is violation of the law, and that if it is he will be glad to learn it.

The fact that very few people know how to remove the skin of a bird to prepare it for mounting, indicates to their minds that the advertisement was not for skins only, they say.

The deputy commissioners maintain that there should be no distinction between killing game birds out of season for mounting purposes and for the pot. The bird is killed, and it is to protect the bird that they are seeking to stop the practice.

Judge Utley Rebukes Three Game Wardens.

"It seems to me that state officers, men appointed as fish and game wardens ought to know the difference between a crow and a quail or a bluebird

and a sparrow. I have not the power of appointment in that respect but I think if I did possess that power I would appoint men who knew their business. "There is no case against this man."

After delivering a stinging rebuke to three deputy fish and game wardens in the central district court this morning Judge Samuel Utley discharged Charles K. Reed, taxidermist at 75 Thomas street who was charged with violating the provisions of Sections 2 and 3 of Chapter 92 fish and game laws.

Reed was discharged after a long hearing during which Webster Thayer of Thayer & Cobb argued for him. Jere R. Kane appeared for the government. During the trial Atty. Thayer remarked that if the defendent had bird skins in his store they were not birds; if a man wore leather shoes they were not cows.

Deputy fish and game warden John F. Luman of Palmer testified that he and Debuty fish and game wardens A. D. Putnam of Spencer and Dennis F. Shea of Ware visited Reed's store yesterday afternoon and found specimens of stuffed quail there. Witness said he visited the store Saturday after seeing an advertisement in which the defendant offered to buy quail. He asked Reed why he did not get his quail from breeders and Reed replied that it was now the close season. Witness claimed that men in the store were skinning about 20 quail. The "quail" were imported. French partridge which are on sale in the markets all the year.

Under cross examination the witness admitted that the advertisement was for skinned quail and bobwhites. He said two dozen were advertised for by Reed.

The law which Reed was charged with violating states that no person shall have game birds in his possession. The defense interpreted the

law, as meaning birds and not *bird skins* and ruled that the state officers had no right to arrest a man for keeping stuffed birds any more than they could for keeping any kind of a stuffed animal.

Judging from this attack on Mr. Reed it would seem that some people who are looking after the interests of our birds become so zealous in the pursuit of violations of the game laws that they overlook the fact that the possession of a scientific bird skin *does not* violate any law.

We regret the trouble the little ad at the end of this article brought to Mr. Reed and print the matter in full as it is of great importance.

Had there been proof that the skins were taken out of season the matter would then have been a case against the collector and *not* against Mr. Reed as, after scientific preparation they ceased to be "game."

And again,—many of the states grant special permits for this work even in the closed season—hence the zealous members of our "Bird Protection" societies should "look twice before they leap" thereby saving a lot of trouble for all concerned.

No ad of this character would be printed in the *Oologist* were it remotely suspected that any but scientific skins collected in accordance with the laws of the collectors state, were desired and we supposed everyone in the position of the complainant in this case, (we understand it was the Editor of a prominent New York City Sporting Magazine) would so understand.

Following is the ad' referred to:

WANTED.—Skins of Bob-white (Am. Quail). Cash or exchange. Can use several dozen. Address at once. CHAS. K. REED. Worcester, Mass. Taxidermist.

Editor.

North American Birds' Eggs.

CHESTER A. REED.

The Quail Trap, June 9, 1904.—As the oldest working field oologist in the country, it is becoming for me to say a long word of praise for the latest addition to the literature of bird's eggs. My shelves contain everything extant

or procurable on this subject. I corresponded with Dr. Brewer, the closet naturalist, who first published colored lithographs of American eggs, and I have stacks of letters from Major Bendire, presentation copies of whose life histories are now before me. Further reminders of this lamented curator are also close at hand in the shape of sets of American raven, painted partridge, sage cock, Bendire's Thrasher, white pelican and pigmy owl. It is strange that most pretentious works on eggs are incomplete. Both Brewer's and Bendire's treatises were issued by the government and both authors died with their congenial tasks unfinished. Brewer's American Oology is out of print and becoming rare among collectors. Bendire's Life Histories may be completed by Dr. Ralph in the near future. The Jones Sisters' de luxe Nests and Eggs of Southern Ohio is too expensive for use and the copper plates are now destroyed. One of the authors of the magnificent work also died before the hand-coloring was done. Thomas G. Gentry's pleasing plates of Pennsylvania nests and eggs embraced but few species and left much to be desired. And so on down from the "bigwig bird doctors" to the lesser lights of oology. There have been several editions of Davies to make new additions and insert species not figured at first. Nor must we forget the dead or suspended Ornithologist and Oologist, once printed in this city, The *Oologist*, The *Western Oologist*, The *Texas Oologist*, The *Maine Oologist*, and kindred publications. Later we will include all these ephemera in a bibliography of American and foreign eggs books. Maynard and Ingersoll's praiseworthy attempts at egg-portraiture were both unfinished. So we welcome the new-comer to our library. Reed's North American Birds' Eggs may be described by the four C's—crisp, compact, comprehen-

sive and complete. The text does not describe every known phrase of color, nor deviations from the usual design. All this verbiage is purposely left out, and only the common type given. It is left to our own field experience to note the variations and additions which only emphasize the common specimens here submitted as the rule. I did not think before this excellent handbook that uncolored plates of eggs could so perfectly represent the object sought to be figured. The reproductions show the most suitable selections from a very large series. The photographs are so good that any water colorist with a touch or two of a brush to these cuts could show us the egg itself to the life. As it is, every species is at once recognized without the accompanying text and color guide.

C. L. R.

Norwich Bulletin (Conn.)

Albino Robins.

On or about April 15, 1904 a pair of Robins (*Merula migratoria*) arrived here from the south and took up their summer home in a large field surrounded with fir and small spruce bushes. The male bird is pure snow-white, while the female has a lovely pink breast but is white otherwise. This is the first pair of albinos that ever came under my notice. A beautiful albino crow was taken here last summer.

S. G. JEWETT,
Fredericton, N. B.,
Canada.

EDITORIAL.

The Person depicted in our frontispiece is in good company

All subscribers, except his personal acquaintances, are invited to guess his name.

Laying in another bird's nest. Data. Brewers Blackbird, set $\frac{1}{3}$, col-

lected June 3, 1902 by H. F. Duprey at Bodega, California. Two of the eggs in this set are Brewers Blackbird, the other egg is a typical one of California Shrike and unquestionably laid by that bird. Since description of nest calls for mud, the Shrike must have been the intruder.

The display of eggs of Pennsylvania birds in Agricultural building at St. Louis was loaned by J. Warren Jacobs whose exhibit at Chicago attracted much attention.

On June 7, 1901, Mr. E. W. Springer of Owatonna, Minn. took a double (two story) nest of Yellow Warbler the lower story containing two eggs of Warbler and two of Cowbird and the upper one six eggs of Warbler and two of Cowbird. This is the largest nestful ever brought to my notice. The set was lightly marked.

REVIEW.

"The making of an Herbarium" by Willard N. Clute, Editor of "The Fern Bulletin" published by Chas. D. Pendell, Binghamton, N. Y. The sub-title of this work "A complete guide as to methods of procedure and requirements" accurately describes this well written illustrated pamphlet which should be in the hand of all beginners in botany. The price, only 25c, puts it within reach of all.

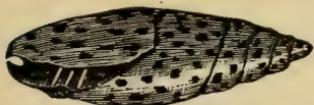
Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 7.

Nature study, Vol. XIII, No. 7.

Bulletin of the Michigan Ornithological Club, Vol. V, No. 2. The Amateur Naturalist, Vol. I. No. 4. Condor, Vol. VI, No. 4.

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J. F. Powell,

m. 6. t. Waukegan, Ill.

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WALTER F. WEBB,

416 Grand Ave., Rochester, N. Y.

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Manager of Oologist.

CHILI, N. Y.

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CHAS. K. REED,

Worcester, Mass.

BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.

An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, JR., Editor.

J. CLAIRE WOOD,

W. B. BARROWS, Associates.

Each issue of the Bulletin is filled with notes fresh from the field and museum. A large corps of field ornithologists are among its contributors, which makes the Bulletin indispensable to all students interested in the bird-life in the region about the Great Lakes. The prospects for 1904 point toward a greater increase in size and general interest.

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Aug. 3. t.

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VOL. XXI. No. 9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEP., 1904.

WHOLE No. 206

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEP., 1904.

WHOLE No. 206

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXI-
DERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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The California Bush-tit and Parkman's Wren.

By HARRY H. DUNN.

For a good many years I have been interested in the nesting habits of these two birds, probably because both breed in much the same localities and

because the nests of both have been, up to within a season or two at most, a sort of chinese puzzle to me and I have found very few of them. The finding of a Bush-tit's nest is often a matter of patient watching until the parent birds become accustomed to your presence, when they will usually go to the nest. But a wren is quite otherwise constituted, and while she will scold you while you are removing the eggs from her home, she will not, unless she does not see you at all, go to her nest while the collector is near. In this respect Parkman's Wren is different from Vigor's Wren, whose eggs I have collected in this locality, in that the latter will invariably go to the nest when watched and not even try to conceal her home from prying eyes.

In the oak-covered flats, the bottoms grown up to Sycamores and even back in the slopes where the pines begin, Parkman's Wren is an abundant bird, everywhere much in evidence, cheering the otherwise quiet hills with its short but sweet song, and nesting commonly in the dead trees (and in woodpecker's holes in some of the live ones,) throughout its range. In the accompanying photo a typical nesting site is well shown. On the day in which this picture was taken, my friend, Mr. H. A. Bradford, of Placentia, and myself were out prospecting for Wrens and Bush-tits, when he found the nest here presented.

Some wandereing camper had cut from a sturdy elder tree one of its largest limbs, leaving it to hang by a portion of the stout bark. At some time



previous to the cutting off of the limb a woodpecker had cut two connecting holes in the thickest part of the branch. Entering from the upper of these two holes, the Wren had built a platform within and thereon deposited her seven eggs, all fresh and carefully removed to the growing collection of my friend. Around on the other side of the tree there was an unfinished Woodpecker's nest which we investigated, succeeding which he proceeded to chop out the lesser bird and in resting between strokes of the hatchet the camera caught him. The usual bunch of small sticks is shown protruding from the hole in the tree and without these

there is very little use in chopping into the nest of one of these birds, for, even though the nest be new and the birds ever so anxious there is every probability that it will contain no eggs. They seem to complete this lattice work of twigs after the full number of the set has been laid rather than when the horsehair lining is put in, and it is a sure protection against mice and snakes and possibly against the English Sparrow, if that pest ever gets so far west as this. There are literally thousands of such trees as the one here shown scattered over southern California and it is no exaggeration to say that in nearly every



one of them, especially in suitable localities, there will be found a Wren's nest during the months from the last week of April to the end of June—and possibly later. It has been my experience that sets of seven predominate in the eggs laid by this bird, but frequently sets of eight and nine are found. Small sets of five and six are usually incomplete and if left may or may not be filled, just as the bird happens to feel about it. I have left small sets after having chopped a huge hole in the tree and had them completed; on the other hand, I have left them in

a nest scarcely disturbed from its first condition and found them abandoned when I came again. The greatest number of sets of this Wren that I ever found in one day was nine, and they ranged in size from seven to nine eggs, all fresh, all easily collected and all safely blown, a feat I have not equaled though I have taken many sets since. This was in 1902, I believe though I am not sure, and on about the 20th of May. The little red eggs of this bird are not nearly so fragile as those of many another small bird of similar region and size—probably

they are purposely tougher so that any accidental rolling against the woody sides of the nest will not break them.

But the nests of the Bush-tit are quite different even though the two birds are often near neighbors in their nest building. From the willow-covered lowlands that border on the coast to the first beginning of the pines will be found the restless, noisy little Bush-tits, the dull grays of their plumage intergrading well with the foliage of the trees and brush through which they hunt insects the whole day long. Most of the Bush-tits, however, retreat to the oak-groves of the hill-sides as the breeding season comes on and there remain until well into the fall when they with their broods scatter out over a greater area in search of food. In the other photo shown herewith, the writer of these lines has just discovered a nest, which an inquisitive finger has told him is full of eggs, placed out among the small branches on the extreme end of an oak limb some six feet from the ground. This was about thirty feet from the site of the Wren's nest just described and on the same bit of flat land in the bottom of a canyon grown up to various trees. This nest as may be seen at a glance at the photo, was a very long one even for this famous builder of pendulous nests, and when one of these is hidden in an oak tree in the manner in which most small birds know how to hide their nests, it is no snap to find it.

Sets are most usually of from seven to nine eggs, the latter rarely, while some birds, nesting in the same locality year after year, lay but five or six, never more. Ninety per cent of the nests, however, contain seven eggs when the sets are full, and so downy and finely made are these nests that hardly a single egg is ever broken either by the wind or by the birds themselves, but I might add that a

good many are broken by me in getting them out of these nests for they are the most easily broken egg in the world, barring none. In fact about the only way to get them out of one of the long, bottle-shaped nests unbroken is to tip the nest upside down on a sheet of cotton and let the eggs roll out, taking a chance that none of them get damaged. This is a bird I never was very "strong" on, either, but they seem to be on the increase of late and I have hopes of adding to my already small series, consisting of seven sets, this season. Nothing to my mind looks prettier, both to the artistic and oological eye than a nice series of Wrens of all species and a well-filled series of Bush-tits in the same drawer; the two always seem to me to belong together more than any two other North American species.

Los Angeles, California.

Breeding of the White-throated Swift.

(Through the courtesy of Prof. Robert H. Wolcott I have before me a copy of the proceedings of the Nebraska Ornithologist's Union (3rd meeting) and among other interesting articles, I find the following written by M. A. Carriker, Jr., of Nebraska City, Nebr. Probably a few of the *Oologists'* readers have seen this but in apology we would remind these that hundreds of them have not and as very little has ever been published about this bird we reproduce the article in full.—ED.)

"This interesting bird has for several years been known to be an inhabitant of the canons of Sioux and Danes counties and has been supposed to breed there, but until May 30, 1901, no nest or eggs had ever been seen or taken. Indeed very little is known of the breeding of this bird anywhere on account of the usually inaccessible situation which it selects for a nesting site.

In May, 1900, a party consisting of Mr. G. S. Hunter, Mr. Merritt Cary and Mr. J. C. Crawford, Jr., located a colony of perhaps a dozen pairs of these birds near the head of West Munroe Canon in Sioux County, but

were unable to reach the places where the birds appeared to have their nests. So in 1901 the party went with a firm determination to secure eggs of the birds. On May 30, our party consisting of Prof. Bruner, Dr. Wolcott, Mr. Cary and myself, visited the cliff occupied by the birds the year before and found that they had returned and to all appearances had nests, under construction at least, in the crevices of the cliff about seventy feet above the base of the perpendicular wall of rock.

The home of the birds was a bold convex cliff, forming one wall of the canon and facing to the southwest. On the south side, about two-thirds of the distance to the top, was a ledge upon which rested the last year's nest of a pair of Krider's Hawks and into which Mr. Hunter had longingly gazed, from the top of a neighboring pine, at the two eggs, so near and yet so far. Around this nest and on the west side of the cliff were scattered the nest of the Swifts, as could be seen by the way in which they were constantly darting in and out of the cracks and crevices, keeping up a constant vigorous chatting as they wheeled, circled and darted about in the vicinity of the cliff. Their swiftness of wing and the poor footing made the work of collecting any for skins well nigh an impossibility, and it was only after a long-continued fusillade that one lone bird was secured. After various plans of reaching the nests had been discussed, I volunteered to make an attempt to climb the cliff. The trunk of a small pine, cut down by Mr. Hunter the year before, lay at the base of the cliff, and when this was erected I was able to ascend about one-third of the distance to a narrow projection of rock at a point where several nests were supposed to be. As may be seen from the photograph, there is a shoulder of rock, but a few feet in width, running perpendicular-

ly up the side of the cliff and ending in the projection I have just mentioned. This shoulder was made by a vertical section of the face of the cliff slipping down and still remaining in an upright though rather unstable condition, and it was up the narrow side of this section that I must climb in order to reach the much desired nests above. This cliff consists, as do all the rocks of the region, of a soft sandstone which is rapidly disintegrated by the action of the elements upon it. This fact made the ascent far more precarious than it otherwise would have been, since one could never tell when the portion of rock which sustained his weight would tumble away. But while this was a great difficulty, it was also the means which made it possible for me to ascend the cliff, since I was able, with the small handaxe which I carried, to cut foot and hand holds in the rock and thus gradually make the ascent.

I think any one can appreciate the task of clinging to the nearly perpendicular face of a cliff for the length of time sufficient to cut steps for the ascent of nearly fifty feet. But persistence finally overcame all obstacles and I stood at the top within easy reach of three nests, one of which was still empty while another contained one egg and the third two. The nests were made entirely of feathers, glued into a compact mass by means of the saliva of the bird, and also securely fastened by the same means to the bottom of the vertical fissures in the rock in which they were placed. By this time Dr. Wolcott had climbed by a round-about way to the top of the cliff and let down a coil of rope over the face of the rock to assist me in the descent. Owing to the overhanging nature of the cliff, the rope hung out several feet beyond reach and I was compelled to draw the end up by means of a

stout cord which I happened to have. Taking a turn of the rope around one leg, I started to slide down but stopped a short distance below at a fourth nest. Clinging to the rope with one hand and leg I chopped away the rock with the other hand until the nest was reached and the four fresh eggs safely transferred to my mouth and later to the ground. On June 14th, Mr. Cary and I returned to the cliff and I secured sets from the three nests which I visited first on my former ascent. On this trip I secured photographs of the cliff and the nest and eggs.

On June 2nd, Prof. Bruner located another nest in the west branch of Warbonnet Canon. This was not so high as the others, being not more than twenty feet from the base of the cliff, and was easily reached by cutting a slender pine and leaning it against the cliff. But two eggs were secured from this nest. In all, five nests were found and sets secured from each, two of four eggs, two of three, and one of two. The eggs are pure dull white more or less specked and spotted by some black foreign substance which can be only partly removed by washing. They are long and pointed, as can be seen by the measurements. The eggs in a typical set of four measured respectively, 25 x 15, 22 x 14, 22 x 14 m. m. The smallest of the sixteen eggs collected measures 21 x 13 m m; the largest 25 x 15; while the average is 22.7 x 13.6. During incubation the parents are much attached to the nesting locality and fly constantly back and forth before the cliff. The female sits very close, often having to be removed by force, which is dangerous to the safety of the eggs, as any one who has seen or felt their claws can testify. The nest are invariably infested by a hemipterous insect much resembling the common bed bug. Whether these insects live parasitically upon the young birds or not,

I cannot say, but none were ever found upon the adults. These birds are quite common in all the canons of the Pine Ridge where there are large cliffs with fissures of a sufficient height from the ground to suit the birds. I also saw a few in August around the large bluff at Gering, Neb., known as Scott's Bluff.

Nighthawk and Whip-poor-will.

The Nighthawk is a characteristic bird of eastern New York, and although usually seen about dusk, it is by no means a bird of night. All day long, in the months of June and July, it is seen zigzagging over the berry fields, clearing the higher ethereal regions of insects and thereby becoming invaluable to man. Once in a while the birds come and alight in the tall pine trees studding the blue-berry fields and so lethargic are its slumbers when thus alit that a stone may be thrown that hits the branch upon which the sleeper sits, and still he "waketh not." For a long time I had hunted in vain for the nest of this bird and at last came to the conclusion that it was not my fortune to see a set taken from this locality, when on Monday, July, 11, 1904, a friend of mine, Axel Olsson, found an egg while berry picking in the above mentioned fields. The old bird was flushed from the nest(?) and tried various alluring methods to entice him away, but he didn't "entice," and took the imperfect set of one egg. The egg, in my collection is rounded on the ends and is beautifully marked with dark markings upon a lighter ground.

The Whip-poor-will, unlike its Cousin, the Nighthawk, is rarely if ever heard before dark, and keeps up its insect-destroying pursuits until "Old Sol" shows up in the east, when he goes to rest. The whistle, from which

he gets his name, is repeated for nearly the whole night and is kept up continuously for long stretches at a time. The Whip-poor-will is the characteristic night bird of all campers out and one rarely reads an account of camp life without some reference to this well known bird. On May 28, 1904, while up camping on Helen Gould lake, a farmer boy secured a set of one egg of this desirable bird for me, while going through an old field after cows. The egg was laid upon a bare rock and was found by flushing the bird. The egg resembles the Nighthawk's in size and shape, but is creamy white, marked with small zigzag marks over the entire egg but thickest in the middle.

C. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, N. Y.

Slate Colored Junco in Eastern New York.

On June 30, 1904, Lawrence P. Mills, of this city discovered a nest of the Slate colored Junco in the northern part of this county. While fishing, he flushed the female bird from the nest, placed in under an over hanging stump and compactly made of dry grasses, lined with finer. The bird, when flushed, hopped off the nest and ran rapidly across the ground like a mouse. The nest contained five eggs upon which incubation had just commenced. The eggs are of a pale greenish blue, specked with reddish brown and lilac gray, chiefly at the large end. I have one other instance of *Junco hpemalis*, breeding in Fulton Co., the nest being found by a Mr. Robinson, a well known farmer living near here and being placed in a piece of swampy woodland, under a tussock of swamp grass. This bird Mr. Robinson called the white tailed Sparrow, but he described the bird so ably that there is no doubt as to its identification.

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, N. Y.

Nesting of the Dotted Canon Wren.

While on a camping trip in the headwaters of the San Gabriel Canon, Los Angeles Co. California in the early part of July, 1904, I had the pleasure of finding a nest of this interesting mountain bird.

The nest was placed in a good sized box, suspended by wire from the roof of the old log cabin, in which we were camped. The nest contained four small young birds, which the parents fed regularly many times a day. The birds were very tame and did not seem at all bothered, when I placed a can filled with cotton in place of the nest, which I wished to preserve, but unfortunately it was destroyed. The birds had carried in sticks enough, as a platform for the nest, to fill a good sized pail, upon these was placed the exquisitely constructed nest.

Before we left the birds grew very tame and early one morning I felt a tugging at my hair, reaching up I nearly caught one of the mischevious birds. We were sorry to leave our interesting bird friends and departing we left them singing their sweet song, a varied musical whistle.

WRIGHT M. PIERCE,
Claremont, Cal.

The Wren had Pipe Dreams.

Last Monday, June 20th while in my barn loft, I was agreeably surprised by the sudden appearance of a House Wren nervously flitting from one perch to another, energetically scolding me all the time. I became suspicious, and soon discovered madam wren's residence in a stove pipe, which had been laid up, for want of a better place on the rafters. I thrust my hand in the pipe, and very promptly a whole wren generation came bouncing out like six little brown rubber balls. Inside of five minutes nothing but a

typical wren nest was left to indicate anything unusual doing.

Clarence H. Luther, D. D. S.

Editor Oologist:

The fire which destroyed our State Capitol some time since, burned nearly all of the collection of war mementos, among them being the skin (mounted) of the famous War Eagle, "Old Abe."²

G. W. VOSBURGH,
Columbus, Wis.

EDITORIAL.

The entire Collection of Books, Shells and Eggs in sets and the greater part of the Stamp Collection of Mr. F. H. Andrus of Kellogg, Ore. (better known at Elkton, Ore.) was destroyed by fire on July 21st. As his correspondence was also destroyed all correspondents will be governed accordingly. Mr. Andrus states that he will make a start on a new Collection as soon as he gets quarters in order.

The appearance of the Editor's likeness in our last issue has evoked the comment from one of our readers that "even *birds of Wisdom* can be stuffed." So it seems that in one respect, at least, he resembles his companions in the Photo.

Friend Forge of Manitoba sent us an adv. for August at the very last minute and we were unable to get a proof of it hence it went in with incorrect address. Please note correction in this issue.

Five sets taken by G. B. Thomas this year near Livermore, Iowa, and lately examined by the Editor are worthy of mention. Set R-2 Black-bill Cuckoo (bird shot). The two eggs are as light in color as any of Yellow-bill and immense as to size. Measurements 1.27 x .98 and 1.38 x 1.04. Sets

A.7 and x-7 of Barn Swallow are evidently 2 sets of 7 each laid by the same bird and collected June 16th and 27th respectively. I have never seen a set of 7 of this bird before and two sets of this size from the same bird in one year is a record. Sets C-5 and F-9 of Blue Jay are both the result of double housekeeping. Mr. Thomas says that all four of the birds were about when he took the set of 9 which are clearly sets of 4 and 5 of different types. The set of 5 are 3 from one bird and 2 from another, clearly.

REVIEW.

In the current issue of American Ornithology appears a Bird Chart that should be in the hands of all beginners in Ornithology and Oology, especially those who cannot afford an expensive library on the subjects. The accompanying map is divided into six sections by natural parallels of latitude and these are further subdivided by three artificial lines into western, middle and eastern or 18 subdivisions all easily found by key figures and letters on the Chart.

It is compact, simple and right up to date. We do not understand that it can be secured separately but 10 cents and a request for a copy of August issue of American Ornithology sent to C. K. Reed, Worcester, Mass. will undoubtedly secure it if you are not a subscriber.

We had an egg of Common Night Hawk sent in for *Poor-will* and a set of Carolina Wren came in for *Lomita* a short time since both from Mississippi. A glance at this chart would have been enough to have set this collector right.

Publications Received.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 8.

Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 8,

BIRDS & EGGS

In sets with data.

Price given is for entire set postpaid.

Am. Eared Grebe.....	5 .25;	6 .30	Spotted Sandpiper.....	4 .22
Hobboell's ".....	4 .25		Lapwing Plover.....	4 .22
Pied billed ".....	7 .28;	8 .32	Killdeer Plover.....	3 .22
Western ".....	3 .36;	5 .60	Ring Plover.....	3 .27
Horned ".....	3 .30;	6 .60	Scaled Quail.....	11 3.00
St. Domingo ".....	4 .50		California Quail.....	10 .50
Loon.....	2 1.60		Bob-white.....	6 .30; 14 .70;
Red-throated Loon.....	1 .30		Ruffed Grouse.....	5 .60; 6 .70
Black-throated Loon.....	1 .55		Prairie Hen.....	6 .48; 9 .72
Puffin.....	1 .13		Valley Partridge.....	16 .80
Cassin's Auklet.....	1 .40		Ring Pheasant.....	11 1.00
Black Guillemot.....	2 .40		Eng. Pheasant.....	7 .70
Murre.....	1 .13		Chacalaca.....	3 .45
California Murre.....	1 .12		Red-billed Pigeon.....	1 .28
Razor-bill Auk.....	1 .15		Mourning Dove.....	2 .05
Great Skua.....	2 .45		White-winged Dove.....	2 .12
Ring-bill Gull.....	3 .30		Whit-fronted Dove.....	2 .25
California Gull.....	4 .42		Mex. Ground Dove.....	2 .20
Am. Herring.....	3 .30		Ground Dove.....	2 .22
Western Gull.....	2 .25;	3 .40	Inca Dove.....	2 .50
Laughing Gull.....	3 .30;	4 .40	Turkey Vulture.....	2 .70
Caspian Tern.....	1 .12;	2 .28	Black Vulture.....	2 .70
Royal Tern.....	2 .25;	3 .40	Mississippi Kite.....	1 1.35;
Cabot's Tern.....	1 .15		Marsh Hawk.....	3 .45; 4 .60
Roseate Tern.....	3 .20		Sharp-shinned Hawk.....	3 2.25
Common Tern.....	2 .08;	3 .12	Cooper's Hawk.....	4 .48; 5 .60
Sooty Tern.....	1 .12		Red-tailed Hawk.....	1 .20; 2 .40; 3 .60
Black Tern.....	2 .08;	3 .15	West' Red-tail Hawk.....	1 .20; 2 (extra) .50
Noddy Tern.....	1 .15		Red-shouldered Hawk.....	2 .30; 3 .50; 4 .70
Black Skimmer.....	3 .20		Red-bellied Hawk.....	2 (1 dam.) .45; 2 fine .65
Gannet.....	1 .15		White-tailed Hawk.....	3 1.00
Leach's Petrel.....	1 .10		Krider's Hawk.....	2 .45
Fulmar.....	1 .22		Swainson's Hawk.....	2 .35
Double-crested Cormorant.....	3 .30		Grey-tailed Hawk (Mex.).....	2 2.00
Florida Cormorant.....	2 .20		Broad-winged Hawk.....	2 1.40
Farallone Cormorant.....	3 .35		Ferruginous Rough-leg Hawk.....	2 1.40
Brandt's Cormorant.....	5 .45		American Sparrowhawk.....	3 .32; 4 .48; 5 .60
Am. White Pelican.....	2 .50		Desert Sparrowhawk.....	3 .35; 5 .60
Brown Pelican.....	3 .25		Caracara (beauties).....	3 1.20
Mallard Duck.....	6 .60		American Osprey.....	2 .50
Blue-winged Teal.....	8 .80		American Barn Owl.....	5 .80
Cinnamon Teal.....	8 .96;	9 1.20	American Long-eared Owl.....	5 .75
	(with down)		Barred Owl.....	2 1.00
Shoveller Duck.....	4 .50;	7 .85	Screech Owl.....	3 .50; 4 .70
Lesser Scaup Duck.....	5 1.25		California Screech Owl.....	3 .50; 4 .70
Am. Golden-eye Duck.....	5 1.20		Tex. Screech Owl.....	4 .70
Am. Eider Duck.....	4 .48		Great Horned Owl.....	1 .40
Red-head Duck.....	5 .60		Pacific Horned Owl.....	1 .50; 2 1.25
Am. Flamingo.....	1 .65		Burrowing Owl.....	8 .50
White Ibis.....	4 .45		Florida Burrowing Owl.....	3 .90
Am. Bittern.....	3 .75;	4 1.15	Road-runner.....	4 .35; 5 42; 6 .50
Least Bittern.....	4 .25;	5 .32	Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....	2 .08; 3 .12
Great Blue Heron.....	3 .45;	4 .60	Black-billed Cuckoo.....	2 .12; 3 .18
Snowy Heron.....	4 .30		Black-billed Cuckoo.....	2 (abnormal) .25
Reddish Egret.....	4 .50		Belted Kingfisher.....	5 .40; 6 .50
Green Heron.....	3 .15;	4 .22;	Baird's Woodpecker.....	6 .50
Black-crown Night Heron.....	3 .12;	4 .18;	Downy Woodpecker.....	5 .40
Yellow-crown Night Heron.....	4 .50		Red-shafted Flicker.....	6 .20
King Rail.....	9 .65;	10 .75	California Woodpecker.....	4 .55
Clapper Rail.....	8 .35		Gairdner's Woodpecker.....	5 .60
Virginia Rail.....	7 .40;	10 .60	Nuttall's Woodpecker.....	3 1.00
Sora Rail.....	6 .30;	8 .40;	Red-headed Woodpecker.....	4 .16; 6 .25; 7 .32
Florida Gallinule.....	7 .32;	9 .42;	Flicker.....	7 .14; 9 1.18
European Coot.....	6 .40		Whip-poor-will.....	2 1.05
American Coot.....	9 .38;	11 .48	Nighthawk.....	2 .35
American Coot.....	12 .52;	14 .70	Western Nighthawk.....	2 .30
Northern Phalarope.....	4 .95		Merrill's Parauque.....	2 1.70
Wilson's Phalarope.....	4 1.15		Texan Nighthawk.....	2 .30
Black-neck Stilt.....	3 .45;	4 .65	Chimney Swift.....	3 .28; 4 .40
English Snipe.....	4 .40		Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.....	4 .15; 5 .20
Curlew.....	4 .65		Kingbird.....	3 .07; 4 .10
Am. Avocet.....	4 .65		Ark Kingbird.....	3 .12; 5 .20
Willet.....	3 .45		Cassin's Kingbird.....	4 .56
Bartramian Sandpiper.....	4 .80		Crested Flycatcher.....	4 .30; 5 .40

Ash-throated Flycatcher.....	4	.35	Barn Swallow.....	7	(very rare)	25
Phoebe.....	4	.08;	Tree Swallow.....			4
Black Phoebe.....	3	.12;	Bank Swallow.....			6
Wood Pewee.....	2	.12;	Cedar Waxwing.....			4
West's Wood Pewee.....			Phainopepla.....			2
Acadian Flycatcher.....			Loggerhead Shrike.....	5	.15;	7
Trail's Flycatcher.....	3	.18;	White-rumped Shrike.....	5	.15;	6
Alder Flycatcher.....			California Shrike.....	5	.15;	6
Least Flycatcher.....			Warbling Vireo.....			4
Prairie Horned Lark.....			Red-eyed Vireo.....			3
Desert Horned Lark.....			White-eyed Vireo.....			3
California Horned Lark.....			Least Vireo.....			3
American Magpie.....			Yellow-throated Vireo.....	2 and 3	Cowbird	25
Blue Jay.....	3	.06;	Bell's Vireo.....	3	.15;	5
Blue Jay.....	9	(Double set)	Prothonotary Warbler.....	5	and Cowbird	45
California Jay.....	3	.24;	Yellow Warbler.....	4	.08;	5
American Crow.....	4	.10;	Yellow Warbler.....	6	and 2 Cowbird	25
Fish Crow.....	4	.60;	Black-throated Blue Warbler.....			3
Starling.....			Chestnut-sided Warbler.....			4
Bobolink.....	3	.25;	Parula Warbler.....			4
Yellow-headed Blackbird.....	3	.10;	Prairie Warbler.....	3	.30;	4
Red-wing Blackbird.....	4	.05;	Maryland Yellow-throat.....			3
San Diego Red-wing Blackbird.....	3	.12;	Yellow-breasted Chat.....	3	.10;	4
Bicolored Blackbird.....			Oven-bird.....			4
Tricolored Blackbird.....			Long-tail Chat.....			4
Brewer's Blackbird.....	3	.08;	Hooded Warbler.....			3
Meadowlark.....	3	.10;	American Redstart.....			4
West Meadowlark.....	4	.12;	Mockingbird.....	3	.08;	4
Hooded Oriole.....	3	.45;	Catbird.....	3	.04;	4
Arizona Hooded Oriole.....	3	.35;	Brown Thrasher.....	3	.06;	5
Orchard Oriole.....	3	.10;	Pasadena Thrasher.....			3
Baltimore Oriole.....			Palmer's Thrasher.....			3
Bullock's Oriole.....			California Thrasher.....			3
Bronzed Grackle.....	4	.08;	Sennet's Thrasher.....			4
Great-tailed Grackle.....	3	.12;	Curve-billed Thrasher.....	3	.20;	5
Boat-tailed Grackle.....			Cactus Wren.....	3	.18;	4
Purple Grackle.....			Carolina ".....			5
Red-eyed Cowbird.....			Baird's ".....			5
House Finch.....	3	.06;	Bewick's ".....	5	.50;	6
House Finch.....	4	.08;	House ".....	5	.12;	6
St. Lucas House Finch.....			Parkman's Wren.....	5	.24;	6
Redpoll.....			Long-bill Marsh.....	5	.10;	6
American Goldfinch.....			White-breasted Nuthatch.....	5	.75;	7
Chestnut-collared Longspur.....			Fla. ".....			6
Lawrence's Goldfinch.....	5	.35;	Wren-tit.....			3
California Goldfinch.....			Red-breasted Nuthatch.....			7
Western Goldfinch.....			Brown-headed Nuthatch.....			4
Ark. Goldfinch.....			Chickadee.....	5	.30;	7
Lawrence's Goldfinch.....	3	.20;	Carolina Chickadee.....			3
Vesper Sparrow.....			California Bush-tit.....	6	.30;	7
Savanna Sparrow.....			Tufted Titmouse.....			4
Grasshopper Sparrow.....			Wood Thrush.....			4
Sharp-tailed Sparrow.....			Wilson's Thrush.....	3	.12;	4
Seaside Sparrow.....			Hermit Thrush.....			4
Lark Sparrow.....	3	.06;	Olive-backed Thrush.....			3
West's Lark Sparrow.....	4	.08;	Russet-backed Thrush.....			4
Gambel's Sparrow.....	3	.20;	American Robin.....			4
Chipping Sparrow.....	3	.06;	West Robin.....			4
West's Chipping Sparrow.....			Bluebird.....	4	.08;	5
Clay-colored Sparrow.....			Western Bluebird.....			6
Field Sparrow.....	3	.06;				
Song Sparrow.....	4	.06;				
Rusty Song Sparrow.....						
San Diego Song Sparrow.....	3	.15;				
Swamp Sparrow.....	3	.20;				
Towhee.....	3	.18;				
Oregon Towhee.....						
California Towhee.....						
Anthony's Towhee.....	3	.15;				
Cardinal.....	3	.10;				
Texan Pyrrhuloxia.....						
Rose-breasted Grosbeak.....	3	.12;				
Black-head Grosbeak.....						
Blue Grosbeak.....						
Indig. Bunting.....	3	.10;				
Lazuli Bunting.....						
Painted Bunting.....	3	.12				
Sharpe's Seedeater.....	2 and Dwarf Cowbird	.35				
Dickcissel.....	3	.12				
Lark Bunting.....						
Scarlet Tanager.....	3	.30;				
Purple Martin.....						
Cliff Swallow.....	4	.08;				
Barn Swallow.....	4	.08;				

SETS WITH NESTS.

Red-eyed Vireo, n-3.....	18
Am. Redstart, n-4.....	28
Ruby-throat Hummer, n-2.....	1.00
Allen's d., n-2.....	.85
Meadowlark, n-4.....	.25
Vesper Sparrow, n-3.....	.12
Sharpe's Seedeater, n-3.....	.50
Arizona Hooded Oriole, n-4.....	.48
Catbird, n-4.....	.15
Scarlet Tanager, n-2 & C.....	.30
Yellow-breasted Chat, n-4 & C.....	.25
Phoebe, n-5.....	.18
Phainopepla, n-2.....	.35
Indigo Bunting, n-3 & C.....	.18
Yellow Warbler, n-4 & C.....	.16
Black-throat Green Warbler, n-3.....	.65
Rose-breasted Grosbeak, n-5.....	.30
Chestnut-sided Warbler, n-4.....	.35
Chipping Sparrow, n-3.....	.12
Song Sparrow, n-3.....	.12

West Wood Pewee, n-2.....	.25	Wilson's Phalarope (data).....	.30
Bobolink, n-5.....	.60	Bartramian Sandpiper (data)....	.20
Arkansas Goldfinch, n-4.....	.30	Mississippi Kite.....	1.25
Arizona Hooded Oriole, (nest attached to leaf) n-3.....	.48	Broad-wing Hawk.....	.45
California Bush-tit, n-6.....	.45	Desert Sparrowhawk (data).....	.10
Dickcissel, n-4.....	.22	Black-billed Cuckoo.....	.69
Wilson's Thrush, n-4.....	.25	Belted Kingfisher.....	.08
Baltimore Oriole, n-4.....	.25	Chimney Swift.....	.08
Kingbird, n-4.....	.25	Ruby-throat Hummingbird, (nest and data).....	.50
Barn Swallow, n-3.....	.25	Black-chinned Hummingbird (nest and data).....	.45
Oven-bird, n-4.....	.45	Say's Phoebe.....	.06
Anna's Hummer, n-2.....	.75	Black Phoebe.....	.04
Black-chinned Hummer, n-2.....	.70	Blue Jay.....	.02

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In addition to the SINGLE EGGS listed in April OOLOGIST (270 var. nearly all of which I can still furnish), I am now able to quote on the following. prices per egg, postpaid.

Horned Grebe (data).....	.07
Herring Gull.....	.10
European Teal.....	.09
Cinnamon Teal.....	.12
American Bittern (data).....	.30
Green Heron.....	.05
Yellow-crown Night-heron.....	.10
Louisiana Clapper Rail.....	.12
American Coot (data).....	.04

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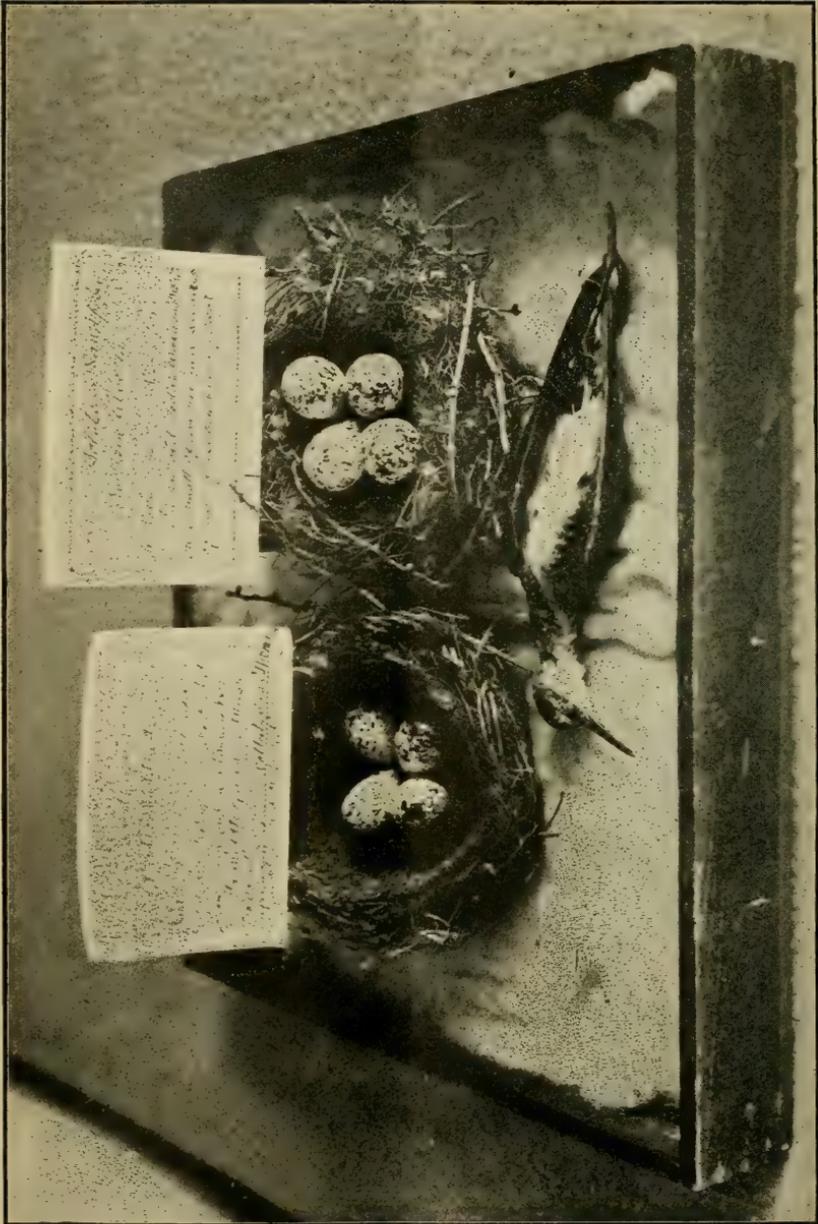
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WE MOUNT SPECIMENS TOO



NEST AND EGGS OF THE SOLITARY SANDPIPER.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 10.

ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1904.

WHOLE No. 207

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
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Discovery of the Eggs of Solitary Sandpiper.

WALTER RAINE, TORONTO, CANADA,

At last the long-sought for egg of the Solitary Sandpiper has been found, and it affords one considerable pleasure

to be the first ornithologist to record its nesting habits, which are unique among North American birds, for I have positive proof that the species lays its eggs in the nests of other birds, this being one of the most important discoveries in recent years in regard to the nidification of any American bird.

In "Nests and Eggs of British Birds non-Indigenous" the author, Mr. Chas. Dixon' says of this species, "Incredible as it may seem the nest and eggs still remain unknown to science, for it is impossible to accept the description of the latter given by the late Dr. Brewer without authentication. Here can be little doubt that this species lays its eggs in the deserted nests of other birds in low tree like its old world representative, the Green Sandpiper, is known to do. Search should be made in such places in the summer haunts of this species."

I am aware that other ornithologists have previously recorded what were supposed to be the eggs of Solitary Sandpiper but these records are far from being satisfactory and mostly conjecture. For instance the above record of which Mr. Chas. Dixon says "it is impossible to accept the description of this egg given by the late Dr. Brewer without authentication." The egg recorded by Dr. Brewer found in Vermont in 1878 according to Dr. Brewer's own description was without doubt only an egg of the Piping Plover, the nest being found on the ground, a site not selected by the Solitary Sandpiper.

Another supposed nest of this species was recorded by Dr. Clarke of Kingston, Ontario, in the Auk for October,

1898. This same nest was again recorded in the Ottawa Naturalist for December 1899 by the Rev. C. J. Young, but this nest was also found on the ground and the parent bird was not secured and although both Dr. Clarke and the Rev. C. J. Young are enthusiastic and reliable ornithologists, yet as they did not secure the parent bird, identification was not complete, besides Mr. C. A. Reed in his recent work on North American Birds Eggs. gives a figure of one of these supposed eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper found by Dr. Clarke, and it very much resembles a variety of the Spotted Sandpiper's eggs both in size, shape and style of markings, whereas my authentic eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper are larger, more pyriform, finer grain of shell and more polished and the ground color is pale greenish white, a tint never seen on a Spotted Sandpiper yet, but usually found in eggs of the European Green and Wood Sandpipers, in fact the eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper, as was to be expected; bear a strong family likeness to eggs of the Green Sandpiper, but are one-third smaller as they should be.

Now for my records which are absolutely authentic and thoroughly conclusive, and establish once for all, the fact that the Solitary Sandpiper does not lay its eggs on the ground like other American Sandpipers, but deposits its eggs in the nests of other birds, often at a considerable distance from the ground.

In the spring of 1903, I engaged Mr. Evan Thomson to collect birds eggs for me in Northern Alberta, and when the season was over he sent me a list with notes on the specimens he had collected among which was a record of finding a clutch of Sandpiper's eggs in an old American Robin's nest built in a tree top.

I felt sure these would turn out to

be eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper and in due time the eggs were sent down to me. On unpacking the specimens I saw at a glance they were unlike any other American Sandpiper and as they very much resembled a set of Green Sandpipers in my collection except being smaller in size, I was quite positive in my own mind this was a genuine clutch of the Solitary Sandpiper, and several ornithologists who called upon me to see my collection confirmed my opinion. Among those who inspected this clutch I may name the Rev. C. J. Young of Madoc, Ontario, Mr. Edward Arnold of Battle Creek, Mich., and Mr. Edward Reinecke, of Buffalo, N. Y. But as Mr. Thompson had failed to secure the parent bird thus establishing identity completely, I thought I would wait patiently for another year in hopes that another nest would be found and the parent bird secured, and in this we have been successful as the following letter from Mr. Thomson proves:

"This season on June 9th I found another set of Solitary Sandpipers' eggs, this time in a Grackle's nest in a low tree. I blew the eggs and left them until the next day intending to return with my gun and shoot the bird but on again visiting the nest, I found the eggs were gone, evidently the bird had removed them, as I saw no trace of egg shells around.

However, on the 20th of June I was still more fortunate as I found another clutch and shot the parent bird as she flew from the nest and secured the four fresh eggs. This time the eggs were found in a Cedar Waxwing's nest in a spruce tree out in a swamp or muskeg."

The following is a description of the three sets of Solitary Sandpipers:

Set I. Taken in Northern Alberta, June 16, 1903, 4 eggs advanced in incubation, collector, Evan Thomson. This set was found in an old nest of the American Robin built 15 feet up in

a tamarac tree, that was growing in the middle of a large muskeg; dotted with tamaracs. The bird was flushed off the nest but unfortunately not secured. This Clutch with the old American Robin's nest is now in my collection and the eggs measure respectively, 1.33 x 98, 1.38 x 98, 1.38 x 1.00, 1.35 x 95. The eggs are exceedingly handsome and unlike the eggs of any other American Sandpiper. The ground color is pale greenish white heavily blotched and spotted at the larger ends with vandyke brown, rusty or chestnut brown and purplish grey.

Set II. Northern Alberta, June 9, 1904. 4 eggs found in the nest of a Bronzed Grackle, built in a low tree. These eggs were unfortunately lost, owing to Mr. Thomson first blowing them and then leaving them in the nest until he returned with his gun to shoot the parent bird, which had evidently carried off the egg shells during his absence.

Set III. Northern Alberta, June 24, 1904. 4 eggs found in a Cedar Waxwing's nest, which was built in a small spruce tree growing in a swamp. The nest was about 5 feet up and Mr. Thomson was fortunate in shooting the bird as she flew from the nest and this identification is perfectly complete and beyond all possibility of a doubt. These 4 eggs measure respectively, 1.39 x 1.02, 1.37 x 98, 1.30 x 99, 1.33 x 97. The ground color is pale greenish white or sea green, spotted with vandyke brown, purplish brown and purplish grey. The shells have a fine grain, polished and pyriform in shape.

The eggs of both clutches are exceedingly large for the size of the bird, the eggs averaging larger than any of my Spotted Sandpiper eggs in a series of over 100 eggs, but the Solitary Sandpipers' eggs is one-third smaller than those of the European Green and Wood Sandpipers. This clutch of Solitary

Sandpiper, with the Cedar Waxwing's nest and skin of the female Solitary Sandpiper, together with the original data label and letters from Mr. Thomson are now in the extensive collection owned by Colonel John E. Thayer, Lancaster, Mass., whom I am sure will be pleased to show them to any ornithologist who can call and see his collection of eggs and skins, which is one of the largest in America.

The finding of the long-sought for eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper, now make the seventh species whose eggs are new to science which were previously unknown until discovered by myself and assistants in north west Canada. The other species are Richardson's Merlin, Greater Yellowlegs, Belted Piping Plover, Nelson's; Leconte's and Harris' Sparrows, a record that any ornithologist might be proud of.

North west Canada has offered other surprises to ornithologists by my finding several species nesting there which were previously unknown to nest so far south as the fifty-first parallel.

These include the much disputed Little Brown Crane, Lesser Yellowlegs, Semipalmated Sandpiper, American Rough-legged Hawk, American Hawk Owl, Canada Jay and Rusty Blackbird.

In the past one or two American Ornithologists, who have never been in north west Canada, and know absolutely nothing of the Avi-Fauna of the vast Canadian north west, criticised my book "Bird Nesting in North West Canada." They ridiculed my records of the Little Brown Crane and other species nesting in north west Canada. I have spent 10 years collecting all over north west Canada and was the first ornithologist to explore Assiniboia and Alberta, and can back up all my records with infallible proofs. Such an eminent authority as John Macoun, M. A. F.

R. S. C., ornithologist to the Geological Survey of Canada, endorses my book, "Bird Nesting in North West Canada" by saying "that it does not contain a single record of any bird that does not breed there," and Prof Macoun knows what he is talking about, as he has spent many summers in north west Canada. And now that the eggs of the Solitary Sandpiper have at last been discovered, for which ornithologists searched in vain for the past 25 years, I hope oologists will pardon my conceit and egotism when I claim the credit of being the means whereby its eggs and peculiar and previously unknown methods of nidification have been discovered.

My Hoodeds of '97 and '98.

The Hooded Warbler usually arrives in Eastern N. C. not later than April 10th. I found them common in Bertie county; frequently met with in Chawan county; rarely seen in Beaufort county; and, far from being common in Lenoir county. In Norfolk county Va., we note them, but far from being common, though not rare.

1897.

May 8, Set 1-4. Nest of leaves, bark and grass, lined with hair, placed in small alder bush, 20 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

May 8, Set 15-4. Nest placed in small myrtle bush, about 30 inches above the ground, made of bark, leaves and wool, lined with fine black moss. Incubation medium embryos.

May 8, Set 16-4. Nest of grass, leaves, fine bark and spiderwebs, lined with very fine black moss from trunks of trees; placed in small maple bush, about 24 inches from the ground. Incubation fresh.

May 8, Set 23-3. Nest of fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in sweet gum bush, 20 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 17-4. Nest of leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in reed, 16 inches from the ground. Medium embryos.

May 10, Set 18-4. Nest of skeleton leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with hair from tail of cow; placed in myrtle bush, 26 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 10, Set 18-4. Nest of skeleton leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in dogwood bush, 18 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 20-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in wild currant bush, 22 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 21-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with strips of grape vine bark; placed in gallberry bush, 18 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 22-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, about 3 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 23-4. Nest, leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss, placed in a sweet gum bush, about, 2 feet high. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 24-4. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small bush, 2 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 25-4. Nest placed in small myrtle bush, 18 inches from the ground; made of leaves, grass and fine black moss. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 26-4. Nest placed in an alder bush, 3 inches from the ground; made of fine bark and leaves, lined with fine grass. Medium embryos.

May 13, Set 27-4. Nest of fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, 27 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 28-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 23a-3. Nest of fine bark,

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS EGGS

BY

CHESTER A. REED, B. S.,

AUTHOR, WITH FRANK M. CHAPMAN, OF "COLOR KEY TO
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS," EDITOR OF AMERICAN ORNITHOLOGY.



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accompanied by the original data of the set. Each egg is photographed directly from a typical and authentic specimen. The small marginal sketches on nearly every page, offer a sort of running commentary upon the birds, which with the concise description of each species, will give the reader a correct idea as to their appearance. An illustration that will especially appeal to every one is the

Egg of the Great Auk,

an extinct bird, whose egg is of almost priceless value; there are but two eggs of this bird in America, the one figured being from the best specimen. A large number of full page illustrations from

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show typical nesting sites and architecture of nearly every family. The author has had access (for study and photography) to the largest and best private and public collections in the country, and the work is thoroughly reliable in every respect.

In addition to its educational value, this volume is a work of art in book creation, being finely printed on the best of paper, and handsomely bound in illuminated cloth covers.



Specimen Page

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS EGGS.

74. Least Tern. *Sterna antillarum*.

Range.—From northern South America to southern New England, Dakota and California, breeding locally throughout its range.

These little Sea Swallows are the smallest of the Terns, being but 9 inches in length. They have a yellow bill with a black tip, a black crown and nape, and white forehead. Although small, these little Terns lose none of the grace and beauty of action of their larger relatives. They nest in colonies on the South Atlantic and Gulf Coasts, placing their eggs upon the bare sand, where they are sometimes very difficult to see among the shells and pebbles. They are of a grayish or buffy color spotted with umber and lilac. They number two, three and rarely four, and are laid in May and June. Size 1.25 x .95. Data.—

DeSota Beach, Florida, May 20, 1884. Three eggs laid on the sandy beach. Collector, Chas. Graham.



[Light buff.]

75. Sooty Tern. *Sterna fuliginosa*.

Range.—Tropical America, north to the South Atlantic States.

This species measures 17 inches in length; it has a brownish black mantle, wings and tail, except the outer feathers of the latter which are white; the forehead and underparts are white; the crown and a line from the eye to the bill, black. This tropical species is very numerous at its breeding grounds on the small islands of the Florida Keys and the West Indies. They lay but a single egg, generally placing it on the bare ground, or occasionally building a frail nest of grasses. The egg has a pinkish white or creamy ground and is beautifully sprinkled with spots of reddish brown and lilac. They are laid during May. Size 2.05 x 1.45. Data.—Clutheria Key, Bahamas, May 28, 1891. Single egg laid on bare ground near water. Collector, D. P. Ingraham.



[Creamy white.]

[76.] Bridled Tern. *Sterna anæthetus*.

Range.—Found in tropical regions of both hemispheres; casual or accidental in Florida.

This Tern is similar to the last except that the nape is white and the white of the forehead extends in a line over the eye. The Bridled Tern is common on some of the islands of the West Indies and the Bahamas, nesting in company with the Sooty Terns and Noddies. The single egg is laid on the seashore or among the rocks. It is creamy white, beautifully marked with brown and lilac. Size 1.85 x 1.25. Data.—Bahamas, May 9, 1892. Single egg laid in a cavity among the rocks. Collector, D. P. Ingraham.



[Creamy white.]





Photo by Lispenard S. Horton.

NEST AND EGGS OF GREEN HERON.

and leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in small myrtle bush, about, 2 feet from the ground. Small embryos.

May 15, Set 24-3. Nest in small myrtle bush, 12 inches from the ground, made of fine bark and leaves, lined with fine black moss. Incubation begun.

May 15, Set 25-3. Nest of strips of cedar bark and leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in bunch of briars, 14 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 15, Set 29-4. Old nest repaired, of regular material; placed in small beech bush, 12 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 19, Set 26-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly, about 3 feet high. Incubation advanced.

May 19, Set 27-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small dogwood bush near the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 28-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in maple bush, 36 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 30-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small sowerwood bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 20, Set 29-3. Nest of leaves fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small maple bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 26, Set 31-4. Nest of bark alone, lined with grass and fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, about 2 feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

June 3, Set 30-3. Nest of leaves only, lined with fine grass; placed on horizontal oak limb, about 3 feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

June 10, Set 31-3. Nest of leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small myrtle

bush, about 2 feet from the ground. Incubation advanced.

June 11, Set 32-3. Nest placed in an oak bush, 4 feet from the ground; made of leaves and fine bark, lined with fine grass and hair.

1898.

May 6, Set 33-3. Nest placed in small holly, 28 inches from the ground; made of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation slight.

May 6, Set 32-4. Nest of reed leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 6, Set 33-4. Nest of leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in top of reed, about 4 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 7, Set 34-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in holly, 40 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 35-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves, feathers and grass, lined with hair; placed in small holly, 20 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 10, Set 36-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small maple bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 11, Set 34-3. Nest of leaves, grass and fine black moss; placed in bunch of briars, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 13, Set 35-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in an elm bush, 24 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 12, Set 36-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in small bush, about 2 feet high. Incubation slight.

May 15, Set 37-3. Nest of leaves and fine bark, lined with fine grass; placed in small myrtle bush, 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 14, Set 1-5. Nest of fine bark,

leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in gallberry hush, 30 inches high. One chipped when found. Incubation small embryos.

May 14, Set 38-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small beech bush, 14 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

May 14, Set 37-4. Nest of reed leaves, grass and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, 26 inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

May 18, Set 39-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small maple bush, 20 inches from the ground. Incubation large embryos.

May 19, Set 38-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small beech bush, about 3 feet from the ground. Egg fresh.

May 19, Set 39-4. Nest of leaves and fine bark, lined with grass, placed in small sowerwood, about 24 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 40-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and wool, lined with grass; placed in small maple, about 12 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 19, Set 41-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in myrtle bush, about 4 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 42-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly bush, 24 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 21, Set 43-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in a sowerwood, about 3 feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 44-3. Nest placed in gallberry bush, 30 inches from the ground; made of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation advanced.

May 21, Set 45-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small oak bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 21, Set 46-3. Nest of grass, leaves and fine bark, lined with fine black moss; placed in small beech bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 23, Set 47-3. Nest of grass and skeleton leaves, lined with fine black moss; placed in small gum bush, 22 inches from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 24, Set 48-4. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small holly, 54 inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

May 24, Set 49-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in gallberry bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 26th Set 50-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and fine grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in hickory bush, about four feet from the ground. Incubation slight.

May 27, Set 51-3. Nest of bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in an alder, 28 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 28, Set 52-3. Nest of leaves and bark, lined with hair; placed in small oak, about four feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 28, Set 53-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small oak bush, about two feet from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 28, Set 54-3. Nest of fine bark, and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in small gum, 12 inches from the ground. Incubation advanced.

May 28, Set 55-3. Nest placed in small dogwood, 12 inches from the ground; made of leaves, fine bark and

and grass, lined with fine black moss. Incubation advanced.

May 31, Set 56-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in reed, forty inches from the ground. Incubation small embryos.

May 31, Set 57-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and grass, lined with hair; placed in small oak bush, about 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

May 31, Set 58-3. Nest of fine bark, leaves and fine grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in bunch of briars, about 30 inches from the ground. Eggs fresh.

June 5, Set 59-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with hair; placed in reed, about 24 inches from the ground. Incubation begun.

June 21, Set 60-3. Nest of leaves, fine bark and grass, lined with fine black moss; placed in an alder, about three feet from the ground. Incubation begun.

The above is an exact list of data for sets taken in 1897-98.

The "fine black moss," so often referred to as the lining, can be found on almost any forest tree in this locality.

All the above sets were taken in Bertie county, near Merry Hill, N. C.

R. P. SMITHWECK,
Norfolk, Va.

Kirtland's Warbler.

On June 15th I took male and female and beautiful nest in situ and four fresh eggs of *Dendroica kirtlandi* in Oscoda county, Mich., and on June 29th I took another nest in situ with four fresh eggs.

These, so far as I know, are the first full sets of this bird known to science.

Nests were on the ground in dense vegetation of Deer Vines, Winter Green, and various vines. Female is a very

close sitter and the nests and eggs are very hard to find.

I spent two weeks in Northern Michigan, Oscoda county, and took two nests of the Junco, one contained four eggs, the other three, both nests found the same day, June 16, 1904.

Dendroica kirtlandi is confined during the breeding season to the Jack Pine plains. The nest is built of grasses and sunk into the ground and always well concealed by surrounding vines and vegetation. Female on eggs allowed me to stand within six inches of the nest and to almost touch her. I could have put my hat over her on the nest. The male is a beautiful singer and very noticeable.

E. ARNOLD.

Green Leaves in Nests.

In the "Oologist" for March, Mr. Short has given us a most interesting article on a series of sets of the Mississippi Kite, with description of location and nest.

The description of nests show that green leaves were almost invariably used in the lining, and Mr. Short suggests that green leaves in the nest lining are used only by the Mississippi Kite among American Avifauna. He excepts the Cuckoos.

As an exception to the general rule, a description of a nest of Broad-winged Hawk, found by my brother and myself in Sharon, Massachusetts, may be of interest.

Nest: Small sticks, lined with hemlock bark and many green oak leaves.

There were three eggs in which incubation was almost completed, proving that the leaves must have been added long after the eggs were laid.

J. H. BOWLES,
Tacoma, Wash.

Editorial

Did you notice the number on your wrapper this month? Several hundred subscriptions expire with this issue.

A prompt renewal will save us the trouble of notifying you later and enable us to give you a still better publication.

To those on our books who are in arrearages over one year we are making a special offer to each by letter that could not be more liberal.

We trust that every one will take advantage of that offer as we shall not repeat it after January 1st, 1905 and we do not like to remove names from our list any better than other publishers do.

The following is one of several that have helped to offset many of the Editors vexations.

Mr. Ernest H. Short:

Dear Sir.—Received the "Oologist" to date and am greatly pleased to see it in such good shape again. I trust it will receive the support it deserves so well.

Yours truly,

T. W. RICHARDS, M. D.

U. S. S. Arkansas.

The following changes and additions are announced by the Am. Ornith' Union.

Additions: *Dendragapus, obscurus, sierræ, Astragalinus psaltria hesperophilus, Lanius ludovicianus mearnsi, Budytes flavus alascensis, Bæolophus inornatus restrictus. Eliminations, Sayornis nigricans semiatra; Pipilo fuscus carolæ; Helodytes brunneicapillus anthonyi Passerculus rostratus halophilus.*

Changes: *Nyctala* becomes *Cryptoglaux*; *Corvus americanus* becomes *C. brachyrhynchos*; *Scolecophagus* becomes *Euphagus*; *Helodytes brunneicapillus* becomes *H. b. couesi*; *Phyllopusiestes* becomes *Acanthopneuste*. *Dendroica æstiva brewsteri* was rejected.

The Phainopepla, Thrashers, Nut-hatches and Bush-tits are raised to separate family rank.

We are glad to announce a hearty response to our "Standard Catalogue" scheme and we can now confidently announce the early issue of a catalogue of N. Am. Eggs that will be as near right as the cooperation of 20 leading Am. Oologists can make it. Of course all can not be entirely satisfied in a matter of this kind. It is a big country and on many things it has been necessary to compromise on the "happy mean" between the views of collectors who saw the matter from different stand points and hence were far apart in their ideas.

The Catalogue will contain much new matter and be entirely up-to-date but will be issued at the old price, 25 cents postpaid.

Publication Received.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. IV No. 9. Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 9. Birds and Nature, Vol. XVI, No. 2. Condor, Vol. VI, No. 5. Journal of Me. Ornithology Society, Vol. VI, No. 3.

Review.

There has lately fallen into my hands a copy of "Frederick Young" by Chas. L. Phillips.

As a rule efforts to combine Science and Natural History with fiction have been confined to story books for the young or the flights of imagination given us by such writers as Jules Verne and H. G. Wells.

Mr. Phillips has successfully made the combination for readers of all ages and his science is all solid facts.

I find the book full of information and yet so adroitly combined with readable fiction that it is not tiresome and holds the interest of the reader throughout.

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JAMES P. BABBITT,
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I have recently issued a list of what I have left in the above lines. If at all interested it will well repay you to drop me a postal for a copy of same.

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BIRDS EGGS. I can still furnish many of the sets listed in September issue. If you saw or now see on that list any set you wish to place in your collection write me at once. I will send you a revised copy of the list promptly, showing just what I can furnish you. ERNEST H. SHORT, Rochester, N. Y.

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BULLETIN

OF THE

Michigan Ornithological Club.

An Illustrated Quarterly devoted to the Ornithology of the Great Lakes Region

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, Jr., *Editor.*

J. CLAIRE WOOD,
W. B. BARROWS, *Associates.*

Each issue of the Bulletin is filled with notes fresh from the field and museum. A large corps of field ornithologists are among its contributors, which makes the Bulletin indispensable to all students interested in the bird-life in the region about the Great Lakes. The prospects for 1904 point toward a greater increase in size and general interest.

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VOL. XXI. No. 11.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1904.

WHOLE No. 208

What's Your Number ?

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208	your subscription expires with this issue	
209	" " " " " "	Dec., 1904
212	" " " " " "	Mar., 1905
219	" " " " " "	Oct., 1905
257	" " " " " "	Dec., 1908

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FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXI. No. 11.

ALBION, N. Y., Nov., 1904.

WHOLE No. 208

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMISTRY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

The Cerulean Warbler.

Since Mike's owl experience, described in June Oologist, he has made a discovery. After concentrating the full force of his mental faculties upon the sum total of our Ornithological

knowledge he has discovered that too much attention has been given to the "big tree nesters" while the "ground builders" have been neglected.

Consequently he spent the earlier portion of the season searching for the homes of elusive meadow larks and rare little song sparrows. Being thoroughly conversant with the habits of these little known species he found about 25 nests of the latter and nearly secured a set of the former. The lark flushed at his feet. He stopped and swept the ground with his penetrating gaze. Then he stepped off the nest and learned that after undergoing a 150 pound pressure eggs make poor cabinet specimens. However, he is highly elated with his song sparrow success and takes particular pains to emphasize the knowledge and skill required to ferret out their well concealed nests as compared to a nest the size of a bushel basket in a leafless tree and discernable a mile. Since March 1st he somehow regards big trees with reverential awe. When I ascended the 75 feet of limbless trunk on my way to the eagle's nest he sat beneath a neighboring tree and actually perspired through sheer sympathy.

It was no easy task to induce him to accompany me into the "tall timber" on June 5th. I depicted the musical charms of the woodland songsters, the profusion of wild flowers, the soft carpet of wavy ferns, the cool shade, etc., but it was not until I mentioned finding more than forty nests of the American Redstart there in 1903 and the majority less than eight feet above the ground that he consented.

We had barely penetrated the woods when I heard him yell. There he was high as possible in the branches of a fallen tree while on the ground beneath was coiled a rattle snake. This spoiled him for nest finding as during the remainder of the day he dared not let his eyes wander from the ground. However, he found two nests—a red-starts' by stumbling against the sapling and causing madam to flutter past his ear and an ovenbird's. The latter flushed in the thickest kind of second growth and, owing to the deep shade, was so snake like that she had hardily started in one direction when Mike was headed in the opposite. But to detail all of Mike's mishaps would leave space for nothing else so we will dispense with him, merely mentioning his impression of this woods. He declares it a combination of tangled vegetation, fallen logs, stinging nettle, poisin ivy, mosquitoes and rattle snakes and is willing to swear before a notary that these mosquitoes weigh a pound each and have bills a foot long and were anyone to ask him what it is that a man is always looking for in the woods but never wants to find he would promptly exclaim, snakes!

The above gives a fair idea of this woods except that I have seen no mosquitoes quite so large as Mike's. It is a favorite collecting ground and here, on the above date, I secured my first set of Cerulean Warbler. It is doubtful if more than two or three pairs nest in this 50 acres. Every suitable tree was carefully inspected and none of the birds were seen except at their nests. The location is Grosse Pointe Township, Wayne county and all the following is referable to this woods.

NEST 1—While looking up Black and White Warblers on May 27, 1900 found a nest of Cerulean. It was in thick woods on fork of horizontal red oak branch 40 feet up and four feet from main trunk. Female on nest

and nearly touched her before she flew. Was raining hard at time which possibly explains her reluctance to leave. No eggs had been deposited and was unable to revisit nest that season.

NEST 3—Was searching for nests of Goldenwinged Warblers in wild clearing of luxuriant plant growth on June 18, 1902 when a female Cerulean was detected gathering nesting material. Followed her to an elm standing well out in the clearing. Nest placed in loop formed by a limb sweeping downward and turning up near the end. Was saddled to bare limb without other support, fully 50 feet above ground and 20 from main trunk. Returned two weeks later but severe wind and rain storms had destroyed it.

NEST 3—Found June 22, 1902. Several little sprouts, about 5 inches long, grew from the side of a large white oak limb about 7 feet from main trunk and 25 above ground. The nest rested upon these and against limb and contained two young about ten days old. Tree about 50 feet inside border of thick woods.

NEST 4—The Ceruleans were slated for especial attention during the present season of 1904. It was for this purpose I made the trip on June 5. Spent the entire day looking for their nests and Mike for snakes—both were successful. Two old nests were first discovered—20 feet up oak and 35 up elm. The new nest was in white oak amid thin scattering of trees through wild clearing grown to small second growth and surrounded by heavy timber and was placed upon horizontal crotch 40 feet up and four feet from main trunk. It contained four fresh eggs and was so well concealed as to resemble a black spot. Madam would have retained her treasure had not a well directed stick struck the limb and flushed her.

NEST 5—Later in the day I circled back to within a hundred yards of the above and there found what looked like the foundation of another nest. This situation was identical with the other except being 35 feet up and only three from main trunk and not well concealed. This nest was completed and contained two eggs on June 12. Left it until the 19th and found that only one more egg had been laid.

Both the above sets are now before me. The eggs resemble those of the redstart except that the ground color has a decided greenish tinge. The nests differ greatly from any other local breeding species, in fact, both the site chosen and the general exterior appearance of the nest strongly suggests the Wood Pewee except the lichens appear in blotches instead of a thick covering and the nests are deeper and lined with fine strippings of grape vine bark. They are not difficult to find but the work requires time and practice because of the great number of suitable trees. Except in the case of nest three and one of the old nests mentioned all were placed upon limbs ranging from 1 to 1½ inches in diameter.

This warbler does not leave until you are on a level with her nest. She then flutters nearly to the ground and with an upward sweep alights upon a lower branch of the nearest tree, all the time uttering a series of rapid chirps. She then works upward from branch to branch until above you, then comes over to your tree and remains within a few feet of you. By this time the male is in evidence but does not approach nearer than the nearest neighboring tree.

The Ceruleans prefer the hard wood timber and keep well up in the trees. They have little taste for the dark depths below and I have never seen them upon the ground except for the purpose of drinking and bathing.

They remain no longer than necessary and dart up into the tree tops. They join forces with the Golden-wings in late July and disappear with them during the last week of August.

J. CLAIRE WOOD,
Detroit, Michigan.

Bird Sanctuaries of New Zealand.

From J. Welsh, N. Fitzroy, Australia.

HOMES FOR WINGLESS BIRDS.

New Zealand has done two things thoroughly—one is to preserve those wingless birds so characteristic of the country, and which, because of their helplessness, would soon disappear as settlement increased—the other is to acclimatise the best game of other countries. Thus, in turning down Canadian moose in their mountains, they brought a Canadian forester to look after the young calves, and a Scotch gamekeeper is now engaged attending to the grouse. In the official report of the Lands department there are some twenty pages of notes upon the wingless birds of New Zealand, contributed by Richard Henry, the caretaker of Resolution Island, one of the sanctuaries upon which these interesting birds are being protected. Resolution Island, in Dusky Sound, West Coast, discovered by Captain Cook, is named after one of the ships in which Cook made his first voyage. There is material for a charming little book on Nature in this official document, the last place where a Victorian, knowing something of the character of his own Government reports, would look for it. And Mr. Henry's chat about the birds which are in his charge, and have become, in some instances, his pets and friends, is so homely, so sympathetic, shows so much of close and loving observation, that something material to the literature of Nature in New Zealand



NEST AND EGGS OF GRASSHOPPER SPARROW.
Photo by L. S. Horton, Hyde Park, N. Y.

would have been lost had the notes not been published.

The wingless birds that are being given sanctuary on Resolution Island are the weka or wood-hen, the kakapo or great ground parrot, the roa, and the kiwi or apteryx. In addition to these, which are his special charge, Mr. Henry writes of all the birds which are either native to or visit the island. It is the wingless ones, however, that are of chief interest. Had New Zealand possessed amongst its native fauna any destructive animals, such as the Australian dingo or the Tasmanian devil, these birds would have been extinct long ago. In settled country both dogs and cats play havoc with them, and the English weasel, which, as Mr. Henry observes, would never have been introduced had its habits been known thoroughly, is also destructive. When rabbits became such a nuisance that poisoned wheat was laid for them, some of the wingless birds were killed in thousands, like the English pheasants, which had been so successfully acclimatised. In many of the public reserves of New Zealand, such as the charming gardens at New Plymouth, one can hear the pheasant calling constantly in the brush, and it is this thick native underwood which gave originally complete protection to the wingless birds.

The weka or wood-hen is evidently one of the most interesting of the residents on Resolution Island. The quaint ways and quick sagacity of two of them, "Chicken" and "Scrag," who visit the caretaker's house on the look-out for table scraps, and share the contents of the dog's dish without risk, are amusingly described. These birds mate for life, and take turn about in hatching and protecting the brood. One of them is never absent from the nest from the time the first egg is laid until the young—which look like balls of soft down—are able to protect them-

selves. This care is the more necessary as both the eggs and young are destroyed by rats, weasels and sparrowhawks. Sometimes, of an evening, when the tide is low, the wood-hens take their families out on the beaches, and the sparrowhawks watch for them there, and kill the young by scores. The weka is, in its turn, destructive. Paradise ducks, like the wild ducks of Australia, cover up their eggs carefully with a mat of down when leaving the nest, but the wekas have an hereditary knowledge of the trick, and a young bird, which has never seen a duck's nest, tears away the down to get at the eggs the moment it discovers one. If they find a hen's nest with eggs uncovered, they always go through the motions of tearing away the nest before starting to eat the eggs. Although on friendly terms with the caretaker, they hide their own nests away from him very carefully, and if one of the pair comes to the house for scraps for its mate, it always takes a round-about track to the nest, and is careful to see that it is neither watched nor followed. They kill each other's young, so that every pair on the island have their own run and no others are allowed to intrude. Mr. Henry considers these birds most valuable as insect-destroyers in an orchard, and observes that if they were difficult to get fruitgrowers would be quite keen about them. On the table land above the Otira Gorge, when crossing from the west coast, one often sees the weka and her brood running along the track in front of the coach. When the first brood have been hatched and are fairly grown, the hen hands them over to her mate, and starts to lay again. The male shepherds the young persistently, apparently gives them all the food he can find, and if they call for help in danger, he is with them in an instant, keen for a fight. When he finds a rat he tackles it in-

stantly, though not strong enough to kill it single-handed. The squeaking of the rat is a signal to another weka, who rushes up, and helps to kill the enemy.

It is surmised that the kakapo, or great ground parrot—the only parrot which does not fly—had once the use of its wings. Finding in New Zealand no ground enemies and abundance of food and cover, it ceased to use its wings, which only subjected it to the risk of being taken by a hawk, and as the wings degenerated from disuse, the legs developed in the same proportion, so that now it is a good runner. Tree parrots in Australia are awkward on the ground, but the seed-eating grass parrots all run quickly. In addition to the islands, which are so convenient a sanctuary, the Government has two preserves for kakapos on the mainland. They are nightfeeders, though fruit-eaters—an unusual combination, as Mr. Henry points out. Like the owls, they have a disc of prominent feathers about the eyes and near the nose, those long hair-like feathers or feelers common to nocturnal birds or those which have their home underground. They are so feeble, so unconscious of having enemies, that one may go up to them without their showing any alarm. If touched they are resentful, but if you sit down beside the bird a little while in daylight it tucks its head calmly under its wing and goes off to sleep again. Unlike the weka, the kakapo hides her nest away carefully from her own mate, who is generally both fat and indolent. These birds only breed every second year, and the curious point about them is that all the birds lay in the same season—a peculiarity which naturalists are quite unable to understand. Their call at night is very much like the booming of a bittern in the swamps, and the night-drumming is only heard just before

the nesting time. In the following year they are silent. The birds are always plentiful where wild berries grow thickly, and New Zealanders speak of such spots as “kakapo-gardens.” The young, when first hatched, are covered with a snow-white down. The holes so frequently found in their gardens, where they have scratched, suggest that they dig for truffles, and it is known that they eat mushrooms.

The roa, another of the wingless birds, is distinguished by its wonderful beak—long, slender, and slightly curved. This, too, is a night bird, and rarely found far away from forests. It uses its long, snipe-like bill just for the same purpose that the snipe does its bill, except that it works in harder ground, and its chief food is earthworms. Its sight is poor, but Nature, as is usually the case, compensates for this defect by sharpening up its sense of smell and hearing. When seen in the moonlight, it moves slowly along with its bill outstretched, and often stands with the point of its bill resting upon the earth, as though either trying to scent the worms or feel for their movements underground. The peculiar thing about their breeding habits is that a young bird a week or so old and a fresh egg are frequently found in the same nest. Like the wekas, the parent roas share the cares of a family, though in another way—the male bird does all the hatching. The young are born with all their feathers like mature birds, and apparently all their intelligence as well, for as soon as they are hatched they start to search for their own food, and require no hints as to the best place to find it. The single egg, like that of the mutton bird, is exceptionally large. Thus, in the nesting season the hen, always in fine condition, weighs about 8lb., the “hatcher” 5lb., and the egg 18oz.

The grey kiwi is described as a shy,

gentle little thing, that seems to depend wholly for its existence on its ability to hide away in lonely places. They are shaped much like the roa, but have straight beaks. It is a light-loving bird, that feeds by day mostly upon white grubs. It resembles the roa in its breeding habits, laying one large egg, hatched by the male bird, but while in the nesting season the pair of roas are rarely separated, the kiwis are just as rarely found together. The young are very beautiful little birds, quite silent, but so alert and cautious that if you take your eyes off them for a while they disappear. When grown, they have a shrill whistling note, which Mr. Henry describes as like the guard's whistle in a railway train heard a little way off. In summer both the roa and the kiwi like to go up to the high ground, affecting naked mountain crests, and their pathways are clearly marked. The kiwi builds in a short burrow underground, generally protected at the mouth by the root of a tree.

In the case of both the roa and kiwi, it looks as though the male-bird hatched continuously for about 30 days. They go on the nest fat and plump, and by the time the young bird is hatched are feeble skeletons. —*Melbourn Argus.*

these eleven weeks' courses, including living expenses, is less than \$75. Instruction is given by lectures and by practical work in the barns, poultry houses, dairy building, green houses, orchards, etc. The Announcement gives a full description of the Short Courses, and may be had on application to the College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

Review.

"Some of Our Useful Birds." By C. J. Penneck. Being Bulletin No. 5, of the State Board of Agriculture of Delaware. A short treatise on the economical value of eleven common birds of the east.

"Mycological Bulletin No. 20." being part of Vol. II of Ohio State Univ. Bulletin. Of interest to all students of Fungii.

Owing to delay in getting out Oologist Bills (dated October 10th) and the further delay in issuing this number we will extend the 30 day offer made on Bills of October 10th to January I, 1905.

Notice the number on your wrapper. All No. 207 have expired and should be renewed at once.

Free Courses in Agriculture at the State Agriculture College.

There has just come to this office from the College of Agriculture of Cornell University which was made the New York State College of Agriculture by the last legislature, an announcement of three short practical courses in Agriculture, as follows: General Agriculture, Dairying, and Poultry Husbandry. All these courses begin January 5th and end March 21, 1905. Tuition is free to residents of New York. The total cost of taking one of

Publications Received.

Am. Ornithology Vol IV, No. 10, 11, Birds and Nature, Vol. XVI, No. 3. The Amateur Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 5, Nature Study, Vol XIII, No. 10.

EDITORIAL.

To the Editor of the Oologist.

July 1, 1904.

The publication of a fraud in the current issue brings to mind a timely if unpleasant topic. In making our exchanges we are compelled to trust

almost wholly to our correspondents and while the rank and file of these are fine, honest fellows—may their tribe increase—with whom it is a pleasure to deal we occasionally run amuck of a monster who goes about like a raging lion seeking whom he may devour and who in performing his “stunts” leaves rather a bad taste in our mouths.

An experience covering twenty years has disclosed collectors who have quit the business solely on this account; because they did not care to deal—as one of them put it—“with men who were not content with robbing the birds but who wanted to rob their fellowmen as well.”

It would appear that if concerted action could be had that this might be remedied and the rogues relegated to the tall timber.

Suppose a committee of five well-known Oologists in whom the fraternity had explicit confidence could be selected to review any complaints that might arise and act thereon. It would be understood of course—let it be so nominated in the bond—that this tribunal should not rush helter-skelter into print every time a dispute occurred but that they should advise—perhaps admonish—those who were in error and try by all honorable means to adjust the matter with good feelings to all concerned and nobody should be found guilty without a chance for full defense and, if need be, reparation. Let them be conciliatory to a fault even but let it be firmly understood that the real frauds would be severely dealt with. A course of action like this and our favorite science will be robbed of its chief bug-a-boo.

It is moved therefore that such a committee be hereby appointed with our able editor, E. H. Short as chairman and Charles S. Thompson, Sec. of Cooper Club, as secretary, the remaining three—well distributed in location—to be selected by these two. All in favor say aye.

A. E. PRICE.

When I received this communication from Mr. Price it hardly seemed as though this matter could be as bad as he represented.

Of course differences of opinion will always arise between collectors as to what constitutes fair usage and first

class specimens but that *real intentional* fraud could be so rampant that these measures were needed seemed doubtful to me. However, in the last four months I have been called on to investigate a number of reported cases and in at least five instances I have found unquestionable evidence of intentional fraud. And there are more that may prove of that nature.

In the light of these developments I have been in correspondence with Mr. J. L. Childs, C. S. Thompson and others and find a uniform sentiment in favor of such arrangement as Mr. Price suggests. Now I am always busy and of a peaceful disposition and would much rather have someone else fill the position of chairman of such a committee. However, as all seem to think that my position makes me specially desirable in that capacity, I will try to “fill the pew” until some one better able to attend to it can be found. My service must be subject to the following restrictions and conditions.

First. No case shall go from this committee into print until the entire committee shall be satisfied that an *actual fraud* has been perpetrated.

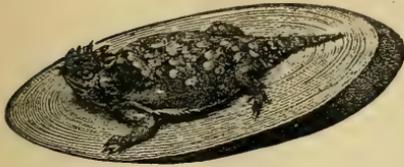
Second. No first offense shall be published if party makes prompt and just reparation.

Third. All complaints should be accompanied by at least ten 2-cent stamps to help defray cost of investigation else the chairman will soon be subject to a financial burden that he will derive no compensation for.

I believe from experience that these conditions are all just.

Mr. J. L. Childs of Floral Park, N. Y., Mr. A. E. Price of Grant Park, Ill. and Mr. C. S. Thompson of Stanford Univ., California have been suggested and agree to serve on such a committee. I would suggest Mr. Philo W. Smith, Jr. of St Louis as a fifth member. Let us hear from him and others.

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VOL. XXI. No. 12.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1904.

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209	your subscription expires with this issue	
212	" " " " "	Mar., 1905
219	" " " " "	Oct., 1905
221	" " " " "	Dec., 1895
257	" " " " "	Dec., 1908

Intermediate numbers can easily be determined. If we have you credited wrong we wish to rectify.

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The Great Dismal Swamp of Virginia.

Much has appeared in the columns of our various newspapers in regard to this immense swamp, the existence of which seems to be quite generally known although accurate information

in regard to it has, in the writers experience at least, been rather difficult to obtain. Both before and after the civil war it was much resorted to by runaway slaves and others who found a safe hiding place in its dense, dark tangles and hence there is considerable romantic interest attached to it. Popular belief has it that the swamp is now, as it may have been then, a very gloomy morass, almost inaccessible for travel, abounding in poisonous snakes and making an atmosphere heavily tainted with malaria and swamp fever. To investigate the real conditions, the writer, accompanied by Mr. Paul White of Washington, D. C. paid a short visit to the swamp during the fall of 1901. We were well repaid for our trouble by a sight of this interesting country and of the very pretty body of water, Lake Drummond, which forms a part of it.

The swamp occupies a plain about forty miles wide, extending from Suffolk, Virginia to Albemarle Sound, North Carolina. "Its western boundary is determined by a sharply defined escarpment, formed by the sea when the continent was about twenty-eight feet below its present level. Its eastern boundary is marked by a series of low elevations, dune like in nature, extending from Norfolk, Va. to Elizabeth City, N. C." The country is undulating in character, well wooded and apparently fertile. The Dismal Swamp Canal, a canal of considerable width and depth, extends from Deep Creek, Va. to South Mills, N. C., thus connecting Chesapeake Bay with Albermarle Sound and affording a safe inside passage to such heavily

laden barges and vessels as do not attempt the ocean trip.

We made our start from Norfolk on the eighteenth of September, 1901. It was difficult even in Norfolk to obtain any accurate information in regard to the swamp, or by what means it could be reached. We made frequent inquiries along the wharf front as to the whereabouts of the canal, generally eliciting that discouraging answer, "Deed I doan know sah." However after much travel and questioning we obtained the information that the canal was at Gilmerton, some seven miles from Norfolk and that a steamer for that place left Norfolk at two o'clock in the afternoon. After assuring ourselves that this information was correct, we visited the office of the Albemarle and Chesapeake Canal Company where we obtained an interview with the manager. From him we learned that there was a canal which started from Deep Creek, the latter place being about two and a half mile from Gilmerton. He also informed us that formerly the canal commenced at Gilmerton, but that the portion between Deep Creek and Gilmerton had been abandoned. His account of the swamp itself was most discouraging, but in spite of this and the terrible weather we decided to keep going.

Promptly at two o'clock we appeared at the wharf of the Bennett Line and found there the little steamer Nita which was to convey us to Gilmerton where we hoped to be able to secure a skiff. There had been a terrible rain all this time and our clothes were drenched, which made the little cabin of the Nita seem doubly inviting and comfortable.

The moorings were soon cast off and we commenced to wend our way up the Elizabeth River, stopping occasionally at some little wharf to put off freight. The scenery along the

banks of the river was really very pretty, marshes of considerable extent reaching out from banks covered with brush, and trees that stood out in clear outline against the sky.

At Gilmerton we were landed in a scow, from which we clambered to a schooner lying alongside and thence to the wharf. Gilmerton appeared to be a busy little spot but it was raining hard and we could not well appreciate the scenery. A man whom we met at Gilmerton gave us considerable information about the swamp, his stories about the abundance of game certainly contradicting those of our informant in Norfolk. We succeeded in renting a flat bottomed skiff from a "gentleman of color" and after bailing it out we embarked and commenced our trip up the canal.

The scenery along the banks of the canal was very pretty. Many species of trees, among which we noted maples pine, cypress, oaks and willows, intermingled with a luxuriant growth of shrubs, lined the banks on both sides. The canal was from fifty to over one hundred feet wide and of a good depth. Had it not been for the rain our trip up this portion of the canal would have been one of many stops, but as the rain was still coming down in torrents we hustled along as fast as possible.

We met our first real trouble just below Deep Creek, in the shape of a carry of over a hundred yards, from the Gilmerton canal into the main canal starting from Deep Creek. Our boat was very heavy and we could not have managed it, had it not been for the keeper of the Deep Creek lock gate who came to our assistance. On getting into the main canal it was but a few minutes journey to Deep Creek. When we arrived there the hour was so late that we tied our skiff to the bridge and went hunting for a lodging

which we were fortunate enough to secure.

19 SEP 1901

The next morning the weather conditions were somewhat better. After purchasing a few supplies at one of the Deep Creek stores, we commenced the voyage to Lake Drummond. Our host of the preceding night had told us of a lock keeper at the lake who would put us up, and, since the weather was so rainy, we decided to stop with him if possible. After rowing for a couple of miles we tied the tent canvass to an oar, which made a first rate sail, and used the tent rope for a sheet. With this rig we made the next ten or twelve miles up the canal in good time, passing several launches and the town of Walliston on the way. This part of the canal had higher banks and less in the way of trees along the banks, although in places there were plenty of trees. Some three miles above Walliston we came upon the mouth of the feeder ditch, as the portion of the canal which branches off to the lake is called.

This feeder is in some places not more than fifteen feet wide and there was a dredge in it at this time deepening, and I believe widening the channel. This dredge very nearly blocked our passage and we had quite a time getting by it. The feeder is three miles long and a hard pull on account of the force of the water flowing from the lake into the canal.

On arriving at the lock, which is within a few hundred yards of the lake, we disembarked and proceeded to get acquainted with the lock keeper. He proved to be very pleasant and readily agreed to our making his shack our headquarters.

We borrowed his boat, which was above the lock, and made our first visit to the lake. It was a beautiful sight, almost a perfect circle of water, of the same dark color as that in the canal, about three miles in diameter,

and surrounded by a growth of high trees, mostly gums, cypress and juniper. Almost all the way round, extending from the shore to a distance of one or two hundred feet into the water, were a lot of cypress stumps and dead cypress trees, most of them covered with hanging moss.

We spent two days at the lake, during which time it rained, so that we were unable to get many pictures or take the extended trips about the swamp which we had hoped to do. However, we managed to get around considerable and found out many things about the swamp and its animal fauna.

Birds were quite numerous. I saw many Pileated Woodpeckers, "good gods" the swampers call them. There is a small herd of wild cattle near the lake. Bear, judging from the accounts given us, are still fairly plentiful and those who understand hunting them, get several each year. They weigh generally about two hundred pounds when dressed. Deer are getting very scarce. The old practice of driving them to the lake with hounds and killing them while they were swimming has almost cleaned them out. Gray squirrels are still very plentiful. Ducks are said to frequent the lake in real cold weather and fish are said to be plentiful in the right season. One of the swampers told me that "in the Spring we get all kinds of fish." They certainly were not plentiful at the time of our visit. We saw no poisonous snakes, though several species of the non-venomous sort were observed. The list of birds seen and identified during our two days at the lake, comprises twenty-nine species. Several other species were noted but their identity was not positively established. The twenty-nine species are as follows: Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Black Crowned Night Heron, Solitary Sandpiper, Mourning

Dove, Turkey Buzzard, Sparrow Hawk, American Osprey, Great Horned Owl, Kingfisher, Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Kingbird, Blue Jay, Baltimore Oriole, Crow, Goldfinch, Redbird, Towhee Bunting Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellow-throat, American Redstart, Catbird, Mockingbird, House Wren, Chickadee, Bluebird.

If we had been able to spend more time at the lake this list would have been much longer. The tall forests, with their undergrowth of brush and briars, together with the more open land and cane brakes, bordering on the lake and canal, afford a variety of shelter for our feathered friends, and the number of them present showed that they appreciate the advantages offered by this locality.

The undergrowth in the swamp is very dense, and in some places there is an abundance of sticky mud, but on the whole the swamp is a pleasant place to visit. Mosquitoes were not at all troublesome on our trip and the natives told me that they were not troubled at all with malaria, nor was swamp sickness more prevalent than in other localities. The canal drains the swamp very satisfactorily which may account for the better conditions prevailing there at the present time.

On September twenty-second we returned to Gilmerton. Arriving in Gilmerton in the day-time, we found that an electric road connected Gilmerton with Portsmouth and we elected to go by trolley. At Portsmouth we took the ferry for Norfolk arriving there just in time to board the steamer for Washington.

The ornithological results of the trip were not as good as I had hoped for. However, we both felt repaid for the trip, in spite of the miserable weather we encountered, and later on I hope to again visit this region when,

with more time, I hope to establish a larger acquaintance with its fauna.

F. P. DROWNE, M. D.
Providence, R. I.

Unusual Nesting Sites of the American Merganser. (*Merganser Americanus*).

By WALTER RAINE, Toronto.

In all ornithological works on North American Birds Nests and Eggs, the nesting situation of this species is given as being in a hole in a tree, after the manner of the Hooded Merganser, Buffle-head, American Golden-eye and Wood Duck. I was therefore very much surprised to find American Mergansers nesting in holes under boulders on an island in Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba during June 1903.

My son and I found about thirty pairs nesting on Gun Island in Lake Winnipegosis on June 16, 1903. All the nests that we could reach were built far back at the end of dark passages under the boulders on the highest part of the island, some nests were five or six feet back from the entrance and very difficult to get at. In one hole we caught a female sitting on its eggs, therefore identification was complete, besides the eggs are easily told from other ducks by their very large size averaging 2.60 x 1.80 and their pale buff tint. The down in the nest is also pale greyish white like that of all ducks that nest in holes in the dark.

The nests contained respectively 9, 10, and 12 eggs, one nest contained 13 eggs, and one nest contained eggs laid by two females, as could plainly be seen, half the eggs being of a different shape and darker buff tint than the rest.

My son caught a female on the nest and tied a fishing line to it and we were surprised to see how fast it could swim under water using its wings for that purpose, it fairly flew under water, after a while he set it at liberty. The

male Merganser flew away from the island as our sail boat approached but the females sat close, dashing out of the dark passages as we searched among the bowlders.

On this same island several Red-breasted Megansers had nests, but these were built under dense undergrowth and not at the end of dark passages like the American Merganser nests. The Red-breasted Mergansers' nests contained 8 and 9 eggs each, they are smaller than American Mergansers' eggs; averaging 2.50 x 1.70, the tint of the eggs is a yellowish drab and entirely different to those of the American Merganser, the down also is much darker being of a deep warm greyish tint. Both ducks are very destructive to fish and are therefore disliked by the fishermen. They are known to gunners as sawbills and their flesh is rank and unpalatable.

Late Nesting of *Vireo Olivaceus*.

RICHARD F. MILLER.

The Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*) annually rears two brood of young in Northeastern Philadelphia county, Penn., the first brood in June and the second late in July or early in August at the latest, in my experience, August 25th, the second brood has been hatched and left the nest to begin the battle of life and to wage incessant warfare upon the noxious woodland insects. But it is not about the habits of this well known bird that I wish to speak, as my studies of its habits does not differ very much from what have been written about it by more observant students. What I want to record is the finding of a late nest, probably the latest on record.

The nest in question was found on September 8, 1897, in Juniata Park, at Frankford, Philadelphia County, Penn. It contained 3 eggs, all fresh, which I collected with the nest. It

was situated 18 feet up in a maple, well in the wood, suspended from a small horizontal crotch 12 feet from the trunk. It was a typical nest composed of the usual combination of materials and handsomely ornamented—if the spiders' webs and cocoons of caterpillar attached to the outside can be called ornamentations; it was loosely woven to the fork. The eggs were of normal size, ovate in shape, in color white, wreathed with black dots and spots on the long ends.

Now for some suppositions. If I had left the nest and eggs they would require 10 or 12 days in which to incubate and would have hatched on September 18-20, probably on the 18th as the bird would sit and brood more closely and oftener, owing to the lateness of the season. Reasoning that the young hatched on the 18th they would be confined to the nest 10 or 12 days, before being able to leave it, leaving it probably by October 1st, and for the next few days they would need the constant care and feeding of their parents before being able to take care of themselves. It would have been October 4-5 before they would be able to hunt their own food.

October 5! And in less than two weeks the Red-eye migrates to their warm winter home, as my latest fall record during 7 years of consecutive field observations is October 18, 1897 at this locality—Frankford.

Even had all of the young hatched all or at least two of them would have perished, not from the effects of the cold, although they would have suffered somewhat, but from the lack of food, for at this season of the year most of the insects on which the Red-eye feed are scarce, and they feed to a large extent on berries, such as poke, gum, dogwood and golden bell (*Forsythia viridissima*). But I have never observed them feed these berries to their young for obvious reason—never

having found a nest containing young at this season of the year.

My opinion is that the birds would have subsequently abandoned the nest leaving the eggs or young, whatever it may have contained at the time of desertion to their fate, for it would have been impossible for them to procure enough food for the subsistence for their own and the lives of their young.

The White-rumped Shrike in Eastern New York.

On May 18, 1902, while out walking, I came upon a nest, situated in a thorn apple tree, and as the bird which left the nest was new to me, I lost no time in climbing up and examining it. The nest contained five young birds about half-fledged and so I left, but being over in that locality on June 3rd, I looked into the nest and was greatly delighted to find three fresh eggs which I took. I got quite close to the birds which I thought might be White-rump shrikes. They were extremely bold, approaching quite near to my head and making a queer, snapping sound with their bills. This noise could be heard a long distance off and was made as often on the wing as when the bird was at rest. Occasionally they varied this with a cry closely resembling the call of a catbird. Finally both flew away and did not show up again that day. On May 7, 1903, I happened to visit the locality and upon going to the old nest, was surprised to find that the bird had repaired it and laid five eggs which were about one-half incubated. I took four leaving the other as a nest egg to make them lay a second set but was disappointed, as the egg disappeared. I told a friend about the disappearance of this egg and he suggested that the bird ate it. Any way this bird left the locality, and did not come back to it

again. On May 1, 1904, while over in the country, some three miles from the old nest, I came upon another pair of White-rumps, and a short search revealed the nest, just ready for the eggs, placed in a pine tree about ten feet up, and well concealed. I went over to the nest on May 7th, but it was empty. The birds were around and so I knew that the nest was not deserted. On May 13th, I went over and found that the nest contained six eggs. These I took together with the nest. A couple of weeks later, a pair of Kingbirds built a nest in the same tree and at present, have young. But to return to the White-rumps. On May 16th, on going over there, I found another nest containing one fresh egg which I left. The same pair of birds had built a nest, a beauty, and laid an egg in three days. Pretty quick work. On May 22nd, I went over and secured the set, also of six.

On June 1st, while looking for High-holes, I chanced to strike the locality again and you can imagine my surprise at finding another nest containing six eggs also. I took four, leaving the other two to the birds, but these disappeared a couple of days later. Either a boy or an animal got them or else the birds ate them. Well, I went over there on June 11th, and I could hardly believe my eyes upon finding another nest, this containing six eggs also. Now, all these nests were within a radius of fifty feet. This pair of birds had, in forty-two days, built four nests, and laid twenty-four eggs. I left the last set and sincerely hope that the Shrikes succeeded in raising their brood. The nest was, in all cases, quite bulky composed of twigs, grasses, rootlets, etc., and very finely lined with feathers. The eggs are, in my experience, from three to six in number, and are greenish grey, spotted with light brown, olive and violet, chiefly at the large end.

On June 27th, while up near the place where I found the nest in 1902 and '03, I saw another shrike and after a short search found its nest, just deserted by young, placed in an apple tree about twenty feet up. I counted five young and two old birds in various parts of the orchard in which the nest was situated. The pair will undoubtedly nest there in 1905. The birds would swing on dead primrose stems, making a queer noise, probably shrieking with joy. Thus, I know of two pair of White-rump shrikes that have nested in this county (Fulton) and doubtless more have nested as my observations are quite restricted. Summing up the matter, I come to the conclusion that the bird is gradually becoming more abundant in eastern New York and in a few years will undoubtedly become one of the commonest of our land birds. Before closing I wish to thank Mr. Benjamin Hoag for identifying properly, these birds from a description which I sent him.

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER,
Gloversville, New York.

One Egg Within Another.

A QUESTION.

To the Editor of the Oologist.

DEAR SIR:—A few days ago a hen's egg was shown me which, from outside general appearance, was the same as any other hen's egg with the exception that the shell was a trifle larger than common but when broken open it was found to contain a peculiar lump enclosed in the white of the egg. This lump was the shape of a bean and about an inch long of a dirty yellow color. Nothing unusual about the yoke or the other parts of the white of this egg. The lump mentioned above proved to be another egg with a shell on it. Shell was very thick, very near 1 millimeter in thickness, was

nearer the structure of a snake's egg than it was of a hen's egg, as it was very pliable and could be pressed out of shape only to return to its natural shape again, yolk was the same or nearly the same as the other yolk with this exception, it was a deeper yellow color. It was not, to my thinking, a reptile's egg nor a hen's egg. What was it? How did it get there, and when? Egg was from the grocery store so can't tell what kind of a hen laid it.

Last spring a White Rock Chicken laid a double egg. The shell I reserved for my collection. It is considerable thicker in structure than customary with hen's eggs, shape of egg is the same as an alligator's eggs. Egg was four inches long and about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. Egg shell contained two complete eggs. Why did this happen?

Thinking that the foregoing would be of interest to the readers of the Oologist and would also give them a chance to speculate on the formation of two interesting abnormalities, and hoping to learn from your excellent publication more about the two eggs, or I might say four, I am Yours,

EDMUND EVERETT HOBBS,
Binghamton, N. Y.

ANSWER—Double eggs like the second instance Mr. Hobbs gives, are common with fowls in captivity, especially hens and ducks. This is very rare with wild birds. In the first case the yolk of the first egg was evidently incased by the first membrane layer of shell with the white or *albumen* lacking and, being too small to cause the hen to expell it, became a part of and was enclosed in the shell of a second egg.

This is the first instance of this kind to come to the editor's notice.

EDITOR.

EDITORIAL.

In the matter of that Egg of Dwarf Screech Owl?

I received the communication from Dr. Moody last spring as printed herewith.

Sand Point, Idaho, Feb. 27, 1904.

Editor Oologist, Albion, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

I note in your issue of February, 1904, that you are of the opinion that you are in possession of at least one egg of the Pigmy Screech Owl (*Megascops flammeolus idahoensis*) collected by Mr. Nelson of Boise. Permit me to doubt your classification. I am very familiar with the locality of Boise and were you so you would not for an instant suppose that the egg sent you could be of that elusive little Screecher. Boise is in the midst of an arid plain covered with sage and with only a few scattering cotton-woods along the streams. There is not an evergreen tree within fifty miles of the place. Then it surely does not stand to reason that this bird of the deep fir and hemlock woods would come away out in desert to choose a nesting site when there are so many more available locations nearer home. The Pigmy Owl is not an uncommon bird in our higher mountains here in Idaho, but I do not remember having seen him lower than 5,000 elevation. The Bitter Root mountains from the north to the south of the state are the home of the Owl and it was only a chance that Professor Merriam discovered it in the Saw Tooth, in Blaine County. I have studied this Owl in Shoshone and Kootenai Counties and have hunted diligently for the nests without avail. I am convinced that they nest early and very high up in the dead tops of the great hemlocks and pines, deep in the gulches. They feed almost entirely at night. I have watched them around the small lakes in the mountains catching frogs and pollywogs. It will require considerable evidence to convince me that Mr. Nelson found this Owl nesting in the Boise Valley. I do not write this in the spirit of carping criticism but to add to the store of knowledge of this little known Owl.

Yours truly,

CHAS S. MOODY, M. D.

As this seemed to need investigating I held the matter open and tried to follow it up a little.

I greatly indebted to Mr. H. C. Mills of Unionville, Conn., for assis-

tance in the matter. I copy from correspondence as follows:

Boise, Idaho, Mar. 21, 1904,

Mr. F. C. Nelson to H. C. Mills.

In this letter Mr. Nelson stated that one live Owl he gave to a Dr. Bartlett, an Englishman who was then traveling through the Northwest and that the Dr. had killed and kept another which he (Nelson) had shot.

This was the bird that was flushed from my egg.

Mr. Nelson states in this letter that he will at once write Dr. Bartlett and find out what he finally found the skins to be.

Under date Oct. 9, 1904, Mr. Nelson writes to Mr. Mills. "I met Dr. Bartlett in Portland, Oregon this summer and he says the birds were *Dwarf Screech Owl*."

I was unable to reach their breeding ground this season owing to high water but a friend of mine informed me that he secured another bird but neglected to save the skin."

I have through the kindness of Mr. Mills, had the pleasure of examining the other three eggs of the set my egg was taken from. They were badly damaged but are in every way duplicates of the egg described and, while the matter is still open, I cannot call them anything but Dwarf Screech Owl as yet.

[EDITOR.]

We would call special attention to two articles in current number of "Condor."

One on the Laysan Albatross by W. K. Fisher profusely illustrated and one on West, Golden-Crown Kinglet by J. H. Bowles.

Some samples of Bird Photo work by B. S. Bowdish deserve special notice.

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Publications Received.

"Birds and Nature." Vol. XVI., No. 4.

"Nature Study." Vol. XIII., No. 11.

"Conder." Vol. VI. No. 6.

BIRD SKINS.

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European Rook.....	53
European Carrion Crow.....	52
Lapwing Plover, m.....	60
Canada Ruffed Grouse, m.....	60
Swallow-tail Kite.....	2 20
Holboell's Grebe, m.....	1 05
Am. Coot, m. 50c; fm.....	40
Hooded Merganser, m. \$1.15; fm.....	85
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Green Heron, m.....	45
Screech Owl.....	40
*European Corn Crake.....	30
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Red-capped Hornbill, Marquesas.....	2 25
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Gt-billed Tody, Marquesas.....	50
Yellow-throated Honey-eater, Marquesas.....	50
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European Blackbird, m.....	26
European Starling m.....	32
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Bay-breasted Warbler, fm.....	32
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Bullock's Oriole, m.....	28
Baltimore Oriole, m.....	28
*Long-tailed Chat, m.....	20
Maryland Yellow-throat, fm. 14c. m.....	18
Am. Redstart, fm., 14c; m.....	18
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Swamp Sparrow.....	20
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Water-thrush.....	24
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Red-breasted Nuthatch.....	20
Purple Martin, fm.....	22
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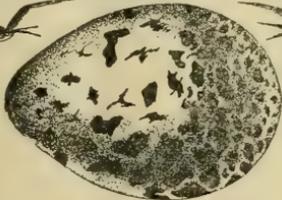
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THE OÖLOGIST

FOR THE STUDENT OF

BIRDS, THEIR NESTS AND EGGS

VOLUME XXII

ALBION, N. Y

FRANK H. LATTIN, M. D., PUBLISHER

ERNEST H. SHORT, EDITOR AND MANAGER

1905



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THE OÖLOGIST.

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VOL. XXII. No. 1.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1905.

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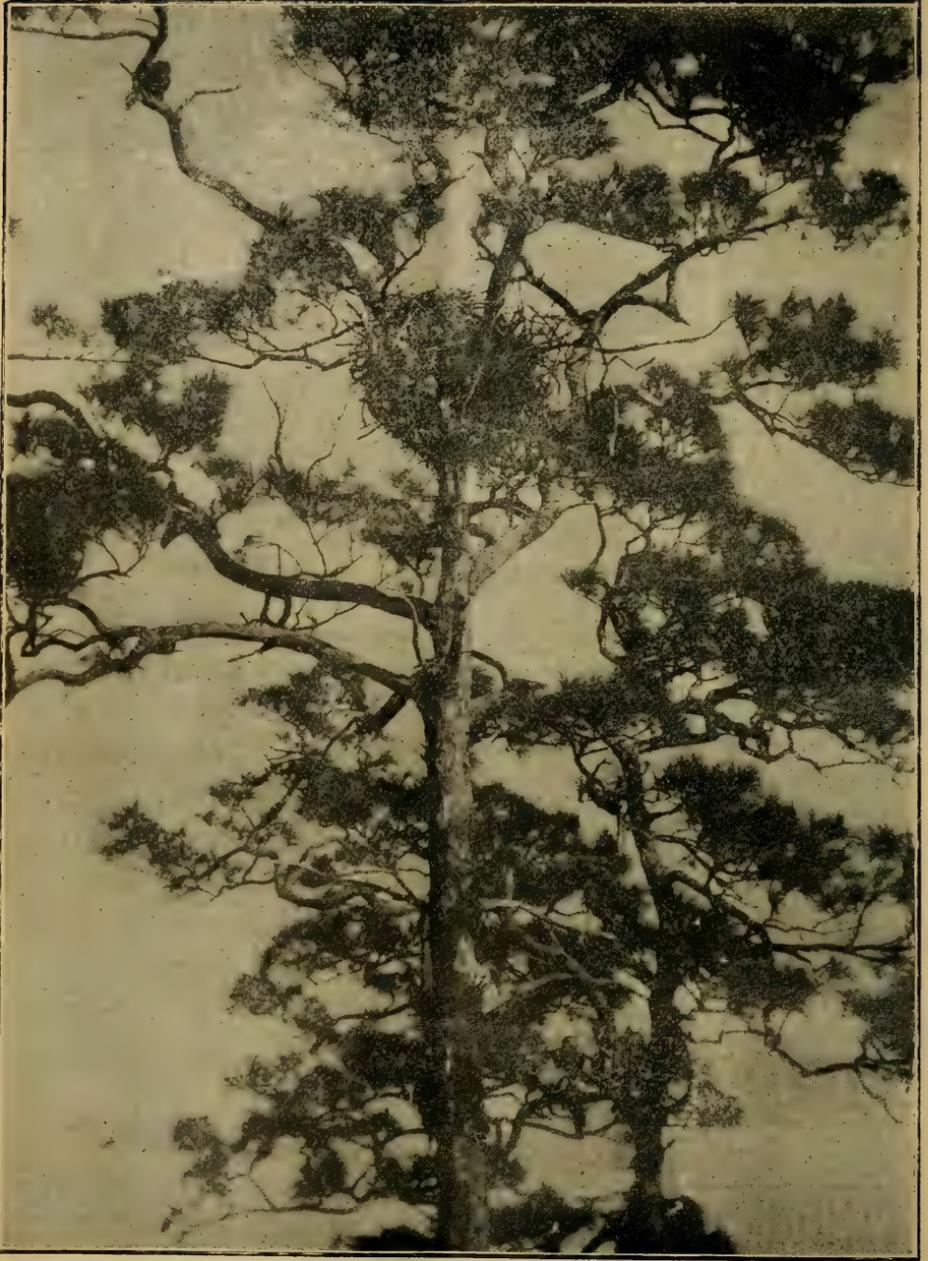
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FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

Correspondence and items of interest to the student of Birds, their Nests and Eggs, solicited from all.

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Bald Eagle Experiences in Florida.

Continued.

I had so many letters from various parts of the country from Maine to California and one from England about my article on the Bald Eagle in your June, 1904 issue, I thought

another would interest your readers, and I will also furnish you a photo of fine nest with Eagle perched on tree near nest from which I took a set of eggs late in December last.

My boy still being home on his vacation, and something of an everglade trotter like myself, we concluded to go south some 9 miles and in a direction we had seen Eagles fly when we had been down on our launch. Both of us with Minnie started by day-break and poled our boat to the locality, but low water and glowing sunshine made it quite laborious work. Almost exhausted we sat down amid swamps of cypress and saw-grass to eat our lunch with no luck to date.

After lunch I insisted on going another direction and on rounding a point my boy said "papa, I believe I see an Eagle sitting on an old dead tree nearly a mile away." I took in the situation at a glance. When you see an eagle at that season of year perched in that style it invariably means business. We poled the liveliest gait of the day although a few minutes before we were about exhausted.

Nearing the place things looked encouraging, we landed, eagle still perched about 200 yards distant. I said "If a nest is near by we shall soon see both birds" and no sooner said than done, over our heads they soared making their usual screeches and we soon saw the nest. I concluded to climb to it as my boy wished to shoot a bird for mounting and I had consented when we found one a long distance from home. I cautioned him not to shoot until I had examined the nest and when I found 3.

eggs I said "dont shoot at all. This is the first case of this kind I ever saw and she may lay 3 next year," consequently that eagle's life was spared by her having laid three eggs. I put them in my pocket and began to descend when Minnie says, "wait and I'll get a picture with you up the tree" which she did. This nest was the smallest I ever saw and I'm inclined to think its the first season used. It was built of coarse sticks, was about $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet across but only about $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep; small depression only and lined with few fish bones and some moss. Its only about 40 feet high in pine tree and in an ideal spot. We felt well repaid for our days work after all.

The next trip my boy was not along. I had heard of a nest some 13 miles away in a large pine tree along a cypress swamp. I was obliged to go alone that day so I took the train and had conductor let me off in a sort of a paradise place for game. I sauntered along in the direction I had been told and finally I discovered a fine nest but no sight of a bird near. I kept on my course and finally I saw one come to greet me, they always do, they seem to like me. When I was at the tree, 9 feet in circumference and no limb for fully forty feet, wind blowing about 15 miles an hour, I wished for company. Well, I put climbers on and started up. My hat blew off when 20 feet up; my coat was fastened on or it would have gone also. It was the hardest climb I ever had but I made it and was rewarded only by the sight of a pair of little downy young about one week old. I left them of course to do me service later on. This nest was some 60 feet high; 6 feet across; 4 feet deep and was an old one; doubtless has been used many years.

It was my first visit in that section and it looked so fine about there I thought I would continue along the swamp and edge of timber as it was

early in the day and I might find another nest or jump up some game. When about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away I saw an Eagle chasing some buzzards at a lively rate about one mile distant. I said at once "that means another eagle's nest and buzzards are there trying to steal the fish which are usually found on the edge of nearly every nest." I made straight for it. On my way I put in some shells of No. 2, thinking I would shoot an eagle for my boy as this was a long distance from anywhere, but really if there is one thing I dislike to shoot, its the Bald Eagle. I have two, male and female, finest specimens I ever saw which I shot and had mounted three years ago. Well, I jollied along quietly watching their manouvers quite interestedly when to my surprise up went about five or six Jacksnipe. "I dont want to scare the eagle so I'll bag some of them on my return" was my thought. When this was running through my mind up jumped two fine deer, only 25 yards away. We were short of meat at home and had eagles so I got the drop on one fine doe and saw the other run away not daring to shoot another as I did not know how to get the one home already shot. I almost forgot my eagles nest only 200 yards away. I dressed my deer however first, took a breath and up to the nest I went. I got a nice set and didn't disturb nest or birds. Minnie and I went as near as possible in launch a few days later and took picture of nest, having to rough it pretty well to get there through swamps and tall saw-grass shooting one alligator on the way, and for a lady to get along on one of these trips its no "boys play." By-the-way this is the picture shown herewith with eagle perched near nest, quite a thing to get. If you don't believe it try it. This nest is 40 feet high, in pine tree, about 6 feet across, 4 feet deep and was built as all others are of

large sticks lined with bark lining and Spanish moss.

I lunched, put saddle of venison over my shoulder leaving forequarters for the buzzards and started for railroad station 8 miles away. O dear! I never had such a day, and I never want—; yes I do! many more just like it, was home at 8 p. m., and to see the expression on my boys face to think he had not gone, was painful in the extreme.

It was now getting late in the season but my partner and I went out occasionally to investigate new territory and often I would find something that would be of interest later on if not at that moment.

One eve, taking a circuitous route home, I saw at a distance what appeared to be an Osprey's nest or an old Eagle's nest, so I went to it and when there, or quite near, I remarked to Minnie, "This looks very much like a nest my boy and I took a pair of large eagles from several years ago." The swamp had all been burned over and of course I scarcely recognized the place, besides I had not been there for several years and in the Everglades everything changes rapidly. While surveying the situation I thought I saw the head of a bird move in that nest, which by the way, I was going right past because I thought it an old burnt-out nest. I whooped and to my surprise off flew "Old Abe" or his wife and you should have seen my expression. Well, here we were at 4 p. m., 6 miles from home, nest in middle of swamp and no rubber boots nor climbers.

Of course we started right home to return the next day, but high winds and bad weather made the trip impossible for several days. In the meantime we had left our wheels some six miles from home where we expected to return that evening and would have done so but for the fact we could get

home just as quickly by boat and next day be on hand with climbers etc., and then get our wheels and explain to the old settler what we had done, but to our amusement, he had kept a lantern hung up for us all night thinking we were lost and when we did not return he came to town and gave the alarm. We had surely drowned etc. etc. Scouting parties were out at once looking us up and we were finally located at our homes safe and sound and I never saw such a satisfied expression on a man's face as the old settler had. Well when the weather permitted we "hiked" down there again and I climbed to the nest but it was so large and no limbs and the tree was dead and so very shaky that I burrowed through the nest and found but one egg which I was about to put back and return later for the set of two but as only one bird was about and she made no fuss and was not on the nest when we arrived I concluded something was wrong, I found upon examination that the single egg was no good and the Eagle had about abandoned the nest for that season. We took good picture of same with me up tree and returned. This nest was built like all others, was 60 feet high in top of dead cypress, six and one-half feet across and four feet deep. This was almost our last trip especially for Eagles nests as it was getting late in the season about January 1st. Now what do you think I was told a month or two latter when a very fine gentleman and my partner sat on my veranda one beautiful afternoon? he said "well J. J. I've stolen your partner," I replied "you don't mean it." He said "That's a fact I have concluded to take her for life." Of course I was delighted in one sense, but sorry in another as in all my hunting trips I never saw a person who so thoroughly enjoyed the woods and all nature and was so exceedingly anxious to do her part, even

to almost climbing trees, I can now only look ahead next season to hunting alone and it makes me think of one of Nat Goodwin's plays "Lend me your wife."

J. J. RYMAN.

Awarded a Gold Medal.

When the State of Pennsylvania was collecting her exhibits for the World's Fair at St. Louis, Mr. J. Warren Jacobs, of this place, was called on for a loan of his birds' egg collection, or that part of it which applied to this state. Mr. Jacobs complied, and selected the eggs of birds known to this state, and placed them in the custody of those having charge of the state's exhibit at the big show. Mr. Jacobs has one of the finest collections of eggs in the country. The collection has been the subject of numerous newspaper articles, and has received honorable mention with illustrations in State publications. When a child Mr. Jacobs made a study of birds, and spent much of his time in the woods studying their habits and securing eggs for what is now the greatest collections in the country, and is in demand for such occasions as the World's Fair. The interest grew on Mr. Jacobs, and doubtless the birds have not a warmer friend than he and he often reproves boys who seek to destroy the birds. He is a well versed ornithologist and has issued several pamphlets on the subject.

The awarding of the gold medal by the Superior Jury at the St. Louis Exposition is a compliment and honor deservedly bestowed, and Mr. Jacobs will gracefully wear it. The other day he received this notice, "In accordance with the rule, I beg to inform you the Superior Jury has approved the recommendation that you be awarded a gold medal in group 121." This

notice is signed by David R. Francis, President of the Superior Jury. Mr. Jacobs has been notified by the State Department to go to the St. Louis Fair and be there to superintend the packing of his collection for shipment at the close of the exposition. He will leave in a few weeks. "*Independent*," Waynesburg, Penn.

Nesting of the Whip-poor-will in Franklin County, Indiana.

I have been requested by some of the readers of the Oologist and other experienced enthusiastic ornithologists, to relate the experiences attending the taking of a set of Whip-poor-will's eggs by myself in the collecting season just closed. The finding of the eggs was on June 26, 1904, and notwithstanding the fact of being taken so late in the season, the set, two in number, contained only slight traces of incubation.

An accurate description would be a delicate, faint creamy white, slightly intensified at one end, but also showing at this end very faint shell markings of small brown spots of different shades. This beautiful set of eggs was forwarded to Mr. Ernest H. Short, editor of this paper.

The eggs were found at the foot of a hill along Wolf-creek about one mile from my home (Oak Forest, Indiana), the bird when flushed flew across a deep gulch close by and alighted on a bank on the opposite side. I then approached to within about twenty feet of where the bird was sitting, and with the aid of a field-glass I was able to study and observe her at my leisure while in this position, and when I flushed her again she flew back towards her nest, slightly passing in front of and about ten feet above my head, giving me a good opportunity to observe the general appearance of its under plumage.

The place where the eggs were taken was at the foot of a hill in a dense thicket the eggs were lying in a shallow depression in some dry leaves with no attempt of nest-building whatever. Three weeks later I found two young Whip-poor-wills near the same place which were only a few days old. If this was the same pair of birds that nested there before, I am unable to say, perhaps it was.

JOS. F. HONECKER,
Oak Forest, Ind.

Much to My Sorrow!

I found a Cuckoo's nest about the time the blueberries were scarce with "6 eggs" $\frac{2}{3}$ their natural size; two were with holes, three rotten and one is in with my singles. I believe this is very rare.

I find something is "raising the dickens" with Cuckoo's eggs in this part of the country. I find quite a few Cuckoos' eggs with holes picked in them.

I found a Brown Thrasher's nest on the "ground" under an Oak tree or you might call it a bush, situated like a Chewink's nest, but had plenty of stick.

E. S. COOMBS.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo often lays six or even seven eggs in rare instances. The Black-billed seldom lays over four.

I once found a Robin's nest on the ground at the base of a Railroad embankment. Flushed her from the nest and it appeared to have been built there.

Editor.

A Pomarine Jaeger.

In October, 1904, Mr. W. A. Ketcham of Toledo, O., while out duck shooting near Cedar Point saw a Pomarine Jaeger out of gun shot. This bird is rare in this section of the country, having been observed only a few times around the Great Lakes or perhaps more definitely; Lake Erie.

It was chasing a flock of smaller Gulls and finally disappeared making a dash after some unfortunate Gull. This Gull was seen plainly and could hardly be mistaken. A fellow sportsman saw it also.

A. C. REED,
Toledo, O.

EDITORIAL.

Self Explanatory.

HOUSTON, TEXAS, Dec. 31, 1904.

Editor Oologist:

My Dear Sir:

I take the liberty of writing to you in reference to a *Mid-winter tent-outing and horseback journey* through South-western Texas and Old Mexico beyond the Rio Grande. The party is to consist of fifteen men, aside from guides, chef, helpers, physician and host. Business men who need rest, diversion and out-of-door life, young men who are not strong and amateur sportsmen are the class I desire to have with me. The camp outfit will be of the best, and the cooking equal to that in any private home. The temporary camps and journey of many miles will occupy two months' time, and will extend through a high, dry country, ranging from 1,000 to 3,000 feet elevation, where the weather is as mild and delightful as Indian summer in New England. Each guest is to be represented by two horses, the one he rides and the one hitched to a wagon. When tired of the saddle, he can avail himself of a seat. The cost will be \$10.00 a day.

A physician of large experience in the care and cure of chronic disorders will be one of the party, therefore, anyone needing medical attention on the trip will be able to secure it, and anyone desiring special treatment while on the journey can arrange for it beforehand. The place of meeting will be San Antonio, Texas or some point west of that city to be agreed upon. New Orleans can best be reached on the Southern Pacific Steamers that leave New York City at high noon twice a week. The Sunset Limited over the Southern Pacific takes one through the old sugar plantations of Louisiana, through the oil and rice fields of Texas, through Houston, the

metropolis of the state, and through San Antonio, a delightful city, quaint with Spanish architecture. It takes more hours to reach New Orleans by water than by rail, but it is the ideal way to get south, having our rendezvous in view. It costs a little more to reach Texas than Florida, but the damp atmosphere of that low country precludes the possibility of camping out. This plateau I am writing about is the land for tents, horses and a life free from conventionalities.

JOHN T. PATRICK,
Houston, Texas,

The advantages of this trip need no special mention. We would like to have some one in this party as our representative. While the regular rate for this trip would be between \$700 and \$800. If anyone will go as our representative, furnishing us notes on the trip, we will make arrangements whereby they can take it all in at about half of these figures. Write at once to publisher of Oologist, Albion, N. Y., if you can see your way to avail yourself of this opportunity.

EDITOR.

REVIEW.

Standard American Egg Catalogue.

BY H. R. TAYLOR.

After a careful examination of this second edition of Taylor's Catalogue I am glad to pronounce it far superior to the first edition. Many of the inconsistencies between eastern and western forms have been obliterated.

Some of those that are peculiar to this edition may be oversights. I presume this would account for the disparity between the Swallow-tailed and Everglade Kites and also for the pricing of White-faced Glossy Ibis.

Many collectors will join with me in condemning the raise in price on Aplomado Falcon, Bob-white, Vermillion Flycatcher, American Magpie, Brewer's Sparrow, Pileolated Warbler, and others in less degree. And why

were not Mexican Cormorant, Wood Ibis and Cassin's Vireo, lowered?

Was the .60 after Bonaparte's Gull a mistake or has some one a bbl. full back that the Editor has not heard of?

Why raise Mourning Warbler to \$5.00 and leave Blackburnian at \$2.50?

I think that reversing proportions between the California and Valley Partridges was the correct idea and the same applies to Texas Pyrrhoxia and Gray-tailed Cardinal but when this was applied to the Grosbeaks I must differ in opinion. All Collectors will regret that the work could not have been presented on better paper with a clearer print. And the shape seems unhandy too, too wide a little and too long a great deal.

Of errors in nomenclature there are many but fortunately few of a nature to hurt the value of the work. The Wild Turkeys seem a little confused.

The remarks in the preface are good, even if some seem aimed at a mark, and Mr. Dille's "Contraptions" will be endorsed by all. On all sides I hear the complaint—"Why were the Skins not priced?" Well I suppose the job was big enough as it was, as friend Taylor says, "*Its no snap.*"

EDITOR.

I Have a Proposition

to make to you Mr. Collector. I have a nice choice line of Indian Relics and coins. If you are willing to send first-class References an approved lot will reach you safely and on time. A few bargains, 5 Indian Bird Points, 35c., 5 different colored arrowheads, 35c., Indian Tomahawk, 35c., 10 different Indian Implements, 85c., 5 choice War points, 35c. All the above for \$2.00; 10 fine old coins 23c., 3 Liberty cents, 15c., 3 coins 100 years old, 18c. My price list, old liberty cent, and confederate bill for a dime. We have the goods. You do the asking.

W. P. Arnold,
Peacedale, R. I.

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*Krider's Hawk.....	3	.75
*Nor. Bald Eagle, (Alaska).....	2	6.50
*Kestrel.....	4	.40
Swainson's Hawk.....	3	.45
Swainson's Hawk.....	2	.30
*West' Red-tail Hawk.....	2	.50
*Am. Osprey.....	2	.80
Puffin.....	1	.13
*Sandhill Crane.....	1	2.40
Black-tailed Godwit.....	3	.45
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*Wilson's Phalarope.....	4	1.10
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Snowy Plover.....	2	.35
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FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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VOL. XXII. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1905.

WHOLE No. 211

What's Your Number ?

Examine the number following your name on the wrapper of this month's Oölogist. It denotes when your subscription expired or will expire.

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Peacedale, R. I.



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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXII. No. 2.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1905.

WHOLE No. 211

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXI-
DERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

A Chapter from the Life History of the Green Heron.

(By B. S. Bowdish.)

During my vacation in the second week of June, 1903, at Demarest, N. J., I became satisfied that a pair of Green Herons were breeding in a swamp

there, but as a pair of high rubber boots seemed indispensable to an investigation, and I did not have anything of the sort with me, my suspicions remained unconfirmed.

During the spring of the present year, I observed a pair of herons about this swamp on several occasions, and it seemed probable that they would again nest there, so when I started on my vacation, May 28th., a pair of high rubber boots formed an important part of my equipment.

The swamp where the birds were seen is about half a mile long by an eighth of a mile wide, being a bog-hole three fourths surrounded by a fringe of hard wood timber. Its edge is protected from the average rambler by a depth of water that, save in a few places, renders high boots unavailing, and extending in a rod or more. Beyond this the bog is a morass of yielding moss, where one sinks into alternating depths of six to eighteen inches of water. It is grown with a dense tangle of bush and vine, in places dwarf tamaracs, and scattered here and there, the knarled and scragly skeletons of large and mostly dying trees.

To this swamp I went, on June 8th, equipped with camera, tripod, ball-and-socket clamp, plate-holders and high boots. After some difficulty I effected an entrance without shipping any water, and steered my course toward that portion of the swamp that I thought most likely to be the nesting site of the herons. Only those who have been similarly situated can appreciate the pleasure of making one's way through such a tangle, carrying tripod, camera, and haversack of plate-holders, where every step one

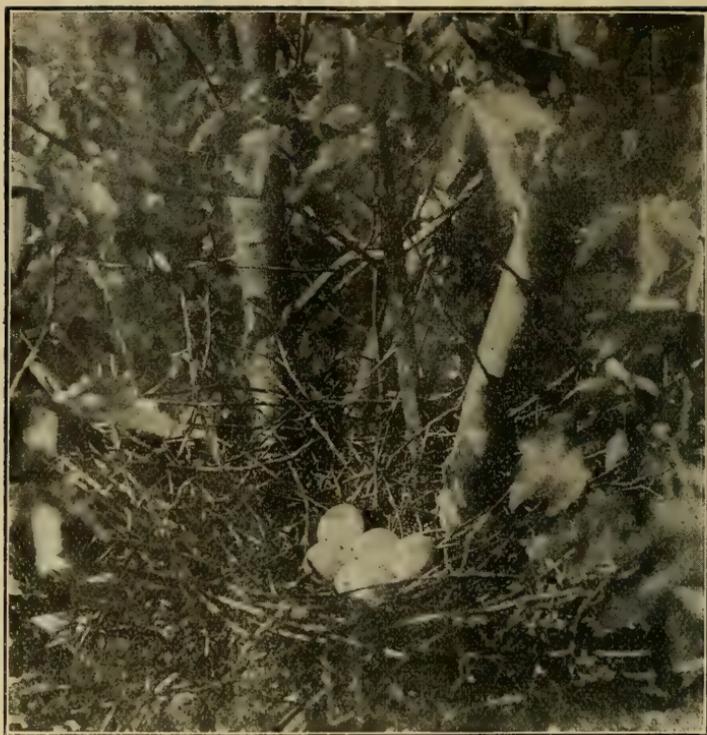


Photo by B. S. BOWDISH.

NEST AND EGGS OF GREEN HERON.

may plunge unexpectedly into mud and water over boot-tops, and all under the broiling rays of a sun which beats down into the oven-like, breezeless swamp.

Fortunately I did not have very far to go before I came upon the object of my search. The nest was built in the main forks of one of a small clump of maple saplings, about twelve feet up. It was a platform of twigs, somewhat more substantially built, and better hollowed than the average nest of this species, and measured about twelve inches across by three inches in depth. From below through crevices of the platform gleams of pale blue betrayed the presence of eggs. About three feet from the sapling that held the nest grew another. Having photo-

graphed the site I was soon squirming up this latter sapling, pushing the camera on the tripod ahead of me, and with the haversack of plate-holders swung over my shoulder.

It reads easily enough to say that I suspended myself opposite the nest, with my legs wrapped about the stem of the tree, and the legs of the tripod gripped between my knees, while I unpacked plate-holders, focussed, and made four exposures. However if an appreciation of the difficulties of reaching the site required experience, then much more is experience necessary to the understanding of what photography under this class of difficulties implies. The work was accomplished, however, and subsequent development



Photo by B. S. BOWDISH.

YOUNG GREEN HERON IN NEST.

proved the negatives to be fairly satisfactory.

At this visit one of the parents remained perched for some time in a large dead tree about three rods from the nest, but made no demonstration. The nest at this time contained five eggs, but I made no effort to ascertain whether incubation had commenced or not.

I visited the nest again on June 26th, hoping to secure a photograph of young birds. Two eggs had just hatched and a sixth egg had been laid. I made two partially successful photographs of the four eggs and the two helpless, sprawling young. One week later, July 3d, I returned to the place

and found six young birds of varying sizes, the largest standing about six inches high on his tiptoes, the smallest still rather wobbly. They all promptly stood up on their tiptoes stretching their necks as high as possible, pushing their heads forward and glaring at me, keeping up a continuous hissing, interspersed with screams which even at this age commenced to have considerably the sound of the adults cry. One of the parents promptly responded to these cries, and coming to the large tree where it had on the occasion of my last visit remained a passive spectator, it gave vent to screams differing from the usual cry (which was interspersed occasionally),

and resembling somewhat, the squawk of a hen.

Quite a number of sticks which had failed to remain where they were placed in building the nest lay on the ground underneath, and nest, tree and ground were spattered white with excrement. Needless to say, the spot was not fragrant. The exposures made at this time were unexpectedly successful, but while they were washing a member of the family inadvertently turned the hot water on them, with results too painful to record.

In the hope of replacing the lost negatives made on the 3d, I again visited the nest on July 7th. The last hatched bird had then been dead several days, and one of the other smaller ones had died a few hours previously, apparently. Their bodies lay in the nest, trampled under the feet of their surviving brethren. These latter had grown surprisingly, the largest probably measuring nine or ten inches in length. Three of the larger birds promptly climbed out of the nest and well toward the tip of one of the limbs, and fearing to disturb them to the extent of causing a tragedy, I confined my photographing to the one remaining infant, his dead brothers, and the nest, and afterward two views from the ground of the young on the limb. The latter were not successful, and the former only partially so.

I removed the two dead birds from the nest before leaving, and from the fresher one prepared a skin. This measures six inches in length, and pin feathers are starting on the wings.

Owing to the difficulty of access to the nest, and to pressure of other matters, I did not again have an opportunity to visit the place, and so do not know what was the last chapter in the life histories of these birds, but I hope that the four young were successfully reared. I had the satisfaction of changing the intentions of a young

man whose purpose was to collect one of the adult birds, and I hope that I may find them at the same site another year.

"Adventures of a Grosbeak Family."

The beautiful rose-breasted Grosbeak is a common summer resident of and a well known and favorite bird in Jasper County. I have found them nesting in fruit trees, in climbing grape-vines, and in osage hedges, but more often in box-elder trees at from six to thirty feet from the ground. Their nests are very frail structures and the complement of eggs three, sometimes four. They are imposed upon by the Cowbird. (Fully agreeing with the article in the November Oologist written by Mr. B. S. Bowish, I have tried to make the above as concise as possible).

A pair of Grosbeaks have nested for the last three years in a box-elder tree in our backyard, hardly twenty feet from the door. Last spring they arrived from their winter resort on May 5th and very soon after commenced nest building. We watched their frail nest grow from day to day until it contained three eggs. After careful brooding by both parents, at the end of two weeks, three tiny chips off the old block were safely ushered into bird-dom. About this time a spying Bluejay thought that something similiar to veal would suit him for breakfast. Happening near, he soon changed his mind, and decided that a brisk walk (or rather a fly) would benefit his appetite and constitution. For the male Grosbeak assisted by two screeching robins, which he had called to his aid, soon made him hike out of sight on the overland route.

One bright day near the first of June, we observed the three youngsters perched at different heights in the tree, uttering at regular intervals

their mournful little cry. They eventually reached the ground, where the children caught and patted them, placing them time and again in the nearby trees and a lilac bush, where they would stoutly cling and climb as high as they could towards the end of of the limb. They would allow us to approach at any time and stroke their heads, at which they would open their mouths at us as if expecting food. The mother would fearlessly come to feed them while I stood only three feet away, but the father would never come out of the trees.

At last after several days two of them disappeared, but the third a little male, stayed several days longer. He, a funny little fuzzy miniature of his illustrious father, was still covered with yellow down, as when he left the nest, and would always be seen hopping or taking three-yard flights along the ground. One morning while I was eating breakfast, I was startled by the excited calls of birds in our front yard. I rushed out to find the mother Grosbeak flitting excitedly from tree to tree, while at the foot of an oak a Woodpecker was waging war against her offspring. I ran toward them, firing a club at the red-headed rascal as I went, and picking up the poor young adventurer, found he had been severely pecked about the head and mouth by the stout sharp bill of the Woodpecker, who was now exulting over his victory from the top of a neighboring telephone pole. The sides of the young bird's mouth were badly torn and his throat was so filled with blood that he could not peep. After washing his mouth out with warm water and rubbing his wounds with cosmoline, I placed him in the sun on our wide front porch, from which on the following day he followed his mother off into the wide world somewhere, apparently none the worse for his exciting adventure.

J. L. SLOANAKER
Newton, Iowa.

Birds Removing Eggs From Nests.

In the December number of the "Oologist" Mr. Chas. P. Alexander in his interesting article on "The White-rumped Shrike in Eastern New York," mentions finding a "nest containing 5 half incubated eggs, four which he collected, leaving the fifth as a nest egg to make them lay again but was disappointed as the egg disappeared," also finding another containing 6 eggs four of which he took, leaving, in this instance, 2 eggs as nest eggs. These eggs, disappeared a couple of days later. A friend suggested that the bird ate them. This suggestion is preposterous, and the first instance of birds devouring their eggs that the writer ever heard of.

The birds simply removed the eggs being chagrined at the spoilation of their clutches. Mr. A. would have been richer by two nice full sets had he collected them when he first found the nests. Very few species of birds in the writer's experience will lay more eggs into a nest after the greater part of the clutch has been removed. They invariably desert the nests first, however, removing the remainder of their spoiled clutches. There are some exceptions, however, in which the birds retain their incomplete clutches and brood them and in which they simply abandoned nests and the remaining eggs.

Here is an instance of bird removing an egg from the nest, the case being however unlike Mr. A's. On May 28, 1898, at Torresdale, this county, found a Brown Thrasher's nest situated four feet up in a clump of blackberry briars containing four eggs. As they looked incubated and not caring to spoil four embryo *Harporhynchus rufus* I removed one of the eggs and drilled a small hole in the side to ascertain incubation and was pleased to find it fresh. Replacing it in the nest, carefully con-

cealing the hole, I left the set while I hunted elsewhere. On returning about half an hour later was surprised to find but three eggs. The birds had discovered the hole in the egg and perceiving that it was worthless (to the birds) they promptly removed it. How I am not prepared to say. The remainder of the set was collected. I dare say Mr. A's friend would suggest that the bird ate it.

Had I time to consult my note book I could cite many interesting cases relating to bird removing eggs from their nests. Any reader of the *Oologist* knows how the eggs are removed. This is an interesting subject, little known and probably unanswerable. Let's hear from you reader.

RICHARD F. MILLER,
Philadelphia, Pa.

Nest and Eggs of Pileated Woodpecker.

This bird is quite rare in this locality. They only can be found in the largest bottoms. On April 12, 1902 I and my brother started for a large bottom in the Navasota River in Brazos County in search of different specimens of birds. Going about 5 miles in the bottom we came to a large dead elm stub some 14 feet high, it had several large holes in but they proved to be old homes of these beautiful birds. We kept on going and soon we came to another large dead stub about 15 feet high. In going around it I noticed a large hole some 11 feet up. The ground was covered with chips of rotten wood and bark. We rapped on the trunk of the tree several times but failed to bring anything in sight, so I thought it would be a very good idea to climb it. My brother strapped on his climbing irons, as I am not much of a climber. He was about 2 feet from the ground when the beautiful female bird left her home with a loud cackling voice. He was soon to the hole find-

ing it large enough to insert his hand and arm, it being about 2 feet deep. The nest contained 3 very beautiful glossy white eggs, one of them was incubated but the other two were entirely fresh.

I suppose the readers of the *Oologist* know how happy we felt as this was the first set of these eggs we have ever taken, but in a short time we did not know ourselves where we were at as we got lost about 5 hours and did not get home until night.

I fell down some 5 or ten times but as luck happens I did not break any of the eggs. This set is in my cabinet now and never to be taken out.

A. D. DOERGE,
Navasota, Texas.

Do Something.

A physician says: "If you cannot find pleasure in the study of the many wonders that surround you, if you care not for geology, natural history, or astronomy, collect walking sticks, buy and cherish old, cracked china, fill up albums and scrapbooks or even gather together autographs and postage stamps—anything sooner than be idle." The doctor is undoubtedly right, for true recreation requires a thorough change of work and also of thought.—Ex.

EDITORIAL.

Review.

Vol. I, No. 2 of the *Universal Exchange Magazine*, Belvidere, Ill, is a decided success. Well printed on good paper and the *Directory of Collectors periodicals* is alone worth a years subscription.

The current issue of "The Condor" is XXX as usual but of special interest is the *Editorial Comment* on Ernest Thompson Seton's position on page 181. "Bird Lore" for December 1904. Unfortunately we can not spare

room to to reprint it but it hits the nail on the head and we were strongly tempted.

"The Warbler," second series, Vol. I No. 1, is before us. Of course it is fine. Coming from "Childs" it was bound to be, but that fine plate of the set of 4 Kirtland's Warbler was an agreeable surprise.

Mr. Arnolds position toward any Oologist who may seek to copy his example of the past season is hardly charitable however.

We regret to announce the death of Mr. G. H. Rodwell of Holley, N. Y., on December 3d last.

Mr. Rodwell was an associate of the Editor's earliest Oological experiences and an active member of the old West New York Naturalists Association now defunct. Under any conditions, whether in connection with his hobby or not, it was always a pleasure to me meet him and his death in early life is a loss that we will all regret. He leaves a small but choice collection.

Publications Received.

December 1st to February 1st.

American Ornithology, Vol. IV, No. 12.

Birds and Nature, Vol. XVI, No. 5.

Nature Study, Vol. XIII, No. 12.

Amatuer Naturalist, Vol. I, No. 6.

Philatelic West, Vol. 29, No. 1.

Journal of Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VI, No. 4.

American Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 1.

Universal Exchange Magazine, Vol. I, No. 2.

"Birds and Naturs," Vol. XVII, No. 1.

"Nature Study," Vol. XIV, No. 1, 2.

"Candor," Vol. VII, No. 1.

"Warbler" (2nd series) Vol. I, No. 1.

American Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 2.

Philatelic West, Vol. 29, No. 2.

Collector's Note Book, Vol. III, No. 2.

A Question Answered.

L. LAWRENCE, Ohio.

The male Downy Woodpecker has the scarlet patch on nape. This varies much in extent with individuals. The females have none at all.—ED.

Alameda, Cal., Jan. 30, 1905.

Editor Oologist:

Kindly allow me to add a word or two to your review of my Standard American Egg Catalogue, and to thank you for criticism conceived in so fair a spirit, while citing a few "bulls" which you have overlooked. It certainly is no "snap" to compile a criticism-proof, all wool and a yard wide comparative "exchange basis." To presume to do so is like taking a shot at the moon. I didn't. Skin prices were omitted as suggestions on that side were almost entirely lacking.

On any schedule, Swallow-tailed Kite's eggs should be priced higher than Everglade's, as the former, having occurred in England, is constantly in demand in that country, where Oology is more fostered than in America. There are doubtless more sets of Swallow-tailed in collections in England now than in America. The increasing rarity of the egg is apparent. In Bendire's Life Histories it may be learned that the Everglade breeds in colonies in South America, where it is known as the "Sociable Marsh Hawk," Mr. Gibson finding "twenty or thirty nests, placed a few yards apart." There is a possible, even though remote, supply down that way of these eggs, but never of Swallow-tailed. White-faced Glossy Ibis, owing to plenty of eggs now available, (in Alameda), are high enough. The star is a palpable error.

The list, which came to me in electro form, contains some "breaks" in nomenclature, but for the most part, I was obliged, per force, to let it go at that. You did not catch error on Bick-

nell's Thrush, which might better have been left unpriced; and Brandt's Cormorant, obviously common, though with no price, should have been about 40 cents. Bonaparte's Gull should be \$6 at least. Haven't seen the bbl. full. The printers certainly led me a devil's chase, as when they worked in Passenger Pigeon at 5 cents and caused me thereby to reprint four pages, but I wish the next man (and no better than the Oologist's editor can be suggested) more luck, and hereby subscribe in advance.

H. R. TAYLOR.

Thanking friend Taylor for his prompt reply in the same spirit in which I conceived my review I would only add, I agree that Swallow-tail Kite is entitled to more than Everglade but think the difference too much. Also agree that White-faced Glossy crowd the demand just now. It was some such condition in 1895 and 1896 that induced Lattin to make the drops on Gt. Black-backed Gull, Cabot's Tern, Tex. Cardinal, Pine Warbler and Sennett's Thrasher, yet these all proved to be mistakes.

—EDITOR.

Owing to pressure of work in our engraver's office followed by an unavoidable delay in printer's hands, partly caused by our new standard catalogue, we are very late with February issue. We regret it as much as you. We note in current issue of "Young American" that we are not the only ones wite these troubles.

March will be *on time*.

A FRAUD PAR EXCELLENCE.

During the past seven months the Editor has been quietly investigating what appears to be the tail of the worst of all egg frauds.

Some chapters in his history remind one of the notable records accredited to certain stamp fiends.

I have traced his record back for 11 years and as a successful "Big Game" hunter he seems the shining light.

In late years he has operated from Floral Park, Nyack and New York

City addresses. I am not at liberty to cite all his triumphs. They foot up into the hundreds and are all on the same plan.

The two extracts below I publish by permission.

Stanford University, Cal.,

Dec. 26, 1904.

Editor "Oologist":

DEAR SIR:—"It seems to me that the next crook to get roasted should be one C. L. Brownell, formerly of Floral Park, N. Y. His present address I do not know, but if the number of kicks registered to date is any criterion, in Brownell we have about the smoothest bilk that has made a reputation (but no character) for himself, for a long time. Eminently respectable in his methods, (he represents himself to be the manager of a well known magazine) he has had no trouble in doing every one with whom he has had dealings. I hesitate to name some of those who have been skinned, as I am afraid that Brownell is a tender spot, but I am willing to confess to having been done to the extent of \$61.50 exchange value in Raptores and Warblers.

Brownell did not go out for small game, and this may to some extent account for his success as a fraud. Once he had obtained eggs, he never concerned himself with acknowledging their receipt. Threats availed nothing and he does not care for opportunity to justify his dealings. Apparently "the nine points" satisfy him, and as he seems to desire further advertisement, I am strong for giving it to him. Thinking that he had run out of postage stamps, or needed the money, I wrote to his Post Master, who informed me that he knew Brownell personally, and that C. L. Brownell had received my eggs, and would settle up. That was all the satisfaction that I ever got, but compared with others who have run up against Brownell, I think that

I have them skinned to death as far as satisfaction goes.

I waited for some time for Brownell to say something, but I didn't seem to have anything coming to me. Therefore I sent all the evidence that I had been able to collect to the Post Office Inspectors. They promise to give Mr. Brownell a good run for his eggs, but I firmly believe that a little judicious advertising won't do him any harm (!) For myself, I don't feel sore at Mr. Brownell, as I expect to go East next summer. If he is in the vicinity of Floral Park, I firmly expect to settle with him. The machine says that I can punch—well, I can ring the bell dead easy, with either hand. But I am sorry for some of the other people who have been peeled for their only redress seems to lie in warning their friends."

"Brownell never even gave the victim the satisfaction of knowing that he had received the eggs. I realize that I am perhaps doing Mr. Brownell an injustice, but my vocabulary is limited and you can't call a man anything that is so very much worse than fraud, he might feel hurt. However, I think that C. L. Brownell has it coming to him, with interest; and it is the sincere hope of your correspondent that all those who are *not* looking for experience, should avoid him like the man who sells lottery tickets, for it is a stand off between them. One will steal from you, and the other will rob you. Take your pick.

Yours truly,
CHARLES S. THOMPSON.

To the Editor:

One C. L. Brownell of Floral Park, Nyack and other points in New York who once achieved distinction by being a principal in the famous Brownell divorce case the details of which were so delightfully indecent has broken out in a new place in his thirst for

further notoriety. He is now a collector who intends to "publish a book on eggs."

He visited me last winter—was suffering from an acute attack of the "grippe" so he said when he came. We took him in, fed him on quinine tablets, toast, eggs, etc., until he had recovered sufficiently to look over my duplicates from which he selected a little over \$100 worth. He fails to send the eggs he promised in exchange or to return my sets or even to answer my affectionate letters, the latter fact, being a person who likes a good correspondence, I regret almost as much as I do the loss of the eggs, the quinine pills, et cetera.

I understand he is swindling everybody who will send him a set of eggs on "approval." As one friend puts it he is as "crooked as a dog's hind leg" and parties who don't care to part with their specimens as easily as the undersigned did should heed this friendly warning.

A. E. PRICE.

A word to the wise is supposed to be sufficient. Lookout for this gent. "No telling" where he will show up next.

And there are two or three more prospective candidates for honorable (?) mention in these columns.

We would advise them to patch up the weak spots in their records promptly before the sun of publicity brings them into objectionable prominence.

—ED.

We have had a very cold winter for this climate. Mercury registered twelve below one morning and at other times four below but in spite of this weather we have had a Mockingbird (*Mimus Polyglottus*) with us. I have seen him several times in the hedge fences near town and yesterday morning, zero weather, he was in a neighboring yard apparently doing well.

C. B. VANDERCOOK,
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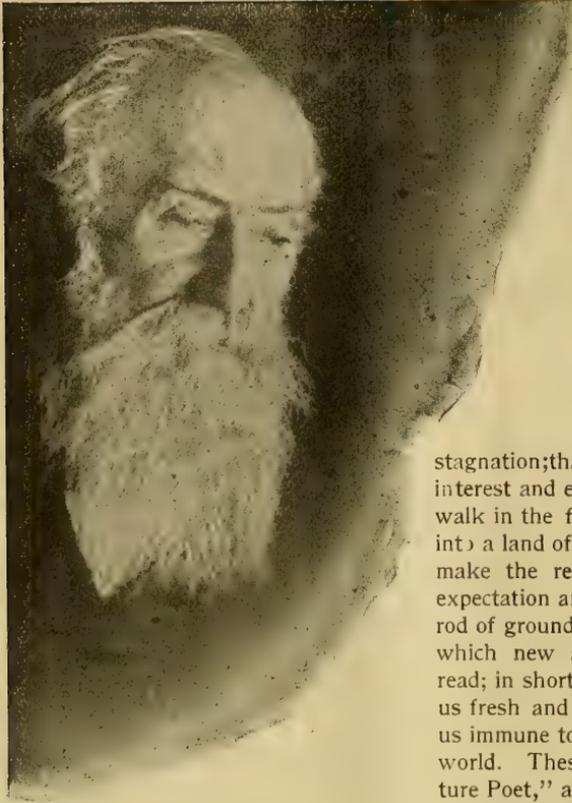
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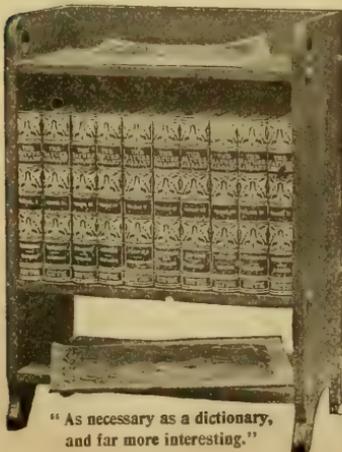
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VOL. XXII. No. 3.

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1905.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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Discovery of Eggs of the Knot.

WALTER RAINE, Toronto, Canada.

In "Nests and Eggs of British Birds, non Indigenous," the author Mr. Charles Dixon, publishes the following in regard to the eggs of the Knot.

"Several reported eggs of the Knot are in collections, but none of them are authenticated. The reputed egg obtained by the Greely Expedition, near Fort Conger, is unidentified and apparently too small, size 1.10 x 1.00. The egg in the possession of Mr. Seebohm, although unauthenticated is more likely to be genuine so far as size is concerned, being similar to that of the Common Snipe, but paler in ground color. This egg was obtained at Disco, in Greenland; in my opinion a locality much too far south. This however, is not the most southerly locality at which reputed eggs of the Knot have been obtained. W. Raine in his "Bird Nesting in Northwest Canada," figures and describes what he asserts to be two eggs of this bird, taken on the 20th of June, 1889, at Rododavmsi in Iceland. The account is circumstantial enough, but unfortunately the parent birds appear not to have been obtained. It is only fair to say that Mr. Raine's eggs agree apparently in color with that obtained by Lieutenant Greeley, but are larger in size and certainly, judging from the illustrations, very abnormal in appearance. The nest is described as a depression lined with bits of drift wood, the eggs having the ground color pale, pea green, finely speckled with ashy brown."

Although some years have past since the above was published, nothing has occurred to shake my faith in these Knot eggs collected for me in Iceland in the year 1889. It is impossible for these unique eggs to be that of any other bird. What else can they be? The only species nesting in Iceland laying eggs of a similar size to the

Knot's eggs are the Purple Sandpiper and Common Snipe and they are smaller than Snipe's eggs and entirely different in character, ground tint and markings. But I have recently examined a pair of reputed Knot's eggs, kindly loaned me by Mr. Wallis, of Weymouth, England. These were also taken in Iceland on June 13, 1901 and while they are a trifle larger than my Knot's eggs and of a deeper ashy green ground tint and more heavily spotted, still they bear a strong resemblance to my eggs of the Knot. The similarity is at once striking. I have seen hundreds of Snipe's eggs and scores of Purple Sandpiper's, not one of which had any resemblance to these reputed Knot's eggs. Then what else can Mr. Wallis' eggs be but those of the Knot?

I am fully aware that the Knot is a rare bird and only an occasional visitor to Iceland, but it would appear that a few solitary pairs occasionally remain in Iceland during the summer, although the majority of the birds pass on further to the north to breed, and as the Sanderling is known to occasionally nest in Iceland, why should not the Knot do likewise? I have yet another record of a Knot's egg that was taken by myself as far south as Toronto Island, in Ontario, and it greatly resembles the other eggs taken in Iceland, but the ground tint is more ashy green than any other Knot's eggs taken in Iceland. It measures 1.45 x 1.10 and is also finely spotted at the larger end with ashy brown. It was found on May 8, 1897, by myself and two other Toronto Ornithologists.

In referring to my note book I find the following entry:

"May 8, 1897. This evening Mr. Fred Dippie came to my house and reported that while he and his brother, Mr. Sydney Dippie were rambling over Toronto Island they flushed what they

took to be a Snipe and found its egg in a depression on the ground, which they left intending to call a week later and get the full clutch.

The following Saturday afternoon, myself and the Dippie brothers visited the Island, and I took my camera along with the intention of photographing the nest. Judge our disappointment in finding the nest forsaken and still containing the single egg. I saw at a glance it was not an egg of Wilson's Snipe, a bird that never nests so far south as Toronto, and as it greatly resembled my Knot's eggs from Iceland, I could not possibly refer it to any other species. The time of the year May 8th, was very early for a Snipe to be laying. And spotted Sandpipers never have eggs in this locality before the first week in June. This egg was much too large for a spotted Sandpiper's egg; in fact it is as large as a Killdeer, although entirely different to the egg of the latter species, so I consider it safe to name this a genuine egg of the Knot. It corresponds exactly with my reputed Knot's eggs from Iceland."

Now some Ornithologists may laugh at the idea of an Arctic Bird like the Knot nesting so far south, but they must take into consideration that Knots frequent Toronto Island in May during this migration northward. Several local collections containing skins of the Knot were obtained on Toronto Island in May.

So that it is evident that this Knot had an egg developed and had to lay it and then proceeded along with the others of her species on their flight to their nesting grounds in the far north. I am satisfied that before long other eggs of the Knot will be collected on some of the Arctic expeditions and that this will prove that the eggs recorded by myself and Mr. Wallis from Iceland are genuine eggs of the Knot.

[It is not a rare occurrence for migrating birds to lay eggs during migration.

I know of authentic records of this occurring with Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper and Shoveller Duck.

ED.]

The Quail Trap.

Norwich (Conn.) Bulletin

By C. L. RAWSON.

The Quail Trap, Midwinter, 1905.—The mild ten days in the middle of January aroused a little activity among local birds. On January 18 and 20 I saw robins in the Public Gardens, Boston, and one at the entrance to the subway on the Common, while the Frog pond was covered with skaters. January 10 I drove from Putnam to the English neighborhood near the state line on the driver's seat of a public hack. From this lofty perch, among many winter birds, I saw a group of a dozen associated robins and bluebirds and a single lone wacup. January 10 and 11 I went into the Quail Trap woods to read this winter's hieroglyphics on the snow. There were rabbit tracks innumerable, many signs of squirrel and mice, and some imprints of skunk, mink, jays and crows. In an open barway, from wall to wall, the different rodents had made a beaten path, plainly flanked by a weasel as big as a ferret. Indistinctly seen among a lot of hound and bird dog tracks, were footprints which I made sure were bobcats, and after a little search, again, as last winter; I found the track of a northern white hare. I measured and compared these impressions with the feet of a jack rabbit which I just received from Manitoba. The hare's front track was larger, but the jack made greater displacement behind.

Our old cock grouse still bears a charmed existence. Gunners who have shot at him during the late open

season tell me that he uses all the known artifices of old birds, by flying straight away, behind the trunks of hemlocks, by "towering" above the tops of bushy trees, and by not "flushing" till the gunner passed by. Three young grouse were spared in our woods this year, and their tracks were seen in several places. The impression of Red Ruff in the snow is in keeping with his size. To a novice it looks like the track of a big partridge cochin cock, and an expert cannot help noticing its resemblance to a ptarmigan's, it is now so heavily furred.

The recent death of Joseph M. Wade of Boston recalls many sunny days a birding with him in local woods, and happy hours in his Laurel Hill study collaborating on bird sketches for various journals. His off-hand monograph on the house Phoebe stands today the best thing extant on the subject. I have his special interleaved copy of the *De Luxe Nests and Eggs of Southern Ohio*, now out of print, and several rare foreign bird books from his library, rich in unique Auduboniana and Wilsoniana. There is a set of Long-eared owls in my collection which he took from a Cooper's hawk's nest near Rockville. I have also sets of Osprey taken by him from rocks, bar-posts, savins and low hornbeams on Plum Island, in the halcyon days before government occupation.

I recall his delightful enthusiasm when I showed him, one morning in early June, "in situ," fourteen nests of Parula warbler containing three score of eggs, showing every shade of variation. Wade thought it "remarkable that in all the pensile nests we examined there was not a single lazy bird's egg."

Many people in the bank building can remember the song of Wade's trained grosbeak, which could be heard for two seasons all along Shetucket street, when the cage was hung out on

the Summer street veranda. At that time it was a *rara avis*, but now the rosebreast dominates everything in song on our shaded summer streets. This particular bird was stolen from Wade's door in Dorchester, and afterwards found and identified in a Tremont street bird store by his pathetic recognition of his owner.

The raven which Mr. Wade brought from Scotland, when freed found a congenial home in the wild ledge back of Summer street. In the fissures of these rocks his American congener in olden times no doubt bred in security. The croaks and gutturals of this raven often had half of the crows from "the Commons" and "Hell Gate" hovering overhead. When at last he was taken from his high cave in this ravine he put up the stiffest kind of fight to retain his freedom.

As a climber Mr. Wade was moderate in his ambition, and on his lofty finds I usually did the "shinning" for him. I emphasize this point by recounting the chief incident in a trip we once made in early April over Hearthstone mountain. Near Whip-poorwill ledge I climbed to a Red-shouldered hawk's nest which held young Barred owls in the down. "I am going up to see those squabs if I lose a leg," said Wade.

By chopping a twenty-foot stub I got him up to the first limbs on the tall chestnut. Then, crawling over the big branches for thirty feet more, he did fairly well. Then came a straight shin of fifteen feet. Wade hugged three or four feet of this, slipped back, looked up and down, and said he dared go no higher. My words of encouragement that I had been up to this nest half a dozen times safely, failed to convince him. He began slowly to feel his was down, when the mother owl softly dusted his cheek with her noiseless wings, lit on the next tree, and began to snap her bill.

This gave the climber new courage, and in a second attempt he centived to swarm up within two feet of the nest. Here he had another attack of vertigo, and after ten minutes of frightful nausea he lay pale and exhausted on mother earth. He afterwards described his sensations to me of his last climb, in his characteristic hyperbole. "I tell you, Rawson, that when I was near those owlets, I felt as if I was very close to heaven; but when I took just one look down those seventy feet, I was sure to take a tumble straight to hell! I wouldn't climb another tree like that for a million dollars."

The Other Side.

It requires little encouragement to launch the average oologist into a glowing description of the pleasant side of his field experience, but he exhibits no such great hurry to portray the other side. This is because he prefers the illustrious light of a hero to the detrimental impression of a blockhead. It is all right, of course, but I prefer Mike's frank impartiality. There was his turkey episode for instance. Instead of the reticence one might expect he took a humorous view and advertised it well. He was in the heavy timber, far from human habitation, when, partly concealed beneath a brush heap and near the base of a beech tree he perceived a turkey upon her nest. No possibility of its being the domestic article entered his mind although he had been told that the wild bird was long since exterminated. He could hardly repress a shout of joy, but did so, and cautiously approached, every moment expecting Madam to flutter away. She did nothing of the kind—just sat and eyed him with a bearing suggestive of calm contempt. When within a few feet he thought of catching her and slowly extended her hand.

Suddenly out shot Madam's head backed by about eight pounds of indignant turkey and Mike went backward and sat down real hard. He had not been expecting this kind of reception and it came as a great shock and surprise. He sat and collected his scattered ideas; then wiggled his fingers and was delighted to find them in working order. Convinced that no bones were broken he turned to the problem of separating Madam from her oological collection without further unpleasanties. A solution was presented in the form of a dead sapling. When pried from the nest her turkeyship refused to stir and Mike had to push her away with the pole. The nest contained eight of the handsomest eggs he ever saw. His feelings, as he packed the set and started for home are left to the reader's imagination. Before leaving the woods he met a farmer. It is one of his characteristics that he can not keep a good thing to himself. He immediately decided to enquire regarding wild turkeys and when told they no longer inhabited that section intended to spring the glad surprise. The sun was shining so Mike started in with the information that it was a pleasant day. The farmer reckoned it was and thought it did not look like rain. Then Mike inquired in a casual off-hand way: "Any wild turkeys in these woods?" "Guess not," was the reply, "but my turkeys all come in here to nest and it keeps me busy looking them up. Am going to a nest now to tote the whole outfit to the farm. It is partly under a brush heap near a beech and I had trouble in finding it but speaking of wild turkeys, now forty years ago—" But Mike suddenly recollected he was in a hurry. When out of sight he started on a run and did not pause until the brush pile was reached. Here he found Madam patiently incubating the empty nest. He wasted no time but pried her off,

replaced the eggs and got out of the neighborhood. Then he sat down, clasped his tired head between his trembling hands and tried to think it all out. The only thing at all clear was the presence of a colossal chump and he bumped his head against the nearest tree and went home. The above is as Mike told it except the weight of the turkey, his estimate being 100 pounds.

J. CLAIRE WOOD,
Detroit, Michigan.

About Some Songs.

ROBIN VS. ROSE-BREADED GROSBEAK.

Ask some ornithological friend which song he prefers, the Robin's or the Rose-breasted Grosbeak's. Without hesitation he may reply, "The Grosbeak's of course." Ask another friend and he may answer as readily, "The Robin's is the better". We shall blame neither. Taste is unaccountable, not dependent on the intrinsic value of the thing in question, but the object plus the personality of the one who chooses. Therefore having my own opinion, it will be hard to secure an unbiased verdict concerning the beauties and excellences of the two songs.

The general trend of ornithological writings seems to be somewhat deprecatory to the robin, while the general trend of opinion from investigation made in my locality seems to favor him. Have the writers of books the keener sense, perception and more matured judgement? Or does this lie with the multitude that do not endeavor to express themselves in written language. Let us consider a few specimens. Chapman writes, "The song of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak is generally compared to that of the Robin, and musical annotation would doubtless show that the comparison is not

misleading. But the similarity is largely one of form; in expression there is no more resemblance in their voices than there is between the birds themselves. There is an exquisite purity in the joyous carol of the Grosbeak; his song tells of all the gladness of a May morning; I have heard few happier strains of bird music." Dr. Kirtland states (per Wheaton, "Birds of Ohio") that in the cranberry marshes of Northern Ohio its song surpasses the Mockingbird in animation. Abbott in his "Birds About Us," is extravagantly in favor of the Grosbeak.

This will suffice for the Grosbeak's side. On the other hand we find the following in John Burrough's "Wake-Robin," in my opinion the fairest, sharpest, double-sided view to be found, containing as much meaning as could well be crowded in one sentence. "It is a strong, vivacious strain, a bright noon-day song, full of health and assurance, indicating fine talents in the performer, but not genius." Elsewhere from the same source I quote the following at some length. "In that free fascinating, half-work and half-play pursuit,—sugar making—a pursuit which still lingers in many parts of New York, as in New England—the Robin is one's constant companion. When the day is sunny and the ground bare, you meet him at all points and hear him at all hours. At sunset, on the tops of the tall maples with look heavenward and in a spirit of utter abandonment, he carols his simple strain. And sitting thus, amid the stark, silent trees, above the wet, cold earth, with the chill of winter still in the air, there is no fitter or sweeter songster in the whole round year. It is in keeping with the scene and the occasion. How round and genuine the notes are, and how eagerly our ears drink them in! The first utterance, and the spell

of winter is thoroughly broken and the remembrance of it afar off."

And now I should contribute my mite of opinion. The basis of this is not mere taste, I trust. The chief reasons why so many prefer the rich carol of the Grosbeak to the uncertain but plaintive and inspiring evensong of the Robin are: 1. The Robin is so much commoner, his notes so much more familiar, and their novel beauty cannot stand the test of eternal repetition while the Grosbeak is rare enough always to command attention. 2. The Robin is heard in prosaic, often hideous situations, while the Grosbeak sings chiefly in the gorgeously bright woods of May and June. 3. The Robin's song has many detracting imperfections, his voice cracks most un-musically at times, while *all* the Grosbeaks are good singers.

Transfer these items in favor of the Robin—where they should be—and the scale will weigh against the Grosbeak. Clothe the beautiful Grosbeak with the Robin's familiar chestnut and grayish brown, bring him to the "back yards" of the city, make him as abundant as the Robin now is, and sing as constantly, and it would take a surprisingly short time to tire of him. It is easy to avow we could never tire of a song, but this cannot be true. I have never yet met the nature lover who could not find a constantly-repeated song monotonous,—

"Variety is the spice of life

That gives it all its flavor," says the poet, and this applies nicely to the situation.

I would not have it believed I depreciate the Grosbeak's song; I could listen to it for hours (but not forever). I only seek to "give the devil his due."

Green Leaves in Nests.

Mr. J. H. Bowles article in "The Oologist" for October set me to look-

ing up data in my note books and I find several instances of nests of Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks in which green leaves were used, as follows:

Red-tailed Hawk, April 26, 1896. Incubation advanced. Nest contained some sticks on which were small green leaves.

Red-shouldered Hawk, May 3, 1896. Incubation one-third. Nest of sticks lined with moss, maple twigs on which were small green leaves, strips of bark and lots of tent caterpillar's nests.

Red-shouldered Hawk, May 12, 1896. Incubation fresh. Nest lined with strips of bark, dead and green leaves, a small piece of moss and several caterpillar's nests.

Red-tailed Hawk, Apr. 24, 1898. Incubation fresh. Nest contained green maple blossoms.

Red-tailed Hawk, May 22, 1898. Eggs added. Nest contained a lot of green leaves.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Apr. 23, 1899. Incubation fresh. Nest lined with rootlets, fine bark strips, birch bark and a few dried green leaves.

Red-shouldered Hawk, Apr. 23, 1899. Incubation, small embryos. Nest, lined with dead leaves, bark strips, some green moss and a green fern.

Red-shouldered Hawk, May 7, 1899. Incubation two-thirds. Nest contained green leaves.

Red-shouldered Hawk, May 12, 1899. Incubation, small embryos. Nest, lined with pine leaves, bark strips, some broad grass, a few green leaves, an old Vireo's nest and some down from the bird's breast.

Red-tailed Hawk, Apr. 28, 1901. Incubation, large embryos. Nest lined with bark strips and a few corn husks. A few evergreens were hanging from the edge of the nest and some of the twigs in the nest had green blossoms on them.

In nearly all cases the green leaves

were placed around the rim of the nest seemingly as a decoration.

Nearly all Red-shouldered Hawks in this locality use lots of the old nests of the tent caterpillar to decorate their nests with also an occasional sprig of pine or hemlock with the green leaves on. Around Penn Yan the evergreens are seldom used, although there are evergreen trees in nearly every wood, but at Branchport, only 8 miles from Penn Yan, nearly every nest contains evergreens.

The Red-tailed Hawk uses an abundance of evergreens in nearly every nest.

The Red-shoulder uses quite a variety of nesting material among which I have found corn in the ear, corn cobs, corn husks, tissue paper, Baltimore Orioles, Wood Pewees and Red-eyed Vireo's nests, straw, mullen leaves and binding twine.

VERDI BURTCH,
Branchport, N. Y.

More Green Leaves in Nests.

Mr. Bowles' description of his Broad-winged Hawk's nest with green leaves in October "Oologist" makes an interesting addition to Mr. Short's list of one, (Mississippi Kite) but does not by any means complete the list.

I have found green leaves in nests of Western Red-tail and in Swainson and Red-bellied Hawks. In the cases of the first two it is so rare as to be remarkable and can only be considered accidental or freakish, but with the Red-bellied Hawk it is another story and I have found the nest that does not contain a greater or less quantity to be the exception. My records show scarcely a nest where they were not found.

Out of seven nests of the species taken by me last season, green leaves were in all but one. This contained

three eggs with slight incubation. The other sets ranged from fresh to chicks with feathers.

I am quite well convinced from many years of observation that this Hawk replaces the leaves from time to time during incubation as I have found them in nests containing eggs in all stages, frequently finding badly incubated and leaf stained eggs in nests with fresh leaves.

In the "Life Histories," Major Bendire records finding green willow stems with the leaves on, in lining of nest, containing two fresh eggs and quotes Wm. L. Belding, regarding the finding of three young birds in nest which contained green, but dry, and broken leaves in lining. Both nests of this species.

Davie in the "Nests and Eggs" attributes the green leaf habit to the Florida Red-shouldered Hawk also.

C. S. SHARP,
Escondido, Calif.

Red-winged Blackbird.

The curious notes of the Red-wing, liquid when close by, burly at a distance, have given rise to a variety of phrasings most surprising. Yet, out of the host, not one is perfectly satisfactory. If it were, it would be accepted and used as such. (e. q. the "Teacher teacher", etc. which Burroughs applied to the Ovenbird.) The most generally favored at present seems to be one of the earliest, that used by Thoreau—"conqueree." When the phrasing is changed, the changed form may be very like the original, e. g. the "kong-quer-ree" used by Chapman. All that I have seen have good points, all save one—Flagg's "chip-chip-churee" which might as well apply to any other bird. The general fault (in my opinion, of course) seems to be the lack of an *explosive* syllable, and the fact that the first, almost inaudible syllable, is giv-

en equal importance with the last, the only part of the song audible at a good distance. Why not italicize the last syllable? With the assumed faults corrected, it might stand as "con-ker-*plēē*."

NORMAN O. FOERSTER.

Young Spotted Sandpipers can Swim.

Last summer while out on a collecting trip in a large swamp south of the city, having collected nothing but a set of Yellow Warbler and American Red-start, I sat down to rest on a bank of a small pond, feeling a little discouraged. A small flock of Sandpipers came into view, and while watching these a Least Bittern came and scared the Sandpipers away. I went over after the Bittern. I flushed up an old Sandpiper and her little chicks. Two of these little fellows came in the path and ran towards the pond. I stopped for them to come back, being afraid they would get drowned, but to my surprise they walked into the water and swam out to a small sand bar where I could not get them. In the meantime the Bittern became frightened and flew away. I walked up the bank aways and sat down to watch the young Sandpipers. I caught one with little difficulty and examined them to see if they had webbed feet. They had not. I then took him and flung him in the pond about two rods out, he came to the top and swam to the shore and hid in the grass. This may be a little news to some.

ALAN WRIGHT,
Gloversville, N. Y.

The young of all the wading birds that I have had opportunity to study swim with perfect ease and voluntarily when a few hours old. Many, though not web-footed, have limited diving powers also. Ed.

EDITORIAL.

WILD PIGEONS RE-APPEAR.

Big Flock of Rare Birds Seen at Chardon.

CHARDON, O., Nov. 2.—A flock of fully 500 wild pigeons passed over Chardon, Saturday afternoon. Hundreds of people who are familiar with

the markings of the wild pigeon, witnessed the sight. The flock was also seen at Aquila Lake. The re-appearance of these birds after an absence of twenty-three years has caused considerable speculation among the sportsmen of this locality. Wild pigeons were last seen near Chardon in April, 1883.

The last great flight of these birds in northern Ohio, was witnessed in the spring of 1876. The pigeons reappeared in the spring of 1877, but in greatly diminished numbers. Their total disappearance later caused the belief to become general that the birds had been annihilated by market hunters. For years the Smithsonian Institution has had a standing offer of \$1,000 for a single specimen of the American wild pigeon. At various times the presence of pigeons has been reported in remote sections of foreign countries, but all efforts to locate the birds in the United States have proved fruitless.—*Toledo Blade*.

Re-appearance of the Pigeons.

In certain localities in New England, wild pigeons are said to have appeared so freely as to suggest the regeneration of a species supposed by many to have become nearly extinct. In times not yet really remote they were familiar as visiting their favorite haunts in prodigious numbers. Their great "roosts" in northwestern Pennsylvania, not very far from Buffalo, are well remembered by the old sportsmen. Considerable pieces of forest would be literally loaded with the birds, so heavily that large branches of trees would give way under their weight; and their slaughter with guns or capture with nets was the simplest of accomplishments. They were destroyed by the million; as relentlessly followed up as the wild buffalos on the plains were, and apparently with similar result. The pigeons were seen no more in anything comparing with their former profusion. The popular belief was that they had been killed off. Some inclined to the opinion that

the instinct of self-preservation had caused them to migrate permanently to some remote part of the world; and this may be true, for stories have been told by travelers of seeing vast flocks of them in the Andes of South America. If it is true that wild pigeons are returning to the North in substantial number, every state into which they may come should provide amply by-laws for their protection. — *Buffalo Courier*.

June 20, 1904.

The above clippings are in line with other reports more or less authentic this last season and it would seem possible that these birds are becoming more plentiful.

If careful observation during the coming season should confirm this, let us welcome them with careful protection and abstain from a rush for Skins and live Birds, which would be a calamity.

I know of one pair breeding in Monroe county, N. Y., last June. Had I taken them I could not reasonably expect any this year. I am hoping that they escaped and will return three-fold this coming summer.

We have Laws enough. Too many in this state. As a prominent Game Protector said this last season. "If the people would co-operate to help us enforce half of the existing laws the Birds would be amply protected."

Publications Received.

- Amateur Naturalist, Vol. 2, No. 1.
 Universal Exchange Magazine, Vol. 1, No. 3.
 Bulletin of Dept. of Zoology, Penn., Agri. Dept., Vol. 2, 1, 3, 4, 5, 6.
 "Young Americans," Vol. 38, No. 1.

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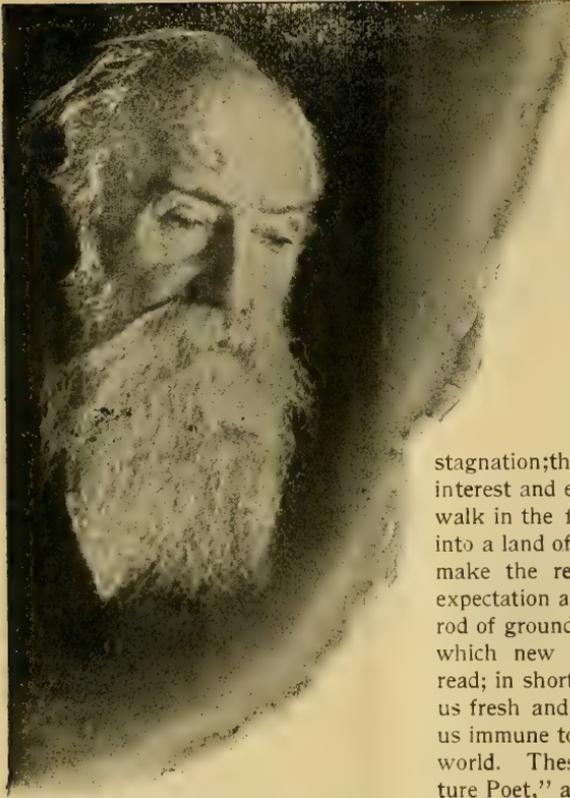
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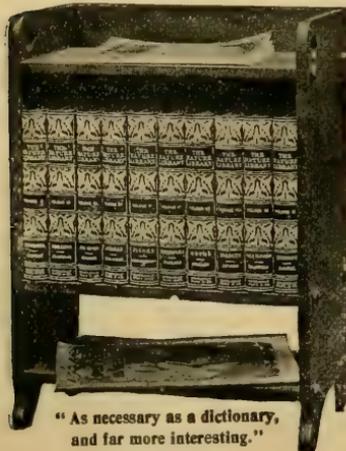


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VOL. XXII. No. 4.

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SOME HAWKING TRIPS.

By HARRY H. DUNN.

After Western Red Tails.

I have been feeling it coming for some time, this longing to get once more into print through the columns

of the Oologist and today I am going to try to tell you just a little of the fun I have had afield in the warm days of many a new year in southern California.

How it is with the rest of you fellows who read the Oologist and contribute good stuff to its pages, I don't know, but as for me, I like to take down a file of the "old reliable," draw my chair up to the fire and spend one of these long evenings reading about the things some other fellow has done in an oological way in some other state. Best of all I like to read about their "takes" of hawks and owls and eagles, sets that are precious because it takes dear effort to get them.

There are always such sets in every collection, and as I turn my hawk's eggs over, one by one, noting each flash of purple, each grotesque daub of brown, I come upon two huge specimens, unmistakably Red tails, yet of size more ample than most Western Red Tails, large enough indeed to have come from some of the famous hawkers of Iowa and Kansas and Minnesota, where the genuine old down east Red tail holds forth. What a day this set recalls to mind! Morning in the hills, me astir at five of a cool March day, the 31st, I believe, the chores done, a lunch box, heavy with mother's good cookery on my arm, my little lathers' hatchet at my belt, my pockets full of cotton, and, last but by no means least, two dogs atrail. One of these, a bob tailed, human hearted old fox hound, answered the death song of a rattle snake almost four years ago. The other, little, and nothing, but common "dawg", but a fit companion for the brave old hound, still lives and is the



ROAD-RUNNER.

Photo from life by H. C. Burt, Santa Paula, Calif.

torment of careless boys who come to kill the meadowlarks or other sweet singers on his master's place.

Such was my outfit, and I struck off into the hills like Ponce de Leon on the quest of his fountain of youth. Close together, like the three comrades that we were, we crossed the first low range of hills and then let ourselves down into a canyon filled with low live oaks, here and there a lofty sycamore rearing its white head gaunt against the blue of the California sky.

It was almost noon when we came to this place, and so far I had found just seven nests of the big hawks, most of them filled with green leaves, but none containing eggs. Heartily tired I sat down to eat my lunch beneath one of the oaks, while the dogs bathed and played in the creek below, when, glancing up I, saw, fitted close in against the trunk of one of the largest of the sycamores, a rough nest, huge of outline and surmounted by the head of a hawk!

Lunch was forgotten. I ran down to the base of the great trunk, which could not have been less than three feet in diameter, and rapped excitedly with my hatchet. There was a scream from above, a sound as of flapping wings, and an immense, hawk flew away through the tree tops. The way I went up that tree was a circus and I have no doubt that, if dogs laugh, the sides of both of mine were sore when I came back to earth.

The tree was too large to climb without irons and of these I had none, so I had to crawl into the tree on a low hanging branch. Once there it was an easy climb up to the nest.

Judging from all appearances, I should have found at least a set of three; what I got was two monstrous, badly incubated eggs, evidently a full set, beautifully marked, unusual in size, but too few to be typical. In nine cases out of ten, when a Red tail's

nest contains only two eggs, the set is incomplete, though sometimes the female lays a second set of only two when, for some reason she has been deprived of her first set.

When I had rested from this climb I started down through the oaks and about the first thing I did was to rouse a Long eared owl off six nice fresh eggs in an old crow's nest only a few feet from the ground in an oak sapling. I never saw one of these owls accept a deserted nest in so unstable a position but I expect Madam Owl knew more about this than I did, but I have her set yet. Then I began to investigate the old crow's nests more closely, with the result that, in the next hour, I took two more fine sets of the Long eared and found a family of three young Pacific Horned Owl. These large owls usually lay their eggs in January or February, so that their youngsters had a long way the start of the long ears.

I flushed a number of young Barn owls, birds of the year passed, from among these empty crows' nests, and I judge that they were making use of them as roosting places and hunting lodges, for their home nests, I well knew, were several miles away in a honey combed cliff on the edge of a large canon.

The Red tails seem to sort of shun the oaks except in very rare cases, so I paid little attention to many of the old crow nests until I came in sight of one visible from all sides. It was in the upright fork of a vertical limb of a giant oak, fully forty feet from the ground and without a limb for the last half of that distance. On the nest in plain sight, sat Mrs. Red tail, calmly watching my movements and not deigning to fly until I rapped her tree heavily several times. Then she left with a rush and a scream, rising to join her mate, hanging on motionless wings far up in the heavens.

It took me a good half hour to get to that nest, but when I got there all else was forgotten for there lay four beautifully marked and perfectly fresh eggs. Red tails by their markings and from her scream I knew them to be, but had they been Golden Eagles' eggs, I should hardly have been more delighted.

Then, when I had had a rest, I struck off across the hills for home with a light heart, and you who have wandered far afield in this pursuit know full well that it was well after dark ere the lights of home came into view.

(To be continued.)

Personally I am not competent to state as to completeness of set of 2 of 337b, but am certain that 2 is very often a complete set of the Eastern Bird. Ed.

NOTES ON THE WARBLERS OF CANADA.

By W. L. KELLS.

The Mourning Warbler.

(*Geothlypis philadelphia*.)

The Mourning Warbler though not abundant in any district, is yet pretty widely distributed over the province of Ontario, as well as other divisions of eastern Canada, but it is among the last of the family to announce its vernal advent amid the wild scenery of its summer haunts. Usually, when the expanding buds of the lower underwood are bursting into leaves, when the yellow bloom of the leather wood scents the spring time air, and the virgin soil of the forest, is variegated by the early wild flowers of the season, the observer of bird migrations, if in the vicinity of its chosen summer home, will be enabled by the sound of its song, to add to his list this species, as among the more recent arrivals from the sunny south. But, as the month of July advances, its nesting period is over, its notes for the seasons are silent, and the bird itself

appears to be among the first of the members of its family to take its departure from the uncultivated scenery of its summer home, and begin its aerial voyage towards its tropical winter residence in the regions of Central America.

Here it enjoys the pleasures of existing amid perpetual summer, during that portion of the year when its Canadian fatherland feels the chilly breath of the ice king, is covered with a mantle of snow, and swept by the wild storms of winter. In March it begins its northward journey, but two months pass away before it reaches the terminus of its winged voyage in the region of its northern range and summer home; and here begins again one of the chief objects of its migration movements, i. e., the propagation of its species, and when the period during which this can only be done, is over, the impulses to return towards the south seem strong, and to yield to the promptings of nature, in this matter, is not long delayed; for, by the middle of September, if not earlier, all the species of the genus have disappeared, though some individuals may linger longer amid the scenery of their summer haunts, in the thicket and swamp, than is now known.

The haunt and home of the Mourning Warbler, during the period of its residence in Canada, is generally on the margins of lowland woods, or second growth swamps, where there is an intermingling of young under wood, fallen brush and Raspberry vines. It may also occasionally be found to frequent wooded ravines, the sides of brush covered hills and the margins of mud bottomed creeks, which are found to meander their courses through what are called "beaver meadows," where there is deep concealment, and here, amid the thick foliage, one strain of the song notes of the male of this species, may often be heard in the midsummer days,

while the little performer itself is invisible. At times he will rise to a considerable elevation, and after a pleasing performance of quite a different series of musical notes, in the venting of which he appears to take much pleasure and pride, and during which he makes a rainbow like circle, he makes a rapid descent into the thicket below, near where, it is probable, the female has her nesting place. Another particular haunt of this bird is small clearings in tracts of hardwood forest, and along the sides of roadways through primitive woods, but it is seldom observed out in the open fields, except in the backwoods settlement, nor does it often approach the garden, or other environments of human habitations, and, except where the woods are open, it will not be found deep in the forest, but as the original forests of southern Ontario are fast disappearing, time will, no doubt, effect great changes in the summer haunts of this species. In eastern Canada, the Mourning Warbler does not appear to advance further north than the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and the valley of the Ottawa River, but in the western portion of its range, which extends to the foot hills of the Rocky Mts., it may extend its summer range to more northern latitudes, and higher altitudes, than in the east. Too little is yet known of the nesting history of this Warbler, to describe whether it deposits more than one set of eggs in the season, certainly its nesting period would not allow of its raising more than one brood during its summer stay in Canada; but where the first clutch of eggs are taken it will doubtless nest a second time. But considering the many enemies among the smaller mammals, birds of prey and reptiles to which its eggs and young are exposed it is doubtful if even one brood is raised by each pair of the species that cross our national boundry with each return of spring; even in the most protective localities; though the process

of civilization is rather in favor of its increase except from the presence of the domestic cat and yet it is wonderful how some nests of our garden frequenting birds will escape the attention of this agile feline foe. The chief protective means resorted to by this species is by selecting a deep shady spot either among thick herbage, vines or young underwood on or near the ground, and then when incubation has begun and as soon as the female becomes aware of danger she does not fly directly from the nest but quietly runs off among the surrounding shade and does not take wing till some distance away, nor does she return to her charge till she thinks the danger is over. These efforts to protect her progeny are so far as human kind are concerned so successful that very few of the nests are ever discovered, and its eggs are, and ever likely to remain a rarity in oological collections, but the case is very different with the lower orders of Carnivorous mammals and snakes, which are ever on the search to find and devour the eggs and young of every species that comes within their reach. In this, charge the Red Squirrel, the Chipmunk, the Weasel, the Mink, the Fox and the Skunk, are among the chief transgressors that range the haunts of the Warblers, while nearer human habitations, cats, rats, and even mice do their deadly work, and no enemy of all the Warbler family is more dreaded than the vagabond Cowbird. During the past twenty years a number of the nests of the Mourning Warblers have come under my observations and the finding of these has been rather accidental than the results of continuous field and forest research, Guelph, Ont., Daily Herald.

Probably more authentic sets of this Warbler have been taken in Orleans county, N. Y., than any other locality as restricted.

They much prefer the first nesting site mentioned. They do not nest but once unless disturbed. Ed.

Adventures of a Grosbeak Family.

The beautiful Rose-breasted Grosbeak is a common summer resident of and a well known and favorite bird in Jasper county, Iowa. I have found them nesting in box elder trees at from six to thirty feet from the ground. Their nests are very frail structures and the complement of eggs three, sometimes four. They are imposed upon by the cowbird. Fully agreeing with the article in the *Oologist* written by Mr. B. S. Bowish, I have tried to make the above as concise as possible.

A pair of grosbeaks have nested for the last three years in a box elder tree in our backyard, hardly twenty feet from the door. Last spring they arrived from their winter resort on May 5th and very soon after commenced nest building. We watched their frail nest grow from day to day until it contained three eggs. After careful brooding by both parents, at the end of two weeks, three tiny chips off the old block were safely ushered into bird dom. About this time a spying Blue Jay thought that something similar to veal would suit him for breakfast. Happening near, he soon changed his mind, and decided that a brisk walk or rather a fly would benefit his appetite and constitution. For the male grosbeak assisted by two screeching robins, which he had called to his aid, soon made him hike out of sight on the overland route.

One bright day near the first of June, we observed the three youngsters perched at different heights in the tree, uttering at regular intervals their mournful little cry. They eventually reached the ground, where the children caught and patted them, placing them time and again in the nearby trees and a lilac bush, where they would stoutly cling and climb as high as they could towards the end of the limb. They would allow us to approach at any time and stroke their heads, at which

they would open their mouths at us as if expecting food. The mother would fearlessly come to feed them while I stood only three feet away, but the father would never come out of the trees.

At last after several days two of them disappeared, but the third a little male, stayed several days longer. He, a funny little fuzzy miniature of his illustrious father, was still covered with yellow down, as when he left the nest, and would always be seen hopping or taking three yard flights along the ground. One morning while I was eating breakfast, I was startled by the excited calls of birds in our front yard. I rushes out to find the mother Grosbeak flitting excitedly from tree to tree, while at the foot of an oak a woodpecker was waging war against her offspring. I ran toward them, firing a club at the red headed rascal as I went, and picking up the poor young adventurer, found he had been severely pecked about the head and mouth by the stout sharp bill of the woodpecker, who was now exulting over his victory from the top of a neighboring telephone pole. The sides of the young bird's mouth were badly torn and his throat was so filled with blood that he could not peep. After washing his mouth out with warm water and rubbing his wounds with cosmoline, I placed him in the sun on our wide front porch, from which on the following day he followed his mother off into the wide world somewhere, none the worse for his exciting adventure.

J. L. SLOANAKER.

One day last summer I discovered a Wood Thrushes nest containing one egg. On visiting it again I found three eggs. Then there was an interval of about a week before I got time to go to it again. Upon arriving I was very much surprised to see a Robin fly off the nest. I climbed up and found that the nest contained 3 Thrushes' eggs and 3

Robins'. A lady told me that about a week before she had seen a dead thrush near the nest, so I judge that the Robins drove away the remaining bird. This is the first incident of the kind I ever witnessed. Is it a common or rare occurrence in bird life?

DAVID HARROWER,
Swarthmore, Pa.

No! This is not common by any means. Such notes are always of interest and solicited from all. Ed.

The Editor of the Oologist:

The excellent suggestion of Mr. Price, resulting in the appointment of a committee to whom questionable transactions in the egg line may be submitted, is one which will certainly meet with a cordial endorsement from all who have been through the mill. That the investigations of the gentlemen who have kindly consented to act in the matter will be accepted and duly appreciated goes without saying.

My collection is still a modest one but I find in my note book that my first oological specimens were taken "June 20, 1884"; I have them yet, highly prized and respected, and I would hardly part with that old set of Catbird's for dozens of "rare and curious" eggs that have reached me in the past twenty years. They run all the way from a couple of sets of Lapwing's taken in Dakota some fifteen years ago, to a set of Rock Wren, recently received. The specifications accompanying the latter set call for six eggs, but the Wren through an oversight, no doubt, only supplied five, the other being added by a friendly Vireo to complete the set; all of which goes to show that the cowbird is not the only biped occasionally dropping an egg among strange bedfellows. But after all, it is not the rank, blundering imposter, making up impossible data or freak substitutions that drives collectors "out of the business"; as Mr. Price

says; how much oftener do we receive a set with marks obscured or renewed, details on data erased or altered, or that just has a "queer" look, we cannot return it and risk an unjust accusation, and so it remains, an object of suspicion and distrust among its honorable neighbors, until, like an evil weed, it is thrown out and destroyed. Fortunately the egg shark is not easily content; becoming bolder with apparent success, his greed is seldom satisfied until, over reaching himself, detection and exposure finally follow.

In his connection I would like to suggest that, as a matter of precaution and self protection, collectors of rare and valuable eggs, particularly of the larger kinds, such as cranes, eagles, falcons, etc., might do well to note on the data blank in their own handwriting, some natural distinguishing feature of the eggs themselves, such as their size or peculiarity of shape and marking; those are set marks that cannot be altered. I recently received a handsome set of Broad-winged Hawk's eggs upon which the set marks, originally in pencil, had become so blurred as to be absolutely illegible; the collector, however, had carefully noted on his data accurate measurements of each egg, which I readily verified, and I valued these figures a good deal more than the common place "Remarks" that the eggs were taken "From an old crow's nest," 40 feet from the ground." This collector protected himself, for the eggs had passed through many hands and if any substitution had been attempted clearly he was not responsible for it.

One more example may not be amiss. Of two sets of Wren-Tit, one was fresh when taken, in the other incubation was advanced;" in the latter set three eggs have large holes, while the fourth egg was blown through a "pinhole"; no harm in that, to be sure, but if I ever send that set out in exchange to some suspicious stranger he may be

relieved to see the collector's statement that "one egg was added."

T. W. RICHARDS,
Surgeon, U. S. Navy.
U. S. S. Arkansas, Nov. 28, 1904.

Is it a Common Thing?

On June 11, 1903, I started down the road for a little tramp and just as I was about to turn in the field, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker on a fence post with a mouse in his claw, I went toward him and he flew to a tree taking the mouse with him in his claws the same as a Hawk does. I went to the tree and scared him and he flew to the woods with the mouse still in his claws.

A. E. KIBBE,
Mayville, N. Y.

The Red-headed Woodpecker is almost omnivorous in his feeding habits, but this is the first time I have heard of their feeding on mice. Might it be that the bird found a dead mouse? Ed.

Sparrow Hawk feeding on Cocoons.

During my ornithological rambles in the Delaware River meadows at Bridesburg, this county, during the winter of 1901-1902, I have twice observed the Sparrow Hawk feeding on cecropia moth cocoons, and judging from the large number of torn, empty cases of these and other moths they must feed in the winter to a large extent upon cocoons. Have any other observers observed them feeding on these cocoons?

R. F. MILLER,
3473 Amber St., Philadelphia, Pa.

In December Oologist, I noticed description of an egg within an egg, and you say that you had never heard of a case of this sort before. For over 20 years I have had a little chicken's egg in my collection found within an ordinary chicken's egg by my aunt. The egg is about the size of a Song Sparrow's and of a dark yellowish color the shell unlike the one described was not pliable. I have read of other cases.

WM. R. WHARTON,
Philadelphia, Pa.

EDITORIAL.

After many vexatious delays our New Standard Catalogue is ready for delivery. We are not conceited enough to claim that it is absolutely perfect.

Recent developments since it went to press convince us that a few prices may not be just right, but we think it is the best obtainable and we trust the shape and style may suit the many who collaborated in its conception. We regret that lack of space and time forbids a Skin Catalogue at this time.

A Correction.

Unfortunately, in making up March number our printer cut Mr. Foerster's article on "Some Bird Songs" page 41 into two parts and failed to give the author any credit for Robins vs. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. This on pages 41 and 42 was a part of one article with Redwing Blackbird on page 44.

Publications Received.

Journal of Maine Ornithological Society, Vol. VII, No. 1.

American Ornithology, Vol. V. No. 3.

Nature Study, Vol. XIV, No. 3.

Wilson's Bulletin, Vol. XII, No. 1.

The Condor, Vol. VII, No. 2.

American Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 4.

Universal Exchange Mag., Vol. 1, No. 4.

Amateur Naturalist, Vol. 2, No. 2.

Penn. Div. of Zoology, Monthly Bull., Vol. II, No. 10.

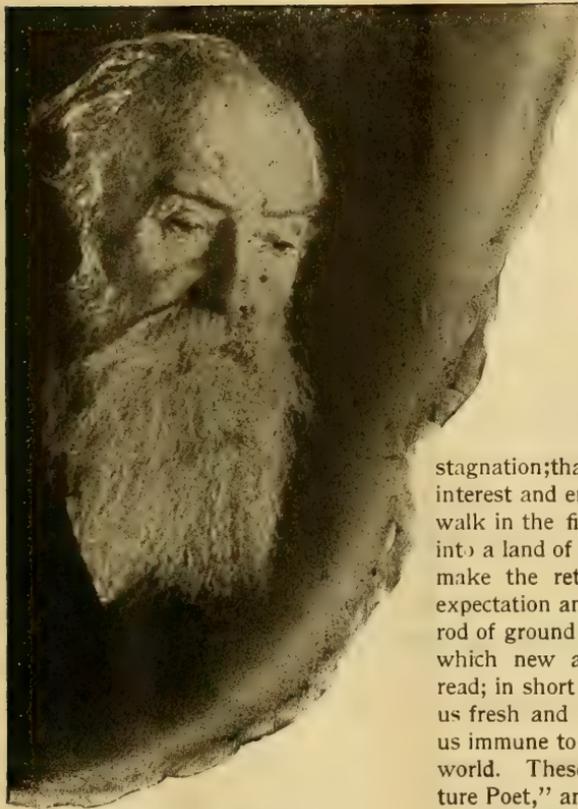
Quarterly Bull., Vol. II, No. 3.

Review.

Gleanings No. IV, J. W. Jacobs.

"Some Notes on the Birds of Monongalia, Co., W. Va."

An interesting account of two trips through this territory. Of special interest was his find of Cowbird's egg in nest of Parula Warbler which seems to be unusual. Ed.



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VOL. XXII. No. 5.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1905.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1905.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager,
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Pica Pica Hudsonica.

There is a black and white rascal out here in Idaho that has furnished me more amusement and study than all the birds that have ever come under my observing ken. Of all the wise birds that the great All Father has made,

commend me to the Black-billed Magpie. You no doubt recall that old fable of how all the birds came to school in nest building to the Magpie and one by one departed using just so much of the lesson taught as they had learned, until she was at last without pupils, hence the Magpie is the only bird who knows how to build a nest rightly. The story has a moral to it. It is a fact that of all the specimens of bird architecture that I have ever examined the nest of this bird is far and away the most unique in its adaptability. The nest used to be constructed in hawthorn bushes about ten or fifteen feet from the ground, then there came a change. When I first began the study of birds the fact that every bush of any size in the Clearwater valley was the site of one or more nests of the Magpie made me look to that bird first of all. I was struck at once with the great wisdom displayed in the nest building. It is a very bulky affair for so small a bird. Often it is as large as a bushel basket and is cunningly woven of dried limbs that have fallen from the thorns and are a veritable chevaux de frise directed against any too inquisitive and dinner hunting rodent who sought to molest the peace and quietude of the family. It was my good fortune at one time to see a racoon dinner hunting in this manner. He approached the nest amid the storms of protest from the parent birds who dashed at him with shrill cries of anger. They picked and scratched in the most determined manner. With the swaying of the slender limb the poor coon had very little time to defend himself. With grim determination he crept out to the nest and when he found that it was quite another matter to get at the



Photo by B. S. Bodish.

NEST AND EGGS OF LEAST FLYCATCHER, IN SITU., LEONA, N. J.

eggs a look of disgust came over his face that is hard to describe in words. With a zeal worthy of a good cause he sat to work demolishing the structure which he evidently assumed would take only a short time. The longer he labored the more tempting those eggs became and at the same time more futile his labors were for he was tearing up the compact structure of the nest and making it more and more difficult to get a paw in. In fact he had by this time closed the nest up so securely that the old bird herself would be unable to enter. At last, disgusted and full of thorns he clambered down and made off without any omelet of Magpie eggs to satisfy him for all the work he had done. I followed him up to the bush and got my hands nicely torn up trying to open the nest so that I might add to my collection. Many times have I returned from the collecting trips my hands one mass of scratches. The game was worth it all however. I have often wondered how the old bird could get her body through the very small opening that she leaves in one side of the nest. She does though, for I have noted them simply dive into the nest without a pause and never break an egg. I said, at first, they built their homes in the hawthorn bushes in the river valleys. Now, however, since the advent of settlement and acquired enemies have taken the place of the natural enemies of the bird, they have begun building in the higher pines upon the hillsides. In fact the last collecting that I did in the Clearwater Valley of some one hundred sets that I collected hardly ten of them were taken from the typical nesting localities. Instead we were compelled to don the "hooks" and skin to the summits of the towering pines for our treasures. I consider this a very remarkable reversion within so short a time.

I can see no objection to collecting all the eggs of this bird that can be found. To the casual bird student the Mag-

pie is a very cute fellow with a fund of humor to his credit and a store of good shrewd common sense under his black bonnet, to the resident of his bailiwick he is a most arrant thief and destroyer of other nests and is not above purloining a young chicken whenever the opportunity presents. Those are minor sins compared with his habit of picking at live animals. I lived among the Indians for several years, and learned that the Indian is never very careful of his horses, riding them until they have sore backs, then turning them out to get well the best way they may. Many and many times have I seen two or three Magpies seated upon the back of one of these poor beasts industriously making a meal. It seemed impossible for the tortured animal to shake them off. They would flap up into the air a foot and realight as soon as possible and resume their tearing at his flesh. The sheep men of the west hate a Magpie above all other pests. They harass the weak sheep in the spring to such an extent that they often kill them. It is a rule on the range to shoot the old birds and destroy their home whenever one is found. This is not a pleasant topic in bird life but I suppose that we are not reading for the breakfast table but for information.

The eggs are quite familiar to oologists hence it is not necessary to describe them. They usually lay large clutches, seven being the average though I have taken many sets of twelve and one of fourteen. These last are under the suspicion of being lain by more than one bird however. The parents are very industrious as indeed they must be to keep so many mouths filled. It is really astonishing the amount of food they will collect and carry to the nest in the course of a day. All is fish that comes to their nets. Everything digestible is commanded and carried to the waiting mouths. When the young are nearly grown and have left the nest they form a very

handsome family and the old ones are very proud of their progeny as they sit in the dense branches of the thorn shrubs.

Freak Hen's Eggs.

By RICHARD F. MILLER.

Mr. Hobbles very interesting letter in the December "Oologist" regarding "One egg within another" was read with considerable interest by the writer who has observed some interesting data relating to freak Hen's eggs. As they may be of interest to many readers of the Oologist, I have contributed them:

In the spring of 1903, Mr. John Luft, of Barnville, Berks county, Pa., found a Hen's egg in his chicken coop reputed to be the largest and first of its kind ever reported in that county. It measured 6 1-2 by 8 1-2 inches in circumference and weighed 4 ounces. Ordinary sized Hen's eggs weigh only 2 1-2 ounces. Inside its original shell was another perfectly formed egg with a hard shell, measuring 4 1-2 by 5 1-2 inches in circumference. Near Evesboro, N. J., last May, on the Chene's farm, a large Hen's egg was found. Inside was another perfectly formed. The outer egg contained the yolk only. Was unsuccessful in my attempt to obtain the size of this egg.

Mrs. Joseph L. Woodring, of Schoenerville, Pa., had a Hen (and may still have it,) that laid in the spring several eggs within eggs, the outer ones being extra large, and both eggs having hard shells and perfect yolk. Also failed to obtain any definite information regarding these eggs.

A Canton, N. J. man, Mr. E. Smith had an enormous Hen's egg. It measured 9 x 7 inches in circumference and weighed six ounces. This is the largest Hen's egg that I have a record of.

In my collection I have four abnormal Hen's eggs. One is a runt, spherical

in shape and no larger than a Catbird's egg; second is the size of an Antwerp Pigeon. Both of these eggs are of the ordinary shape. None contained any yolk. The fourth is abnormal in shape as well as size. It is alligator egg shaped, double ended, size 3.25 x 1.75 inches and 8 1-2 by 4 1-2 inches in circumference. It contained a double yolk and weighed about four and a half ounces. It was laid, as was the three others, by the Great American Hen.

A farmer of Argus, N. J., had a Hen that laid eggs with three yolks, an unusual occurrence. In my collection of alcoholic specimens I have a four-legged chick. It lived only a short time after birth.

My note book used especially for information relating to freak hen's eggs and other interesting notes regarding the hen, I unfortunately lost. It contained much of interest and value and several list of freak chicks, with one-leg, four-legs and wings, twoheads, etc.

A Mourning Dove Cronicle.

By MORRIS GIBBS, M. D.

A pair of Mourning doves has occupied our yard or vicinity for a period of eight years successively and the notes taken have been so entertaining that they are offered for publication.

Probably but one pair has occupied the locality during a season and as two birds have never been heard singing at the same time and three old birds have not been seen at the same time, it is quite likely that only the one pair or their descendants have bred in the neighborhood. Our neighborhood is within two blocks of the center of a city of 30,000 inhabitants and previous to this invasion of the locality by these happy mourners it was very rare to hear the notes in this vicinity, though birds are abundant in the surrounding country and frequently nest in the outskirts of the city.

Though the species frequently remains in the county during the winter months, still as a rule the birds are found with us for about seven months of the year and generally less than this. It is evident that the birds leave the neighborhood and spend the balance of their time at the north in the country as they are never seen in my neighborhood after October 27th, while they are to be found in abundance as late as November 1st in the fields and woods.

The following dates of appearance and disappearance are given as recorded for the neighborhood, though these dates must not be taken as the regular dates of arrival and departure for the county.

1897, arrived Ap. 6, last seen, Oct. 21.

1898, arrived Ap. 4, last seen Oct. 17.

1899, arriv'd Mar. 30, last seen Oct. 26.

1900, arrived Ap. 2, last seen Sept. 26.

1901, arrived Ap. 3, last seen Oct. 27.

1902, arriv'd Mar. 30, last seen Oct. 25.

1903, arrived Ap. 7, last seen Oct. 16.

1904, arrived Ap. 11, last seen, Oct. 2.

The birds do not sing upon their arrival and are with us all of a week before the first notes are given and sometimes quite two weeks before the regular song is uttered, though a few half articulate notes are occasionally heard as if the performer were practicing *soto voce*.

The earliest nest construction was begun May 5th, but the birds were not observed in nest building each season. One season, 1901, the pair started two nests, nearly completing one, in evergreens, and then selected another position and reared their young, quite removed from the first location. Indecision seems common with them and one spring the pair did not begin building until May 28th.

In 1904 I had an excellent opportunity to observe the nesting habits as the pair selected a large Burr oak *Quercus macrocarpa* which shaded my favorite seat in our backyard. The nest was placed at the side of a large limb at

about thirty feet from the ground and was built between some slight supports offered by small twigs from a large Trumpet creeper which attached to the limb.

Both birds shared in incubation as with the common tame pigeon and all of its varieties and as I have observed in the Passenger Pigeon, *Ectopistes migratorius* both wild and in confinement. Both birds had low, pleasing notes when greeting their mate at the nest and these subdued notes were nearly always uttered when the birds took their tricks at setting, though the full song was never uttered in the tree holding the nest and the birds were very silent and unobtrusive about their homes at all times. When one of the pair was to leave the nest and make way for its mate it did not fly from the edge of the nest as do the robins and other well known species of perchers but generally stood upon a near by limb and watched its mate settle upon the eggs, but not rarely returning to the edge of the nest and billing and cooing over its mate.

The period of incubation is 16 or 17 days and on June 3rd, 1904, the young emerged from the shells and received their food in the manner of all members of his family. The young are not fed as often as are the nestlings of the insessoros and after they were three or four days old the parents fed them not oftener than every hour. Not infrequently one of the old birds would sit near the nest and wait until the food was pre-digested; this sometimes taking nearly an hour.

I could not discover that the old birds ever fed their mate but know that they alternate in incubation and judge that the trick of a bird in setting is about an hour.

At the end of fourteen or fifteen days the young were sufficiently developed to step from the nest and sit upon a large limb, returning to the structure the first night. The second day of their

outside life they chose a perch not quite ten feet from the nest and there they remained constantly for two days longer. The two young sat side by side and as close together as possible. On the fourth day of their removal from the nest the father bird, after repeated and unsuccessful pleading with the young birds to fly, deliberately alighted upon the backs of the young and literally forced them from the perch. They flew well at the first and returned but once to the tree and were soon lost sight of, though the old birds were often seen.

The male continued to sing until about the middle of July as in former seasons, though as usual only in the early morning hours after the spring nesting was over, while the song was intermittent throughout the day during courting and nesting. The song, when given in full was always composed of the first or long note followed by the three shorter notes, the third and fourth being about half as far apart as the second and third.

And now comes a remarkable instance of second brood raising in a species that is credited with rearing but one brood in a season. The two young disappeared and the old ones were seen repeatedly throughout the months of August and September, though not a song was heard. On the morning of September 28, 1904, I was called out of the house by an interested neighbor who excitedly told me that there was another brood of young in the oak tree. On going to the back piazza I saw two young sitting in the exact position that was occupied by the spring brood. We watched the old birds feed one of the young the next day and the bird was evidently just out of the nest.

This is not only a remarkably late date for this species to nest but it establishes the fact that the Mourning dove does, at least occasionally, rear two broods in a season, and this too without any song whatever being uttered.

In North Carolina and Virginia:

Progne subis.

A common summer resident and breeder in all sections, apparently of regular distribution, as I have noticed no variations in their numbers in any locality. By about the 18th of March they begin to arrive from the south, and continue to grow in numbers until about the 25th; by which date, in eastern North Carolina, they are in full force. In the more northern and western sections they arrive a few days later than in the east. In eastern Virginia they become common by the 1st of April, while in the north and west they are not fully represented for several days. Sometimes in southeastern North Carolina, a few are to be noted by the 12th of March, but usually they continue rare for a week or more thereafter. These early spring arrivals are not of common occurrence, about one spring in every four or five. Of all the birds that inhabit this land of ours, the Martin is one of the most interesting species. Observing their graceful movements and admiring their wonderful flight, if we can spare them only a few minutes of our time, is a pleasure alike to all. Behold how gracefully, when at a height of several hundred feet above, they fold their wings and dart downward not to stop until they are perched in the entrance to their nesting place, or how gracefully they wend their way to regions beyond the vision's range. As they dart hither and thither in pursuit of some unfortunate insect, they are soon lost in space. Throughout eastern North Carolina, nest building usually begins by the 1st of May, sometimes a little earlier. Eggs are rarely to be obtained before the middle of the second week in May, and usually not before the 15th. In the west, nest building begins later than in the east; the dates varying with those of their arrival, three to fourteen days. Almost every farmer

has his colony of Martins, therefore nesting sites are easily found. These kind hearted individuals usually prepare boxes for their little feathered friends to use, and under the protection of such powerful guardians they flourish in their haunts. The boxes are, as a rule, so arranged that they supply nesting places for from four to fifteen pairs of birds. Apartments for six nests make a good size, being neither too small nor too large. In some sections they nest in gourds strung on the limbs of poles prepared to receive them; the limbs having been cut off about two feet from the pole, a gourd is tied to the end of each limb; a pole usually supports from five to twelve gourds. With a small hole cut in the side to admit the birds, they seem to form excellent nesting places. But, even at this a few still adhere to the old custom and build in the hollows of dead trees or in cavities used on previous years by flickers. The nest is not very neat, being loosely thrown together in the bottom of the cavity, and consisting of fine roots, grasses, and leaves plucked from living trees. One box, in which I noticed them at work building their nests, was fitted with such large entrances to the apartments that the birds saw fit to fill the extra space with wet clay; which, when it became dry, reduced the size of the entrance to suit the taste of the bird. The eggs range in number from four to six, rarely seven; five and six are the usual numbers, but sometimes only four are deposited. The young leave the nest in the latter part of June or early in July, and then, accompanied by the parent birds, they are to be seen at all times flying around over the meadows or skimming the fields in search of food. By the middle of August they begin to migrate southward, gradually becoming less abundant as the days pass by, and disappearing altogether in the early part of September.

R. PEARCE SMITHWICK,
Norfolk, Virginia.

This walling up the opening to nesting cavity with clay to regulate size of opening is a habitual trait of the Hornbill and Syrian Nuthatch, but I never saw a record of this kind for any North American Bird. (Ed.)

On the 26th of June, 1902, my little son and I were taking a stroll in the eastern suburbs of the city, when my attention was attracted by the vociferous twittering of several birds on a clump of low bushes in a field of timothy across the street. At the first glance I took them for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, but on closer observation they proved to be Bobolinks. They were evidently nesting, but I did not search for their nests, as the timothy was ready to cut and the place a very public one. A few days later I took my binoculars and identified them beyond all question. The bushes were only about fifty yards from the street where electric cars, other vehicles, and pedestrians were constantly passing, but they seemed to have no fear, except when I stopped to watch them, when they flew to another part of the field. There were at least two males. So far as I know this is the only record for Miami county. The Bobolink nests in several of the counties of northern Indiana, especially on Lake Michigan, and has been seen in several neighboring counties, but in eleven years' residence this is my first record. Butler's "Birds of Indiana" does not record it from Miami county.

W. H. SHEAK,
Peru, Ind.

My train was delayed a day by a washout in Southern Arizona, coming back from New Orleans, and I took the opportunity to do a little collecting about Pantano, a railroad station on S. P. line. A stream ran near, with many mesquite trees and I also got friendly, to my sorrow, with several kinds of cacti. Located several nests

of Cactus Wren just built, six or seven nests of Verdin in same condition (one had three fresh eggs), and took nest and three fresh eggs of Canon Towhee. Found a nest of Crissal Thrasher with two badly incubated eggs. This was on St. Patrick's Day, March the 17th. The Verdin's nests were all in trees on which foliage had not yet sprouted, and were accordingly easy to locate. Had the train been delayed another day, no doubt I would have followed that river and got myself lost somewhere down by the Mexican border.

Yours Sincerely,

H. R. TAYLOR.

A Quick Way to Mount Dry Skins.

Take your bird and extract the filling very carefully, then instead of soaking inside and out, simply use luke warm water on inside and under the wings fill with cotton and soak it, being careful all the time not to get the feathers wet. Put in a tight box and in about 24 hours, (according to size of bird) you will have a comparatively fresh skin. Some of my best birds have been mounted this way, with very little, if any trouble. Roll cotton soaked around feet and legs.

R. A. LEE,

Sanilac Center, Mich.

The Editor has followed this course with success for some years but would add that it is wise to grease the toe nails and beak before soaking to prevent them from scaling off. Ed.

Irregular Distribution of Birds.

The House Wren, is said to be a common bird in this state, and I understand it is in many localities; but in twenty years of observations have met with but five individuals in Bristol county. Examined one nest which contained seven eggs. This persistently erratic distribution is difficult to account for. Some say it is due to certain insects, to which this bird is partial, being found

only where the Wren summers. This is not plausible, however, because we then have the anomalous distribution of the insects to explain.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS,

Taunton, Mass.

Turkey Buzzard Near Toledo.

On March 28, 1905, Mr. C. T. Day, Mr. H. E. Emery and myself, all of this city observed a turkey buzzard. It was flying low and could not have been mistaken for any other bird. This bird is very rare in this section of the county.

A Sora Rail.

On April 13, 1905, Mr. Paul Kone of this city caught a Sora Rail with his chickens. He shut it up in the shed over night but it was found dead in the morning. This is a peculiar place to find a Rail.

A. C. READ.

Editor of the Oologist:

About three weeks ago I put up a bird box for wrens and in a week a pair had commenced to build in it. It is now complete and has a full complement of eggs (7) which are nearly hatched. Although several mornings it has been at freezing point the eggs are alright. Is it not rather unusual for wrens to build so early? Also several sets of Lark Sparrow's eggs have been taken here.

April 19, 1905.

URI WORCESTER.

Evidently the Wrens are early in Oklahoma. Western New York has enjoyed nightly freezes and several snow storms during the last two weeks. Robins, Bluebirds, Horned Larks, Hawks and a few Phoebe's are nesting. Editor.

Publications Received.

The Warbler, Vol. I, No. 2.

Nature Study, Vol. XIV, No. 4.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 5.

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VOL. XXII. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1905.

WHOLE No. 215

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Remember we must be notified if you wish paper discontinued and all arrearages must be paid.

207	your subscription expired	Oct. 1904
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215	your subscription expires with this issue	
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WALTER B. BARROWS., Editor.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXII. No. 6.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1905.

WHOLE No. 215

On the Use in Surgery of Tendons of the Ardeidæ and Gruidæ.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUTHOR.

The subject of sutures and ligatures and their proper sterilization and use has long been an important subject in the realm of modern surgery. Various materials have from time to time been recommended, many to drop by the way side, and we find even in the materials of the present day, namely, catgut, kangaroo tendon, silk, silkworm gut, horse hair and silver wire, great difference of opinion in the minds of surgeons as to their use.

The recent introduction by Dr. Kieffer of an entirely new material will be of much interest to the surgeon, but it likewise will be of no less interest to the American ornithologist. Dr. Kieffer found after a series of experiments that the tendons of the Ardeidae and Gruidae made an excellent suture and ligature and, moreover, that they seemed to possess some advantages over the present materials, principally kangaroo tendon and catgut. The flexor and extensor tendons of the great blue heron (*Ardea herodias*) were first made use of, and later those of the sand hill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and whooping crane (*G. americana*). The tendons were readily made aseptic by the Claudius method of sterilizing catgut.

Regarding his experiments Dr. Kieffer says: "There is still room in the armamentarium of the surgeon for a reliable, slowly absorbable suture and ligature material. I have been recently investigating a material which I believe to be entirely new. Dr. Geo. P. Johnson, of Cheyenne, called my atten-

tion to the long and strong tendons in the legs of the bird commonly known throughout the United States as the blue crane. He had used this material with excellent results as a suture for the aponeurosis in a case of hernia, the suture giving no trouble and apparently being absorbed in time. I obtained from him a number of these tendons and immediately began a series of experiments to test their value.*** As a result of these studies I have come to the conclusion that we have not only a valuable suture and ligature material, but one easily obtained in all parts of the world." It is to be wondered that the tendons of the larger grallatorial birds were not long ago thought of as suitable material for surgical purposes. Dr. Johnson is to be commended for his originality."

Thus the herons and cranes are given an economic value which unfortunately must further add to their destruction. Think of the thousands of these birds which would have to be killed annually should this material be adopted for ligature and suture purposes by even a small proportion of our American surgeons.

It is the least of my desire to criticize the author above referred to. His well conducted experiments are commendable, but only to voice a word of warning to what at present might prove the extermination of the larger members of two great families of birds.

Unlike the Anseres (ducks, geese, swans) and members of the order Gallinae, notably the bob-white (*Colinus virginianus*), the members of the Ardeidae and Gruidae are far from prolific breeders. Members of the latter

named families rarely lay over five eggs, while certain ducks lay as high as fifteen and the bob-white often more than twenty. Moreover, the latter two species often raise more than one brood in a season, and it is doubtful if the herons and cranes ever do. This will partially account for the survival of the game birds in spite of the inroads caused by gunners. Furthermore, herons build in colonies termed heronies, so that once the breeding place is located their capture is made easy. Thus the herons (*A. herodias*) of any one county of Michigan, for instance, might be exterminated by one hunter in the course of a season, should there be a demand.

Unlike a great proportion of our American birds, little can be said of the economic value of members of the above mentioned families, either as benefactors to agriculture as insect and weed-seed destroyers, or as articles of food.

A plea for the herons and cranes then can be made solely on sentimental grounds. It is their esthetic value, not as songsters, but their beauty, the grace which their presence adds to the landscape of the various portions of our continent. The history of a departing race is always a sad one and, judging from the thousands of dollars which are spent annually on our zoological gardens, we are inclined to believe that our people admire rather than desire to exterminate any of our native fauna. Truly the places occupied by our herons and cranes is a typical one, and as ornithologists we should aim to preserve rather than destroy.

Already some members of the tribe have been driven to the verge of extermination by the plume hunters. A strong public sentiment has been raised of late in favor of these species, not only in this country, but in various countries of Europe. Under the present conditions the organized bird protectors

of this country, the Audubon societies, had looked for an increase in these species under our more recent laws regarding birds, but it is plain to see that should the tendons become popular with our surgeons for ligature and suture purposes the birds might have a still greater enemy. I do not consider the statement sweeping when I say that the extermination of some species would be only a matter of time.

However, as the author concludes:

"Think of the comfort to the civil or military surgeon in isolated places of knowing that he can have a suture material at the end of his shot gun."

ALEXANDER W. BLAIN, JR.

Detroit College of Medicine.

Not enough of any American Crane could be procured to even establish a market. If the price made it an object the colony breeding Herons would suffer to some extent unless some semi-domestic industry could be established as with the Skunks and Foxes.—Editor Oologist.

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

In Review.

Zoological Quarterly Bulletin, Penn. Dept. of Agri. Vol. II, No. 4, issued under direction of Prof. H. A. Surface.

This is a special Bulletin on Woodpeckers and contains much of value.

Our attention is specially attracted to the Chapter on the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker.

I agree with the authorities quoted to the extent that this bird is solely accountable for the rows of parallel holes found drilled around the trunks and sometimes the limbs of trees.

But I do not think that the quotation given from Dr. Trimble "that the birds make them (these holes) to attract the ants by such tempting bait is a palpable exaggeration of the reasoning power of this bird," is sufficiently proven.

Fifteen years ago my father had a

fine windbreak of Austrian Pines on the west side of his house. These proved especially attractive to the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Every spring and fall from one to several individuals would make an extended stay around this row of pines. It was placed on the line between the dooryard and small fruit garden and a fine young orchard of apple trees then about 15 years old and very thrifty. As opportunity permitted I studied the habits of these birds carefully. They seldom bored any holes in the apple trees. The orchard stands today in fine condition and the few rings of holes they drilled can be still detected by the scars.

But every pine tree was perforated with many rings of the slightly oval holes in nearby parallel rows and of nearly uniform depth. Just deep enough to secure a free flow of sap.

If they drank any sap I failed to note it. And would the mixture of turpentine, rosin, etc., constituting pine sap be apt to prove a palatable and nourishing diet?

But for some reason these pines were attractive to the ants, whether they relished the sap or were attracted in some other way I failed to satisfy myself. There were many of the elevated nest hummocks of the common black ant all along the sod border beyond the tips of the tree limbs and they were always crawling up and down the trunks.

Whether these ants fed on the sap that exuded from the birds perforations or not, they were, at least, attracted to it and as it dried a little it became sticky enough to annoy them and retard their movements.

Now the birds did all their drilling in a few short intervals during the day but returned often to the trees and spent much time running up and down the trunks of the trees.

I only examined two stomachs but found the contents to be mostly ants.

In Prof. Surface's quotation from Dr. Merriam I read in regard to their food. "Eighty-one stomachs were examined and of the whole 36 per cent. consisted of ants."

Now I believed at the time that the birds selected these pines because the ants were there in numbers and were at least retarded by the sticky sap if not attracted to it also.

Dr. Trimble admits that "Ants are certainly found sometimes about these holes and apparently attracted by the sap" and I do not believe that his assertion that these "holes being designed for this purpose is a palpable exaggeration of the reasoning power" is sufficiently proven.

I have positively proven that the American Crow, when searching for "Cut worms" in a corn field, learns that the grubs congregate in or close to the young hills of corn and digs the dirt away from the hills in search of them.

In many cases the growing corn is not uprooted nor even the kernel taken from the roots and I have seen entire hills dug out and the kernels left to dry in the sun for a well fed crow evidently prefers "cut worms" to softened corn. Of course I don't know that the bird had located a grub every time. I suspect not as the hills will often be examined continuously. But they have evidently reasoned out from experience that the grubs can be found there as they make no attempt to procure them from beneath the surface until the corn appears. Now! would the assumption that the Sapsucker (so called, I believe with Dr. Trimble, that "they should be called woodpeckers") drills the holes for the main purpose of attracting and securing insect food, mostly ants, impute to the bird any greater reasoning power, or nearly as great, as that I know the Crow must possess.

I allow that both birds undoubtedly made the first discovery by accident

and, in the Sapsucker's case, at least, it is now, perhaps, purely instinctive.

More light on this subject is needed. Who knows?

Ten years ago the entire row of trees was so badly tipped over during a wind storm that it was necessary to take them out and the Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is rarely seen and does not make any extended stay there now.

ERNEST H. SHORT.

SOME HAWKING TRIPS.

II. A Day with Swainson's.

By HARRY H. DUNN.

As has not infrequently proven the case with other oological finds, I came into possession of my first set of Swainson's Hawk eggs in an entirely accidental way. I was driving slowly up the bed of the Santa Anna River in Orange county, California, when I saw the mouth of what was seemingly a short and narrow canyon, breaking out of the hills on the south side. The day was very warm, I was alone and did not feel like tackling the dense growth of willow scrub which covered the banks of the stream, so, unhitching my horse and staking him in a luxurious bed of wild clover, I struck out up this canyon.

One of my inseparable companions on all these trips is a small hatchet and a pocketful of large nails. I have climbed some tough trees thus armed, nailing steps as I went up, and, if I wished to keep the tree for future visits, tearing them off as I came down. I am willing to admit that this method is not so good as the use of a rope, but it is much less work to carry the hammer and nails than to burden one's self with a hundred feet or so of rope of a suitable size. Then, too, rope, like a ladder, some times arouses suspicion in the farmer's breast. And you can bet that the farmer is a "bird protectionist" every time when the oologist comes to him with a

request. Anent this I can and will tell a good story on a deputy game warden of Southern California in a later one of these papers.

Well, to return to my Swainson's—the date was April 16th, late for Raptores in this region, but I hoped to find a stray Screech Owl covering four or five fresh eggs provided the canyon were at all wooded. A few hundred yards up the gorge widened out and I could see it stretching on for some two or three miles into the heart of the hills. All the way it seemed heavily wooded with Sycamores and water beeches, with here and there an oak. Here was a field indeed, one into which I had reason to believe no collector had ever stepped. Kingbirds and other Flycatchers were busy among the green branches, Sparrow Hawks wove leisurely their way to and from their nests in dead trees further up the canyon and then, suddenly out of the clear sky, fell the scream of a hawk. There was no mistaking the family to which the maker of the noise belonged. He was a Hawk, but what species? Not a Red-tail, that was certain; not a Sparrow Hawk; maybe Krider's. I had long been watching for this form of the Red-tail, which I am sure breeds in Orange county, but once more I was disappointed. The second scream drew my straining eyes to a very dark bird, noticeably smaller than a Red-tail, tumbling and playing in midair a short distance up the canyon. At first I did not recognize the bird, and it was evident that he had not even sighted me as yet. Keeping under cover of the trees, I made my way toward a tall Sycamore I had marked as quite near his playground. Arrived there, looking upward through the dense canopy of leaves, I saw, not the flying bird, but a small and compact nest, built close to the body of the tree and not over thirty-five feet from the ground. Here was luck, and I said to myself "Cooper's Hawk!

here's where you get the first eggs of this bird taken in Orange county." But I didn't.

For ten feet in a true circle around the base of that tree lay the thickest cactus patch you ever saw. The worst bit of buckthorn the old down East hills can produce wouldn't be a circumstance to it. It wasn't very high not more than a foot or so, but thick as "hair on a dog's back". At it I went with a big club, making more racket than two men ought to have made. Above I heard the hawk leaving her nest, and this only added strength to my blows. Like a Hindu fakir I rushed rough shod over the thorns and tackled the tree. When I had gained the first limb a huge branch which grew straight out over the dry creek bed some ten feet up. Here I slipped off my shoes and stockings and then up I went.

Not being much of a climber, I sweated and shinned, and I fear, swore a little, ere I gained that nest. But the reward was there, three pale blue white eggs, smaller than those of the Red-tail, yet larger than the Cooper's. The nest was well made, firmly thatched and lined with bark from the dead willows of the river bottom. The old birds were quite fearless, dashing at my head repeatedly as I lowered the set in a small sack to the ground. Their sooty bodies and general buzzard appearance gave away their identity, and the books at home established it beyond a doubt when I returned. Before this I had been unable to connect with the breeding places of this hawk, though I knew them to be fairly numerous in Southern California, but since I have found several sets, none, so far as I recall, of more than three eggs and the majority of only two. For the most part they build in Sycamores or large oaks along the edges of dry canyons, or on the edges of sloping mesas, where their principal food supply, squirrels and gophers, are abundant.

They are of inestimable value to the grain raisers of the western slope, though it may be called, one of the least known to all of the so called "Chicken hawks" of the west.

(to be continued.)

A Battle with the Broad Wings.

R. V. HASKIN.

The 15th of May, found me bound for a piece of woodland where my friend Mr. B. had informed me that a pair of hawks were breeding.

As I came to the outskirts of the woods, the male hawk came circling overhead and eyeing me as if mistrusting the object of my intrusion. I did not leave him long in doubt as to my destination, but commenced to look for the nest, which my friend had told me was near a small pond of water. After exploring the woods for some distance around the pond, I finally located the nest in a large black oak and about thirty feet from the ground. As climbing irons were impracticable on so large a tree, I decided to use cleats and proceeded to nail them on.

The female hawk was alarmed at the pounding and raising from the nest, flew about fifteen yards, alighting in the dead branches of an old beech, where she watched my operations with evident unconcern. However, after I had come up within five feet of the nest, she suddenly seemed to realize what was going on, and with a hair raising whirl of wings came straight at my face.

To say that I was astonished would be putting it mildly. I had climbed a tree the year before, and secured one of the young of this same pair of hawks, and they had looked calmly on and never raised their voices in protest. But this year they, or rather she, as the male took no part in the conflict, decidedly meant business, and one dive

succeeded another with startling frequency.

I did not wish to harm the hawks, but as the fourth dive nearly carried away my hat and inflicted a slight scratch on my neck, I promptly resolved to bring Madam Hawk to book, and in the next dive she encountered a bullet which just grazed her wing. She took no notice of that however, but the next shot sent some of her brown feathers floating on the morning breeze, and she wisely concluded to give up the unequal battle, and contented herself with circling overhead and screaming lustily.

By dint of hard climbing, I reached the nest; it was composed externally of sticks, and lined with grass, leaves, etc. The five eggs which it contained were a typical set; a sort of bluish grey, thickly speckled with spots and lines of light brown. Although one might reasonably suppose that the hawks would fight more for their young than they would for their eggs; as before stated, they offered not the slightest opposition in 1900 but fought fiercely for their eggs in 1901. Possibly they had decided to turn over a new leaf with the new century.

[Sets of 5 eggs of this bird are rare. Ed.]

Some Rare Finds this Season.

While walking in the woods where Great Blue Heron's nest, I picked up an egg of the Heron that had fallen from 75 to 85 feet, landing with its point down and sticking in a mulch of leaves and soft dirt and in its downward course it passed through some underbrush, all without breaking.

I report also of taking 1-4 Osprey. All eggs are light in color but one egg in particular is white in appearance at a little distance. Another set of 1-3 Osprey. One egg a runt, about one half

actual size. This is the only runt of Osprey I have heard of.

A set of supposed Screech Owls that take the exact measurements of Saw-Whets. They measure as follows: 1.19x100, 1.20x100, 1.19x100, 1.20x1.00, 1.23x97. Saw-Whets were never known to build this far south although they have been killed here. If I collected the eggs I would know for a certainty.

WM. B. CRISPIN,
Salem, N. J.

If Mr. Crispin will send one egg of this set to the Editor it may be worth while. The eggs of Saw Whet Owl are distinct.—Ed.

Birds Removing Eggs from Nests.

It was with great pleasure that I read Mr. Richard F. Miller's interesting account about the removal of eggs from a disturbed nest and his criticism of my statements made in a previous number of this paper. Mr. Miller is undoubtedly right in his criticism, the eggs were probably removed by the parent birds but the devouring of eggs by the owners of the nest is not as preposterous as Mr. Miller evidently thinks. Mr. F. M. Chapman, in his book, 'Bird Studies with a Camera' gives a most interesting account of the eating of some Least Bittern's eggs by the old birds when once the nest was disturbed. But enough of this, and to return to the subject of my article, I will state that I also have noted several instances upon this subject. These chiefly come under the heading of Wilson's Thrush, *Turdus fuscescens*. This bird is extremely sensitive and if a single egg or two is taken from the clutch the old birds immediately desert the nest, first destroying the remaining egg and carrying the shell away. I have noted this fact several times. In finishing, I will echo Mr. Miller's concluding words, and say, "Let's hear from you, reader."

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER.

Apropos of our New Standard Catalogue.

It has made a decided hit and proven a complete success.

Of course there are a few mistakes in typographical errors, five have come to our notice. The worst are the omission of part of the scientific name of 648a, which should be *americana usnea*; the misprint of price on 722a, this should have been \$2.50; and the omission of the star (*) after price on Harlequin Duck which is applicable to foreign eggs only. Owing to lack of information on some of the rare West Coast Birds a few serious errors in price have slipped in. After a careful study of the few adverse criticisms at hand and making due allowances for difference in point of view we think that following should be changed to read, viz: No. 81, \$5; No. 93, \$3; 544c, \$2; 632c, \$4; 748a, \$5; 754, 3.50; Numbers 520.1, 424 and 544a had better been left unpriced.

Time will uncover more like these, It is impossible to avoid them as collectors always clamor for a price on many species that it is difficult to get authentic information about. Those in a position to know often have motives involved that incline them to silence. In this connection would say, I made an effort to get better information on many of the West Coast eggs than any at hand and met with an almost universal silence. One party in admitting that our catalogue will be accepted as the Standard complains that these errors will cause endless "bickering" in making exchanges.

Where does the fault lie?

ERNEST H. SHORT.

Still They Come Like This.

The new standard catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs I have just received and I am delighted with it.—Very truly yours, JOHN E. THAYER.

In reply to your letter dated May 8, 1905. Beg to advise your catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs, without a question, is the handiest, most reasonable in prices, the most complete extant.—W. S. C. Kansas.

It is the very best and handiest catalogue I have ever seen, neatly gotten up and printed in fine type—DR. M. T. CLECKLEY.

EDITORIAL.

Mr. G. L. Fordyce of Youngstown, Ohio, sends us cuts from a series of Photos of Nest, Eggs and young of Cooper's Hawk.

Mr. Fordyce watched this nest closely and found the period of incubation to be 31 days.

Was this a case of delayed incubation or is it more common than has been recorded?

It overruns all records by a full week. Who knows?

We have secured for the "Oologist" in the near future description with fine half tone of type sets, of Bachman's Warbler and the best half tone of California Vulture from life that we have seen.

All will regret the recent death of Walter E. Bryant at Santa Rosa, California.

Mr. Bryant was one of the best known of Western Collectors.

He was a Corresponding Fellow of the American Ornithologists' Union, an honorary member of the Cooper Club and for seven years curator of the Academy of Sciences at San Francisco.

He had made successful collecting trips to the Pacific Islands, Alaska and Mexico and leaves a large collection of Ornithological and Oological material.

Publications Received.

"Condor," Vol. VII, No. 5. Pennsylvania oological Quarterly Bulletin, Vol. II, No. 4. American Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 6.

Editor Oologist:

I had the good fortune to secure a fine female Kirtland Warbler today. The first one I killed was a male, May 4, 1878, which shows that the males pass through Ohio, nearly 2 weeks before the females as the last female killed some 2 years ago was May 15th, this specimen I took today was one exactly the same line as the first one I took in 1878. Unless a collector sees the yellow throat he will mistake it from some sparrow and had I not seen its warbler beak I should have passed it by.

A. HALL,
Lakewood, O.

Delayed Migration.

Dec. 17, 1886, I shot a male Field Sparrow, *Spizella pusilla*, at Dighton, Bristol county, Mass. Examination revealed two quite large wart like growths on one leg. The specimen was not attenuated and it was in good plumage. I am of the opinion that this affliction detained the bird North, as the species habitually leaves this locality for the South about Oct. 1st.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS,
Taunton, Mass.

A Large Set of the Chickadee.

In the Oologist, Lisenard S. Horton, mentions the finding of a set of ten eggs of the Chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*, which he considers a very large set. On the 9th of May, 1897, I found a set of thirteen eggs of this interesting little resident, which were in an advanced stage of incubation.

GLEN M. HATHORN,
Cedar Rapids, Ia.

A nest of the Varied Thrush within the radius of the U. S. is a rarity. In North Idaho he makes glad every brush patch with song but hies him away to foreign lands to mate. Occasionally however, they do nest here. Last spring while fishing I found a nest saddled upon a white fir tree about 10 feet up containing 4 beautiful blue eggs flecked with amber brown, especially about larger end. In size and shape closely resembling those of the Western Robin. These were promptly added to my collection and right thankful I was to my friends for selecting Idaho for a home.

DR. C. S. MOODY.

Noting your invitation as to an expression of opinion regarding the advisability of establishing a Collector's Protective Committee I wish to vote in favor of such a committee as moved by Mr. Price and supported by yourself. Personally, I have little patience with a deliberate egg fraud and when proved such to the satisfaction of such a committee as proposed there should be no hesitation to public condemnation. The suggested chairman appears to me as one in touch and sympathy with the collector and who would regard it a duty to extend the beneficial influence of his editorial position. Taken as a whole, the knowledge of an existing committee ever ready to act promptly and firmly would have an excellent moral effect, a strong tendency to check dishonesty, and beyond doubt every honest collector will earnestly sanction the election of such a committee especially if he has had his wild turkey and goose eggs collected in a barn yard and his American Curlew and Creeper eggs in Europe.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

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BENJAMIN HOAG,
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THIS IS THE WAY THEY COME.

Dear Mr. Short:

Your new catalogue is to hand. Many thanks for same. It certainly is the *real* thing.
C. W. C.

VINCENNES, IND.

Your catalogue is very tastily gotten up. It is neat form and handy. In so many lists of this kind, when it comes to the scientific names, the printer falls clear down, and without a most painstaking proof-reader gets after him, a tyographically incorporet mess is made of it. In your Catalogue I have not yet noticed any.

As to the matter of prices, I am not an authority along this line, and can express no opinion, other than that I believe that the names of the compilers, *Lattin* and *Short* is sufficient guarantee of the prices being just about in the right notch. **THEY KNOW.**

C. F. P.

Gentlemen:

Your new Price List of North American Birds Eggs was duly received. Many, many thanks for same. It is a Beauty, binding, paper and press work simply fine, size perfect. After only a hurried glance would say that the prices appear to be fair and equitable. The compilers surely deserve great credit, and should meet with the support which their efforts so richly deserve.

Yours truly,
PHILO W. SMITH, JR.

The new "Standard Egg Catalogue" at hand. Many thanks for same. It came as a surprise. Beyond doubt it is the best out and will become the standard medium of exchange with all Oologists.
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VOL. XXII. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1905.

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THE OÖOLOGIST.

VOL. XXII. No. 7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1905.

WHOLE No. 219

THE OÖOLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
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FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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G. B. Heron Collecting in Salem Co. N. J.

In the first week of this month (April) I went to the Heron rookery which was about one half mile from where I was visiting. Putting on a pair of gum boots, my assistant and I proceeded, as

we entered the wood all around us loomed up trees of the virgin forest 90 to 115 feet high consisting of pin oak, white and black oak. The pin oak being about 15 feet taller, and range from 2 to 5 feet in diameter. (One tree here produced 30 two horse wagon loads of wood.) As we penetrated we came to water about one foot deep, here was placed the colony in three of the largest remaining pin oaks. The giant of these I proceeded to ascend by way of a tall gum 80 feet high where I throw a rope over to a limb of the large tree bringing the limbs close together, I cross over, being over I descended down 40 feet to main crotch which is 50 sheer feet from the ground with not a twig to intervene. From here which is central you go up 50 and back 50 feet until you visit 15 nests, which are placed on the utmost ends of the limbs 90 to 110 feet from the ground, made entirely of sticks and about the size of a bushel basket. Out of these nests in two climbs within six days I collected over 50 eggs in sets. I think this is a record for one tree.

On the first climb I only expected one nest to contain eggs. Going up without any bag or pencil I had to take my inner shirt and tie the sets separate which amounted to 37 eggs and put it around my neck, of course about seven eggs were broken. This tree I should mention is 12 foot in circumference. I did not use any climbing irons, and can say collecting G. B. Herons in this vicinity is harder and more perilous than the majority of Bald Eagles I have visited. The other two trees contained 12 nests between them. I should mention two sets contained 6 eggs each.

WM. B. CRISPIN.



NEST AND EGGS OF BACHMAN'S WARBLER.

Taken on Buffalo Island, Mo., May 14, 1898,
by O. Widmann.

Compliments of J. P. Norris, Jr.



Bachman's Warbler.

Some time ago I stated, in speaking of the then recent discovery of nest and eggs of Kirtland's Warbler, that "Bachman's Warbler now occupies a unique position and we trust for trustworthy information in regard to its nest and eggs before long." (See Oologist, No. 201, pp. 60.)

No one called my attention to it at the time but the nest and eggs of this bird had already been described.

In the "Auk," July, 1897, Mr. Robt. Ridgway described a set taken in Missouri as follows:

Type set now in U. S. National Museum taken by the veteran collector, Otto Widmann on Kolb Island, Dunklin county, Mo., May 17, 1897.

Nest a somewhat compressed compact mass composed externally of dried weed and grass stalks and dead leaves, many of the later partially skeletonized.

Lining of black fibres, apparently dead threads of the black Lichen (*Ramalina* sp.) which hang in beard-like tufts from Button bushes (*Ophalanthus*) and other shrubs growing in the wet portions of the southwestern bottom lands.

Nest $3\frac{1}{2}$ by 4 in. outside. Inside cavity $1\frac{1}{2}$ by 2 in. Eggs three. Regularly ovate. Pure white in color. Measurements .63 by .48, .64 by .49, .63 by .40.

On May 13, 1898 Mr. Widmann secured another set now in the collection of J. P. Norris, Jr., Phila, Penn.

Through the kindness of Mr. Norris I am able to describe this set as follows:

Nest was found on Buffalo Island, Dunklin county, Mo., was placed 2 feet from the ground in a blackberry bush in full bloom. Similar in structure to the type nest and not attached to branches but simply supported between half a dozen of them.

Eggs three. Pure china white and glossy. Size practically as in type set.

The female was sitting when the nest was found at 10 a. m. on the 13th, and Mr. Widmann left it until the next day but secured only the three eggs. Evidently three is a full complement. Possibly they never lay more though it would need a more extended acquaintance to make this certain.

Through Mr. Norris' kindness we are able to present on another page a good half-tone of this set in nest.

The Quail Trap.

Housekeeping is over with our seven species of resident hawks, except with a few of the late *Accipiters* and harriers. The fluffy young redtails I have seen afield appear larger than the old *buteos*. Dozens of Red-shoulders are out of the nest, and with their parents are just now very silent foragers. The early launcher in Fishers island sound can see trios of eaglets balancing on the spindles, dreading the first essay with their long wings, but soon to be pushed off the huge nests by the old ospreys, when they must fly, or get a salt bath. A laborer on a farm in Bristol threw two eaglets from their nest to the ground to die. The angry ospreys have since followed, made such threatening dashes and so pecked at the man that he could not work, and he was discharged. New help was at once hired, and the birds quieted down seemingly satisfied with their revenge. From my own experience I should say that this was not a fish story, for I knew a Noank man who climbed to a fish-hawk's nest and had his straw hat seized by the fierce talons and dropped in the middle of the Sound. The only wonder is that the hat was not added to the olla podrida in the catch all of a nest.

The portable saw mills have made so many gaps in the cordon of big timber that used to surround Norwich, that observers have feared the birds of prey would be driven away from this vicinity. Partly to allay these fears and partly to visit my old friends, I have visited nearly all the scattered groves that are left fit for nidification, and I can report more favorably than would seem possible. There are still breeding pairs of Red-shoulders in Rockwell's at Spalding's dam. Cobb's city reservoir, Bowen hollow, Whip-poor-will ledge, Hearthstone mountain, McCall's hill, Bashan, Wauwecus Barrytown Leffingwell Paradise woods Mohe-

gan, Sunnyside, The Commons, Brickyard, Hell Gate, Cindy's cedar swamp, McClimon's, Benjamin's, Bundy hill and Zion hill. On the Baltic road Al. Lillibridge reports that the Red-shoulders breed in the time honored sites and Barred owls were raised "in the same old stub." It is worth noting that under too frequent observation these *buteos* will line and feather two or three old nests before deciding where to lay. Trios were the rule with these sets this season, there being only two sets of normal nest washed fours.

The eyries of the Redtails are in a periphery just outside the circle of its cogeners. I find pairs of the largest *buteos* still at home at Ayer's mountain, Lamb's woods, Blue hill, Gardner lake, Kingsley's woods. Montville, Spicer ledges, Gungawamp, Lantern hill, Broad brook, Rix road woods, Brown's mountain and in three groves in Lisbon, in one in Sprague and in two in Canterbury. May day a North Stonington farmer brought me an old Red-tail which he had trapped on a nest holding two young and an addled egg. On cutting the thong from one of the hawk's feet, the claw quickly seized the farmer's hand, and on freeing the other leg the talons at once sank deeply into the farmer's wrist. The hawk was at once placed in an empty pheasant coop, with the intention of carrying it towards its native woods the next day. But the hawk secured its own freedom by twisting with its powerful grasp the wires which had been proof against many dogs. The old hawk waited a moment in an apple tree, as if to get his bearings, and then, after soaring a little at a mile-a-minute clip straight over Scalpingtown towards the Anguilla district.

Marsh hawk also girdle the city in about the same numbers as the Red-tails, and their homes are not often broken up by the farmers and choppers. I visited the bogs named below, and

while every nest was not located, the hawks were all at home: Cranberry at Wauweucus, Long Society cranberry bog, railroad bog in Lisbon, and bogs in Sprague, Franklin, Preston and Ledyard. Mr. Brand used to find the mole hawk breeding in the bog now covered by the Sachem park skating pond. There are two bogs on the Davis-Kimball trout brook and one in North Stonington, always peopled by harriers. It was here that Mr. Trumbull, on suddenly coming on a nest with a full complement, exclaimed: "Gracious! There are more than a bushel of eggs!" A set of seven eggs from this place now in Washington, are as brightly marked as the average set of Red-shoulders. Two harriers I saw in woods this season, and I saw both in trees for a wonder. But though terrestrial in habits and oftenest seen skimming low over the surface of the ground, yet when standing by a nest of young marsh hawks I have seen the parents soar overhead, higher and higher, in narrowing spirals, till lost in the sky.

The total disappearance of the Sharpshinned hawk around Norwich has been a matter of much comment. Indeed, it is growing rarer everywhere, for I am constantly receiving letters from collectors in the west and south desiring Sharpshins' eggs and offering in exchange choice foreign rarities. The Sharpshinned hawk used to be common here, and I have found it breeding at Brewsters' Neck, Harvey's Grove, Rockwell's woods, ex-Senator Barnes' woods, East Side, in Bill park, in hemlocks back of Harry Jennings' barn on Laurel Hill avenue, in a grove opposite the Norwich and Worcester depot, and at Pinehurst, in the heart of the city. Indeed, its domestic habits and its fearlessness has led to its destruction. In town and country it has been hunted by the small boy with a gun, whose ambition has been "to shoot a pigeon hawk." Mr. Thurston Lilli-

bridge, farmerlike once threw a set of six eggs on the ground from a nest in an easy hemlock in the Widow Law's brook, above the city reservoir. Only think, ye oologists! Throwing away a set of these incomparable eggs, the very showiest hawk's eggs, and displaying more variation than any eggs known!

The larger Accipiter, Cooper's hawk, though much more destructive to farmers than its cogener, the little Sharpshin, has fared much better locally. Wherever I was looking up the buteos, I found this saucy robber at home, in evergreen, or deciduous trees, in swamps, or on high land, building his own house, or using old crow's or cast off hawk's nests. Coopers are sharp enough to put off laying until they can have leafy screens, while the poor buteos, whose homes in leafless chestnuts are easily found by farmers, have to suffer for the poultry raids of the Cooper.

April 27th, I saw a Sparrow hawk come out of a wacup's hole on the Brickyard road. There are three instances of its breeding in dove cotes in this city. Somehow, through its inconspicuous habits and dress, this bird has escaped the too handy shotgun, and is increasing in this locality. By actual trial I find that all kinds of young hawks taken from the nest can be easily raised in confinement, but for many reasons do not make desirable pets. While at Dr. Fitch's school at Windham I had many tame hawks. By means of long kite strings and other rude appliances, I tried in vain to revive the old art of falconry. But I did discover that the easiest obtainable and the best food for the hungry hawks are the descendants of the ancient frogs of Windham.

C. L. RAWSON.

I lately saw a nicely marked set of Marsh Hawk taken in Orleans county, N. Y., some 9 years ago. Not many Oologists would throw away a set of

Sharp-shinned Hawk still I can't quite agree with Mr. Rawson as to their showing the most variation. For a display of variation from plain white to beauties in umber, chestnut and lilac, from speckled to streaked and blotched, from pointed oval to globular in shape give me a full series of Ferruginous Rough-legs. Editor.

The American Barn Owl in Orleans County.

After an absence of two years from the old home scenes among which I was born, passed my boyhood, and continued to reside until the fall of 1901, I stepped down from the train in my old home town of Medina on the morning of June 20th, last.

Among the former friends and acquaintances of mine who were about the station platform coming and going on different errands was Mr. Henry Freeman, who was just taking that train for Rochester, conveying with him to a taxidermist there, a specimen alive of a peculiar bird which up until that time he had been unable to correctly name, nor had he been able to find any one in town who had seen such a bird before.

My arrival at that moment seemed timely, for otherwise I might have missed seeing the bird all together, as my stay in Medina will be brief.

Mr. Freeman was pleased to have the birds' identity established and to learn that he had secured one of the rarest birds that ever visits Western New York, for it was nothing less than an American Barn Owl (*Strix pratincola*) which he had captured alive in his barn on his farm about four miles southwest of Medina.

At the time I removed from Medina to Vincennes, Ind., in the autumn of 1901, I had in course of preparation and not far from completion, a proposed work on the birds of Orleans county; which on account of my removal to the West, was never finished.

In consequence of having such a work in preparation, I had made a most thorough study up until that time, not only of the ornithology of this county, but of Western New York generally, and knew precisely the status of each species occurring, and had a record of all rare bird occurrences for Western New York. In the four years that I have lived in the West, I have still kept my self posted on the new things and rare occurrences in bird life of this section. I am therefore able to state regarding this occurrence of the American Barn Owl at Medina, that it is the first and only record for Orleans county. In Niagara county, Mr. J. L. Davison of Lockport has a specimen which was taken at LaSalle.

In Erie county, Dr. W. H. Bergtold's "List of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity," published in 1889 mentions this species as a rare straggler, on the authority of Otto Besser.

In Yates county, one was taken by Mr. John B. Gilbert near Penn Yan, prior to 1879.

If there are other records of the occurrence of this owl in Western New York, they have escaped my notice and I shall be interested to hear of some through the columns of the "Oologist."

CORNELIUS F. POSSON.

Medina, N. Y., June 21, 1905.

A Freak Crow.

In the Oologist for March, 1904, a Michigan correspondent recorded the capture of a freak Crow, whose bill was abnormally developed, viz: to quote his own words "the upper mandible being 1 1-2 inches and the lower mandible 3 inches in length. Compare this abnormal shaped bill with a normal sized one, which is two inches in length, and the differences in the length of the mandibles will be readily seen. I have a, somewhat similar freak to record.

On June 9, 1903, at Sandiford, this county, we found a Crow's nest containing 4 young nearly three-fourths grown, situated between an upright crotch in a slanting willow on the bank of a creek, 25-feet from the ground.

Nothing unusual about the nest or its site, though a late one, but what struck me as remarkable as I glanced into the nest at the four erect heads and gaping mouths, was the singular shaped bill of one of the birds. Had not the birds opened their mouths for food, when I gazed into the nest, in all probability the freak would not had been noticed. It was as vociferous as its companions in clammering for food when I made a noise "like a crow" to attract their attention, which caused them to raise their heads and open wide their capricious maws for food they expected but didn't get. It was normal in all other respects, fat and healthy. Here is the description of its abnormal bill as I wrote it down at the time in my note book, after a careful examination. Its bill was not quite 2 inches in length, straight for half an inch, or one quarter its length; where the mandibles sharply diverged the upper one to the left and the lower one to the right. Then they recurved inward so that the tips of the mandibles nearly met, being only half an inch apart. The shape of this curious formed bill strongly resembled an oar lock.

I meant to secure the freak when it had attained a proper size so as to make an attractive pet, and rear it, and learn whether it would have been possible for it to pick up food or other objects with its curious shaped bill, which I doubt it could have done. But my rascally cousin spoiled all of my contemplated experiments, for he discovered the nest several days latter and cruelly killed all of the young by throwing them to the ground. Those that survived the shock of the fall met their fate in the creek by drowning. And

when I remonstrated with him for his cruelty in recklessly killing them he weakly pleaded that "Crows steal corn," but the amount of corn the Crows are accused of stealing, I told him, did not amount to one-fifth of that which is consumed by the Pigeons his father permitted him to keep in the barn. As far as my observations go the Pigeon is a greater devourer of grain and other seeds than the Crows and Blackbirds combined. But I am digressing.

In his answer to the Michigan freak the editor attributed the abnormal shaped bill to some accident and asks for an explanation which has not as yet been forthcoming. He thought it would interfere with the bird feeding as it undoubtedly would. He does not say whether he thinks the accident occurred to the bird in its embryonic stage or after it had emerged into the world.

I confess to being an incompetent authority upon the subject of incubation but I am inclined to believe that the abnormal growth of both of the birds' bills was caused during their embryonic period of growth for I cannot see how it could have happened latter, my own freak being a young bird supports my theory. I think that the abnormal growth of the two Crows' bills occurred in the eggs and offer this explanation. The formation of the embryo occur first in the yolk, and, as it is here that the change first occurs which determine the form of the future individual the cause of these abnormalities then, it is my belief, was occasioned by some vital action which occurred in the earliest stage of the formation of the embryos. A friend offered the suggestion that they were born in abnormal sized or shaped egg, but I think it unlikely.

Have any other readers an explanation to offer?

RICHARD F. MILLER,
Philadelphia, Pa.

July 1, 1905.

If the birds in these two instances emerged from the shells as they grew they were, of course the product of disarranged cell growth in the early embryonic stage.

This matter is not well understood as yet though many attribute it to mental or physical disturbance of the parent in mammals. This would hardly account for the condition occurring in eggs.

We agree with Mr. Miller that Pigeons are worse nuisances agriculturally than Crows, but have concluded after years of careful observation that the balance of the Crows account is against him.—Editor.

Rough-winged Swallow at Hartford, Conn.

It has been my good fortune to carefully watch a pair of these Swallows for the last three years using a water conductor or pipe hole in an embankment wall on the Park River in the city for a breeding place. This year they have raised their young in this place which seems an unusual one, the hole is 18 inches above high water and 10 feet up from the bed of the river. They arrived May 4, 1904 and May 13, 1905. This Swallow is rare in Hartford county.

CLIFFORD M. CASE.

Red-tailed Hawk.

A High One.

While on a collecting trip Good Friday, April 23, 1905, after Red-shouldered Hawks' eggs, I found an extra tall piece of woods covering some 7 or 8 acres. I found two or three old nests; a little farther on a new one, with a good vigorous clapping of my hands a bird flew of which proved to be a Red-tail from a nest in a white pine tree. On measuring it proved to be 92 feet from the ground. It contained 2 dirty and badly incubated eggs. I think this is one of the oldest pieces of timber in Hartford Co., and the highest

tree that I have met in 25 years in collecting in Connecticut.

CLIFFORD M. CASE.

I was interested in Mr. Smithwick's article in the May issue. The following notes may be of interest to some. For several years Purple Martins had reared their broods in a box placed on a pole. During last winter a storm blew the box off the pole. On April 6th of this year the Martins were seen alighting upon the pole, chattering and flying about it until a new box was erected.

Does this not show that birds have a remarkable memory and that the same pair or pairs return to the same nesting site?

The following may be of interest. A pair of Blue Jays built a nest upon a pole in my barn but the rats destroyed the eggs.

C. W. PRIER.

C. B. V., Ills.—and others.—No. 51a was omitted from our last Standard Catalogue because the A. O. U. has now concluded that 51 and 51a are not distinct forms and combined them as one Herring Gull.—Editor.

To-day I have just got a set of Song Sparrow's eggs and nest with a Robin's egg in it. Something new to me.

Yours truly,

ED. DIXON.

Unionville, Ont.

Publications Received.

Bulletin Michigan Orn. Club, Vol. VI, Nos. 1 and 2.

Journal of Me. Orn. Soc. Vol. VII, No. 2.

Bulletin Penn. Dept. of Agri. Zoology, Vol. III, No. 2.

Philatelic West, Vol. XXX, No. 2.

Am. Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 7.

Condor, Vol. VII, No. 4.

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VOL. XXII. No. 8.

ALBION, N. Y., AUGUST, 1905.

WHOLE No. 217

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A Monthly Publication Devoted to
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DERMY.

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A common summer resident of regular distribution in all suitable localities, and a common breeding bird in all sections of the states. Not being of

irregular distribution so far as I have been able to ascertain in any particular place, but they put in their appearance on dates varying as much as eight or ten days; on some seasons arriving by the twentieth of March, while on others they do not reach us before the first of April. In the west they are a few days later than in the southwest, and much later than in the east. In northern Virginia they arrive several days later than in the southeast, and much later than in the southeastern sections of North Carolina. In Bertie county, North Carolina, nest building begins by the 25th of April, but sometimes the nest may not be begun before the first of May. In beginning the construction of the nest, as if from some definite cause, all the birds seem to be late on the same season. Mr. H. Gould Welbourne (see Oologist, Sept. 1895), gives them as a common summer visitor around Lexington, North Carolina, and describes a nest in the upright fork of a plum bush only five or six feet from the ground. On the 20th of April, in Norfolk county, I observed a pair of birds building their nests in the "V" shaped crotch of a small willow at the height of 11 feet from the ground. The nest was visited several times, and on May 5th was found to contain three fresh eggs. As in the north and west they arrive a few days later than in the south and east, so, also, are they from three to eight days later in building their nests. During the construction of the nest both birds share alike in the labors, but the male seem to be devoid of that hustling quality that so well marks the efforts of the female; even then he is far from being a lazy



Photo from life by H. H. Dunn.

THE CALIFORNIA VULTURE.

mate, helping to carry the materials to the nest to be arranged by the female. The nest is placed on the horizontal or drooping limb of some tree in a grove or heavily wooded tract, or occasionally on the limb of a tree by the side of a road, and more rarely in the shade trees in the yard. Their favorite trees are oaks and sweet gums, on the limbs of which they place their nests at heights ranging from eleven to sixty-five feet from the ground; but frequently do we find them on the limbs of beeches, elms and other trees common to our forests, and rarely in the trees in the orchard and garden. The nest is often placed in the twigs that shoot upward from the main limb, but in such a manner that it is seated on the main limb, and is so firmly seated in and around the twigs that often it is with difficulty that the nest is removed as it is woven around the twigs. The nest is an exceedingly neat, but rather frail, structure, made of the withered blossoms of plants—those of the beech being used to profusion in some nests, fine grasses, occasionally some wool and skeleton leaves, securely felted with a kind of vegetable down, and is ornamented on the exterior with lichens which serve to deceive the collector. The interior of the nest is very neat and well shaped, being about one and a half inches in diameter by slightly less in depth. Usually the walls are inclined to turn over, or slightly roll inward at the edge, thereby giving the nest a very neat appearance. The usual number of eggs are five, but sometimes four and six complete the set. With the exception of the piney tracts, Blue-Grays are equally abundant in all kinds of wood; but on some seasons, however, they are more abundant than on others. The readiness with which it removes the material of which its nest is being constructed to some other site, is one of the most interest-

ing of the peculiarities of this bird; always using the same material in the new nest that was used in the deserted dormatory, often not carrying it more than a few rods, but sometimes to the most remote part of the woods. This, I think, is never done unless they are watched by some human foe, and then only to defeat his efforts to dispoil their treasure. One unusually interesting instance of this kind came under my notice in 1899. I chanced to discover a nearly completed nest on the limb of a sweet gum about 20 feet from the ground, after seating myself on a convenient log I passed several minutes watching the birds; and then departed, having approached to within not nearer than twenty-five feet of the nest. On returning the next day, greatly to my surprise, I found the birds as busily engaged removing the material, as, on the previous day, they had been in bringing it to the first site. After a short search I located the nest on the limb of another gum about twenty-five rods away. I found, on visiting the locality four days later, that they had removed the material to some distant part of the grove. After all they succeeded in defeating my attempts at securing their eggs, I found the nest of young several weeks later. From the 10th to the 25th of September they depart southward.

R. PEARCE SMITHWICK,
Norfolk, Virginia.

Chat with a Naturalist.

From J. Welsh, Victoria, Australia. "Melbourne Argus."

The time and the surroundings were appropriate for a chat about birds, for we were sitting in one of the soft cushion bushes amongst the sand-dunes and banksias of Phillip Island, waiting for the incoming of the mut-

ton-birds. A little later conversation upon any subject would have been out of the question, for black wings whistled around us in the black night, the air was dense with the musky odor of seabirds, and all the uncanny noises of earth seemed to be gurgling and shrieking under foot, over one's head and round about us in the strange voices of these strange seabirds. It was while waiting that I asked my companion, Mr. A. J. Campbell, how he first got that taste for nature study which he has made the life work of his leisure hours, and which is so splendidly recorded in his two illustrated volumes, "The Nests and Eggs of Australian Birds." What I can remember of that chat long ago can only be a memory interview.

"I became interested in the subject," he said, "when I was a boy about eight years old on the Werribee Plains, and the first nests that interested me were those of the black and white fantail, the red-browed finches—which built in an old hedge—and quails, which were then very plentiful. My grandfather was a strict old Highlander, who thought the taking of eggs a sin, so I kept my collection hidden in a stone wall, and by mischance left it there when we came away. My mother encouraged me in the study of all forms of nature. The first puzzle I met as a boy was finding the brown egg of the bronze cuckoo amongst the white eggs in the nest of a yellow-tailed tit, the second, equally a surprise and a delight, occurred years afterwards, when I climbed a gum sapling on the River Darling, and found the curiously marked egg of the bower bird, which looks as if it were wound round about with brown cobweb. As a schoolboy in Melbourne, I spent all my spare time nest-hunting in what was then a happy hunting ground of birds—the line of shore and bush stretching from Sandridge past the

Red Bluff at St. Kilda. The oldest egg in my collection—that of the yellow-breasted shrike-tit—was taken in those days in Albert park, and the lovely swinging nest, with that peculiar bulge at the sides, which prevents the eggs being rolled out of it in a high wind, looked as beautiful to me then as now. It was only on getting hold of Gould's 'Handbook' that I realized little or nothing had been done on the domestic side of bird life, so I took that up, both as a hobby and a scientific work."

What do you consider your most interesting trip?

"That to West Australia in 1899, when Sir James Patterson, then Commissioner of Customs, gave me furlough for the purpose. There were certain unknown eggs and nests which I required to complete the material for my book, and I got them all, with the exception of the western scrub bird, which has not yet been discovered. That is strange, because the conspicuous call of the bird is so often heard. Still more curious is the fact that no collector has ever found a female scrub bird. One of the birds I was anxious to get was the pied robin, and calling at a sawmill I found the bird and its nest close beside it. The discovery was interesting, because instead of the apple-green eggs expected they were more like those of a wood swallow, and the generic name of the bird was altered in consequence."

What is the finest bird sight you have seen?

"The most impressive was the first sight of the sea-bird rookeries on the islands of Bass Straits, which were then unknown. I remember landing one morning on one of the Flinders group after a storm so heavy that we feared we could not attempt it, and we dressed lightly, lest we should capsize and have to swim for it. We walked

up through the tussocks towards the crown of the island, and suddenly the acres of gannets upon their nests, their white plumage gleaming in the morning sun, burst upon us. Rat Island, one of Houtman's Abrolhos group, off the West Australian coast, was another wonderful spectacle, for spread over its 300 acres was not one but three layers of nesting sea birds, averaging about a bird to every square yard. On the top of the seaweed and salt bush were the noddys, beautiful and harmless as doves. On the ground under the bushes was a layer of nesting sooty terns; underneath it the island was honeycombed with the burrows of great myriads of mutton-birds."

Have any preferences for a particular order of birds grown out of that wide experience?

"Well, I like, perhaps, the honey eaters best. They are so beautiful, so happy, so graceful; their eggs are a charming feature in a cabinet, with that warm tone of pink running through most of them; and their nests—such daintily woven baskets, swinging amongst the foliage of blossoming trees. Curiously enough, the last egg of the honey eaters I wanted to complete my collection was that of the interesting helmeted honey-eater, which is peculiar to Victoria. One Saturday a party of us went up the Olinda Creek, amongst the native hazel, where we found the helmeted honey-eater on a beautifully woven nest of bark. Two of us climbed for it, but the bough suddenly broke, and nest, and eggs, and collectors went into the water together. The eggs were saved only through the bird sticking to the nest until it reached the water. In the same way, I wanted the brown eggs of the pilot bird to complete my collection, and I walked up another gully, and sat down within a few feet of the nest. Once on my way from

Adelaide I left the train at Nhill, and went out into the mallee to look for the nest of the wattle-cheeked honey-eater, and was fortunate enough to find it. The bird had been known for 60 years, but its eggs then were undiscovered. The eggs of some birds that have been known for a hundred years have yet to be found."

What do you consider the most rare of the beautiful eggs and nests in your collections?

"The most beautiful nest, I think, is that of the rose-breasted robin—so neat in its cup shape, so artistically decorated outside with colored mosses and lichens. The most valuable egg is that of the rifle bird, worth more than its weight in gold. When I first went in search of it I asked a settler if he ever found the nests. 'Oh, yes,' he said, 'that's the bird that builds its nest with snake skins.' I was amused at the absurdity of it, but the first nest I found had woven into it the cast skin of a carpet snake. The pale green eggs of the cassowary—the largest egg in Australia—are getting very rare. They are only found in a little area of Queensland, and it is being taken up by planters."

You have done nothing in the collecting of birds?

"Very little, except in cases where it was necessary to shoot a bird in order to settle some point in dispute, or where specimens were wanted for the museums. Sometimes I regret lost opportunities, but then it is a satisfaction to look back and feel that one has been able to do this work without destroying much life."

To what extent has the study of the domestic side of bird-life been covered?

"There are about 770 species of birds in Australia, and the eggs of perhaps a hundred have yet to be discovered and described. But there is no genus which is unknown to science, and reasoning by analogy, we know pretty

well what these unseen eggs are like. We have birds whose eggs are unknown and eggs whose birds are unknown. I have in my collection at home the white egg of a rail, which, although it differs in color from other rails' eggs, we still know is the egg of a rail, but we don't know which rail laid it. The rufous-headed bristle-bird is peculiar to Victoria, but the only eggs I ever obtained were got by a friend at Lorne. One peculiarity about eggs that I have noticed is that, while the main tone of the American and European birds is blue, that of Australian birds is distinctly red. Less than a third, I should think, of the eggs of Australian birds are white."

What are your methods and equipment in searching for eggs?

"Very little—a tomahawk and an egg basket. Most birds build low in warm scrub. It's largely a matter of going quietly, constantly keeping your eyes open, and making the most of the daylight. A discriminating ear is also a guide. It finds a significance in bird notes that the untrained ear does not discover. But most finds come from the eye—the fleeting glimpse of a bird darting silently off through the scrub as she leaves the nest. It is a strange circumstance that as soon as I had got all the material for my book I lost the tomahawk I had carried for years. I took it as an omen that my work amongst nests and eggs was finished."

Most people will hope not. Mr. Campbell, from the very nature of the wholesome outdoor life to which his leisure has been given, is still a young man, and as he strides along through the bush the man who keeps with him for a day is a good athlete. His work is a fine and fascinating contribution to natural science, much more generously recognized, perhaps, amongst the scientists of England and Germany than in his own country. Perhaps in

the material sense he would be better off if he had given his leisure to cricket or some other game that commands the universal approval of Australians. Only a few know the value of the work he has done, but by those few it is appreciated. Lately I received the third volume on bird life issued by the Geological Survey of Canada; the annual reports of the Agricultural and Forestry departments of New Zealand give much space to the subject. In Australia it has been left to a private individual to do out of his own means and leisure the work which the state has done elsewhere. He has been elected a colonial member of the British Ornithologists' Union—an honour limited to only ten persons in the world; while the American Ornithologists' Union has elected him one of its corresponding "Fellows." All honor to him that his work has been so well done.

Nesting of the Dotted Canon Wren in Alameda county, California.

BY STANLEY G. JEWETT.

On May 8, 1905, while collecting bird skins and eggs in the Upper Alameda Canon in the Livermore Mts. of Alameda county, California, I had the good luck to find a nest of the Dotted Canon Wren, *C. m. punctulatus*. The nest was discovered by accident, as most good things are, on the 8th of May, when it contained two eggs and the set of five was completed on the 11th and added to my collection on the 12th. Both male and female birds were observed up and down the canon on several occasions so the identity is complete. The female was sitting above side of nest in cleft of rock when we came to photograph it, in its gloomy retreat amid the rocks beside the roaring waters of the wild gorge.

The nest was composed of a mass of

bits of moss in a green state, mingled with bits of dry grass stems and tree leaves, well bound together with spider webs and cocoons. Inner part of nest was fitted with many soft feathers of different birds. Depth of nest one and one-half inches, across the top three by two and one-half inches, height of nest in front where it lay on the rock two and three-quarter inches, being two inches only in the back. The under part of the nest was built up in front with a lot of dry sycamore twigs of one to seven inches in length, this acted as a support to the front of the nest to level it up. The extreme length of nest was nine inches, several twigs were scattered all along the ledge for two or more feet as though the bird was undecided where to start her nest proper. It was placed on a slight shelf in a cleft in sandstone rock, back fifty-one feet in a cave, entrance of cave only five feet from running stream. The cave was fifty feet high at entrance and twenty feet high at extreme end. The bluff where this nest was located faced the north in a gorge some two hundred feet deep where the roaring creek rushed down the mountains, and far above the scraggly black oaks, reared their long branches over the poison oak thickets below.

Description of eggs. A crystalline white, having a slight polish marked with fine cinnamon specks of one shade, centered mostly in a ring around larger end, numbers one, three and four are more marked over the whole egg than numbers two and five. No under shell color is seen as in many of the other wren's eggs. Eggs measured by m. m. Five specimens perfectly fresh. No. 1, 19 x 13 m. m.; No. 2, 19 x 13 m. m.; No. 3, 20 x 14 m. m.; No. 4, 20 x 14 m. m.; No. 5, 18 x 13 m. m. Average of the five eggs, 13 x 19 m. m.

The Red-breasted Nuthatch.

(*Sitta canadensis.*)

IN EASTERN NEW YORK.

I have noticed very little in regard to this interesting species in the columns of the Oologist and only one mention of its breeding in New York (Mr. Clarence N. Davis, in Oologist for June, 1904, mentions the finding of some young nuthatches) has come before my notice. Sets from New York are probably very rare and I consider myself very fortunate in finding two nests of this species during this spring. One nest contained three eggs (showing traces of blood upon being blown, and consequently a full set, though few in number) and I have not examined the other nest as yet but hope to find a fuller set.

On April 23rd, while out walking in a small woods near here, I heard a pair of nuthatches calling and upon following them, noticed one fly out of a small hole in a poplar stump, about five feet above the ground. I did not lose any time in investigating that stump and was soon looking into the nesting cavity. The hole was excavated about an inch and I quickly decamped, as I did not want the birds to desert such a promising "bonanza." The old birds were quite shy but I easily identified the species by its small size black stripe through the eye, and reddish under parts. On May 7th, I again went down there, and was pleased to find the hole so deep, that I could not see the bottom. On May 13th, I decided to go and investigate my find and did so with the above mentioned result. The entrance to the nest was about an inch and a quarter in diameter and the hole was five and a half inches deep. The wall of bark was so thin that I could easily break it with my thumb. At the base of the cavity, was a large mass of bark strips, probably from a poplar tree, which made quite

a soft nest for the eggs. For a foot below the entrance, as well as slightly above it, the bark was thickly covered with pine pitch. The reason for this, I have no idea, unless as suggested by Mr. O. E. Crooker, in *Oologist* for July 1892, it is for the purpose of keeping ants, woodticks and other insects from the nest, and imprisoning them in the sticky substances, enables the birds to devour them at their leisure. This supposition is undoubtedly correct, as the birds, it appears, could have no other purpose in view.

The eggs were of a delicate pinky white hue, retaining the same color upon being blown, and they were spotted all over with reddish brown chiefly about the larger end. Their average size is .61x.48 inches.

CHAS. P. ALEXANDER.

Bangor, Me., June 2, 1905.

Accept my thanks for the copy of Standard Catalogue recently received. It is a most excellent and up to date work and very handy for reference.

I have found time to do some work in the field this year, and though I do less collecting than I did years ago I do more studying of the birds and their habits and accomplish much more practical results. The photographing of nests and eggs, flowers and other nature studies occupies considerable of my leisure time. In fact I do not think of collecting a set of eggs now days unless I have first secured a number of photographs of the nest and surroundings.

To-morrow Mr. J. Merton Swain and myself are thinking of trying to find a nest or so of the Yellow Palm Warbler. Though the birds nest regularly in an extensive peat bog near Bangor it is hard to find a nest save by accident.

Very truly,

O. W. KNIGHT, B. S.

Referring to Mr. Wm. E. Crispin's article on the Screech Owl eggs which take the measurements of Saw-Whet I wish to call his attention to the fact that the Saw-Whet while not being a regular breeder as far south as Salem, N. J., might possibly do so. I am located at Odin, Illinois and I find I am about sixty-five miles further south than he is and I am positive I collected a set of five of the Saw-Whet Owl on March 18, 1890. See page 205 Vol. 10 No. 7, July 1893 *Oologist* for account of said taking. I had this bird in my hands about a dozen times and a fellow collector and myself carefully compared her with the description given in Coue's Key and Ridgway's Manual and we are confident we made no mistake. While his eggs by not being fully identified at taking would remain in doubt, yet there is a degree of possibility of this being Saw-whet Owl's eggs.

C. B. VANDERCAMP.

Since June "*Oologist*" went to press I have seen the set of Owl's eggs in question. They were simply small eggs of Screech Owl. I think the Saw-Whet might breed in that latitude but these would not do for Saw-Whet.

EDITOR.

A Snake in a Hawk's Nest.

In reading the articles of green leaves in Hawk's nest reminds me of a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest I peeked into a few years ago, it contained one fresh egg and a spotted or milk snake 16 inches long, but they nearly all have green twigs from hemlock in this section.

A. E. KIBBE,
Mayville, N. Y.

Publications Received.

- Nature Study, Vol. XIV, No. 7.
Amateur Naturalist, Vol. II, No. 3 and 4.
Am. Ornithology, Vol. V., No. 8.

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VOL. XXII. No. 9. ALBION, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1905. WHOLE No. 218

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NOTICE—I have a Smith and Wesson revolver, 32 caliber hammerless, also Davie's Taxidermy, to offer for Bird Books. R. PEARCE SMITHWICK, 133 Mariner St., Norfolk, Virginia.

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BIRDS EGGS. I can still furnish many of the sets listed in September issue. If you saw or now see on that list any set you wish to place in your collection write me at once. I will send you a revised copy of the list promptly, showing just what I can furnish you. ERNEST H. SHORT, Rochester, N. Y.

BIRD SKINS.

I have left, the following A No. 1 Bird Skins: 6 American Crow, 3 Blue Jay, 1 Least Bittern (poor), 2 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Pine Grosbeak—females, 13 Snowflake, 2 Purple Finch—females, 1 white-breasted Nuthatch, 1 black-throated Green Warbler. I will send the above 33 Skins and add 2 of the Gray Squirrel and 1 very fine mounted Crow. Entire lot is cheap at \$10. I'll box them all and express at purchaser's expense, for only \$5.75. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

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FREDERICK C. HUBEL.

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WANTED.—All kinds of Live Wild Birds and Animals. State prices when writing. Don't ask me what I pay. DR. CECIL FRENCH, Naturalist, Washington, D. C. J12f

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.

ED. OOLOGIST:

In reading Mr. Smithwick's article in the Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher in Aug. OOLOGIST, I was struck with the difference in the breeding habits of this species in his locality and in mine—more particularly because it seems the reverse of what we would naturally suppose. In Bertie Co., which is in eastern N. C., he says nest building begins about April 25th. In Iredue Co., western N. C., which ought to be later, I have found nests under construction by March 28th, and in no case have I found nests later than the 4th of June. Nests holding eggs are rarely seen in this county later than May 1st.

As to the nest itself, I have never seen one less than ten feet from the ground, and that not often. Twenty feet seems about the average. Usually a horizontal branch is chosen, generally at a considerable distance from the trunk, so pronged that one fork will be over the nest, forming a kind of roof. Oaks, white or post, are the favorites. Out of many nests that I have examined, all were in oaks except three in pines, one in maple, one in dogwood, and one in peach.

Going out in the woods after the breeding season one never finds old nests. On the young leaving the nests, the old birds immediately tear it in pieces. Why this is done, I have not been able to find out.

The new Catalogue is *all right*.

JACOB BOSTAIN,
Statesville, N. C.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXII. No. 9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPTEMBER, 1905.

WHOLE No. 218

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXI-
DERMY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
ALBION, N. Y.

ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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Editorials.

In last issue (Vol. I, No. 3) of the "Warbler" appears among other good things an account of the nesting of the Passenger Pigeon near Minneapolis in 1890 by W. Otto Emerson.

This brings authentic collecting of the eggs of this species down to a much later date than I have seen recorded.

The set, like all authentic records I have investigated, consisted of one egg.

On page 59 Penn. Bulletin Div. of Zoology Vol. III, No. 2, I notice as follows: "We should hesitate to recommend the destruction of skunks as these animals are known to be among the most valuable of our insectivorous creatures and are certainly the most valuable fur-bearing mammal in the State."

The editor of the OÖLOGIST began on skunks with a steel trap when he was a boy of less than 14 years and he has been studying skunks from various points of view ever since.

Inevitably he has arrived at a few conclusions.

Unquestionably the skunk is insectivorous but they are also practically omnivorous along the line of animal matter. The greatest point I find to their credit is the number of young field mice (meadow voles) that they dig out of the nests and devour. If it were not for one characteristic this alone would turn the balance in their favor.

In the spring and summer the skunk is a light feeder. They wander but short distances from their home burrow and get along with a minimum of effort and food. While this period lasts they destroy birds' nests, mouse nests, etc., including young chickens if located in the near vicinity of their home but they do not as a rule attract much attention by their depredations until along in September when cool



SET OF FOUR EGGS AND NEST OF TENNESSEE
WARBLER IN COLLECTION OF J. P. NORRIS, JR.

Taken by Allan Brooks at Carpenter Mountain,
British Columbia, June 15, 1901.

nights bring a suggestion of coming winter.

Then the skunk remembers about the coat of fat that sustains them through the winter and immediately becomes industrious. Birds' nests and young are practically out of the way now and mice are not so easy to secure though they breed to some extent the year around.

Turning over stones and clods for beetles and crickets is good as far as it goes but they know a trick that yields much larger results with less labor.

After the middle of August the common toad has a habit of inflating himself with air after a good full meal and retiring to some spot where the digging is good where they burrow down from four to seven inches and lie there. The period and purpose of this I have not yet satisfied myself about.

The skunks know all about this and their keen noses will locate the toad without any waste of time.

They simply claw the toads out and capture a generous meal with little effort. I have seen the sides of sandy knolls almost dug over by them.

It continues from early in September to November and it would be useless to attempt to estimate the number of toads destroyed. Now the toad does his best work destroying insects during the growing summer months and each one is nearly worth its weight in gold.

One skunk will destroy in six weeks a host of toads that have been the farmers and gardeners best allies all summer and I cannot see that they do enough good at any time to balance this. As to their value as fur even a black skunk at \$1.00 is a poor proposition to balance 50 or 100 industrious toads and it may take \$5.00 worth of effort to catch him at that. No! I can't find where the skunk earns enough credits to balance his debit account and I advise everyone to com-

pass their destruction where possible with safety to their person whether with Bi-Sulphide, traps or firearms—*Editor.*

A Day in the Field with Walter E. Bryant.

Early in May 1901, I invited my friend and fellow oologist, Walter E. Bryant, to accompany me on the following day's trip. The next morning I got my ropes, lines, hatchet, 3 sizes collecting boxes, cotton, etc., ready, put my book of field notes in my pocket and started before 6 o'clock, picked up Mr. Bryant at his home and made for the country north of Santa Rosa.

About three miles from town in driving over a small bridge we flushed a Black Phoebe. Mr. Bryant took a look under the bridge and reported "too early, try again in two weeks." We stopped to examine some bridges but saw no signs of nests. While driving along we noted the following birds:

Red-wing Black-bird, Brewer's Black bird, Western Lark Sparrow, Ark Goldfinch, Black-headed Grosbeak, California Partridge, American Sparrow Hawk, Violet-green Swallow, Western Meadow-lark, Golden-crowned Sparrow, California Towhee, California Shrike and Western Bluebird.

When four and one-half miles out and the road followed the edge of the hills we tied to the road fence, taking our apparatus with us we made for the timber, going through a small vineyard. In going over a pile of brush at the foot of the hill I started a pair of California Partridges. We examined the brush thoroughly but no sign of eggs or nest. We made up our minds that Mr. and Mrs. *Tetraonida* were out on a house inspecting tour. As soon as we reached the top of the ridge we saw and heard plenty of bird life. Quite frequently we were halted by hearing the buzz of Anna' Hummer. We would set down very quietly and

and watch but with no result.

After an hours slow walking without seeing any new nests, we were stopped by another Annas. We sat down on the ground and kept very quiet. After about ten minutes wait Mr. Bryant got up and said, "We have got it." He explained by saying that he heard the peculiar buzz the female makes when setting on her nest. We soon located Mrs. Anna on her nest four feet from the main limb. Mr. Bryant stripped his coat and claimed the honor of getting the nest. On getting opposite the little lady he politely asked her to vacate, which she declined to do. He took off his hat and made two or three passes at her before she did leave. Then the next move was to cut a twig right length and place a wad of cotton in the nest over the eggs. I then sent up the hatchet, (which by the way was not so sharp as it might have been) and by easy and slow cutting he cut the branch nearly through, then pulled it toward him until he could get hold of same close to nest. I then sent up the smallest of the collecting boxes (made from Mr. Bryant's idea of a collecting box) and he placed the eggs in same, placed the rubber band around the box and threw it down to me. He then cut the branch off about four inches each side of the nest and lowered it down to me, then came down himself.

After a short rest we started on. We heard more Hummers, Warblers, Bush Tits, Jays, Towhees, California Thrashers, Spurred Towhees, but no more nests. As it was now about eleven o'clock we began to work back towards the buggy and lunch. When we got back to the buggy we drove about one-half mile further on and down a side road before lunching.

After lunch we started out again along the side hill. We walked about one-half mile without seeing a nest, so turned back. On the way back we started a Jay, and about forty feet from

where we first saw her we found the nest, about ten feet up in second growth white Oak. I made the climb up to the nest and looked in and saw as fine a set of five eggs as an oologist would want to see. Placing them in my collecting box I passed the box down to Mr. Bryant, then cut away a small branch that was holding the nest. I very carefully took out the nest and came down. We worked our way towards the buggy and left the nest of the Jay there then went further on. We noticed a couple of Bush-tits acting in a peculiar way so sat down to watch. We were on the bank of a small cut where there was some water runnig. During the fifteen or twenty minutes we were there we noted the following birds that had come for water: California Bush-Tit, Arizona Goldfinch, Western Chipping Sparrow, Western Bluebird and Western Lark Sparrow. We got up from where we were sitting and started out to find some of their nests, Mr. Bryant on one side of the cut and I on the other. Mr. Bryant called to me and told me to come and find the Bush-Tit's nest. I did so and very readily found the beautiful nest of this peculiar bird. I think that this bird and the Hummingbirds' are entitled to honors for nest building. The nest was about nine inches long and four inches in diameter, growing smaller near the top, where the opening or door to nest was. We soon found that the eggs were hatched and that we were too late. We spent another hour looking for more nests but found none, so started for home.

On the way home Mr. Bryant suggested that we go out about a mile east of town and visit a Bush-Tit's nest that he had found two weeks previous. When he found the nest it was not completed. But when we got there we took the nest and on pouring the eggs out found seven diminutive pure white eggs, one of which was cracked. I

took the nest and eggs and have them added to my cabinet.

It being nearly sundown we made for home, first driving to Mr. Bryant's home to let him out. He insisted on me stopping while he showed me his den as he called it.

Here it is that he has his work shop and storage room for his boxes of mounted birds, mammals, etc. He has a room about 10 x 12 feet stacked full. He showed me one small box of about forty or fifty Hummers that he had mounted, all taken on one trip to Guatemala. They were gems of their kind. Mr. Bryant will leave for Alaska on May 1st.

H. F. DUPREY.

This article written before Mr. Bryant's untimely death is particularly interesting now. It is now thought that the city of Santa Rosa will secure his collections which include many type sets of Coast Is. species.—Ed.

In North Carolina and Virginia.

Wilsonia mitrata.

An abundant summer resident and breeder in Bertie county, North Carolina, arriving in the first ten days in April, and becoming more numerous than in any other section that has been visited by me. The males arrive a few days in advance of their mates, and are in full song by the time they reach us. In Lenoir county they become of more casual occurrence, being tolerably numerous on some places and rather rare in others; further to the westward they do not appear at all. Their total absence is noticed in some parts of the East; this absence must be permanent as I failed to note them in Beaufort county, North Carolina, in the month of May, 1900, and among my friends there were none who had seen them there. Whether or not this is the case every season yet remains to be proved. They appear in Norfolk county. Vir-

ginia, and, while not so numerous as in Bertie county, North Carolina, are fairly common; but they are of less even distribution, very likely being influenced by the density of the population. A few have been noticed by me within the city limits (Norfolk) during the fall migrations; it is strange, however, to note that all were females. By some writers (the correctness of whose observations I do not doubt) the song of this bird has been described as consisting of three variations; notwithstanding this fact, two variations are all that I have been able to discover. I have spent two seasons with them, giving more time to their habits in my observations than have I to those of any other species; and fortunately having the opportunity of examining more than one hundred and twenty-five nests, within the short period of two years, with contents in all stages, from fresh eggs to nearly fledged young. The two songs are very distinct and different from each other, but when once heard are easily distinguished from those of any of the other birds. In its favorite haunts, the deep shady woods and swamps, it revels amid the under-brush and reeds, filling the woods with its melody as it sounds and resounds from throat to throat. Their songs carry away the fortunate ornithologist who may be in their midst as would the appearing of a vision, as his heart is filled with raptures and his thoughts carried far above until some sudden rustle causes him to awaken, and leaves him wondering at what he has just heard. Perhaps it was the clumsy efforts of a toad as it resumes its weary journey, or the sudden screech of a hawk as it cleaves the air with nimble wings, tireless and strong, that carries it through air with such wonderful rapidity again to be lost in space; or perhaps it was the sudden and shrill notes of a Wood Thrush coming from some near by tree, or the

plaintive scolding of a Cat-bird,—that brings me back to earth. A visit to their haunts is one sure to be a pleasure to all who are lovers of the beautiful, of which the bird himself is the fairest model. Nest building begins in the latter part of April, and continues until the latter part of June, or early in July. Two, sometimes three, broods are reared in a season, nests being as numerous in June as in May. The latest date for fresh eggs that I find in my note book is June 11. The nest, a neat cup-shaped structure, is always placed in the upright fork of some small bush or reed ranging in height from six inches to five or six feet from the ground. The nest is made of collection of leaves, fine strips of bark, and fine grasses, neatly lined with fine grasses, or hair from the tails of horses and cattle, or a kind of very fine black moss; the latter is used in the linings of more nests than both the former, and on rare occasions all three appear. The number of eggs are three or four, rarely five. Three typical specimens taken by me in Norfolk county, Virginia, measure as follows: .64x.54, .67x.52, .66x.52. By from the middle to the latter part of September they begin to migrate southward disappearing by the fifth of October.

R. PEARCE SMITHWICK.
Norfolk, Virginia.

Last Year's Birds' Nests.

Much valuable information can be obtained at this season by the Oologist by studying the location and nesting material of unfamiliar birds' nests, thus enabling one to more easily locate the new species in the breeding season. Last year I located a new heronry in this way. Always make a note of anything peculiar about a nest or nesting site.

Sincerely,
A. W. COMFORT,

SOME HAWKING TRIPS.

Cooper's Hawk in Southern California.

By HARRY H. DUNN.

III

In my last paper I promised to tell something of an adventure, or rather an accidental meeting I had with a deputy game warden and its results in an oological way. My friend, Mr. A. H. Bradford, of Placentia, California, and myself were driving up the "River-side road," a splendid bit of highway some thirty miles long leading across the eastern boundry of Orange county one bright March morning some three or four years ago when he suggested that we "investigate" a wide-mouthed canyon that came down to the very road, its level bed separated therefrom by a high wire fence. This was famous hawk ground and we were on the lookout for anything from Red-tails to California Vultures, though with little hope of the latter.

Accordingly we drove up the well defined road in the bed of the canyon until we came suddenly upon a large ranch house, looking as out of place as a hummingbird's egg in an ostrich's nest. Beyond the house were large sycamores through which the road wound on and on. We drove along hailed by a half-dozen curs of various lineages, but seeing no one until, flashing into view around a corner of the house appeared a half-breed Mexican, a star on his breast of the size of a full-grown pie and two huge revolvers of undoubted argumentative ability strapped to his middle. He demanded our business in his canyon. We told him we were after natural history specimens; he stared at us in blank amazement. Then: "Well, if ye've got any bizness up ther' be at it, but I don't allow no trespassin' on my land." As time proved he was a minion of the Bixby Ranch company, a mongrel

half-breed whom the misguided sheriff of the county had given a star and who lost no opportunity to kill such game as he wanted, in season or out, irrespective of State laws or county ordinances. Of course we turned back, but a day or two later Bradford and his younger brother went up the canyon on foot and collected five or six (I no longer remember the exact number) as fine sets of Hawks, Red-tailed and Swainson's as I ever saw. This was evening matters with a vengeance, and since then we have been in the habit of collecting with impunity almost in this fellow's door yard. I have all kinds of respect for a game warden who does his duty, but for any law-breaking rascal like this, whose sole claim to standing as an officer rests on his pull with the county's executive I have less than for a professional poacher.

But I wander, as usual. After this we turned back down the river bed, and, leaving the horse and rig well hidden in the larger trees beside the road we plunged into the dense growth of willows which every where clothes the sandy bed of this stream. Here and there throughout this bottom land rise tall solitary willows, their heads raised well above the surrounding forest and the haven of their branches the nesting sites of countless Orioles, Flycatchers, Hummingbirds, etc. Now and again some Hawk, usually a red-bellied builds a bulky nest in one of them and time was when the Kites, now so scarce in the southwest, were comparatively common here. The most we hoped for this time, however was a set of two or three Red-bellied Hawk's eggs. Most all the afternoon we kept at it, finding a number of abandoned nests in various degrees of despair, and taking one badly incubated set of six Long-eared Owls from an old Crow's nest in the top of an unusually tall willow—one which would never have been climbed had we not hoped to find

the small Hawks at home here. As it was the Owls made a desirable addition to my cabinet and served as well to revive somewhat flagging hopes. The day wore on, however, and beyond the taking of an occasional set by my companion or myself from some one of the many occupied smaller nests that we found there was nothing doing. Among these were two or three fine sets of the Ash-throated Flycatcher, which fell to him. Indeed I have never yet been to take a set of the pretty and attractive eggs. At last all our day slipped away and as nearly as we could judge from our position in the tangle, we headed for the buggy. Inadvertently I leaned rather heavily against a leafy willow, somewhat larger than its surrounding mates and heard the peculiar sound made by a Hawk as she leaves her nest. From the ground no bunch of sticks could be seen, but it was the work of less than a moment to "shin" up that tree. And there sure enough was the nest, small and round, but not so compact as previous homes of the western species of the Red-shouldered with which I had had dealings before, so I was not so much surprised after all when I raised myself up even with the edge of the nest to see four pale blue eggs, unmistakably those of Cooper's Hawk, the first I had ever seen in their nests, and, as you may imagine, an interesting sight to any western collector. Thus by accident I became acquainted with this species as well as with Swainson's of which I wrote in my previous article. I know that Cooper's Hawk is quite common back there where most of the boys who will read this live, and you may wonder at my going home well contented with so small a "take," but you must remember that Cooper's is a *rara avis* out here, and "personally collected" sets are not at all common.

(To be continued.)

A Query.

Editor Oologist:

Did you ever note or hear of any one else seeing Hummingbirds pierce the sides of blossoms whose corollas were deeper than the birds' bills were long?

Last May I was living near a house on porch of which was covered with a morning-glory vine laden with huge pink blooms. This vine was a gathering place for bees and other insects as well as for several pairs of Phœbes and any number of Hummingbirds. One afternoon, while passing about ten feet from this vine, I was surprised to see a Hummer fly rapidly up to one especially large blossom and drive his bill directly through the side of the corolla, down very near to the enveloping leaves of the calyx. At first I thought I had not seen aright but a few moments pause showed me several such operations being performed by many birds. They seemed to plunge their bills in by the very force of their flight, holding themselves in a position perpendicular to the axis of the flower while collecting the minute insects that had crawled into the flower and been unable to escape.

I examined several of the flowers after the birds had left them and found each one to be neatly split for a distance of an inch or more, instead of having the round hole I had expected to find. To me, at least, this was a new experience, though there may be others who have noted the same habit among the Hummers.

HARRY H. DUNN.

Los Angeles, Cal., July 25, 1905.

No! I have never seen an instance of this happening with our Eastern Ruby-throat. We have few flowers of a shape to require such treatment here.

The trumpet blossoms are deep but with wide throats which they fly entirely into.—*Editor.*

White-tailed Hawk.

On a camping trip this spring while staying at a gentleman's house through a rain I mentioned the fact that I was interested in the eggs of birds and that my companion was gathering a collection of skins. Upon finding this out the gentleman volunteered to take us to a Hawk's nest and as he stated it, the largest Hawk's nest he had ever seen. In a very thick part of the forest we saw a Sennett White-tailed Hawk circling around which my friend promptly shot as we had never found this Hawk so far north as Oklahoma. On arriving at the nest it proved to be of the same bird and my friend secured the mate and I, after much difficulty, brought the eggs down to terra firma. They were three in number, dull white marked faintly with brown and measured 2.25 x 1.80, 2.23 x 1.79 and 2.24 x 1.81.

URI B. WORCESTER,

Enid, Oklahoma.

Five Eggs of Red-tail.

An unusual set of five eggs of Red-tail Hawk, taken in Kankakee county, Ill., Apr. 12, 1904, by A. E. Price. Mr. Price says:

"This wood was examined on April 2d, except a small portion and I was within 100 yards of this nest at that time but I first saw it from another grove on the opposite side $\frac{1}{2}$ mile away on April 12th. Had I found it on the 2d it would probably have contained 2 or 3 fresh eggs as the set had been incubated about one week on the 12th. And yet some people don't believe in luck."

We took photo of this set through kindness of Mr. Price, but owing to an unfortu ate selection of background the photo would not make half-tone.

We specially regret this as one egg was cracked in transit back to Mr. Price's Collection, an accident we greatly regret though he kindly refrains from a very hard kick.—*Editor.*

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A NICE LOT of gold-filled jewelry consisting of fobs, charms, lockets, shirt waist sets, baby pin sets, scarf pins and brooches, also silver plated forks, butter knife and sugar spoon set, child's knife, fork and spoon set, knife and spoon set, gilt easel photo frames, hand mirrors, atomizers and silk handkerchiefs to exchange for eggs in sets. Send me your list of sets and your wants and I will make you offers. VERDI BURTCH, Branchport, N. Y. O. 3. t.

WANTED.—Oregon Naturalist I and nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 of II; Auk I to VI new series; Bull Nuttall Club I, No. 2; II, No. 3; Avifauna No. 1; O. & O., any complete volume; Osprey V, VI, and VII; Proc. U. S. N. M., VII to XX; Proc. Biol. Soc. Wash., I to X; any good books on birds or fishes. I have for exchange skins of Lencostictes, Melospiza, Ammodramus, etc., from Alaska; collection of 95 copper and 55 silver coins mostly from Asia, Japan and Philippines; 6 or 8 daggers and bolos from battlefields in Philippines; 2 grass rain coats from Batanes Islands, very fine and rare; or will give cash if prices of books are reasonable. R. C. MCGREGOR, Palo Alto, Cal.

WANTED.—To exchange mounted birds of 219, 191, 93, 199, 153, 241, 255, 278, 294, 409 and others, also bird skins, eggs in sets and singles. Wanted bird skins, eggs in sets. Can also mount bird to order, from stock in exchange, or will sell for cash or mount you any bird skin you may have for cash or trade. Send lists. JESSE T. CRAVEN, 572 Hubbard Ave., Detroit, Mich.

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BIRD SKINS.

I have left, the following A No. 1 Bird Skins: 6 American Crow, 3 Blue Jay, 1 Least Bittern (poor), 2 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Pine Grosbeak—females, 13 Snowflake, 2 Purple Finch—females, 1 white-breasted Nuthatch, 1 black-throated Green Warbler. I will send the above 33 Skins and add 2 of the Gray Squirrel and 1 very fine mounted Crow. Entire lot is cheap at \$10. I'll box them all and express at purchaser's expense, for only \$5.75. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.



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I can still furnish many of the sets listed in September issue. If you *now see* on that list any set you wish to place in your collection write me at once. I will send you a revised copy of the list promptly, showing just what I can furnish you. ERNEST H. SHORT, Rochester, N. Y.

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ALBION, N. Y., OCTOBER, 1905.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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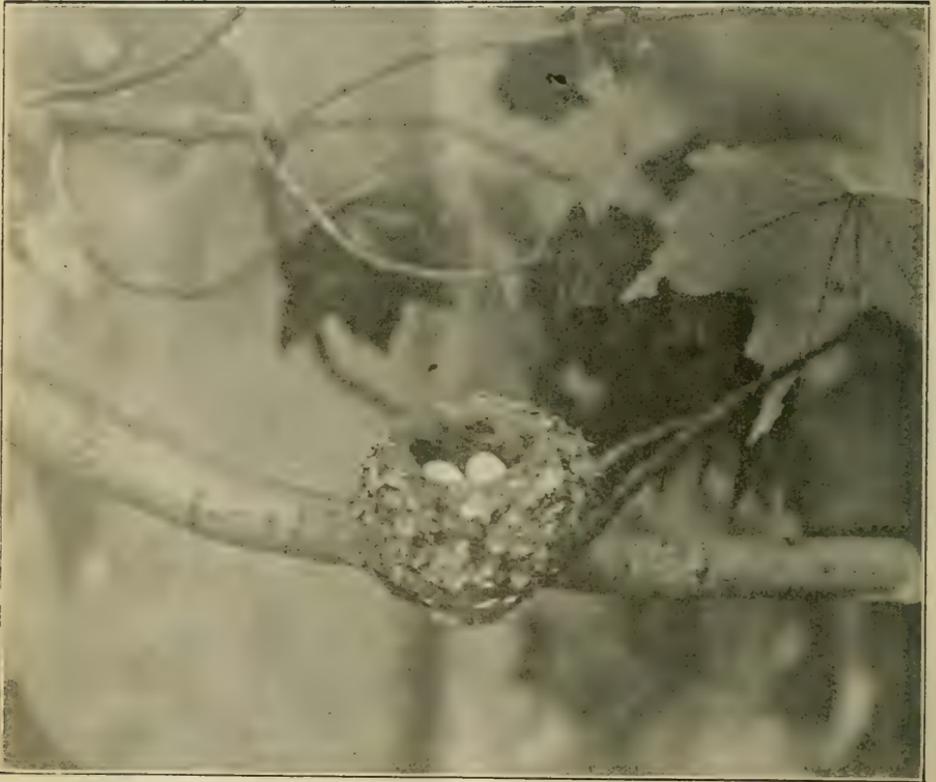
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On Bird Migration.

As is well known most species of birds migrate at night, at least it is generally believed that this is the case, and it has been conclusively proven

that many birds follow this method of movement. However, many species perform their seasonal movements in broad day light. Wild Pigeons did not migrate at night though they were frequently seen making for a forest late in the day and were again on the move at a very early hour. It cannot be understood by any person who has not studied the subject how vast were the seasonal waves of the Pigeons. I have often stood on a southern slope of a hill and watched the incoming flocks. There would be as many as twenty groups of birds seen at one time. These groups in the form of ranks would be stretched out in a line from ten to an hundred yards long and embracing from a score to a thousand birds. At the time of greatest flight these ranks were almost continuous and the noise of their rushing wings was almost like the noise of a tempestuous stream escaping from confinement. At times there would be a lull in the incoming flight and then one would see a faint line in the sky to the south and this very quickly grew to tangible dimensions, succeeded by other faint lines which in their turn resolved themselves into flocks; and again the flocks would sweep on to the north. This would continue morning and evening for the space of two or three hours and covering a period of three to five days. Then the birds would practically disappear for a space of three months and only return to us in the autumn; occasionally in augmented flocks but generally in detached groups.



NEST AND EGGS OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRD IN SITU.

Photo by B. S. Bowdish

Geese principally move in the day time while the ducks generally migrate in the dark. Gulls and Terns move as a rule during the day, for though they are as well provided with means of transportation they are still among our most deliberate migrants, and seem indifferent as to time. I have watched a flock of Gulls following our steamer on the great lakes and Atlantic and have in one instance proven that a particular bird has followed a boat continuously for three days. This I was enabled to do from the fact that this particular bird in the flock had received an injury to its leg which caused the foot to hang low and therefore we were able to identify the follower. At certain seasons, most any time when the birds are not engaged in nesting, the Gulls are much given to following ships and a great many gather their principal living from the scraps thrown out from the ship's galley.

Hérons generally migrate at night and also often fish during the darkest nights when they have young to provide for. Rails and all Snipes, Plovers and other shore birds migrate under cover of darkness, but very often Golden Plovers and several species of Sandpipers move in the daytime. Turkeys and Quails would migrate in daylight if they were given to seasonal movements, as they are like the domestic birds and given to early retirement.

Many years of careful observation have convinced me that the Rails move in the darkness, but I cannot say whether they select a starlight or cloudy night. No one has ever told me of meeting with a migrating Rail in the day time and I have never yet seen a Rail of any species, excepting the Coots, flying across the land in the day time. Coots, however, migrate in flocks in the daylight, at least at times as I have noted.

If observers are questioned they will probably tell you that more species select dark and cloudy nights for their migrating movements. This is also my opinion, though we may all be in the wrong. If we are alert to catch the notes of passing birds we shall hear ten to twenty times as many on a cloudy night as compared to a clear night, which would seem to indicate that the birds generally select this kind of a night for travel. When many birds are found dead in the city, from being killed by violent contact with the electric lights, or when vast destruction from the tower of the coast light house, it is almost invariable that the evidence of havoc follows a cloudy and tempestuous night. Some may say that this does not prove that birds prefer cloudy nights, and simply shows that destruction may follow on these nights; the dead and maimed birds simply proving that the migrants selected the wrong time for their journey, and the many notes heard on a murky night as compared with those of a moonlight night, simply shows that the migrants are confused and unable to keep well together. It is at these times that the birds fly against the destructive electric lights and are killed in great numbers, all over the land, and both on the coast as well as interior. Let us call attention of observers to one point in this connection; namely, that it is after a cloudy and often tempestuous night that we meet with the greatest number of fresh arrivals in our morning trips in April and May.

Over forty species of dead birds have been brought to us as evidence of the vast destruction of light and wire in this vicinity, and over one hundred species have been listed as having met destruction along our line of light-houses on the Atlantic seaboard. The lights of cities, especially the tower electric lights, are very destructive to



NEST AND EGGS OF CLAPPER RAIL.

From photo by Dr. M. T. Cleckley taken at Sandy Point, S. C.

birds. The effects are readily observed and we find the destruction to be vast. There is another danger which is not generally considered, but which is, I believe greater than electric wires of the cities. I refer to the wires which are stretched all over our land. The lights though destructive are only occasional, when the whole territory is considered and are only especially destructive when large migrating waves pass upon murky nights, whereas the wires are to be found everywhere throughout our broad land and in a perfect net work.

Take the Rails for instance and other species which fly low in migrating. The flight of the Rails is weak and slow, yet they must necessarily take quite long flights across dry stretches of country in order to reach the ponds and lakes where they find their selected quarters. It is not unusual to find mutilated Rails in sections far removed from localities of their choice.

Among the smaller birds that migrate to my neighborhood, the Cuckoos are night journeyers; the Gnatcatchers, Orioles and Sparrows also. The Vireos are sure to be with us in numbers after a suitable night for migrating in spring. The dear little warblers drop into our forests and fairly swarm in suitable quarters after a murky night. The Wrens and Thrushes also blow in over night and it is reasonable to say that the little short-winged Winter Wren makes night trips with the rest of the migrants. I once surprised a Winter Wren which had probably become tired in making a night flight and had dropped down in a cleared section. It was the first and only time that I have found one of this species away from its woodland haunts. The devices resorted to by the midget to elude my vigilance were amusing. The bird dodged along the ground, fluttering between tussocks of grass and securing tempo-

rary hiding places behind small bushes and debris. It finally reached a rail fence where it played peek-a-boo in an animated manner for several rail lengths and finally disappeared, probably hiding beneath the bottom rail. Nor would any efforts of mine dislodge the "timorous beastie."

There is nothing to make me think that the blackbirds migrate at night, though the Bobolink may do so, though in the August journeys the flocks may be seen as they start on their trip to the rice fields. Most of the blackbirds are very deliberate in their movements, but the Rusty passes through our section in a very rapid manner. The Rusty seems to contain both males and females in the spring flights, while the Redwing and Bronzed Grackle send delegations of men before the women arrive; the latter bird showing males as much as seven or eight days before the females are seen.

Flycatchers are deliberate in their movements and are night migrants. This leads me to ask if anyone knows of the destruction of a flycatcher, whippoorwill, swift or night hawk by flying against an electric light? If these birds are killed in this manner it is probably a rare occurrence. Swallows perform their seasonal movements in the day time, as do also the Rubythroat and Chimney Swift. I have seen a disconnected flock of several hundred swifts flying to the south; all moving in revolutions which gradually trended toward their winter's home. Of course the Night hawk and Whippoorwill can and do move at night, as might be expected in the case of night feeders. However, the former generally makes its autumnal trips in the broad daylight, more often in the late afternoon. I have seen disconnected flocks of several hundred winging their way to the south in late August and early September.

Of the birds that visit us from the north in winter, most, if not all move in the day time and I have yet to learn that any winter visitants have ever been killed by contact with electric lights or wires in my neighborhood. Birds that straggle about as the Pine and Evening Grosbeaks, Waxwings, Crossbills, Siskins and Snowbuntings have no need to migrate at night.

Why birds move at night is a problem in itself. Many are the answers given, but there are good reasons for disputing most of these attempted explanations, for the reasons presented are all liable to contradiction from comparable cases in other birds which differ in a marked degree from nearly allied species; for instance, some maintain that night movement is chosen because of the less likelihood of danger from enemies.

If this is so, then why do not Swallows, Hummers and many other day migrators move at night? Others claim that the birds move at night in order to avoid the glare of the sun. This is too nonsensical to require refutation, as are also the theories that birds migrate at night that they may have the day to search for their food; or that they employ the hours of darkness that they may have the stars to guide them on their trip.

The truth is, that there are reasons for the times selected as well as the methods chosen, but we are not as yet able to comprehend the principles which govern the birds in their choice, and speculation is idle. Practically all that we know is this. That we look about us some fine morning after a shower and find a score or more of arrivals that were not with us the day before.

These pleasing migrants of spring come to us invariably from the south and the earlier they reach us in the spring or late winter then the nearer they have wintered to us, while those

species which reach us in May are, many of them, known to have spent the colder months in the tropics. For instance, the Purple Finch, which reaches us in March does not generally migrate to the south over three or four hundred miles, returning to us at the opening of the season; but the Redstart is known to visit Central America in its winter vacation. The finch finds its food of seeds distributed for its refreshment; while the Redstart confined to a diet of living insects, must wander further to secure a living.

The hawks are invariably migrators by day and I do not learn of an instance where these rapacious birds move at night. The owls of my vicinity are mostly permanent residents, with the exception of one species. Then we have several winter visitants from the far north. These are all night migrants as might be expected in the case of birds that are principally night feeders. There is one species of owl, the Short-eared, which is transient with us, spring and fall. This owl has never been seen to fly about voluntarily in the day time. It undoubtedly migrates at night, but it secretes itself in the prairie grass and passes the day in these situations. I have routed a number of these owls from a lot of grass and weeds, and have seen as many as six or seven in a group; perhaps a family. They have been seen in flocks of over a score, and it is the only owl which I can learn about that migrates in flocks in this section.

Birds of a species have regular routes of travel in their seasonal journeyings and these lines of movement are very interesting. Some, as the Golden Plover, have a route north in the spring that does not take in any portion of Michigan that I have visited or can learn about. Therefore we do not see these birds in the spring. However, in the autumn the Golden

Plover appears in large flocks in many quarters where they were not known the previous spring. It is said that these plovers are known in spring in the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota, and it is probable that our autumn visitors are birds that have gone northwest of Lake Michigan.

There are many of the smaller birds which have a circuitous route for migration and are found at the north in numbers while in certain sections to the south of the sections inhabited in summer they are not to be found at any time, whether in spring, summer or autumn. For instance, the Mourning Warbler is commonly found in Montcalm county and several sections to the north of Kalamazoo county, and yet I have met with but one bird of this species in Kalamazoo county in a period of thirty years. Then there are birds that have varying routes of migration. This is more general probably than is supposed and there are undoubtedly many species that change their routes from year to year. More will be said upon this subject in the chapter on the effects of civilization. One well known instance of variable route in migration is evident in the case of the Wild Pigeon, which was known to vary its route as well as its summer quarters, as often as every three years for many years and finally each season, after the inroads of the netters became unbearable. Finally, after being driven from pillar to post and over the wilder part of the territory of three states, the imposed upon pigeon yielded up the ghost and has become extinct or so near to it that no one can tell where the possible remnant has hidden itself.

In passing through the land there are many species of birds which follow practically the same paths and pass the same points in their journeys north and south spring and autumn. One of these points is at Mackinaw,

Michigan, where the birds in countless thousands pass to the north in spring and autumnal trips. Another spot for crossing is near to Fort Gratiot, Michigan. At this point which is the short cut into the Canadas from the south, the birds pass over in great numbers. Of course it is difficult to identify the smaller birds on the wing but the larger birds are easily studied. For instance, hundreds of hawks have been observed flying over the river at this point in a single afternoon, and sixty specimens, embracing four kinds have been shot by one man in a few hours. A needless waste surely, though I doubt not that shooter considered himself doing humanity a service.

MORRIS GIBBS, M. D.

I have had brought to me specimens of Ruby-throat, Am. Woodcock, Song Sparrow, Short-eared Owl, Kingfisher, Wilson's Snipe, Am. Robin, killed by Rural telephone wires near Rochester, N. Y.—Editor.

Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher.

Dear Mr. Editor:

I must say that I was struck on reading Mr. Bostain's article in Sept. Oologist replying to mine in the August number. He says they begin to build with him as early as the 28th of March, but at Lexington, about 30 miles to the eastward of Statesville, Mr. H. Gould Welbourne says: "The earliest date I have for the beginning of nestbuilding is May 1st. The Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher arrives here in the first part of April being common about the fifteenth." (See Sept. 1895, Oologist).

The following are from C. S. Brimley's datas: "Raleigh, May 4, 1889. Nest 8 feet high in the fork of sweetgum. 4 fresh eggs. Raleigh, May 24, 1890. Nest 7 feet high in small pine on horizontal limb. 5 fresh eggs."

John S. Cairnes gives the following: "Weaverville, May 30, 1891. Nest twenty feet from the ground in small willow tree. 4 eggs with incubation begun."

The remainder of Mr. Bostain's article bears out what I have already written.

R. PEARCE SMITHWICK.

Nests of American Dipper.

STANLEY G. JEWETT.

While on a fishing trip near Mt. Adams, Wash., I found five nests of the American Dipper, *cinclus mexicanus*, all of which were placed on the central stringer under bridges directly over the water ranging from eight to fifteen feet high. The bridges were on well traveled roads, where teams passed hourly every day. Have any of the western readers found nests of this bird in similar places?

"A Fair Exchange is no Robbery." An unfair one is. ? ? ?

There are some collectors who think it is smart to palm off a fictitious set of eggs to an inexperienced person for something of unequal value.

There may be some advantage in these kind of trades at the time but sooner or later they will be found out.

About five years ago I traded some old copper pennies for one-three Broad-winged Hawk. One of my friends who collected a set of 343 some time afterwards pronounced my set a fraud.

I could not believe that I was cheated until I got a genuine set of Broad-wing myself, then I could see that my set was not Broad-wing but a nice set of Red-shouldered Hawk.

The set came from Mr. F. A. Sinclair of Skeanettes, N. Y. and when I was sure it was not Broad-wing I wrote him to that effect.

He insisted the set was genuine, declared he had handled a great many

eggs of all the Hawks and I was mistaken.

The set was collected by S. Washington West, Apr. 19, 1894 in Saratoga county, N. Y., locality Ballston, eggs fresh, nest made of sticks, lined with moss and feathers. From the collection of A. S. Brower.

I have 9 sets of Red-shouldered and two sets of Broad-wing in my collection now and certainly know what I am talking about when I say the set is not Broad-wing.

It is very easy for a young collector to be humbugged.

When I was a boy I collected singles in Chester county, Pennsylvania, and sent them to Mr. Justice in Philadelphia for exchange. He always sent me what he choose and at the time I was perfectly satisfied.

After I commenced to collect in sets and acquire more knowledge I found out that Mr. Justice had sent me Caracara for Goshawk, Red-breasted for Hooded Merganser. Some kind of spotted egg for Anhinga, and many more that were fictitious and misleading to a young collector.

Mr. Justice may have been mistaken or the eggs may have been marked wrong by some one else, at any rate he was willing to part with them and send them to me.

Experience is the best teacher they say but sometime it is expensive.

E. J. DARLINGTON,

Publications Received.

Journal of Maine, Orn. Soc., Vol. VII, No. 3.

Amateur Naturalist, Vol. 2, No. 5.

"Condor," Vol. VII, No. 5.

American Botanist, Vol. 9, No. 3.

American Ornithology, Vol. V, No. 10.

Photographic Times, Vol. XXXVII, Nos. 9-10.

Nature Study, Vol. XIV, No. 10.

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VOL. XXII. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1905. WHOLE No. 220

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VOL. XXII. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y., NOVEMBER, 1905. WHOLE No. 220

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SOME HAWKING TRIPS. IV.

My Desert Sparrow Hawks.

BY HARRY H. DUNN.

One of the finest things about Oology is the memories that go with each and

every set; thoughts of the long tramps over field and hill, wading rivers and swamps, climbing gaunt dead trees or slippery live ones, but always coming back, laden or unladen, with a light heart. There is no game like it in the world for happiness, none like for the insight it gives into what goes on day by day in the wild world round about.

In one drawer of my cabinet there is a set of five eggs, gray white in ground color where it shows, but for the most part so blotched with rusty red that they seem one solid color. They are not well marked, they are not valuable as exchanges go, but they represent to me the accomplishment of a purpose, the fulfilling of a desire, for I was many years in this Land of the Afternoon ere I took my first set of Desert Sparrow Hawks, often though I saw the birds.

They came to me one afternoon in May I believe, the first week or thereabouts. I had started back over the hills, searching for nothing in particular, listening to the quail call among the sage brush, watching towering redtails, and marking their nests, now filled with young, for next year's trips. And so I came to the house of a friend who watched over a cattle pasture just at one corner of the great Chino Ranch. Below his house in the canyon a huge sycamore raised its head from above a small fissure spring. The main part of the tree was green and sound, but one branch, at least a foot thick and a good twenty feet long, had died and now nothing remained of it but the hollow shell. Yearly in it the Flickers nested as well as a pair of Parkmann's Wrens. Above, the

Kingbirds and Orioles had their homes in the leafy top, but on this day they were all strangely silent. Of course I went down the hill from the shanty to the tree, and there, perched on one branch of the dead limb, sat a Sparrow hawk, smoothing his feathers as if this had been his life long home.

About midway out the bare, dead branch was the hole of a pair of Flickers, which time and the wind had enlarged to proportions comfortably adapted to the use of the hawks. From this to the bottom of the creek bed was about twenty feet, and the earth itself was covered with fern brakes, dead and alive, to a depth of not less than two feet. From the side-hill whereon the tree grew to that first limb was only ten feet or less, but the hill went down precipitately from this point and the climb was no easy one.

Up I managed to go, however, and with my little hatchet I chopped a hole in the side of the dead limb. Anyone who has ever tried to chop a woodpecker out of a dead limb knows what I was up against, but I went at it good and strong and soon had a hole through in which I could easily put my hand. Down about six inches was the set. One at a time I lifted them out until I had counted five. Then I started to go down, but thought I might as well take a look at the inside of the nest, and there, lying on the chips as nice as you please was a sixth egg. It is the only set of six I have ever seen or heard of, though I have been told that they occasionally lay six eggs further south, in Mexico and on the Baja California peninsula.

These eggs were perfectly fresh, but very poorly marked, possibly, because there was such a big set, the pigment did not quite go around. My friend, Mr. Bradford, of Placentia, Cal., has a set of this bird, taken in Orange county, which is marked fully as heavily as a set of red-footed fal-

cons from Russia now in my collection. They are indeed beautiful eggs, rivalling the famed osprey in their markings. As a rule, however, the eggs of the Desert Sparrow Hawk are not heavily marked. Full sets are almost always of five, sets of four being extremely rare. Since that time I have taken many sets, from pigeon boxes, from hay lofts, from outbuildings, from holes in dirt cliffs and even from abandoned woodpecker holes in telegraph poles, but never such a set as this.

Spotted Bank Swallow's Eggs.

On September 3, 1903 I sent to Mr. J. Warren Jacobs, of Waynesburg, Pa., with several other abnormal sets, a set of four spotted Bank Swallow's (*Clivicola riparia*) eggs, and received from him on the 12th inst. a postal acknowledging the receipt of the eggs. He said "that the spots may prove to be dirt from small insects," and in a post-script added "that he expected six sets from E. H. Short, who thought the marks was insects but could not judge."

Upon the receipt of this meagre information I determined to investigate next year (1904) and learn if possible, whether the marks on "spotted" Bank Swallow's eggs are made by insects and not colored with pigment like the eggs of the Cliff and Barn Swallows.

In Philadelphia County the Bank Swallow is a rare summer resident, seldom nesting, on account of the scarcity of suitable banks, consequently my investigations had to be conducted far from home.

In New Jersey, along the Pensauken Creek, Pensauken Township, Camden County, there are several large sand banks where the Bank Swallow breeds annually by the hundreds, with few Rough-winged Swallows and an occasional Kingfisher for companions. It was at one of these colonies that my

Investigations was conducted on Memorial Day, May 30, 1904. Results of investigations briefly stated are as follows:

Several "spotted" sets, consisting of four and five eggs, with incubation fresh to advanced, had been collected, and in each nest—all feather lined—were noticed ants and small worms (*larvae*), some nests having only the larvae and others ants, but in several ants and larvae were mixed.

The larvae is a thin, slender "worm," averaging three-eighths of an inch in length, and in color a pale brown to almost white. The ants were small and of a reddish color. They were found also in nests containing unspotted eggs and in grassy-lined nests. The larvae were found only in feathery-lined nests, being more numerous in those lined with duck and geese feathers, and presumably feed on the matter in the shafts of the feathers. The marks on the eggs are made by these "wigglers", as following results will show.

The egg when first laid is damp and would easily absorb marks of dirt being porous, when any dirty "worms" crawled over them. An experiment to ascertain whether the marks were made by these larvae proved satisfactory. A nest containing 5 immaculate eggs, incubating advanced, was placed in a nestful of wriggling "worms" but after 5 minutes of expectant watching we failed to discern any marks on the eggs although many of the wrigglers had crawled over them. They were removed and placed in an ant-infected nest with the same results. My experiment I thought was a failure and I began to feel disappointed when a happy thought struck me. It was to wet or dampen the eggs, which I did, and replacing them in the larvae-infected nest I soon had the satisfaction of proving that the marks were made by the larvae, for every one that crawled over the eggs left dirt marks upon them. Removing

the eggs and wiping off the marks, I rewetted them and placed them in an ant infected nest, but though left in it for about ten minutes, during which time they were fairly over run with ants, no traces of dirt marks were discernible upon them. These experiments demonstrate that the dirt marks on "spotted" Bank Swallow's eggs are made by the larvae of a species of insect.

Being a poor entomologist I can not name the ant nor the larvae, and not having no small vials, which I generally carry with me, I could not bring any home for identification. The larvae is presumably that of a dipterous insect, probably that of a small horsefly which infest Bank Swallow's nests. These small flies fairly over run some nests when they contain young and make life miserable for the helpless birds, and often compel the birds to abandon their young, leaving them to die a horrible death, being literally eaten alive. There are other kinds of vermin that infect the burrows and nests, as well as the birds also rendering their lives miserable. The results of my investigation proves only that the marks on the eggs I collected were made by larvae of a species of insect. They are probably caused by other kinds of vermin which I did not find in the nests that have come under my observations.

My observations are far from being complete on account of the distance I live from the colonies and lack of opportunity for investigations. This year I investigated no further in the matter, in fact, did not do any collecting whatever in New Jersey.

Next year shall positively investigate the cause of the vermin infected nests and the spotted eggs.

RICHARD F. MILLER,
Philadelphia, Pa.

This is quite in line with my suspicions on this subject.—Editor.

Western Red-tails.

According to Mr. Dunn's excellent article in April Oologist two is an unfinished set of the Western Red-tail. Although not far apart this locality seems somewhat different. I have in my collection five sets of two of this Hawk. All were well along in incubation when taken.

April the 9th of this season ('05) I and a young friend started for a nest of a Red-tail, which I had observed some months before while out hunting about five miles back into the mountains. It was rather late for Hawks but had been unable to go before on account of heavy rains. The day was cloudy and misty, a good sign of more rain, but as I had been delayed so long, was determined to risk it any way. After climbing hills until it began to get old came at last in sight of the cliff. On getting closer discovered the nest was the same as when first found, and as no Hawk was in sight concluded she was on the nest. A shot from my revolver and sure enough off came Mrs. Red-tail with a loud scream that brought the old male off from a neighboring peak. The nest looked easy at first, but our minds were soon changed about that. About 30 feet up a ledge projected out and upon this the nest was built. As we only had 50 feet of rope the cliff was too high to reach the nest from above. So all there was left to do was to go up from below.

Cutting footholds on a sandstone cliff is no cinch with only a small pocket knife and a drizzling rain coming down on a fellow. But after about an hours work, I was able to help my friend over onto the ledge with the assistance of some solid rocks sticking along the side. "Two beauties," were his first words as he crawled over into the nest. The collecting box was next pulled up on a string and the set safely lowered.

This nest was a large bulky affair evidently used for a number of years. The two eggs were advanced in incubation. One was unmarked while the other was faintly spotted over the entire surface with reddish brown.

Cliffs are the favorite nesting places for the Western Red-tail here and the same nest is used year after year if unmolested.

HOMER C. BURT,
Santa Paula, Cal.

Co-operative Nest Building.

After taking dinner with a friend in town and while sitting on the porch my attention was called to the actions of four or five Sparrows, who were all very busy and noisy in reconstructing a nest that had been torn down in the morning to allow the painters to finish painting over a window.

We watched them for a couple of hours and they seemed to be as much pleased and noisy over it as people over a house raising. Wishing to see the outcome the next day I examined and found one egg in the nest, needless to say, and was not again disturbed. I think this must have been a case of hurry up, or necessity and neighbours called in to assist. Have you ever heard or know of a similar case of co-operation. I never have noticed the habits of Birds much before, but this set me thinking.

J. B. LEWIS,
Petaluma, Cal.

Another large set of Hawks.

In corroboration of Mr. W. K. Hatter's statement that he was fortunate in taking a set of 5 Red-tailed Hawks eggs, will say that in the early part of May 1897, while trying to locate a much needed nest of the Broad-winged, I ran across a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk that had somehow escaped my earlier visits, and which con-

tained three newly hatched young, and two eggs on the point of hatching.

I have never found another set of more than four eggs in my sixteen years of experience, during which time I have collected hundreds of sets of this bird.

WILLIAM I. COMSTOCK,
Norwalk, Conn.

THE CALIFORNIA CUCKOO.

By HARRY H. DUNN.

One of the most interesting birds of the Southwest and one concerning which there seems to be little known by writers of Oological books is the California Cuckoo. Here it is a habitually silent bird, seldom if ever uttering the Kuk-kuk-kuk, which it is supposed to give as a signal for approaching rain among the Eastern hills.

In the east I am told that the two species of cuckoos inhabit both hilly country and the lowlands, high forest and thick underbrush. In this end of California, however, they are almost exclusively confined to the willow groves of the lowlands along the coast. They do not seem to seek exactly swampy ground, around the muskegs and small pools, but rather the thick undergrowth of water-mooties and short willows, where blackberry and other vines have formed entanglements, keeping out even stray cattle, let alone weak-kneed oologists like the writer of this sketch.

The first acquaintance I made with the eggs of this bird was by the way of a small, dirty-faced, bare-footed lad, who, wandering through the swamp's edge, came upon a flat nest containing two large blue-green eggs which he did not recognize. These he brought to me, together with the bird, and I was so placed in possession of a species I had been seeking for years

and had not been able to see, let alone its nest. The eggs are noticeably larger than those of either of the eastern varieties, but have the same wave-like markings, common especially to the eggs laid by the Black-billed Cuckoo. As best I could learn from the boy, the nest was placed about fifteen feet from the ground in a dense tangle of vines, growing around a dead willow stump. The bird sat very closely, and at first he thought her to be a Pasadena Thrasher, or, as he called it, "a sickle-billed thrush," the common local name for *harporhynchus*. When he climbed to the nest, however, he noticed the strange eggs and shot the female with a .22 rifle from her perch in a neighboring willow.

All this information was of course, interesting to me and a week later—the first week in May—found me in the neighborhood wherein he had made his "find," and the net results of six days collecting was three sets of the cuckoo and a set of six eggs of some small rail, which I am practically sure is the Sora. Unfortunately these eggs were badly incubated and could only be saved with very large holes, yet, in spite of all this they are undoubted rarities in this state.

Two of my sets of the cuckoo were of three eggs and one of four; the eggs of the set of four are scarcely larger than those of the Black-billed Cuckoo, smaller even than those of the Yellow-billed. The other two sets are larger than any eggs of the eastern birds of either species that I have ever seen. All the eggs were practically fresh, thus showing that the set was laid in regular sequence (evidently an egg a day), and not at intervals of several days, as are those of the near relatives of this bird, the Roadrunners. Possibly some of the sets of three would have become four had I left them, but my newspaper work

in town drew me from the countryside and I had to take what I could get.

The nests were very poorly made, mere platforms of twigs, scarcely better than those of Mourning Doves, and I could not see anything to prevent the eggs from rolling out in high wind or rain storms. I suppose, however, that the willow trees, growing very close together, as they do here, do not move much with the wind but turn a sort of impenetrable wall to its force. There was no noticeable lining in any of the nests, the eggs resting on the large sticks of the outer nest, through which their pale blue colors could occasionally be seen.

THE QUAIL TRAP.

The Quail Trap, June 1, 1905.—Bob White has bobbed up serenely at last in East Woodstock, and in Village Corners. When I was watering my horse below the village on April 24 a female flew across the road. She had six or eight broodmates nearby who have been calling for two weeks. These are not the small introduced species from the south and west, but lusty Connecticut-bred birds, two of which would make a meal for an epicure. This strong covey has been brought safely through two winters by the intelligent care of Mr. Bradshaw, the village gardener. May 28th I saw another by the roadside near Dudley, Mass., and the same evening for the first time this season, heard a cock whistle on our home farm. I shall inquire of our trout fishermen here how many they have heard. And this week on our long drive from town straight to the Massachusetts line, inquiry will be made of all the intelligent farmers, so that with my own observations I can record data on Bob White's standing in Eastern Connecticut today. June is the quail's noisy breeding

month, and now the ice is broken we shall expect to hear more whistling from survivors of the fittest.

To see a woodcock simulating death at their feet in the woods on the 12th of May, was the experience of Mr. Justin Holden and his son. In stooping to secure her the flattened snipe limped a few feet away with broken leg and drooping wing. Not led away by these feints, the Holdens picked up for a few minutes the four exquisite bits of down—the cause of the display of maternal solicitude. While they were admiring and fondling the young, the old mother came directly overhead and hovered like a hummingbird before the honey cells of flowers. All novelties in the home bird world have a charm for Mr. Holden and his son. Last season they found a wood-duck's nest in the suburbs of Norwich, and this week they will look after the herons of Hell-gate.

The ruffed grouse is the wildest of our game birds. Quail will breed in confinement and are even raised on demand in the west and south. Two or three kinds of its cogeners on the Pacific coast are also domesticated. I have seen large coveys of showy mountain partridge in coops at Yuma, Arizona, and near Mt. Hamilton. But all efforts in pheasantries and aviaries to domesticate the grouse have been emphatic failures. Many of us can recall instances of farmer's boys placing sets of "partridge eggs under the old Dominicker," and how we frowned on these ill-advised and fruitless attempts. But the time has come in this quest when we can no longer say: "I told you so." By modern appliances, by ascertaining the proper chickfood and exercising the greatest possible care, gentleness and patience, the untamable grouse has now been raised in confinement.

May 29th we visited the only successful Grouserie in the United States.

It is conducted on natural lines by the president of a university in a sister city. The first sets of eggs were hatched in an incubator one year ago. A cold wet June in the woods will kill two-thirds of the wild broods, but the mortality from this cause was not as great with the protected chicks. By turning over logs and stumps in the woods, the proper larvae were procured to nourish the game infants. Later in the feeding process, meal-worms were used to advantage, and when maturing the required amount of grain given. Good covered runs and shady bowers were furnished the growing covies, with sanding and budding places. In short, by constant attention to their necessities and wants, as if in a state of nature, the birds thrived exceptionally well, gradually losing the inbred fear of man by his familiarizing care. After a year's devotion, the gamekeeper is being rewarded by having the birds come at his call and by some especial pets perching on his hands and flying upon his shoulders.

The breeding season was eagerly awaited, so it was no surprise when two of the young hens mated and very soon began to lay. Drumming was so long delayed it was looked for with feverish impatience. But early last week, to the delight of all looking for the wonderful performance, one of the cocks began to drum. For nuptial reasons, this year-old cock is kept part of the time in a separate enclosure, where he is often heard drumming for his wives. But when returned to the harem his tympani were silent till again separated from them. On the 28th of May, this year, a hen came off with nine young grouse; on the 29th, when I saw the chicks, they were strong and lively, acting much like the tiniest tots in the poultry yard. In another secluded corner I saw a hen grouse close covering her clutch of ten eggs. In

fifty sets of grouse eggs found in New London county, I never saw one over fourteen. But Mr. Brand found one in Rockwell's woods of sixteen, and L. E. Rawson of North Woodstock found one in his own woods of sixteen.

Success in this trial will determine many things. It will show that the hens and cocks are not monogamous, tell the exact time of incubation, and will forever settle the much argued question about the way the so-called drumming is produced. For other reasons every detail of this new feat of domestication will be watched and chronicled with interest. The present season's game chicks are the second generation in confinement. With added knowledge of their requirements, the birds should prove better than the first year's output. By the fourth generation of home-bred grouse the wild taint should be eliminated and the reclaimed ruffed grouse prove a toothsome addition to our pheasantries. Then for your after-play bite your waiter can more easily and with a more modest bill fill your order for "a broiled chicken pat."

C. L. RAWSON.

Norwich, Conn.

The Oology of a Farm.

Two miles west of Statesville, in Iredel county, Western North Carolina, is a farm of about 250 acres. It is bordered on one side by Third creek, a quiet, shallow stream, flowing lazily on between miles and mile of bottom land on either bank. From the bottom the ground rises abruptly, forming numerous hills and knolls, seared and broken by woodland, brooks and washes.

For fifteen years this has been the chief scene of my cares as an eggcrank; and for fifteen years I have found many birds breeding abundantly there. Marsh birds are not numerous. Of these the Green Heron is most common, finding in the wet meadows an abundant pasturage and an ideal breeding place among the neighboring pine-clad hills. The Snowy Heron

sometimes occurs in late summer, but never breeds.

Several years ago I found two nests of the Woodcock—called here "Mud Snipe"—but in both instances the young had left the nest. I have searched diligently since, but have been unrewarded. Bob-white is abundant during the winter, but not so common in summer, and nests are hard to find. The Mourning Dove is plentiful at all seasons, and nests may be found from March to June. I have not found any later than June, though some authorities say nests can be found as late as September. In winter they congregate in small flocks, commonly feeding in deserted stubble fields.

Owing to the absence of any large tracts of woods, Raptores are not abundant. I have in my collection a set of Turkey Vulture's eggs taken in '91, but know of no nests being found at a later date, though young have been frequently observed prior to that time. Red-shouldered and Cooper's Hawks are the only breeders of that family that I know of, the former being more common. I took a set of three slightly incubated eggs 5th of last May ('05), which I consider unusually late, since the nesting season usually ends in April. The Am. Sparrow Hawk possibly breeds, but I have no authentic record; likewise, several species of owl.

The Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Whippoorwill all breed sparingly, the latter the most common. Chimney Swift and Ruby-coated Humming Bird are common. I have found but one nest of the King Bird on the farm, but its nests are frequently found in the adjacent country.

Of the Fly-catchers, the Green-crested is an abundant breeder, but the Crested is not common. Phoebe was formerly plentiful, but rarer of late years; and the same may be said of the Wood Pewee and Blue Jay. The American Crow is omni-present, always in fair numbers. The Bobolink, Meadow Lark and Baltimore Oriole are seen in early spring, but I have found no nests, though an Oriole's nest was found on a neighboring farm. Gold Finches are common during the winter months, but few remain to breed.

Chipping and Field Sparrow are abundant, the latter breeding from April to September. Grasshopper is not so common. Bachman's has been

found breeding on the next farm, but I have failed to locate any here. As to Cardinals, their nests can be found in every thicket in company with the Yellow-breasted Chat, which is almost as plentiful.

Blue Grosbeak breeds sparingly, Indigo Bunting commonly. Summer Tanagers can be found any time. Purple Martins formerly bred but not of late years. Rough-winged Swallow rare.

Red-eyed, Yellow-throated, Mountain Solitary, and White-eyed Vireos all bred, the first and last commonly, the others rarer.

Of the Warbler family, the Yellow-breasted Chat and Maryland Yellow-throat are most common. In my estimation there are no handsomer eggs of the smaller birds than those of the Yellow-throat. On the 14th of June ('05), I took an exceptionally fine set of four fresh eggs of this species—without doubt the finest I have seen. One nest each of the Black-and-white, Yellow-throated, Parula and Worm-eating Warblers, and occasionally Yellow Warbler, together with a single Oven bird's nest complete the Warblers. La. Water Thrush and Am. Red-start have been found breeding just outside the limits.

Cat-birds and Brown Thrushes are abundant; House and Carolina Wrens fairly common. Brown-headed and White-breasted Nuthatches are rare; and the Tufted Titmouse is hardly common. Carolina Chickadees are found in large numbers all the year round, Wood Thrush in summer only.

Phoebes and Blue-birds have alike disappeared and only a few nests are found now; of these the Blue-birds more frequently occur.

Thus far, these are all the birds that I have found breeding within these confines, though I am sure it is far from complete, for each season I am adding new species to my list.

Statesville, N. C.

JACOB BOSTIAN.

Publications Received.

- American Botanist, V IX, No. 9.
 Am. Ornithology, Vol. 5, No. 11.
 Photographic Times, XXXVIII, No. 11.
 The Warbler, New Series, Vol. I, No. 4.
 Nature Study, XIV, No. 11.

EDITORIAL.

Owing to business complications, the result of too many "irons in the fire," have been unable to give the Oologist or my mail business the prompt attention they deserved during the past seven months. Thanking my friends and patrons for their patience and charity, I will now try to make up for it as fast as possible.

We notice the color plate in the last issue of "Warbler" of three eggs of Carolina Paroquet laid by pair of birds kept in captivity by Robt. Ridgeway.

The plate is fine and the eggs agree with the conception of these rare

Mr. Dunn's article on the Calif. Cuckoo suggests some comparisons. The nesting habit like the eggs is evidently more like the Yellow-billed than the Black-billed until you get to the interval between the eggs where the California bird seems to incline to the Black-billed style.

I have generally found the sets of Black-bill small in the West. New York usually 2 eggs and incubation I find by careful observation is generally delayed until the 2 or 3 eggs, rarely 4, are laid.

The Yellow-bill begins incubation at once and sometimes lays as many as 6 eggs at long intervals.

I have found a young bird and a perfectly fresh egg in the same nest. eggs formed by most oologists from descriptions, though we may seldom look at the real article.

Pure glossy white, size varying between 1.30x1.17, a broad egg to 1.42x1.06 for an elongate specimen.

Mr. Childs believes there was a decrease in English Sparrows around Floral Park this past summer. He asks for information on this point from other localities.

Certainly they show no material decrease around Rochester, N. Y. I think the contrary.

The egg fraud is still in the land. Look out for him. A whole collection examined lately contained nothing rarer than Cowbird, Cardinal and Mocking-bird.

While no copy of Friend Reed's new "Bird Guide" has yet reached our table, we can safely presume that it is convenient, tasty and big value at the price quoted.

EDITOR.

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BIRD SKINS.

I have left, the following A No. 1 Bird Skins: 6 American Crow, 3 Blue Jay, 1 Least Bittern (poor), 2 Cedar Waxwing, 4 Pine Grosbeak—females, 13 Snowflake, 2 Purple Finch—females, 1 white-breasted Nuthatch, 1 black-throated Green Warbler. I will send the above 33 Skins and add 2 of the Gray Squirrel and 1 very fine mounted Crow. Entire lot is cheap at \$10. I'll box them all and express at purchaser's expense, for only \$5.75.
FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

Dear Sir: It gives me great pleasure to tell you that your paper is a peach for advertising. I received 10 letters to my ad. before I received the paper, letters are coming yet, although the eggs were all gone two weeks ago. BERT NICHOLS, Granville, N. Y.

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ERNEST H. SHORT,
Rochester, N. Y.

BIRDS EGGS. I can still furnish many of the sets listed in September issue. If you saw or now see on that list any set you wish to place in your collection write me at once. I will send you a revised copy of the list promptly, showing just what I can furnish you. ERNEST H. SHORT, Rochester, N. Y.

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VOL. XXII. No. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1905. WHOLE No. 221

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Dear Sir: It gives me great pleasure to tell you that your paper is a peach for advertising. I received 10 letters to my ad. before I received the paper, letters are coming yet, although the eggs were all gone two weeks ago. BERT NICHOLS, Granville, N. Y.

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THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXII. No. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DECEMBER, 1905. WHOLE No. 221

THE OÖLOGIST.

A Monthly Publication Devoted to
OOLOGY, ORNITHOLOGY AND TAXIDERMISTRY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Publisher,
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ERNEST H. SHORT, Editor and Manager.

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Twenty-Third Annual Congress of the
American Ornithologists' Union.

The Twenty-third Annual Congress of the American Ornithologists' Union was held at the American Museum of

Natural History, New York City, with the exception of the final session, which was at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Meetings open to the public were held forenoon and afternoon, Nov. 14, 15, and 16, the programs being made up of the reading, illustration and discussion of papers by members. Luncheon was served at noon on each day of the three days, by the Linnaean Society of New York, and on the evening of the 18th, the members met at the Hotel Endicott, at an informal dinner.

Four pages were on the program for the opening session, commencing at 10:00 a. m., Nov. 14th. "Some Unpublished Letters of Wilson and Some Unstudied Works of Audubon," by Wither Stone of Philadelphia, Pa., was the first paper. It was received with the interest always shown by bird-students for the works of these pioneer American Ornithologists. The second paper was "The Evolution of Species Through Climatic Conditions," by Dr. J. A. Allen, New York City. The paper spoke of the manner in which our present geographic races illustrate the differentiation of species whose distribution covered a wide area including very diverse climatic conditions, which in time affected the plumage and appearance of the birds. The third paper was "Summer Birds of the Mt. Marcy Region in the Adirondacks," by Elon H. Eaton, Canandaigua, N. Y. Mr. Eaton enumerated many birds, and recounted interesting facts regarding them in their northern forest home. The final paper of the morning was "Pelican Island Revisited," by Frank M. Chapman, New



NEST AND EGGS OF OVEN-BIRD IN SITU.

From photo by L. S. Horton.

York City. Mr. Chapman illustrated his paper by a beautiful series of views of the home life of these interesting birds on their own exclusive island in the Indian River region of Florida. This island is now a government reservation, set apart especially for these birds, and is the only place on our coasts where they breed. The slides showed old birds and young, of varying sizes, nests, eggs, and method of feeding, in which the young bird puts its head well into the throat of the parent.

The first paper on the afternoon program was "Some Breeding Warblers of Demarest, N. J.," by B. S. Bowditch, Demarest, N. J., illustrated by lantern

slides. Ten species were enumerated as known to breed, as follows: Black and White, Blue-winged, Yellow, Chestnut-sided, Black-throated Green, Oven-bird, Northern Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded, Redstart, and the Louisiana Water Thrush, and several others were spoken of as probably breeding, though the nests had not been found by the author. Thirty slides of the birds, nests, eggs, young, and nesting sites illustrated the paper. The second paper was "Notes on Wing Movements in Bird Flight," illustrated by lantern slides, by William L. Finlay, Portland, Oregon. Mr. Finlay has accomplished the most wonderful results in certain branches of bird pho-

tography, notably birds on the wing, probably, of any living photographer and nature student, and the series of slides shown on this occasion were a wonderful revelation of his success along this line. The possibilities of bringing out the principles of wing movement in flight were strongly indicated, though Mr. Finlay regards his work as only a step in this direction. The third paper of this session was "The Status of Certain Species and Subspecies of North American Birds," by J. Dwight, Jr., of New York City. In this paper, Dr. Dwight, following a line of reasoning which he adopted several years ago, regarding the procedure of the American Ornithologists' Union in the matter of nomenclature, argued against the hair-splitting methods of differentiation that has led to such confusion in the case of certain geographical forms.

The case was discussed from the opposite side by Mr. Oberholser, impartially by Dr. Allen, and very strongly in favor of a more simple and less complicated method, by Mr. D. G. Elliott. The last paper of this session was "Wild-fowl Nurseries of Northwest Canada," by Herbert K. Job, Kent, Conn. Mr. Job is one of the pioneer bird photographers, and his work is among the best. His slides illustrated the home life of the waterfowl, which are still to be found in great colonies in this wild northern country.

After the dinner of that evening, the members returned to the Museum for an informal reception, at which there was a demonstration of a new projection apparatus. This apparatus, not only projects slides, but a magnified and beautifully clear colored reflection of any small object, introduced into the objective is shown in color on the screen.

The first paper of the morning session of the second day was "Andrae

Hesselius, Pioneer Delaware Ornithologist," by C. J. Pennock, Kennett Square, Pa. This paper dwelt principally with extracts from the notebooks of this Swedish missionary, whose observations were made some two hundred years ago. At that time ornithological observations were few, and those included in these notes were extremely interesting, and couched as they were, in the quaint style of the time, often very amusing. Following this paper came one by Witmer Stone, of Philadelphia, Pa., on "The Probability of Error in Bird Migration Records." Mr. Stone spoke of the conditions that tend to admit error in the records as gathered by single isolated observers, and recorded the methods he has adopted, of grouping observers in parties of three or four, who practically cover the same ground, thus affording the opportunity of checking and averaging the observations of others. Mr. Stone followed this paper by one on "Some Observations on the Applicability of the Mutation Theory to Birds." The discussion of this paper which followed, by Dr. Allen and others showed a disinclination to admit the applicability of this theory, to birds. Henry Oldys, of Washington, D. C., followed with a discussion of "The Song of the Hermit Thrush." Mr. Oldys has for some time devoted himself to the study of bird song, and gave an interesting account of his experience in securing an opportunity to study the Hermit's song, of his impressions regarding it, and its comparison to the song of the Wood Thrush. Mr. Oldys gave some pleasing imitations of a variety of songs of each of these two species, and concluded by rendering a little song, the words of which he had composed, to the air he had recorded from the most accomplished of the Hermit songsters to whom he had listened.

Mr. Chapman concluded the fore-



NEST AND EGGS OF WILSON'S PLOVER IN SITU.

From Photo by M. T. Cleckley.

After careful examination you will note the three eggs in depression just below the large valve of Fan Shell. They are even harder to see in reality owing to protective coloration.

noon session by "Impressions of English Bird-Life," illustrated by lantern slides. Besides giving a number of views of English birds, the author gave views of the home and town surroundings of Gilbert White, as well as other characteristic English country scenes, and contrasted the conditions of bird life in England and this country, England being described as possessed of fewer species, but many more individuals.

The afternoon meeting opened with Woods, and the Pocono Mountains of Pennsylvania, by Wm. L. Bailey, Ardmore, Pa.

The Pocono Mountain region has been but little worked as ornithological territory, and the author enumerated many species included as normally more northern breeding birds, some of them not having been previously recorded as breeding in Pennsylvania. The paper on "A Lapland

Longspur Tragedy," by Thomas S. an "Exhibition of Lantern Slides," and "Similarity of the Birds of the Maine Roberts, was postponed until the following day. Prof. Wells C. Cook, of the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., followed with a paper on "Discontinuous Breeding Ranges." The author cited instances of birds found breeding in the southern extremity of the southern hemisphere while between the two extended a vast area over which they were not found during the breeding season. He also mentioned other instances of species having restricted breeding ranges, separated by extensive longitudinal gaps. The final speaker of the session was Abbott H. Thayer, Dublin, N. H., who demonstrated his claims regarding protective coloration in animals, which, as he explained and abundantly convinced his audience, are not theories, but facts. First regarding the views hitherto held of the efficacy of coloration harmonizing with surroundings. Mr. Thayer explained that this was dependent on the nature and effect of the light that the creature was seen in.

His contention was that the prevailing light conditions have the tendency to bring the upper parts into strongest relief, blending into least conspicuousness on the under parts. To counteract this tendency, Nature has colored her creatures darkest above, shading to lightest beneath. The speaker gave a demonstration of his contention by exhibiting an imitation of a leopard, ground color shaded as in nature, from darkest above, to lightest beneath, also with spots shown, and with a background painted in the same color as the animal. By alternately lighting from above and below, the creature was made to disappear, when seen in the normal, top light, and to stand out sharply, despite the exact similarity of color to background, when seen in a

bottom light. Secondly the speaker contended that the white upper markings on many creatures, can not be guiding signals for others of the same species, because from the pursuing creature's range of vision, these markings would usually come against the sky-line, and therefore disappear against the sky. They are, therefore, of importance in reducing the creatures' silhouette against the sky, by subtracting the area of the part that thus blends into the sky. Mr. Thayer also gave a number of other demonstrations. The title of his paper was "The Principles of the Disguising Coloration of Animals."

The opening paper of the forenoon session of the final day was "The Collection of Birds in the New York Zoological Park," by C. W. Beebe, New York City. Mr. Beebe gave many interesting experiences in connection with the various experiments that he has such an excellent opportunity of conducting at the Zoological Park, among others mentioning an experiment with two young White-throated Sparrows hatched in the park. These birds were fed in the same manner on the same kind of food, but one was kept in a cage out in the light and air, under fairly normal conditions, while the other was kept indoors, in a rather dark place, and subjected to a moisture-laden atmosphere.

At the first molt the two birds showed no perceptible change, but soon after the second molt, Mr. Beebe found that the bird kept indoors had become an almost uniform dusky color, and with no trace to indicate the identity of the specimen. The skins of the two birds were exhibited. The second paper was "A Contribution to the Natural History of the English Cuckoo, with a Review of the Literature on the Subject," by Dr. Montague R. Levenson, New York City. Dr. Levenson corrected the erroneous

statements that the young of the English Cuckoo ejected the eggs and young of the bird in whose nest they were hatched, before the young cuckoo was twenty-four hours old, and that they had, at this period, a depression in the anterior portion of the back to enable them the more easily to effect this ejection. He illustrated his paper by drawings and photos, and apparently abundantly proved his contention. Dr. Dwight gave a paper on "Plumages and Status of the White-winged Gulls of the Genus *Larus*," illustrating his remarks with a considerable series of skins. He contended for the elimination of one recognized form, and for the recognition of another new form. A paper by Arthur T. Wayne, Mount Pleasant, S. C., on "A Contribution to the Ornithology of South Carolina, pertaining chiefly to the Coast Region," in the absence of the author, was read by Mr. Brewster. The list of species covered was quite a lengthy one, and was fully annotated. Mr. T. S. Palmer, in the absence of the author, read a paper by O. Widman, St. Louis, Mo., on "Should Bird Protection Laws be in the Hands of the National Government?" The author contended that inasmuch as the birds were the guests of the nation, rather than of any one state, the National Government should have the supervision of their protection, thereby securing a uniform law, which otherwise could not be secured. Mr. Thomas S. Roberts, of Minneapolis, Minn., then read the paper postponed from the day before, "A Lapland Longspur Tragedy," illustrated by lantern slides. On the night of March 13th, 1904, during a heavy migration flight of these birds in southern Minnesota and northern Idaho, a severe snow storm occurred in this region, during which thousands of these birds struck the buildings, telegraph poles, wires, and the ice

on lakes, many being instantly killed, and others injured, some of the latter being revived in houses, and afterward liberated. Mr. Thomas stated that a conservative computation of the number which was killed was 750,000, but that he fully believed that 1,000,000 would be more nearly a correct estimate.

The afternoon session was held at the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences. Mr. F. A. Lucas in behalf of the Institute welcomed the Union to the Institute. Mr. Lucas was elected chairman of the meeting. Mr. Geo. K. Cherrie, New York City, spoke on "The Hoatzin and other South American Birds." The exhibition of specimens to illustrate this paper were viewed later. Cherrie spoke of the habits of this interesting bird, which, while young, has claws on the wings, used like the hooks on the wings of bats, to assist in climbing. They are lost before the bird reaches maturity. The species nests where the structure will be over the water when the eggs are laid, and the eggs are not laid until the river rises sufficiently to inundate the lower part of the tree in which the nest is built. The last paper of the congress was "Among the Water Birds of Southern Oregon," by William L. Finley, of Portland, Oregon. This paper was illustrated by a very large series of beautiful slides, showing the bird life in the great rookeries of this still wild region. The congress was then adjourned.

The members were served with refreshments by Mr. and Mrs. Lucas, and the exhibitions of specimens in the museum, were afterward viewed.

On the morning of the 17th, the members visited the New York Aquarium, and then went to the New York Zoological Park, where they were entertained by Mr. Beebe, who served refreshments.

B. S. BOWDISH.

The First American Martyr to Bird Protection.

The demand for aigrette tips by supposedly thoughtful and cultured women has resulted not only in the extermination of nearly all individuals of a certain species of one of our most beautiful and harmless birds, and the starvation of their young in the nests, but it has now culminated in the assassination of one of the faithful wardens of the National Association of Audobon Societies, who was shot to death while in the performance of his duties protecting the birds he loved. Concerning this deplorable occurrence Dr. William Dutcher, the president of the National Association of Audobon Societies has made the following statement:

"The startling announcement was sent to the National Association on July 14, that Guy M. Bradley was shot and instantly killed while making an arrest at a rookery on Oyster Key, Florida, on July 8. Full particulars of this unfortunate affair have not been received, although it is known that his murderer has been captured and is now confined in the county jail at Key West. L. A. Harris has been retained to represent the National Association at the preliminary hearing of the case. The deceased acted as warden in Monroe county, a wild and thinly settled district, for over three years, having commenced his duties in May, 1902. During all this time he faithfully guarded his wards, the plume birds, traveling thousands of miles in the launch Audubon, in order to watch over them. He was originally recommended to the Association by Mr. Kirk Monroe, one of the Vice-Presidents of the Florida Audubon Society, who said that he was fearless and brave and had an extensive knowledge of the country and the birds that lived there. A number of well-known ornithologists and members of the Association visited Bradley at different times, and always found him on the alert and faithful in the performance of his duty, and willing to undergo any hardship to protect the birds. He took a personal interest in his work and was genuinely proud when he could report an increase in numbers. He told the writer in February last that he felt while he was away from his home,

cruising among the Keys, or patrolling the swamp, that his life was in his hands, for the plume hunters, whose nefarious traffic he so seriously interfered with, had sworn to take his life. Even this knowledge did not deter him, and he proved faithful unto death. Personally he was gentle and somewhat retiring, was pure in thought and deed, deeply interested in and a supporter of the small Union church near his home. A young wife is left to mourn his sudden and terrible death, and his two children, too young to realize their loss, will never know a father's care.

"A home broken up, children left fatherless, a woman widowed and sorrowing, a faithful and devoted warden, who was a young and sturdy man, cut off in a moment, for what? That a few more plume birds might be secured to adorn heartless women's bonnets. Heretofore the price has been the life of the birds, now is added human blood. Every great movement must have its martyrs, and Guy M. Bradley is the first martyr in the cause of bird protection."

Warden Bradley was as much of a martyr to a good cause and a laborer in the interests of his fellowmen and showed as much bravery as has been shown by those who have met death at the mouth of the cannon. However, there is no means of obtaining a national pension for the bereaved widow and little orphans. These should receive the support of all persons interested in the preservation of bird life, and it is only by the voluntary actions of such persons that it will be possible to obtain financial means to rear and educate these children. Therefore, a movement is on foot to establish a pension for Mrs. Bradley by inviting voluntary contributions from all persons who are willing to express their sympathy in a material manner. Large amounts are not asked, and if each interested person would contribute only a dollar, it would amount to enough to insure the proper care of the family and the education of the children. Contributions can be sent to Dr. William Dutcher, 525 Manhattan Ave., New York City, or to the office of the Economic Zoologist, Harrisburg, when it will be forwarded to him.

During the past years the sight of an aigrette tip has called to our minds

the picture of old birds bleeding and dying with the feathers stripped from their backs during the breeding season and young birds left starving in their nests. This has told a story so plainly that the wearer has invariably been considered, either ignorant, thoughtless or cruel. In the future the aigrette tip on a hat will stand not only for the death of beautiful and innocent birds and the starvation of their young, but will also speak of the assassination of a human being at his post of duty trying to suppress the illegal traffic through which the supposed adornment has been made possible. In regard to imitation tips, it would seem that thoughtful persons would not be willing to imitate any custom or article that tells a story so cruel.

We take this from the Bull. Div. of Zool.—Penn. Dept. of Agri., Vol. 3, No. 5: We attempted to secure further information but nothing is yet at hand.

Whatever may be the difference of opinion in regard to some of the Bird Protection Laws, there can be no question in this case.—Ed.

EDITORIAL.

A Spotted Egg of Miss. Kite, Set 329 K-5-05, collected by Geo. W. Stevens, June 10, 1905, near Alva, Okla., is unique.

As often happens with this species, one egg is much larger than the other. Measurements give 1.62 x 1.34 and 1.48 x 1.26 inches.

The larger egg in this set exhibits a scattered wreath of light brown specks and short scrawls about one-third down from large end of egg. I have tested these spots carefully and they are unquestionably natural spots deposited by the bird. They show plainly but would have escaped my notice but for their being in a well defined wide wreath entirely around the egg, as these eggs are almost always stained by the green nest lining.

This is the first spotted egg of this Kite I have seen or heard of in nearly twenty years experience.

Has anyone else a record?

About That Skunk Editorial.

It excited considerable comment, both favorable and otherwise. The

most pronounced unfavorable comment we print herewith.

Carthage, Missouri,
Sept. 30, 1905.

Mr. E. H. Short,
Chili, New York,

My Dear Sir:—I note with interest and regret your editorial in the September "Oologist," in regard to skunks. There is only one way to determine the economical value of any animal, and that is by careful examination of stomachs of the animal in question. Further, it will not suffice to examine animals from a single locality; we must consider them throughout their entire geographical range.

That the skunk occasionally is guilty of misdemeanors I could not dispute, but that his beneficial habits far out-balance his detrimental ones must be conceded. If the editor has ever examined skunks from the plains, or from the southern states, he would readily admit the value of the animal as an insect destroyer. It is the skunk's chief delight to hunt grasshoppers and locusts. Not only does he hunt them for food, but seemingly for the sole delight of killing them. Scarcely a skunk can be found during the months from May till November which has not feasted on locusts. It is their natural food at this time of the year.

Then, again in the spring, just after the snow has left, the skunk gets in his work on the Microti, or meadow mice; they form his principle food after he awakens from his winter's nap. Skunks are responsible for the destruction of thousands of these animals, whose detrimental habits are well known. Every Microtus he kills fully balances the destruction of a toad, and stomach examination has proven that where Mephitis eats one toad, he eats eight field mice.

I believe in "giving honor to whom honor is due." Because I observe in a certain locality the Orchard Oriole to be feeding upon cherries, should I say, "I can't find where the Oriole earns enough credits to balance his debit account and I advise everyone to compass their destruction where possible, etc." We all believe in giving the benefit of the doubt to the accused. It is an injustice to accuse through the witness of only one person.

It is extremely doubtful if we can advise the destruction of any native animal. All animals in the state of nature are sustained by a natural equilibrium; destroy that equilibrium by artificial causes and turmoil is created. There are in existence at any one time just so many foxes, skunks, or weasels; just so many rabbits, grasshoppers, or mice; destroy the enemy and the host increases; destroy the host and the enemy migrates, or, more generally, takes new habits of living and remains in the original locality. Wherever man has tampered with nature he has caused confusion.

The skunk is an animal which would be easily exterminated. True, it has large families, but it is a stupid animal, with many enemies, and easily destroyed. It is one of the easiest animals to trap. Would it not be well to remember that law of evolution, "once a type becomes extinct, it never reappears again?"

Very respectfully,
HARTLEY H. T. JACKSON.

Now, the Editor never stated, or intended to give the impression that there was only one side to this question and if in some localities the different natural conditions alter the skunk's habits to such an extent that the balance of account is in his favor, well and good—then leave them alone.

But here in the East I am sure of my ground.

They do destroy young mice, very young mice, before they can leave the nests, at all times of the year by digging up the nests and devouring them, but the y are most actively engaged in this pastime in this locality during the late winter and early spring, when there are few young in the nests. I have noted 30 nests uprooted in one night in March by one lone skunk, (snow on the ground made absolute verification of this fact possible), but in no case did he make any attempt to follow up the runaway and secure the old mice. The fact that he traveled a mile and went back to the same burrow shows what luck he had in getting young.

In the East we have few locusts before late July. August is the grasshopper month, while in September the skunk unquestionably destroys a host of crickets, though I have failed to

note that crickets are very harmful.

I found remains (fragments of legs, etc.) of seven toads devoured in one night in October, 1904.

In August, this year, a skunk rifled 3 nests of Vesper Sparrows in a potato field. The birds had been repeatedly disturbed by the tilling of the field, and after the crop was finally hilled up and left, they had succeeded in laying sets and began incubation. As far as I could judge, this was their last effort of the year.

I noted where skunks had torn out several nests of Oven-bird, a few years since and a Connecticut party was complaining of their persecuting the common Towhee in the same way.

Dr. Fisher of the Department of Agriculture, wrote me in regard to the matter and I tried to secure one of a family of skunks that I knew to be feeding on toads, that he might have stomach analysis made for direct evidence. Severe freezing weather drove all toads into permanent winter quarters unusually early this year, before I could get time to catch any skunks.

I append herewith the report of the Department on one I did secure:

Name, *Mephitis putida*; locality, Chili, N. Y.; date, Nov. 25, 1905; collector, E. H. Short; condition of stomach, full; percentage of animal matter, 100 per cent contents, remains of a well-grown domestic fowl, 100 per cent. Examination made by W. L. McAtee; date, Dec. 2, 1905.

If some doubt his agricultural value they are excusable.

Now, I do not think there are at any one time just so many of any insect or animal. Nor do I think this was ever the case.

Natural causes, some of them hard to specify, vary the increase of animal forms. Undoubtedly nature attempts an equilibrium, but often too slowly to avoid undesirable disturbances of the balance.

Man, in his advance, has changed the natural condition of our land to such an extent that animal and insect life is unavoidably affected and it seems to me this may alone necessitate and excuse man's interfering in many cases.

I must plead ignorance as to what the many enemies of skunk are except man.

The Gt. Horned Owl has almost a

monopoly of that here in the East and for other reasons, man finds it advisable to place Bubo under a ban.
—Editor.

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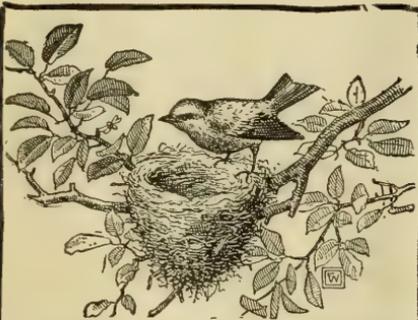
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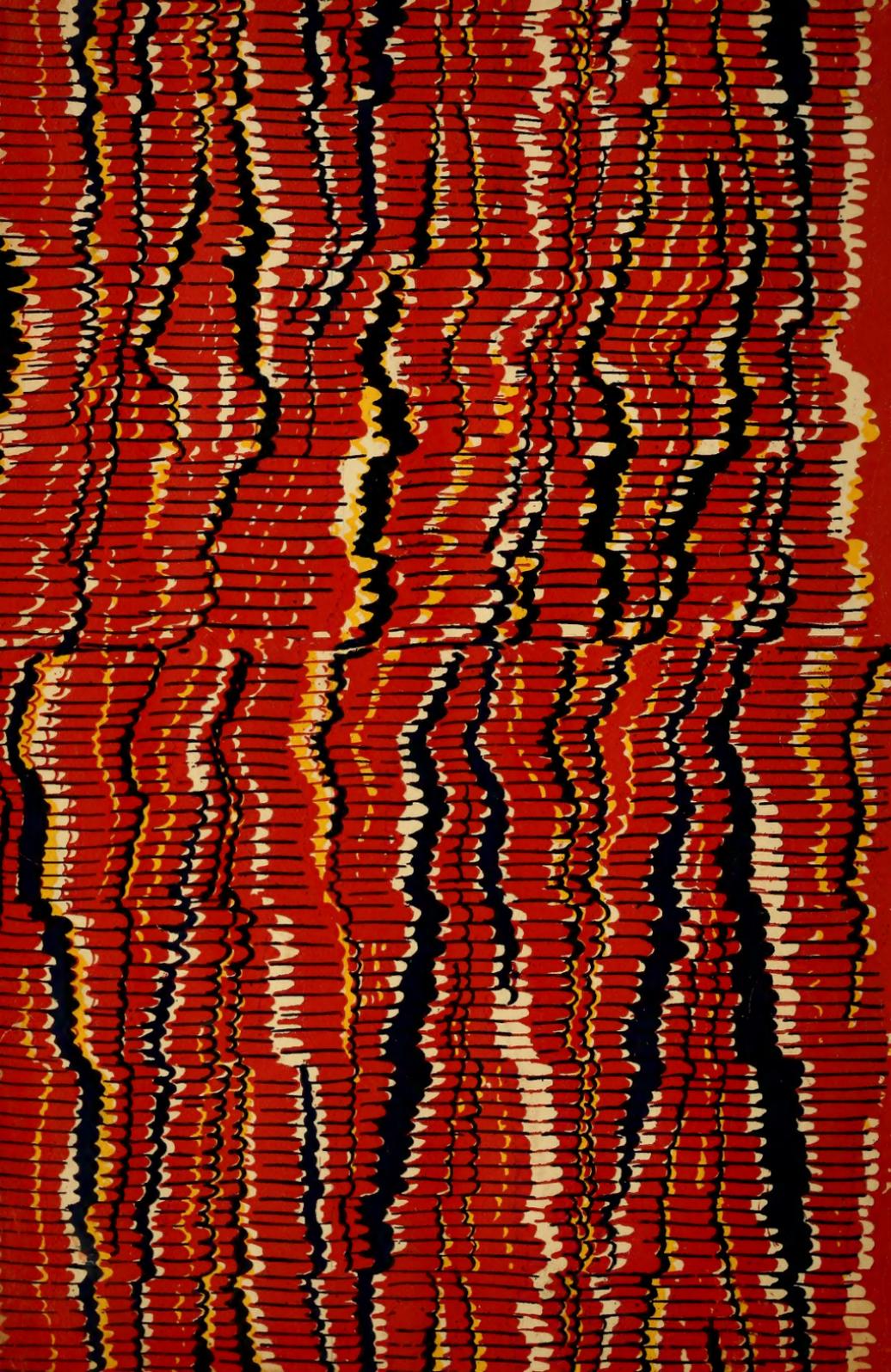
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