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THE OÖLOGIST, <sup>3d</sup>

—FOR THE—

STUDENT OF BIRDS,

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

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VOLUME VIII.

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ALBION, N. Y.

FRANK H. LATTIN, PUBLISHER.

1891.

THE OÖLOGIST.

—FOR THE—

STUDENT OF BIRDS.

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THEIR NESTS AND EGGS.

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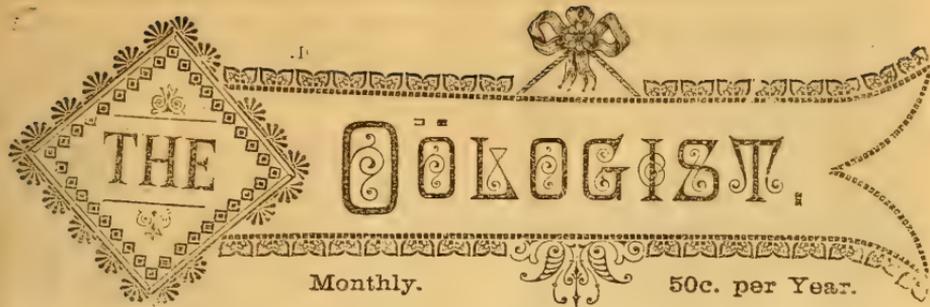
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No. 1

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

"Through your exchange notices and offers, etc., I have increased my collection over 150 varieties in the last year and a half, many being valuable sets. Please except thanks for same." H. R. ESCHENBERG, Gilroy, Cal.

"I can't do without the OOLOGIST, it is the best paper of its kind in America. Its Exchange Column is a boon for collectors. From my notice in August number I received over 125 letters and cards, and even now nearly every day I received letters from it. It pays big to say it but briefly." W. E. SNYDER, Beaver Dam, Wis.

Enclosed please find 25c. Kindly leave my Coleoptera Exchange another month. I received such a number of letters that my duplicate stock of Coleoptera is cleaned out. Happily I am expecting quite a lot from Europe and Africa which I hope will arrive in a few days. I hope through your paper to be able to exchange them as fast as I did the others. CH. L. HALL, Carpinteria, Cal.

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TO EXCHANGE.—\$15 worth of bird skins for good Central fire rifle. Send description of rifle and receive list. Letters answered. JOHN L. HOOPER, Lake Mills, Wis.

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**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

**TO EXCHANGE.**—"Baltimorean" Printing Press, No. 9, with outfit; also "Harper's Young People" for 1888, for birds' eggs; sets preferred. **WALTON MITCHELL**, 534 Summit Avenue, Saint Paul, Minnesota.

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**FOR EXCHANGE.**—First-class eggs in sets with data of 660a, for other first-class eggs in sets with data. Send your list stating number of eggs in sets. **WARD AMES, JR.**, 214 1st Ave. East, Duluth, Minn.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Oregon Bird Skins, for other skins and eggs. Correspondence solicited from all working ornithologists. Will also exchange skins for books. **DR. A. G. PRILL**, Sweet Home, Oregon.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—The following eggs in sets, Ridge. Num.: 204, E. S., 11, 153, 251, 460, 278, 253a, 145, for single eggs; also cigarette pictures to exchange. All letters answered. **G. J. KEMPEN**, in care of Henkels, Austin, Tex.

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**I WILL EXCHANGE.**—A Detective Camera, 4 x 5 inch plate, with complete outfit, including dry-plates, Sensitized paper, printing frame, 2 rubber trays and all the chemicals and solutions, etc., for the best offer of birds' eggs in sets with data. Hawk and Owl eggs preferred. All answered. Write quick because yours may be the accepted offer. **J. W. P. SMITHWICK**, Sans Souci, N. C.

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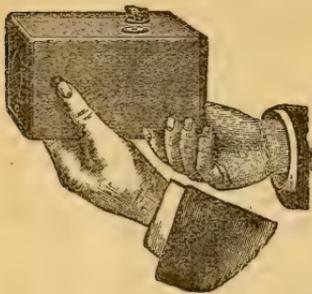


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CHAS. F. CARR,

126 State St., Madison, Wis.

# THE OOLOGIST.

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No. 1

## A Day Among the Fish Hawks.

Lying to the north of the main land of Mathews County, (Va.), less than a mile distant, is Gwynn's Island, the greater portion of which, being cleared land, is in cultivation; the southern part, however, is a swampy low-land with extensive tracts of marsh, densely covered with flags, bull-rushes, and other grasses common to salt marshes; here and there are small ponds of stagnant water, while other portions are daily submerged by the flowing tide. Thus a most excellent breeding ground is afforded for several species of the family, Rallidae, such as the Clapper and Sora Rails, and others; also there may be found breeding in this locality, Marsh Wrens, Sharp-tailed and Seaside Sparrows. The Rails being in good demand for the table, are much disturbed by the sportsman about this season, consequently, comparatively few are left to breed. Farther up the island, adjoining these lowlands are wooded tracts, consisting chiefly of pine, with a profuse undergrowth of myrtle and gall bushes, making it at times almost impenetrable. Here, too, is furnished a summer home, unsurpassed, for that grand bird, American Osprey, which breed in great numbers on the island. Then again, along the high sandy beach, to the eastward, a favorite resort is found for the Least Tern and Piping Plover, which breed in company with each other, though, the former many times outnumbers the latter. Associated with this company is an occasional Nighthawk, whose presence is due, perhaps, to the myriads of mosquitoes that infest the place, on which he is particularly fond of feeding; also from the fact of its being a favorable nesting site, rather than from any disposition on his part

to be neighborly. He is ever on hand, seemingly, to unite his harsh discordant voice with the sharp deafening cries of the Terns, which take to wing by the hundreds upon the near approach of anyone to their nests. Such a place offers a fine field for the oologist as well as the ornithologist.

It was here, with several friends, I had the pleasure last season of visiting, and making some investigations with reference to bird life.

Having made all necessary preparations the day previous, we started out early on the morning of May the 7, '90, for the place. After several miles of tramping, through fields and woods, we came to the landing from which we were to sail for the island. Sailing some miles down the river, we came in full view of the island, and what a beautiful scene greeted our eyes this tender spring morning! The island lay in wide expanse before us, covered with its luxuriant growth of vegetation; the various shades and tints of green and yellow, afforded by the young foliage which ornamented every tree and shrub, presented a picture lovely to behold.

The storm of the previous night had chilled the morning air, but now as the sun neared the zenith, the gathering clouds were dispelled, and again the bright genial sunshine warmed the atmosphere. With the azure sky above and the silvery waters beneath, the scene was, indeed, too grand to be painted by any artist's brush. Such surroundings tended to make the occasion more delightful.

Arriving at the shore, we secured our boat on the sheltered side of a little cove and landed. Immediately the Fish Hawks began to sail in graceful circles over our heads, uttering the i

plaintive whistling notes, which became shriller on approaching nearer their nests.

When in the act of taking their eggs from the nest they often sweep suddenly down as if aiming directly for you, but changing their course when a few yards above your head, fly off to repeat the same movements.

Before us in every direction, could be seen their roughly constructed domiciles, invariably placed in the pine trees.

Eager to know what luck awaited us, we pressed through the thick undergrowth with egg-box and climbers strapped on, and hastened to ascend. Nearly all the nests contained fresh eggs, but sometimes a hard climb was rewarded with disappointment; then again, in another nest would be two, or three, rarely four, beautifully marked eggs, which would more than compensate for the loss of the first.

Their nests are huge structures of large sticks, seaweeds, corn stalks, or most any kind of rubbish. The materials are put compactly together, and are sufficiently strong to bear a person's weight. The top surface of the nest, which measures about two and half feet across, is perfectly flat with a small depression in the center large enough to hold the eggs. After the young are hatched, they remain upon this flat surface for several months, until they are large enough to fly.

As we had done considerable climbing, and the day being well advanced, we set down to rest, at the same time not forgetting to respond to the demands within, by partaking heartily of a tempting repast which had been prepared for the occasion. Such a diversion from the past three hours' work was by no means objectionable, as any who have had a like experience can attest. Being now refreshed, we resumed our work with renewed energy, until the number of sets was increased

to twenty-five. As the sun had now begun to descend toward the western horizon, with reluctant steps, we retraced our way back to the boat which we had left in the morning, and getting aboard, we bade adieu to our feathered friends, who had treated us so hospitably during the day. Notwithstanding, their scolding utterances seemed to indicate that we were unwelcomed guests of the marsh.

Returning, we secured along the shores, some eggs of the Kingfisher, Green Heron, and Bank Swallow.

Reaching home at sunset, tired, but much pleased with the success of the day, and being favorably impressed by the pleasant experiences, not soon to be forgotten, we were quite prepared to appreciate a quiet repose.

M. C. WHITE, JR.  
Mathews County, Va.

The Marsh Wrens in Hudson Co., N. J.  
(*Cistothorus palustris* and *Cistothorus stelloris*.)

The Long-billed Marsh Wren is an abundant summer resident in all the marshes throughout this county (Hudson). Arriving during the latter end of May, its gurgling song may be heard throughout the breeding season which lasts about from the first of June to the last of July. The song is a gurgling sound somewhat similar to the House Wren's; thus, *reel, leel, leel*, repeated about nine times in quick succession, winding up with a *leelt*.

The earliest find of eggs that came to my notice was an incompleting set of five taken May 30, 1890.

The latest a set of six taken for me was July 17, 1889.

They usually build in colonies of small or greater extent.

The nests being a globular structure with an entrance on one side, composed of sedges on the outside and finer grasses within, lined with any soft mater-

ials at hand, such as hair, feathers, string, cotton, waste, etc.

The domiciles are attached to upright swaying reeds, also being placed in a kind of bush that grows along the borders of salt creeks in meadows hereabouts.

The nests are usually placed about from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 feet from the ground. I saw one placed not more than one foot from the ground in short grass.

The eggs are from six to ten in number and are quite variable in color some pale and others deep chocolate brown, sometimes nearly uniform, again evenly spotted with dark brown, sometimes forming a confluent ring about the larger end.

The eggs of *C. Stelleris* are pure white, the nest corresponding to *C. palustris*, except being neater, and lined with vegetable down, mostly that of the cat-tail.

The Short-billed Marsh Wren is quite rare in this locality.

Found a nest of this species June 16, 1889, situated in the midst of reeds, and was attached to the same.

J. LUHRMAN,  
Jersey City, N. J.

#### Now,—The Time to Wage War on the English Sparrows.

It is an already well recognized fact, that the English Sparrow is one of the evils which are driving the number of our native birds, and driving them "far from the haunts of men." inasmuch as the English Sparrow makes the haunts of man his special breeding place.

Much has been said about abating this evil, but as yet little or nothing seems to have been done. Has the time not yet come, to act? Winter is at hand, when we in the north will have but few birds with us. At this time the English Sparrow presents a very conspicuous figure making it a favorable opportunity to destroy him.

Now if all our bird students who agree that the English Sparrow is too numerous would shoot, during the winter, as many as possible, would not the difference in numbers be a welcome discovery for our returning birds in the spring?

If this were practiced yearly, it could not fail to place a great check on the increase of the English Sparrow. If we each of us complain of the evil wrought by the English Sparrow, and yet each one, anxious that some one else should do something, fails to make a step ourself, how can we expect that the trouble will be abated?

I think if we were to get up a competition to see who this winter should kill the most Sparrows (English of course), it might be a means of increasing the number which would be destroyed.

I should like to hear the opinions of others on this subject.

In the Jan. 1889 OOLOGIST, Mr. Clute gave an interesting article on the "Birds of Broome County," with the suggestion that the example be followed by one from each of the other counties of this and other states. This was done to a certain extent by one or two and the matter dropped.

Now the question is why was this dropped? As far as they went, the articles were very interesting, even to those not in the same locality with the writer.

If continued, as suggested by Mr. Clute, I should think his would form a very interesting ornithology, showing, as it would, how birds common in one part of a state were yet unknown in a different locality of the same state.

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

Nesting of the Downy Woodpecker (*Dryobates pubescens*) in Kalamazoo County, Mich.

Although this bird is common in

spring and fall, but few pairs seem to remain to breed. My first opinion was, that it rarely, if ever, bred in this county, partly because I was led to believe so by our older oologists. My first nest was found in May, 1886, and contained four young birds. The cavity was about 15 feet from the ground and the stub itself looked as it had been the cradle for several broods in preceding years. I left the stub determined to visit it the next season. On May 16, 1887, I went to it and found the bird on but thought it best to leave it another week. On the 23rd I cut it open and found five nearly fresh eggs. The hole was 9 feet from the ground and was drilled out where the stub was rotten and spongy.

My next nest was found on June 1, 1888. It was in a dead limb that ran obliquely from the body of a live ash tree. It contained five eggs in an advanced state of incubation. These differ from any I have ever seen being of a dull white without the usual gloss. Later in the same year I found a nest with young birds in a poplar stub that would hardly stand alone and so could not get up to see the young birds but could hear them plainly enough and see the old ones carrying food to them.

On the 13th of May, 1890, while out for Marsh Hawks' nests, I saw a bird go into a hole in a poplar stub, but thought best to leave it until later. On the 21st I visited it and found, to my great surprise as well as joy, containing seven eggs. (A good egg story it may seem, but it is true nevertheless and can be proven.) The cavity was about 20 feet from the ground and the stub more solid than those usually occupied. On blowing these eggs one was addled and the other six far advanced in incubation.

While going by the same stub on June 14th, I stopped and rapped and to my surprise again a head popped out of a hole higher up than the other. This

contained three eggs slightly incubated. Although I did not measure it I think this hole was at least 25 feet from the ground. The cavity was very shallow from having been made in a hurry. These with another set taken by Mr. Harry H. Pomeroy are the only ones I know of taken in the county.

R. B. WESTNEDGE.

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**American Sparrow Hawk.**  
(*Falco sparverius*.)

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The American Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius*) are the smallest of the genus *Falco* resident in this country. Here they may be found in certain sections throughout the year; in others they appear as migrants, or in the breeding season only. Apparently they exhibit little partiality in selecting their summer homes; and those localities are few where the diligent observer fails to meet with the nest and eggs of this species. Probably, as a whole, they are the commonest of our hawks, and unquestionably one of the most interesting.

While this species do not assume so defiant and even belligerent spirit, when molested, as do some of their larger kin, nevertheless their decided activity at such times has, no doubt, caused the amateur oologist to alter his intentions for the time being, at least

When their nesting place is approached, they appear greatly agitated, frequently darting about uncomfortably near the intruder, uttering simultaneously, a harsh cry, unpleasant to the ear, peculiar, yet difficult of description. Although ornithologists as a rule, agree that they show little disposition to attack, when disturbed, still on one occasion the writer was momentarily deterred from accomplishing his object, by their persistent warlike maneuvers.

This proceeding, however, was of short duration, lasting only so long as

a spirit of hesitancy was shown on his part.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with this bird, I will quote the following from "Minot's Land and Game Birds of New England":

About eleven inches long. Crown, ashy-blue, usually with a chestnut patch of varying size. Head, otherwise white, with generally seven large black markings, including one on the nape. Tail, often surrounded by white; and broadly (sub-) tipped with black. Primaries, etc., black with imperfect white bars. Otherwise:—female, brown above, becoming chestnut on the tail, nearly everywhere black-barred. Beneath, white; breast (often buffy or reddish, and) streaked with black (and brown). Male, smaller, and with few or no black bars or streaks. Wing coverts, ashy-blue (sometimes spotted with black).

From the above description the identity of the bird in hand must be readily established.

The flight of the Sparrow Hawk is weak as compared with others: indeed it is never long-continued, but rather at short intervals, and rarely at a great height. One may at favorable times observe them gracefully skimming over the fields and meadow lands in quest of food, which latter consists of small quadrupeds, birds and—I am told—insects. Often they may be seen pouncing upon their prey with great celerity, from the lofty branches of a tree, or other suitable positions.

Except in rare instances, they select for a nesting-place a natural cavity in a tree, or an abandoned excavation of some of the larger species of woodpeckers. Here, sometimes on a lining of coarse material, often on none except that existing already, four or five eggs are deposited. While the latter can be distinguished at a glance, still the variation of even the eggs of a set is often very marked, both in respect to size, and color.

The extremes of a set of five in my possession present the following measurements: 1.44 x 1.12 of an inch, and 1.35 x 1.09 of an inch. The ground-color in these differs from greyish-white in some, to a sort of buff in others. One specimen is marked rather coarsely with dark brown evenly distributed over the surface; another is heavily splashed, and blotched with umber on the smaller end, while the greater portion of the egg is very sparsely spotted with a lighter shade; still another is finely and thickly dotted with cinnamon so as to almost conceal the background of dirty-white.

Although the Sparrow Hawks may, in certain respects, be of service to mankind, this is more than offset by their terrible destruction of the smaller, and far more useful birds. It is for this latter reason that little protection should be accorded them by the true ornithologist.

Notwithstanding their faults, however, one cannot but admire their pluck, and almost reckless courage, their fondness of home, and their great attachment for particular localities, although repeatedly disturbed.

AN OBSERVER,  
Conn.

---

**Annas Humming Bird.**  
(*Trochilus anna.*)

One day in the middle of May I went trout fishing along a little mountain stream, but not having very good success, I turned my attention to hunting bird nests.

I had proceeded but a short distance when I heard a buzz close to my head, and upon looking up saw a neat little nest of the Anna's Hummingbird, which contained two eggs. After a hunt of about two hours I felt satisfied to return home without any trout, but with five nice sets of Hummers and several of other species.

All these nests were built on twigs either hanging over or very near the creek.

One nest was built in a bush only a couple of feet from the ground.

In most cases I was attracted to the nest by the bird either flying around or to it.

I have fifteen nests, three of which are made entirely of willow down and the down from the backs of sycamore leaves. Twelve are composed of the same; but covered with lichens to make the likeness of it and the branch or leaves more complete.

The nests have spider webs around them and are fastened to the twigs with them.

The average size of sixteen eggs in my collection is .51 x .33 and a nest measures about 1.67 wide, 1. high and .50 deep in the inside.

It would be quite difficult to find their nests if it was not that the Hummer generally flew around you and then to her nest, or attracted your attention in some other way.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,  
College Park, California.

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#### Was it a Cowbird's Nest?

Having read A. L. Thorne's article in Nov. OOLOGIST, I will contribute some notes which I have on that subject. About June 1, 1889, as I was penetrating a thicket similar to that mentioned by Mr. Thorne, I heard the scolding voice of the Yellow-breasted Chat a short distance ahead. Upon advancing slowly and as still as possible, I saw the Chat sitting by the nest and evidently much disturbed by something there. As I approached nearer I discovered a Cowbird sitting near and evidently waiting for a chance to lay an egg. Upon going to the nest I found it to contain one egg which I left for further investigation. Upon going a few feet further I found a nest of the American

Redstart containing two eggs and one of the Cowbird's.

The resemblance between the Cowbird's egg and the egg in the Chat's nest was striking. The only difference being a slight one in the ground color. Of course then I was uncertain whether the egg in the Chat's nest was an egg of the Chat or the Cowbird. After thinking I resolved to blow them both and keep for study. Upon blowing them I noticed the yolk of the egg in the Chat's nest was much brighter in color than that of the egg in the Redstart's nest. Also that the ground color of one took on a bluish tint when the yolk was taken out, while the other kept its pink ground color.

Now of course the bird that laid in the Redstart's nest was a Cowbird, and as the other egg varied as Davie says eggs of such birds as the Chat, Towhee, Oven-bird, etc., will from eggs of the Cowbird, I checked an egg of the Chat and since then my experience has proved this to be a good test.

Now as Mr. Thorne's nest in position and construction would seem to be a Chat's nest also, is it not probable that a majority of the eggs were those of the Chat?

I think so, and I also think that a comparison of the yolks when blown would have enabled him to pick out the Cowbird's egg if she had left one.

ERNEST H. SHORT,  
Chili, N. Y.

And in looking over my Nov. OOLOGIST I notice Mr. A. L. Thorne's note of the nests and eggs of the Cowbird.

I should like to make a suggestion in regard to this. As the eggs of the Cowbird often so closely resemble those of the Brown Thrasher, and also as the nest described was similar to that of the Thrasher, might it not have been a nest of this bird?

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

### Tragic Death of a Field Sparrow.

About the middle of May, 1888, whilst walking through a cedar thicket looking about for birds' nests, my attention was attracted by a small nest in a dwarf cedar. On closer examination it proved to be that of a Field Sparrow (*Spizella pisella*) containing three eggs. Just as I was about to remove them I noticed a bird, doubtless one of the parents, hanging from the edge of the nest by a piece of horse hair about eight inches long. The bird was stone dead and appeared to have been so several hours. As the hair seemed to be part of the lining of the nest probably the bird whilst setting had in some way entangled its head in it, and in its efforts to break away been strangled. Although I remained for some time in the neighborhood the mate did not put in an appearance, possibly being ignorant of the accident. I regret very much that I was not able to dissect the dead bird in order to determine its sex.

J. H. P., JR.,  
Balto., Md.

### Florida Red Shouldered Hawk. (*Buteo lineatus Alleni*.)

This is the most common hawk in the vicinity, being seen on almost any bright day sailing high up in the sky.

Its flight is even and graceful and rivals that of the Vultures.

The nest of this species is a large bulky affair composed of sticks large and small. It is generally lined with leaves, generally green, and moss from the same tree in which it is placed. Sometimes a few feathers from the breast of the parent are placed in it.

It is generally placed in the large forks of a pine oak from 25 to 50 feet from the ground.

The number of eggs laid ranges from 2 to 4. The latter being the more frequent number.

The ground color and markings of the eggs vary a great deal. On some the eggs have a ground color of white or creamy white spotted and blotched with rufous brown, while in others the ground color and markings are so confused as to be indistinguishable. Some others are nearly white with the brown spots on them very small.

They nest in the dense bottom land bordering the streams.

The date being from the last of February to the last of April.

I found one set of partly incubated eggs on March 15th, while on April 15th I found a set of fresh eggs.

Like all other birds of this family it is a bird of prey, and many a poor chicken is sacrificed to satisfy his hunger and that of his little ones. They are very affectionate parents and keep their young plentifully supplied with food. They also protect them in time of danger.

KNOX, Lee Co., Tex.

### An Owl's Tenacity to Life.

On September 7th. I and two companions were hunting in the mountains, about 8 miles from this city, in some thick timber. One of my companions had a 22-cal. rifle with him. I saw a Great Horned Owl in a big pine tree near by. I took the rifle and without drawing a bead on it I pulled the trigger. I was awarded by seeing the Owl fall. The dog ran to it but the owl stood him off by getting under a few twigs of a fallen tree. When we got down to where the Owl was we found the bullet had broken its wing. As I wanted to mount it, I tried to kill it by driving nails into its brain. This plan not being able to kill him, my companion shot it in the head and another shot in the breast. This not making any difference we concluded to choke it to death. We could have killed it by cutting its throat but this would have got blood on its plumage so we took a strap

and made a slip noose and put it around its neck and pulled it as tight as we could. This was about 9 o'clock a. m., and we carried it till 7 p. m. in the same way. On arriving home we took off the strap and in about 5 minutes it jumped up and began to run along the ground. We put a small chain and strap on one of his legs and put it out where the grain was kept. He made himself fat on mice for about three weeks, when we removed him to the other boy's home. He lived till Thanksgiving and then died. I skinned him and have him mounted. It is a fine specimen. According to some accounts this owl must have had a dozen lives, more or less. I have collected a number of eggs in this locality.

JOEL. A. HARRINGTON,  
Butte, Montana.

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#### Western Horned Owl.

(*Bubo virginianus subarcticus*.)

This large owl is very abundant in this vicinity. It nearly resembles *Bubo virginianus* in color except that it is of a somewhat lighter shade, and in size is about the same. Catowl is the term applied to this owl in this vicinity as is also Chicken Owl, probably the latter from its frequent visits to hen roosts. A great many are shot by the farmer while on the raids, and of course thrown away. I know of no less than twelve shot the past week, but heard of it too late to secure or save only a few from being thrown away. The Owls seem very domestic (?) here, coming and alighting on the roof of my house in the center of the village. On Nov. 28th a large Owl was seized with one of the domestic (?) ideas and suddenly dropped on my roof with such force and noise that it awoke me, and on going out I saw him plainly, walking to and fro over the shingles, surveying the back yard, probably with an idea of chickens, but just then he spied me

and flew, but not far, for he soon lit on terra firma, by a charge of No. 8 shot from my gun. This specimen measured 26 in. in length and 62 alar spread.

This Owl breeds as I am told only a short distance from this place in a deep fir grove, as nests were found there last spring. One Feb. 20, 1890, while out nesting near Salem, Or., I accidentally found a nest of this bird in a high slim fir containing two eggs. Measurements as follows: 2.24 x 1.60 and 2.20 x 1.80, and of a dirty white color, with incubation slightly advanced. Nest made of coarse sticks and lined with green fir twigs about 60 feet from the ground.

A. G. PRILL, M. D.  
Sweet Home, Or.

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#### Albino Eggs.

I had heard a great deal about Albino eggs and so was on the look out for them. I pounded every stump and climbed every apple-tree that had a Woodpecker's hole in it, in hopes of finding a set of white eggs of the Bluebird.

A friend of mine found a Bluebird's nest with two white eggs in it and left them in order to get a full set. On returning the third day he found the nest destroyed and the eggs broken. I kept close watch in those woods but the pair did not nest again.

The next year I was more successful. On the first day of June while working near the woods I noticed a pair of Bluebirds making a great fuss near an old stump about three feet high. I went and looked into a hole in the top of the stump and there was a nest with five white eggs in it.

Some writer in speaking of finding a set of white eggs, says the female bird was very dark blue hardly distinguishable from the male. Remembering this I caught the female on the nest and examined her very closely; she was

no different in any respect only darker blue than the female Bluebirds generally are. On letting her go I could hardly tell her from the male bird.

Whether this has anything to do with the coloring of the eggs or not I don't know, but I do know that the same pair of birds rebuilt the nest in the same stump, laid four blue eggs and raised four blue birds.

This was the first and only set of albino eggs I ever found; they were the same shape and size of the average Bluebirds' eggs only a pure glossy white.

R. C. A.

Wayne Co., Mich.

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#### An Afternoon with the Birds.

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It is the middle of May when, on a bright and pleasant afternoon I call the great hound near at hand, and leaving the little farmhouse by the roadside, ramble off towards the distant forest. All nature is at her brightest to-day. The fast ripening wheat as it waves in the breeze, the scent of flowers, the distant call of birds, the warm, balmy air, everything is beautiful.

As I cross the sweet scented meadow which lies between myself and the woods, my dog bounds joyfully ahead barking, and chasing the pretty meadow-larks which he frightens from their nests. I stop to examine and to wonder at the ingenuity displayed in the bird's attempt to conceal its nest from the watchful eye of the crow and jay. How cunningly are the leaves and grass-blades drawn and matted over that hollow in the ground, and how neatly is the interior of the nest lined with the finer grass, to make a soft nesting-place for the four spotted eggs which are soon to burst forth into life and activity.

But the parent bird is impatient to come back to her nest, so I wander on, down by the pond with the gentle kine

standing knee deep in it, stopping only to look at the curious nest of the Red-winged Blackbird, swung like a hammock between three tall cat-tails growing on the edge of the water; onward I go, and at last leaving the great blazing sun behind, I enter the cool dark woods:

"the thick roof

Of green and stirring branches alive  
And musical with birds that sing and sport  
In wantonness of spirit; while below  
The squirrel, with raised paws and form erect  
Chirps merrily."

A rabbit springs away from beneath my feet and my dog gives chase, his loud bark growing fainter and fainter as pursuer and pursued disappear in the distance. Over head some crows, disturbed by the noise, take flight, cawing hoarsely, and flapping their heavy wings. Presently quiet is restored; my dog returns panting from his unsuccessful chase, and I gently reprove him for disturbing Nature in such unseemly fashion. He looks into my face with an intelligent gaze, almost human, shining out his honest brown eyes; as I talk to him, then, as I throw myself down on a mossy bank by the brook, he lies at my feet ready, at a word, to proceed on our way. Everything is still; only the leaves rustle, as the gentle summer wind shakes them in the tree tops.

As I am resting here, there comes, borne on the wind, the mournful notes of the dove, two long notes, followed by three short ones. How distant it sounds; yet the bird is in that thorn tree, only a short distance off. But its melancholy notes are drowned by the harsh cries of two blue jays, who, unaware of the presence of human beings, fall to the ground, fighting fiercely. They flutter along scattering the bright blue feathers to the wind, but the hound, before I can stop him, dashes at them, and they fly away. Then another sound breaks the stillness, coming from a little open place among the trees. It is the call of the American Quail:—Bob

White! Bob white! Imitating its call. I draw it nearer and nearer until, catching sight of me, it takes flight with a sudden whirring of wings.

High in the air over the tree-tops, sail a pair of hawks, dim specks in the blue of the sky. I wander on, past the deserted sugar-camp, which will not be deserted in the spring-time, when the sap begins to run. The calls of jays, thrushes, finches, mingle with the hoarser notes of the crow and deeper in the forest the tat-tat-tat of the wood-pecker is heard. How industrious they are pecking away as though their lives depended on their efforts; stopping only to cock their heads on one side, to examine their work, before recommencing.

There in that thorn bush, I hear faint chirps;—four little thrushes crying for food, and here their parent come, with fierce chatterings to drive me away. Come on, pretty bird, you shall not be harmed! I leave them, and cross the rippling brook at my feet. Up on the hill is an empty log cabin, long fallen to decay. But it still has its living inmates, for as I get nearer, out of the window there flies a little brown-bird seeking food, for the patient wife within, sitting so lovingly on the six white eggs, in the mossy nest on the beam. It is the Phœbe or Pewee as we call it, that has its home in this deserted old cabin.

But evening is coming on apace, the sun sinks down behind the western horizon, the birds fly quietly to their nests, and my dog looks up in my face, impatient to be at home.

A I leave the dusky forest behind, from the branches of whose trees are heard the faint chirps of sleepy birds, back in the dimness, I hear the loud and clear notes of our night bird—whip-poor-will - whip-poor-will - whip-poor-will—(some little noise disturbs it and it pauses for a moment, only to take up the broken thread of its song,

if song it can be called:—whip-poor-will-whip-poor-will—over and over again for hours. The notes pouring forth, one after another, have an inexpressibly mournful sound, and yet they are not unpleasant to the ear.

But the sun has long been down; only a faint streak of red in the west marking its path, lights gleam out from the windows of the farmhouse; I hear the farmer calling:—Co-boss-co-boss! and the answering low of the kine. As I pass the pond, the frogs set up a universal croaking, almost deafening; the bleating of sheep is heard, darkness settles down on every side, Nature is at rest.

#### “SPRINGFIELD (Ills.) BOY.”

#### A “Good Enough” Way to Blow Eggs.

As soon as I read Mr. Lockwood's article in the Sept. 1889 OOLOGIST, I got “on to the racket,” as his method of blowing eggs promised to cover a great difficulty in my case, viz.: That of blowing eggs by “human labor.”

We had an old syringe but it was at one of the neighbor's houses. It was raining, but I mounted a horse and rode over and got the syringe, returning in haste to practice on a pigeon's egg. The syringe was one of those consisting of a bulb and two rubber tubes, one running each way from the bulb. At the end of one tube is a spout and at the end of the other is a valve to let water in and keep it from going out after it is in and the bulb is compressed.

I thought I would not follow Mr. L.'s directions to the letter, but would first experiment a little. So I removed the spout and put in its place one of (Latin's) white metal blowpipes. I fixed the blowpipe stationary and held the egg with one hand while I worked the bulb with the other.

After a little practice I found that this syringe was “just the thing” to blow eggs with and that I had hit the

best way of using it the first thing. The force of air was so great that if the bulb is quickly compressed it will burst a hen's egg; while by lightly compressing it one can blow the smallest egg without breaking it.

The valve works best when the tube hangs straight down as it is more apt to be in the right position. I used it with perfect success during the past season and can safely recommend it as an excellent method.

I came almost forgetting to mention that the syringe is very good for filling the eggs with water. When I had a lot of eggs to blow I would blow them all first, then fill them with water and after emptying the syringe blow the water out again.

Eggs can be blown through smaller holes and in almost 2-3 less time than by the old method. Quite large embryos can also be blown out without the aid of a hook.

Hoping others will try this method and report I will close.

JOHN V. CRONE,  
Marathon, Iowa.

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#### A Strange Occurrence.

A few days since while talking with one of the professors of the public schools here, he told me of a nest of the Baltimore Oriole (*Icterus galbula*), which had fallen under his notice. The nest was placed in a willow tree a few feet from the ground, and was built in the usual way. The willow ran straight up for a few feet, then a large limb branched off; another and a smaller limb branched off of this one, and it was on this limb that the nest was placed.

During a storm the weight of the nest had caused the smaller limb to break about midway between the nest and the larger limb. This caused the nest to hang down sideways and out of shape so that the bird could not enter. To

remedy this the bird had procured a piece of string which it had wound around the smaller limb at the nest and on the side next the break, and in some way fastened. The string was then carried up over the larger limb and down again to the lower one, where it was drawn tight and wound around and around and fastened. This drew the smaller limb up to its old position and left the nest so that the bird could again enter it. The nest and limb are now in the Richmond Ind. museum.

While out collecting I took a set with the nest of Wilson's Thrush (*Hylodichla fuscescens*), which had a string woven into it, then carried up to a limb above it, back again to the nest, and there fastened.

ARTHUR J. BAKER,  
Fortville, Ind.

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#### The Green Heron.

The Green Heron does not breed in large numbers in this section. I have never found over a dozen or fifteen nests in one place or over one nest in a tree.

On May 30, 1890, a friend and I went on a collecting trip with the following results:

A set of five, slightly incubated, in a pine tree; a set of six, fresh, in a chestnut tree; two sets of five, too far advanced to take; two single eggs and two nests with young in all; in pine trees.

On June 17th, we went to the same place and got seven sets of four; a set of five. Some of them came from the same nests that I took sets from before; and one was in an oak tree. The nests were all the way from ten to thirty feet from the ground. They were all in a small grove at the mouth of a small harbor, close to Long Island Sound.

All the nests I have collected were near the water, and one was not over fifty feet from the Sound.

D. W. RAYMOND,  
Norwalk, Ct.

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,  
ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

The *Plain Talk* of New York City which "speaks for itself" and is published "for boys and girls" has been *stealing* articles from the OÖLOGIST for the past few months, and its Natural History Editor has been having them published in full, as original contributions for his department, and seems to have forgotten that the OÖLOGIST is in existence, at any rate he gives it no credit in the articles thus appropriated. We are glad to have our brother publishers reprint any of the valuable articles that appear in the OÖLOGIST, but must insist on due credit being given.

Were we the publisher of a monthly "for young people" which we recommended "to mothers" as "bright, clean and pure" and one of our editors filled the space allotted him for his department by "cribbing" from exchanges without credit, we would elevate Mr.

Ed. from his position, and if necessary, fire his "department" after him.

## Notes and Queries.

We receive many articles from collectors on the habits and nesting of rare species, but it frequently happens that the collector is mistaken in his identity of the species—thus making the article valueless.

F. D. J., New Castle, Del., writes of taking a set of five Red-tailed Hawk and one of six Gt. Blue Heron.

We are indebted to several correspondents for accounts of their collecting experiences for '90, but as they are mostly with common species we are obliged to give the space to articles of more general interest and value.

F. C. Hare, Whitby, Ont., wants to know a good way to get rid of the English Sparrow, in winter when there are no other birds around. Shot is too expensive. Are there no other means to get rid of this little pest?

An "Egg within an Egg" of our common domestic fowls are by no means uncommon, as almost every collector has either seen or heard (from reliable quarters) of them.

F. W. King, Cleveland, O., took a set of three fresh eggs of the Scarlet Tanager on Aug. 8th, and thinks the date rather late.

S. J., Leavenworth, Kan. The bird which you shot on Nov. 22nd, was the Pileated Woodpecker.

The "Forest and Stream" is published in New York. We can furnish sample copies at 10c or will receive subscriptions and include the OÖLOGIST for a year for \$4.00.

The Spotted Sandpiper usually nests early in June.

H. W. C., Sonoma, Cal., asks:  
"Is the Ivory-billed Woodpecker found in California? if so, has it been known to nest?"

F. A. S., College Park, Cal. In reply to your query as to the matter with the

"Wolverine Naturalist," we answer with the old saying "the good die young."

Mr. C. Tunison, of New York, asks: "Could you suggest to me some locality in the vicinity of New York City to which I could go this coming spring that would be a good place to collect eggs in? especially those eggs of water birds that breed inland."

A peculiar incidence of adoption was noticed and spoken about by many of our town people last winter. During the whole winter a small bird resembling closely the Yellow-headed Blackbird, made it his home with a flock of English Sparrows, and most any day could be seen with them about the streets.

Speaking of this peculiar incident brings to my mind another. Last spring a flock of Sparrows came regularly to our hen park to feed with the chickens. Among their number was a bird having exactly the same appearance of a Sparrow, except being of a dark blood red color. Now to what species did this individual belong? I secured him and have him in my collection.

GEO. L. THORNTON,  
Alma, Mich.

[Last winter a young male Cowbird stopped with its foster parents, the Sparrows, in our back yard.—ED.]

F. C. V., Topeka, Kans. From collectors who have "been there" we learn that three eggs usually, if not almost always, constitute a full set of the Wilson's Plover. The collector you mention as taking sets of four we do not consider strictly reliable, for we have known him to continually and persistently send out the eggs of Wilson's Plover for those of the Piping after he had been informed of his error.

H. B. A., Gibbon, Neb., writes:

"While out for a walk this season I discovered the nest of an American Goldfinch placed in a crotch of an apple tree. In this nest, which was built as usual, I found first at the bottom an egg of the Cowbird, over this a heavy lining and on this a set of the Goldfinch. I allowed these to remain. Those of the Goldfinch were incubated, but that of Cowbird did not, probably

due to unusual amount of lining."

N. L. Davis, Brockport, N. Y., says: "On September 19th, I received a woodchuck to be mounted. Its fur was finer than others of the same species and black as jet all over. Can anyone give me a reason why it is so black? It is quite a curiosity."

[Taxidermist Kibbe, of Mayville, N. Y., had a fine black woodchuck in his collection last August, when we had the pleasure of inspecting it.—ED.]

In writing of frequently hearing of "an egg within an egg" of the domestic fowl, A. B. F. Bennings, D. C., says:

"I once found a cantalope seed imbedded in an egg partly in the white and part in the yolk. The fowls had been eating over ripe and cracked melons, but how it came in such a place puzzles me yet."

B. S. B., Phelps, N. Y., comments as follows:

"In the April OOLOGIST, E. S. G. in an article on "Queer nidification," asks a question which I have never seen answered. I therefore offer a possible explanation. I do not believe there was any third party to the Crow's nest, unless he saw two on the nest. Sets of 8 eggs of the Crow, while not common, have been found. I took a set of 8 from a nest in a piece of woods where there were no Crows but the one pair. I also know of a nest of 8 young being found, where the young were fed by but two old birds. In sets of Crows' eggs, as in others incubation is liable to vary very much, so the nest which he found may have had but a single female parent, especially if the young it contained had but just hatched."

"Elanus," Augusta, Ga. Queries as follows, who can answer?

1st. Why is the name interpres applied to the turnstone, why is it a "go-between?"

2nd. I have in my collection a duck which puzzles me considerably, it is a female. It is undoubtedly one of the *Fuliginæ*. The description is as follows: Crown of head, chin, a large patch on each side of the neck and the whole upper parts, including the fore breast, slaty-gray. Rest of head, neck and under parts, white; lining of wings and

axiliars, brownish-gray. Scapulars with lighter edgings. No speculum; no white on wings. Tail of fifteen feathers. Nostrils in basal half of bill. Bill blue at base, blackening at tip; feet livid bluish. Iris brown. Measures, L. 17.50, ex. 29.00, w g. 8.50, t l. 2.75, t s. 1.25, B l. 1.12, undde toe and claw 2.15. It was killed on the Savannah river. Could it be a female *H. glacialis* 2rd. When will Davie's "Methods in the Art of Taxidermy" be issued?

C. R. B., Little Rock, Iowa. Queries as follows:

1st. The name of a gull (?) about thirteen or fourteen inches long, with head and neck black, back brown or light slate color, upper side of wings and tail ditto, ends of wing feathers barred with black and white, breast, abdomen, sides and under side of wings and tail white, bill one inch long, black, feet webbed.

2nd. Name of gull (?) with black head and breast, back and wing dove color or drab, under tail pure white, feet semipalmated, length eight or nine inches.

Both gulls are common in migrations; following the plows after a rain and eating the grubs plowed out.

#### Talkative Powers of the Crow not Increased by Tongue Splitting.

In reply to the query in the Nov. OOLOGIST, will say, that I do not think it makes any difference with the crow, except the pain that it gives, whether his tongue is split or not. I have raised a great many, and have had two at one time and I would split the tongue of one and not the other, and I found that the one with the tongue split would not articulate any clearer than the other. My experience is that the male crow will learn to utter a few words if it is something that he hears every day, for instance the name of anyone. My brother had one, he also had a dog by the name of Ponto, and the crow would say: "Hello! Ponto," as plain as I could. The greatest trouble I have in keeping crows is, that after they have been in captivity about

one year or less, they have trouble with their stomach and cannot keep food down and soon die. But after all it is not much of a loss. Should you keep one a year and give him his freedom he will steal you so poor that you will be willing he should die.

A. E. KIBBE,  
Mayville, N. Y.

#### Meeting of the A. O. U.

The eighth congress of the American Ornithologists' Union was held last week at Washington, Nov. 18 to 20, in the Lecture Hall of the United States National Museum.

The meeting was largely attended, and as will be seen from list of papers given below, was full of interest. It was one of the most successful meetings held since the founding of the Union.

The session of Tuesday was devoted to business and was not open to the general public. At this meeting were read the reports of the secretary, the treasurer and the council. Officers were elected for the ensuing year, and then followed election of new members and reports of committees.

The officers chosen for 1891 were: D G. Elliot, President; Robert Ridgway and Wm. Brewster, Vice-Presidents; John H. Sage, Secretary; Wm. Dutcher, Treasurer. Chas. B. Cory, H. W. Henshaw, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Dr. L. Stejneger, Dr. J. A. Allen, Dr. Elliott Coues, Col. N. S. Goss, Members of the Council. At this election there were thirty-eight members present and voting.

The sessions held on Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 19 and 20, were open to the public, and were devoted to the reading of scientific papers. The first of these, The American Ornithologists' Union—a seven years' retrospect—was an address by the retiring president, Mr. J. A. Allen, who has occupied this chair ever since the founding of the Union. This was followed by these papers:

Seed Planting by Birds, by Walter B. Barrows. Phalaropes at Swampscott, Mass., by Wm. A. Jeffries. The Birds of Andros Island, Bahamas, by John I. Northrop. Remarks on a few Species of Andros Island Birds, collected by Dr. Northrop, by J. A. Allen. An Experimental Trial of a New Method for

the Study of Bird Migration, by Harry Gordon White. A Study of Bird Ways in the Delaware Valley during the Spring Migration of 1890, by Wither Stone. Our Present Knowledge of the Neotropical Avifauna, by Frank M. Chapman. The Case of *Colaptes auratus* and *C. cafer*, by J. A. Allen. Observations upon the Classification of the United States *Accipitres*—based upon a study of their Osteology, by R. W. Shufeldt. Some Observations on the Breeding of *Dendroica vigosii* at Raleigh, N. C., by C. S. Brimley. The Trans-Appalachian Movement of Birds from the Interior to the South Atlantic States, Viewed Chiefly from the Standpoint of Chester County, S. C., by Leverett M. Loomis. A Further Review of the Avian Fauna of Chester County, S. C., by Leverett M. Loomis. Some Bird Skeletons from Guadalupe Island, by Frederic A. Lucas. The Present Status of the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker, by E. M. Hasbrouck. Some Notes Concerning the Evening Grosbeak, by Amos W. Butler. The Spring Migration of the Red Phalarope (*Crymophilus fulvicastris*), by Harry Gordon White. On the Tongue of Humming Birds, by Frederic A. Lucas. Insect, Intuition and Intelligence, by C. F. Amery. The Habits of the American Golden Plover in Massachusetts, by Geo. H. Mackay. Correction to Revised Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas, by N. S. Goss. Second Occurrence of the White-Faced Glossy Ibis (*Plegadis quararuna*) in Kansas, by N. S. Goss. Remarks on the Primary Faunal Divisions of North America, by C. Hart Merriam.

At the last meeting of the A. O. U. it was suggested that especial effort be made to secure, for exhibition at the meeting of 1890, a quantity of photographic material bearing on birds. The committee appointed to take charge of the matter went into it with a good deal of energy and were quite successful.

One of the interesting and popular features of the meeting was an exhibition of photographic slides from living birds and nests taken by Henry M. Spellman, of Cambridge, Mass. These slides were thrown on canvas and explained by Mr. Wm. Brewster, of Cambridge.—*Forest & Stream*.

### EXPERT TAXIDERMY.

Manner of Preserving Some Deceased Zoological Specimens from Sells Brothers' Menagerie.

Lying on the floor at the rooms of Oliver Davie, the taxidermist on North High street, yesterday, was seen the carcass of a huge ostrich, which died at Sellsville Monday from the effects of the late cold snap.

The bird is to be made the subject of Mr. Davie's skill, and will be added to that gentlemen's large collection of specimens. Some idea of the magnitude of such an undertaking, may be gained when it is known that the ostrich weighs 150 pounds and is over six feet tall. The skin will first be carefully removed and subjected to a curing process, and impressions of the various portions of the body will then be taken in potters' clay, to secure perfection in form. After being thoroughly tanned, the skin with its coat of feathers will be mounted on a framework of wood and iron, and the body filled out to its natural proportions. The entire job requires the work of two men for the greater part of two weeks.

This is a fine specimen of African ostrich. It is a male with beautiful black feathers, worth more than their weight in gold when sold as plumes for ladies' headgear. The females are gray. The bird is four years old and has been attached to the zoological department of the show for two years. Its legs show enormous strength, the kick of an ostrich being as much to be dreaded as that of a mule. On their native deserts, when put on the defensive, they have been known to disembowel the Arab pursuer with one effort of the enormous claw.

All animals and birds dying during the winter at Sellsville are now turned over to Mr. Davie, and some splendid specimens are thus secured.

A tapir that succumbed to the weather several weeks ago, was given to Mr. Davie and has been added to his stuffed menagerie, which includes also two elephants and a sea lion secured from Sells Bros.

Mr. Davie's collection is one of the finest in the country, comprising many species of North American birds, likewise those native to foreign countries, besides a large number of other members of the animal kingdom, including in all over 1500 specimens.

"Methods in the Art of Taxidermy" will be Mr. Davie's latest work, and a great part of the edition is already sold.

His "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" is still fresh from the press. The work about to be issued from the advance sheets show it to be very elaborate and comprehensive. □ It will contain fifty-four full-page engravings, the drawings for which have been in course of preparation for six years. The first will be known as the edition de luxe, and though very elegant will be sold to advance subscribers at the price of five dollars.—*Sunday-Capital*, Columbus, Ohio, Dec. 14, 1890.

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From New York City.

Arctic Owls have been very plentiful in this vicinity this winter. Especially on Long Island. One taxidermist has had over seventy (70) so far this winter.

On Sunday the 20th I saw a large Bald Eagle on the Sound, in the city limits, so I imagine that the snow-fall has been quite large in the mountains.

Ducks are more plentiful than for several years.

W. J. S.

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The following letter from Dr. Mearns is self explanatory and we trust the readers of the OOLOGIST will do all in their power to assist him in the shape of the needed specimens.

It is very rare that so eminent an ornithologist as the Dr. calls upon "the boys" for assistance, but as they are fairly "aching" for a chance of this kind, we fear Uncle Sam will be obliged to add an extra mail pouch to the Fort route in order to deliver the Doctor's specimens.

DEAR MR. LATTIN:

I intend to make a critical study of our Sparrow Hawks (*Falco sparverius et vars*) and English Snipe (*Gallinago delicata*) during the coming year. It has occurred to me that you could greatly assist me to borrow the necessary material by inserting a notice in your journal. I will be glad to pay the cost of sending material for this purpose (all specimens of these birds) from any part of North America and returning. Will return the borrowed specimens within six

months, and give credit to all who assist me.

I have made arrangements to use all of the specimens of these birds in all of our great museums, and hope that private collectors will also send me their specimens for use.

Mr. Ridgway will loan me all of the Smithsonian material; and Dr. Allen has offered everything in the American Museum. From the members of the A. O. U. I expect a large number of specimens, as Dr. Allen kindly announced my desire at the late meeting, and will insert a notice in the Jan. "Auk."

I remain,

With sincere regards,

EDGAR A. MEARNS,

Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.,

Fort Snelling, Minnesota,

Dec. 5, 1890.

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The modern magazine may be taken as embodying the best literature of the world, as the magazine editor pays the highest price to novelists, scientists, statesmen, soldiers and even kings and princes, for the best they can furnish in the literary line. The well-edited magazine becomes an educating influence in the family circle, whose importance cannot be over-estimated. The children, as they grow up, are attracted by its illustration, and so come in time to have a taste for reading. There is always something that is new, something that is strange, something that is interesting; and we consider that we are doing our readers a positive benefit if we are instrumental in placing such a publication within their reach. The special arrangement which we have made with the *Cosmopolitan* presents very unusual inducements. That magazine is already recognized as one of the most interesting publications of the day. It is seeking subscribers everywhere and obtaining them. The proprietors believe that the *Cosmopolitan* has only to be examined to secure a permanent subscriber. That is why we are enabled to make, if the offer is accepted before January next, the very low combination offer in October OOLOGIST.

---

A Word In Season.

The barking of a pack of hounds may be music, but the barking of the human family is certainly discord. Stop that cough with Humphreys' Specific No. SEVEN.

**"Experimental Electricity,"**

BY EDWARD TREVERT.

It will give practical information upon the following subjects: Some Easy Experiments in Electricity and Magnetism. How to Make Electric Batteries, a Galvanometer, an Induction Coil, an Electric Bell, a Magneto Machine, a Telegraph Instrument, an Electric Motor, a Dynamo, Electric Gas Lighting and Bell Fitting. Some practical directions for amateurs. Some information in regard to Electric Lamps. 176 Pages, 100 Illustrations. Just the book for amateurs. Price, cloth bound, \$1. Send money by Registered letter or P. O. money order. Send for catalogue.

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**Plymouth Rock Paper Weights.**—Models of the famous Rock, two sizes; by mail 35 and 50 cents each.

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**Photographs of Plymouth Rock,** Pilgrim Hall, National Monument to the Pilgrims, and one hundred other subjects of historic interest. Extra fine views, 5 1/4 x 8 1/2, 35 cents each, \$4.00 per dozen. Catalogue free.

**Plymouth Albums, 31 Views,** 25 cents.

Any of the above books will make handsome Christmas and Birthday presents, and will be mailed postpaid on receipt of price.

We have sent samples to the editor of this paper who will vouch for their excellence.

Agents wanted.

**A. S. BURBANK,**  
Pilgrim Bookstore, Plymouth, Mass.

# FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

We give the readers of the OOLOGIST our profit on a large stock of Jewelry and Novelties, manufactured from Semi-precious Gems.

During the past few years we have sold hundreds of dollars' worth of the articles listed below from our Chautauqua and other stores. We now have a large stock on hand and in order to close the lot out so as to import new stock for the coming season, we offer our patrons the privilege of selecting anything they may wish at a profit to ourselves that barely covers the expense of handling.

These goods are mostly manufactured in Germany from Agates, from Oberstein or South America. "Tiger-eye" from South Africa, Amber from the Baltic, etc. The same goods are sold to credulous tourists at stores in the Lake Superior, Colorado, Black Hills and Rocky Mountain Country in general as prepared from specimens found in that immediate locality, and at prices much greater than our regular retail ones.

The prices quoted in left-hand column are what we will send you the article described, prepaid.

The prices in column at the right are our regular prices, at which we are now (Jan. 1st.) retailing these identical articles from our Ann Arbor Store, and at which we can after Feb. 15th. fill your orders.

Our prices in left-hand column will hold good until FEB. 15th ONLY.

While of many articles we have dozens, others we have only a single one, so it is advisable to always name your second choice to be used in case we are out of the article ordered.

On orders of \$5.00 or over we will allow a discount of 5 per cent. Packages will be sent by Registered Mail for 10 cts. additional.

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FRANK H. LATTIN.

|   |       |       |
|---|-------|-------|
| Shoe Hooks, Carnelian Agate.....  | \$ 42 | \$ 65 |
| "    "    Black Onyx ".....   | 42    | 65    |
| "    "    "Tigereye" ".....   | 55    | 85    |
| Glove Buttons either "Tigereye"<br>Black Onyx, Carnelian or Moss Agate..... | 22    | 35    |
| Agate Match Safes.....  | 89    | 1 50  |
| Moss Agate Paper Cutters, 7 to 8 in. 1                                      | 25    | 2 25  |
| "    "    "    "    9 in. ....  | 1 75  | 3 00  |
| Carnelian Rings.....  | 06    | 10    |
| Hat Pins, Carnelian Agate.....  | 39    | 60    |
| "Sulphur Diamond" Pyrites Ear<br>Drops.....                                 | 65    | 1 00  |
| Agate Pen Holders.....  | 60    | 1 00  |
| "Tigereye" Pen Holders.....   | 65    | 1 25  |
| "    "    Pencils.....  | 65    | 1 00  |

### BROOCHES.

|   |    |      |
|---|----|------|
| Agate Plain Bar.....  | 35 | 60   |
| "Tigereye" Plain Bar, small.....  | 30 | 50   |
| "    "    "    large.....   | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    "    Rolled Gold<br>Bands.....  | 89 | 1 50 |
| "Tigereye" Horn shape Rolled Gold<br>Bands.....   | 89 | 1 50 |
| Agate, horn shape rolled gold bands.....  | 72 | 1 25 |
| "    "    Bar rolled gold bands.....  | 72 | 1 25 |
| "Tigereye," Fancy various designs<br>in gold and silver mountings some<br>bars and some from 3 to 6 small set-<br>tings variously arranged..... | 75 | 1 50 |

### SCARF PINS.

|  |    |        |
|--|----|--------|
| Agate ball or faceted head.....                  | 18 | 25to35 |
| "Tigereye".....                                  | 18 | 35     |
| Agate, 3 ball arranged like clover leaf.....     | 40 | 75     |
| "Tigereye," arranged like clover leaf.....       | 50 | 1 00   |
| "    "    3 balls in row.....                    | 50 | 1 00   |
| "    "    carved heads etc. on set-<br>ting..... | 50 | 1 00   |
| "Tigereye" large "eye" setting.....              | 45 | 75     |
| "    "    ball, star mounting.....               | 40 | 75     |
| "    "    "    and pearls in.....                | 50 | 1 00   |

### FOB CHAINS.

|                             |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| Agate Queen Chain.....      | 1 50 | 2 25 |
| Goldstone "    ".....       | 1 67 | 2 50 |
| Smoky Topaz "    ".....     | 2 67 | 4 00 |
| Agate Victoria Chain.....   | 1 75 | 2 75 |
| Goldstone "    ".....       | 2 00 | 2 00 |
| Smoky Topaz "    ".....     | 3 00 | 5 00 |
| Rock Crystal "    ".....    | 2 00 | 3 50 |
| Hematite "    ".....        | 2 00 | 3 50 |
| Moss Agate Vest "    "..... | 2 50 | 5 00 |

### CHARMS.

|  |    |      |
|--|----|------|
| Agate faceted ball.....                              | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    edge cube.....                             | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    pear.....                                  | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    Shield.....                                | 25 | 35   |
| "    "    Horse's foot.....                          | 30 | 50   |
| "    "    Seal.....                                  | 35 | 60   |
| "    "    Cigar or stiletto.....                     | 35 | 60   |
| "    "    Acorn.....                                 | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    Barrel.....                                | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    Long triangular piece in swivel.....       | 45 | 85   |
| "    "    Tambourine.....                            | 40 | 75   |
| "    "    Minie ball.....                            | 40 | 75   |
| "Tigereye" Minie ball.....                           | 47 | 75   |
| "    "    Grecian Battle Axe.....                    | 45 | 75   |
| "    "    Barrel.....                                | 45 | 75   |
| "    "    Shield.....                                | 40 | 50   |
| "    "    Horse's foot.....                          | 30 | 50   |
| "    "    Pear.....                                  | 45 | 75   |
| "    "    Tambourine.....                            | 45 | 75   |
| "    "    Seal.....                                  | 40 | 95   |
| "    "    Long triangular piece in<br>swivel.....    | 55 | 1 00 |
| "    "    Compass.....                               | 50 | 85   |
| "    "    Faceted ball.....                          | 40 | 75   |
| Rock Crystal variously shaped swiv-<br>el mount..... | 45 | 75   |

### Genuine Amber and Coral Beads.

|   |      |      |
|---|------|------|
| 50 genuine Amber beads graduated<br>sizes, strung on string 14 1/2 in long.....   | 65   | 1 00 |
| 50 genuine Amber beads, graduated<br>sizes strung on string larger and<br>cleaner beads 18 in. long.....                                    | 1 45 | 2 50 |
| Genuine Amber Beads graduated<br>sizes double strung 3/4 of way, 100<br>beads fastened with amber screw<br>clasp.....                       | 2 00 | 3 50 |
| Genuine Coral strings of polished<br>broken red or precious coral from<br>the Mediterranean, 14 in. strings.....                            | 18   | 35   |
| Genuine Coral strings of polished<br>broken red or precious coral from<br>the Mediterranean, 15 in. strings<br>joined with metal clasp..... | 18   | 35   |
| Do Do Larger and selected pieces<br>15 in. strings.....   | 65   | 1 25 |
| Do Do "Seed" Corals polished in<br>small round heads joined with<br>clasp 14 in.....  | 55   | 1 00 |

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|  |             |       |
|--|-------------|-------|
| blade sterling silver, handle a polished alligator's tooth.....  | 1 33        | 2 00  |
| Wild bear's tusk polished gold cap mounted for back comb can be remounted for almost any purpose. Tusk a monster nearly 8 in. long...  | 4 00        | 10 00 |
| Pearl shell cigar or cigarette case, size 2 x 5 in. each side composed of 17 pieces inlaid polished pearl, mostly diamond shape, fine leather lining.....  | 1 50        | 2 50  |
| Ladies' pearl shell hand satchel 5 x 4 1/2 in. each side composed of 47 pieces inlaid polished pearl mostly diamond shape, sides joined by fine russet leather, inside lining satin, steel chain and ring attached for carrying..... | 2 25        | 3 50  |
| Ladies' tortoise side combs with pearl shell strip at top per.....   | 45          | 75    |
| Catlinite "Pipestone" charms.....  | 16          | 25    |
| "    "    salt cellars.....  | 20          | 25    |
| "    "    Napkin rings.....  | 35          | 50    |
| "    "    Paper weight.....  | 50c to 1 50 |       |
| Catlinite "Pipestone" specimens.....   | 3c to 15    |       |
| Red Lea Bean scarf or lace Pins.....   | 22          | 35    |
| Bracelets, Sea Beans, Shells and 'Gator teeth.....   | 18          | 25    |
| Bangle Pins, Sea Beans, Shells and 'Gator's teeth.....   | 18          | 25    |
| Brown-banded Sea Bean watch charms, polished plain.....  | 15          | 25    |

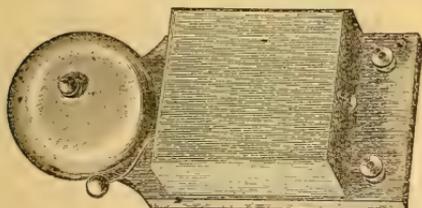
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| Do. Do. with the Masonic or Odd Fellows emblems engraved on side or any of the following initials: B. D. E. I. M. N. Q. T. U. V..... | 18 | 25 |
| Do. Compass set in side.....   | 30 | 50 |
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| Needle Cases.....   | 22 | 35 |
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Tillamook, - - - Oreg.

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(Formerly The Osprey Naturalist's Directory.) This Directory contains about 1000 names including Dealers, Naturalists, but chiefly the collector of Birds' eggs in all parts of the U. S. and Canada, and over 100 in Great Britain, Germany, and Ireland. Every collector should have a copy. Price 15c each. \$1.25 per doz. They can be obtained of the Compiler, Letson Balliet, Des Moines, Iowa, or H. STANTON SAWYER, Pub, Garland, Maine.

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Our new stock of Glass Eyes have at last made their appearance and we can fill your orders by return mail.

FRANK H. LATTIN.

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### LOOK WHAT A CHANCE!

I now offer for sale my collection of bird eggs. It consists of 375 eggs. I also offer several other things. Send for list. The eggs are valued at \$42.00, Lattin's '90 price-list. Send statement of what you are willing to give. All cards answered.

HENRY C. BRIDGERS.

Tarboro,

N. C.

**FOR SALE** Collection of Birds' Eggs in sets, consisting of 550 American species and 100 British species, nests with many, will be sold in single, sets cheap for cash. For particulars address

HARRY G. PARKER,

Chester, Pa.

THE AMERICAN NATURALISTS.

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Grandest ever published. Names inserted free, Ex. 1/4c per word. Will contain between 1000 and 1500 names, everything must be in by Feb. 15, '91. For information address

JAMES HILL,

BOX 12,

EDINBURG, ILLS.

### WANTED

Every person in the U. S. or abroad to send to the Natural History and Art Store, Canis- teo, N. Y. for a catalogue of Natural History and Art specimens and supplies, Birds' eggs, Shells, Fossils, Minerals, Curiosities, Butter- flies and moths, Corals, Art materials etc. Subscriptions taken for the leading magazines for the Naturalist and Artist, catalogue free. A fine new lot of eggs etc. just received. Send for prices of Naturalists' supplies, climbing irons, instruments, etc. A fine pair of French field glasses \$3.00.



# OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1891.

No. 2

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

**NOTICE!**—For every perfect arrow head sent me I will send a recipe for petrifying wood L. M. DRESSER, Georgetown Mass.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—First-class eggs in sets with data for the same. Send list and get mine, address T. D. WITHERSPOON Jr. 830 Sixth St. Louisville, Ky.

**EXCHANGE.**—113 Youth's Companions; for best offer of first-class birds' eggs. All letters answered. HARRY M. GERRY, South Paris, Me.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—A Maynard Flobert Rifle Electric top and Davie's Key to Nests and Eggs; for eggs or Natural History specimens of any kind. Enclose stamp for reply. C. F. CARR, 126 State St., Madison, Wis.

**WANTED.**—Barrows Golden-eye eggs and printing press to exchange for best offer.  A Harper's ferry Musket and Cabinets made to order. Have you any Golden-eyes? If so write. LETSON BALLIET, Des Moines, Iowa.

**EXCHANGE.**—650 stamps, (\$5.00) in international album, (\$1.00) and Chicago Air Rifle, (75c) for eggs or Indian Relics, D. SANDERSON, 1142, 4th ave., Detroit Mich.

**FOR Eggs in sets with data, pair of climbers, eggs in sets and singles, United States and foreign postage stamps.** All letters and postals answered. RONALD BATES, Clyde, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Cocoons of *Attacus Cecropia* (the largest American Moth) and species of *Cimber Americana* (largest saw fly); for other cocoons and insects. ELMER D. BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

**NOTICE!** Parties wishing to obtain carefully prepared eggs of this section during the coming season, will do well to address me for list, T. GILBERT PEARSON, Archer, Alachua Co., Fla.

**EXCHANGE.**—Two vols. Youth's Companion, 1200 postmarks, in albums, 75 tobacco tags and 300 foreign and U. S. stamps all different; for Indian relics and fossils. GEO. A. RODMAN, Kingston, Wash. Co., R. I.

**WANTED.**—Indian and war relics, stamps, eggs and coins; in exchange for same and tobacco tags and curiosities of all kinds. WM. M. RANDALL, Belleville, Mich.

**EXCHANGE.**—I have eggs of Hammerhead Shark and Cal. birds eggs both first and second-class; for eastern eggs. ED. WALL, San Bernardino, Cal.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Complete sets of eggs of the Common Tern, with data; for other eggs. All letters with enclosed stamp answered. C. C. PURDUN, Woods Holl, Mass.

**FOR every 25 varieties of stamps sent me I will give 100 mixed stamps; I have 100 cigarette pictures to exchange.** FRANK OWENS, Brooklyn, Iowa.

**I HAVE** northern skins to exchange for eggs and skins of other localities, also a 38 Cal. collecting gun and outfit for sale. GILBERT WHITE, 2 Waverly Pl. Grand Rapids, Mich.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Three foxes (female) 8 months old, for best offer of birds' eggs in sets, received before March 1st., or cash. Also eggs in sets with data for same. H. G. BALL, Niagara, Ont.

**EGGS & SKINS** to exchange for birds in the meat from the coast, Buffalo horns (rough) and first-class skins of Quail from the west. F. M. RICHARDS, Farmington, Me.

**A NICELY mounted grey squirrel** for \$4.00 worth of first-class eggs, Ridgway's numbers, or \$3.00 in cash. Address, DOUGLAS CAMPBELL, Coldspring, Putnam Co., N. Y.

**WANTED.**—A pair of climbing irons, will give minerals, fossils, shells, Indian relics, stamps or sea curios for same. I will also exchange any of the above for bird's eggs. GEO. H. PEPPER, Tottenville, S. I., N. Y.

**FOR TRADE.**—Right to sell in Maryland and Delaware, the "American Rock and Stump lifter." Dictionary of the Army, Old Suspended Pensions. Niles Register, 6 vols; for offers Box 30, Charlestown, Jeff. Co., W. Va.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Vol. XXVII of the Century, (unbound) Sea and Land and the Animal Kingdom all in fair condition, for best offer of first-class southern or western sets with data. FRANK H. SHOEMAKER, Hampton, Franklin Co., Iowa.

**EXCHANGE.**—I have a large supply of well-mounted Blue Jays and Back-capped Chickadees, which I wish to exchange for first-class eggs in sets. Write first, all correspondence answered. Address, MOWBRAY A. SEMPLE, Poynette, Wis.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Good collection of stamps in Scott's International Album for best offer in Zoological books, or taxidermists' supplies. A. P. RICHARDSON, Tarrytown, N. Y.

WILL EXCHANGE stamps for back OOLC-GISTS, arrow heads and old coins. Write what you have and make me an offer. HORACE E. BUKER, Rockford, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Polyopticon, Vol. XIV Ornithologist and Oologist, two Vols. Youth's Companion; for first-class single eggs with data. Particulars for stamp. BURT CHADWICK, 2369 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, Ohio.

WANTED.—To exchange first-class eggs in sets and singles, with and without data, and a S. B. L. shot gun; for a set of Taxidermists' tools, 16 gauge B. L. shot gun, microscope, or a 22 cal. rifle. WILL C. STAAT, 501 Jerome St., Marshalltown, Iowa.

WANTED.—Birds' eggs and Indian stone relics, I have to exchange for same, five vols. St. Nicholas, iron Indian axe, star fish, Resurrection plants, sixty stamps, and autoharp with music and instructions. CHARLES TANN JR., 140 Sixth Ave., Lansingburgh, N. Y.

REMOVED.—Bert R. Hager has removed from Chicago to Sterling, Ills., correspondents please take notice. Will exchange good bird skins of this locality for others. BERT R. HAGER, 507 E. Third St. Sterling, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—150 sets of birds' eggs, first class with data, 120 varieties valued at over \$100.00. Wanted a broncho or mustang, not particular if he backs, also wanted a Kodak camera, a Spencer repeating shot-gun, a colt lightning magazine rifle, or an acme folding boat. Persons having any of the above to exchange please send description to H. C. CAMPBELL, Langsingburgh, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of 110 varieties of birds' eggs in sets with full data, many quite desirable. Wanted, any of the following named articles: 48 in. bicycle, one or more good rifles, 22 cal. Stephen's preferred, B. L. shot gun, high power telescope, field glass or microscope. Good exc. given for any of the above articles. Those wishing to exchange please send for list of my collection with full description of the articles they have to offer. All answered. D. B. ROGERS, Ellis, Ellis Co., Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have at my Ann Arbor, Mich. Store, mounted birds, all good specimens on T perches, American Crossbill, White-crowned Sparrow, Wilson's Thrush, Bobolink, Crested Flycatcher, Cowbird, White-throated Sparrow, Barred Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Belted Kingfisher and Bufflehead, also Chipmunk and Turtle; will exchange the entire lot for the best lot of eggs offered (not less than \$30.00 worth) received by Feb. 15th. FRANK H. LATTIN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

I HAVE for exchange at my Ann Arbor Store a few Palmetto floor mats from the Bahamas, almost non-destructible, can be cleaned and washed to heart's content and will last for years, size from 3 to 3½ feet wide to 5½ to 6½ feet long, for a summer or bath room mat they have no equal; will sell for \$1.00 each, cash, or will exchange for desirable eggs or books on natural history. FRANK H. LATTIN, Ann Arbor, Mich.

WANTED.—A safety bicycle that has only been run one season, must be in good condition; will give \$60. worth of first-class birds' eggs. Write for particulars.—J. P. FEAGLER Waterloo, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Book of British Birds and of North America for Davie's Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, cloth. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Smith & Wesson 32-cal. double action revolver for the best offer of eggs in sets. Eggs, single and in sets for same. Send lists and receive mine. W. L. MORSE, No. 6 Onondaga Co. Savings Bank, Syracuse, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have 60 or more good Indian arrow flints for Pupa or Imago of Butterflies or Moths (a bargain). J. KEYWORTH, Marlissa, St. Clair Co., Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have a number of new "Natural History" books with 620 pages and over 500 illustrations each. Will exchange each copy for \$2.00 worth of birds' eggs in sets. Everybody send list to N. P. BRADT, Knowlesville, Orleans Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets with data, for printing. Parties desiring to do such, will send sample of work, and write to F. S. NYE, 20 E. Mifflin St., Madison, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A revolver worth three dollars, and a bull's-eye or dark lantern, for the best offer of first-class birds' eggs. Singles or sets. Letters answered. CHAS. W. WORTHEN, Hardwick, Vt.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with data. At ¾ 1890 list, Ridgeway Nos. 260, 278b, 378, 460, 572, 574, 579, 580, 690, 732. GORDON SCHANCK, Libertyville, Ills.

WANTED.—"Manton's Taxidermy Without a Teacher." Will give in exchange, "Wood's Natural History," cloth bound. Also I have to exchange the book "Ten Boys Who Lived On The Road From Long-ago To Now," cloth bound, for best offer of sets with data. What offers? R. C. KLINE, Standish St., Dorchester, Mass.

OREGON WOODS.—Ten varieties for every set of eggs sent me valued at fifty cents or over. Twenty varieties for every set valued at seventy-five cents or over. Eggs must be 1st-class with full data. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Exchange Block, Salem, Oregon.

PURE THOROUGHbred Homer Carrier Pigeons, wanted, (squeekers or youngsters). Will give in exchange good offer of birds' eggs or will purchase at reasonable prices. Give particulars. OTTO J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Calif.

STRANGE Curios, Chinese and Japanese, quicksilver ores, shells, stamps, fossils, reading matter, star fish and others; for side-blown eggs, books, ores, shells, skins or curios. U. L. HERTZ, Napa City, Calif.

HAVE Compound microscope, air rifle, Indian clubs, watch. Eggs: Nos. 7, 34, 1c; 12, 6, 1c; 13, 8, 2c; 13a, 6, 20c; 22, 2, 1c; 63, 6c; 122, 10c; 149a, 12, 6c; 153, 2, 3c; 154, 4c; 157, 3c; 197, 5c; 211, 2, 2c; 214, 2, 5c; 254, 4c; 258, 6, 3c; 261, 6, 2c; 363, 10; 270, 3, 8c; 278, 2, 3c; 315, 4c; 320, 12c; 375, 2, 6c; 378, 7, 2c; 460, 7, 2c; 477, 15c; and 480, 2, 8c. Wanted breech loading shot gun, bicycle, and trays. Singles *italicized*. GEO. H. YOUNGMAN, McYean, Ill.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Birds' eggs, skins, minerals, fossils, shells, Indian and war relics, coins, medals, tokens, stamps, colonial, continental, U. S. and confederate money, state notes, broken bank bills, curiosities etc.; for same. E. M. HAIGHT, Box 24, Riverside, Calif.

WILL EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of fossils and minerals: for good bicycle, safety preferred. All answered. T. S. HILL, Knoxville, Iowa.

BOYS Useful Pastimes, Rollo's Experiments and Museum, Tyndall's Forms of Water, and Bird Preserving, all in good condition, cost \$1.60 or Ohio Palaeontology; for Jordan Manual or Lattin's climbers. J. C. GALLOWAY, Montgomery, Ohio.

EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.—I have a few South American birds' eggs, such as Falkland Thrush, Perdix, etc. (for description of latter see Youth's Companion, 1889, No. 51 or 52) to exchange for first-class birds' eggs in original sets with complete No. 8 data. No post-cards wanted. All acceptable offers answered. W. MORGAN MARTIN, St. Louis, Mo.

I WOULD like to correspond with persons, who have got Indian relics, to sell or exchange, from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Connecticut. J. W. JACKSON, Belchertown, Mass.

WANTED.—The address of a few western or southern collectors, who would like to collect skins for me this spring, can give good exchange in rare eggs, skins, eyes, or will pay cash. Send list of what you can collect. JAS. P. BABBITT, 10 Hodge's Ave., Taunton, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set of 5 eggs and one of 2 eggs, No. 53 and others, first-class with full data; for pair of climbing irons, strapped, write first. CHAS. WISE, York, Ala.

TO EXCHANGE.—A new model champion single-barrel, breech loading shot gun, 12 bore, side snap, patent fore end fastenings, pistol grip stock, double bolt and rubber butt; for the best offer in bird skins or first-class typewriter. The gun is in perfect order. Gnills and Sea birds preferred. WM. T. SMITH, Wayne, Del. Co., Pa.

TO GIVE Eastern and Southern collectors a chance to procure my lined and unlined trays cheap in exchange for eggs, skins, curiosities, etc., I have moved here. All trays made to order (any size) of strong, pure white cardboard, cloth corners. Send list of what you have. Samples for stamp. E. J. SCHAEFER, 407 Second St., New Orleans, La.

TO EXCHANGE.—Black Walnut shot gun case, worth \$3.00, finely finished and lined with plush, brass mountings, lock and key, places for 50 shells, wads and loading tools; I will exchange for best offer of first-class eggs, with data. GEO. W. MORSE, Box 731, Moberly, Mo.

DOUBLE barrel shot gun, breech loading preferred, repeating rifle, Colt, Remington or Smith & Weston revolver; will give cash in exchange or eggs in sets, books, watch and many other articles, or will exchange for cash. C. BYRON, VANDYCOOK, Odin, Ills.

WANTED.—At once, a pair of climbing irons will give in exchange a magic lantern and slides, worth \$4.50. L. L. KNOX, Giddings, Tex.

WANTED.—To exchange skins of this locality for others. Only first-class skins wanted and sent. Address, GEORGE P. BUTLER, 946 Jones St., Augusta, Ga.

NOTICE!—A watch, rifle and a white swan stuffed to exchange for first-class birds' eggs. All letters answered. Address, STANTON R. CLARK, Mukwonago, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Legerdemain cabinet and 220 cigarette pictures; for good U. S. or foreign stamps. H. G. LEAVITT, 16 S. Arlington Ave., East Orange, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A legerdemain outfit, Vols. VII, IX and X, Golden Days, and St. Nicholas for '85 and '86; for a detective camera with complete outfit. Write first. FRANK D. JANVIER, Box 128, New Castle, Del.

LOOK! LOOK!! LOOK!!! I have a collection of eggs valued at \$15; will exchange for a 32 cal. S. and W. revolver. Address, ERNEST E. LEE, Covington, Ga.

WANTED—to purchase a good collection of birds' eggs, side-blown, in sets or single, cash paid for same. A. C. RANDALL, Ast. P. M., 31-33 Main St., St Johnsbur, Vt.

CAMERA nearly new for \$6.00 cash, outfit complete. Double barrel breech-loader, \$12.00 good as new. Fishing outfit, jointed pole, 75 ft. of line, 20 hooks, 2 snelled hooks 2 feather-baited, reel, bait can etc. \$1.50; will exchange if desirable. LETSON BALLIET, Des Moines; Iowa.

WANTED—to exchange fine job printing for a Flobert rifle or for first-class eggs. W. R. CONE, Gilman, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Four hundred American and foreign post marks, all different; for best offer of bird skins, eggs or Indian relics. \*J. T. FITCHETT, Beaver Dam, Wis.

WANTED.—A photo outfit, for which I will give first-class bird skins and eggs in sets. Send description and receive list of skins. WM. BERMAN, 1050 Ingraham St., Los Angeles, Calif.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine collection 563 foreign stamps, value \$22; will exchange for books on Ornithology and Oology. GLENN LEVINGS, Potsdam, St. Lawrence Co. N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Bancroft's History of the Colonies, new, cloth, 500 pages, 2 vol. in one; for Davie's Nests and Eggs. T. A. CLARK, Carthage, Indiana.

EGGS in sets to exchange for same. All letters answered. MILTON C. HOWE, Monson, Mass.

I HAVE Governor, Costume, Hero, Terrors of America, and Shadow Albums; will exchange for birds' eggs in sets. CLARENCE and EDGAR PARCHMAN, Okolona, Miss.

WILL every person in the State of Michigan who is interested in Ornithology send me their address. ADOLPHE B. COVERT, Washington St. West, Ann Arbor, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—Live Exotic cocoons; for American Cocoons and pupae. PROF. CARL BRAUN, Bangor, Me.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few International Revenue stamps which I wish to exchange for first-class eggs in sets. Address, R. A. POMROY, 20 Summers St., Bangor, Me.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

FOR EXCHANGE.—I have 26 varieties of first-class Eggs to exchange for a good Waterbury Watch, or 22 or 32 cal. revolver, either single or double action. A. B. ROBERTS, Weymouth, Medina Co., Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have the following first-class singles: Ridgeways Nos. 4, 66, 223, 394, 408, 567 and 579. No postals. Address, R. W. PATTERSON, Box 247, Parkersburg, W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—Breech loading shot gun, an 4x5 camera complete also some slate off of John Brown's fort at Harper's Ferry, W. Va.; for best offer in coins and other curios. EUGENE SHUGART, Charlestown, Jeff. Co. W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—Vol. II Golden Days, No. 20 to 52. Magic Lantern with slides, Hero and Shadow Album and some novels. Yours truly, GUY R. JONES, 103 South 8th St., Allentown, Penn.

COLLECTION of several hundred varieties of first-class Eggs in sets with full data, for sale cheap. Write for list enclosing stamp. N. R. CHRISTIE, Rye Patch, Nevada.

YOU should use my *Oological Labels*, for sale for a short time at 20c per 100. Order now. Samples 2c stamp. O. E. CROOKER, Madison, Wis.

## ⇒ AGENTS ⇐

33

## RUBBER STAMP

Of 1, 2, 3, or 4 lines with Pads and Ink  
ONLY 33c.

R. W. FORD, Bristol, Conn.

## ⇒ WANTED ⇐

I Imported Japanese & Indian Silk Worm  
Eggs for Seed, in Silk Culture.

Different species, also the celebrated Madras Silk Cocoons, warranted to be raised successfully in this country. Directions given how to raise them profitably. Prices Low.

PROF. CARL BRAUN,  
NATURALIST,

BANGOR, - - - MAINE.

1891 EDITION NOW READY.  
19TH YEAR.

## Bullinger's Postal and Shippers' Guide.

Every place in the United States and Canada (about 95,000) with the railroad station and express for every place—the cheapest book ever published. You should have the new edition. Price, in paper covers, \$2.50; in cloth covers, \$3.00, delivery to be paid by buyer. E. W. BULLINGER, 75 Fulton St., New York, N. Y.

## CHICKENS FOR SALE

Pure Langshans cocks, also a pure Plymouth Rock. Eggs of the finest Langshaus for sale, \$1.50 per setting. Send for prices. I will offer the cocks very low for the next 30 days. HENRY C. BRIDGERS, Tarboro, N. C.

## AT LESS THAN WHOLESALE

## FOR CASH.

At my Ann Arbor store I have the following goods which I will sell at the following low rates, for cash, if ordered by Feb. 15th.

If you can use them, speak quick, as you cannot better or equal these prices in America. All goods shipped by freight or express at purchaser's expense from our Michigan store.

500 Milk Stromba's or small White Conchs, good Aquaria or Out-door Ornamental Work, 40c per Doz., \$2.00 per 100.

50 large pieces Bud Coral, *Galaxea cespitosa*, 20c each, \$1.50 per Doz.

50 Cameo or Bullmouth Shells, dead, 50c size, 15c each, \$1.25 per Doz.

2 Bbls. W. I. Branch Coral, *Madrepora cervicornis*, runs about 2 bushels solid coral to Bbl., \$8.00 per Bbl., \$5.00 per ½ Bbl., \$3.00 per ¼ Bbl., or \$1.00 per gallon.

¼ Bbl. finely mixed West Indies Shells, No. 150 Cat., \$1.00 per gallon; 10 Gal. lots, \$7.50.

300 White Murex, 15 to 25c sizes, \$1.00 per Doz., \$7.50 per 100.

300 Spider Shells, 15 to 25c Spec., 75c per Doz., \$5.00 per 100.

1000 Sun and Moon Shells, (No. 140 Cat.) for painting, worth 10 to 25c retail, 75c per Doz., \$5.00 per 100; 100 selected 2d quality Shells at 40c per Doz., \$3.00 per 100.

1 soap box full Minerals, mostly Pearl Spar and Calcite Xtal Specimens, lot for only \$5.00.

Large Furblo Clams, 75c each, \$6.00 per Doz.; Medium Furblo's, 35c each, \$3.50 per Doz.

300 Sea Fans, 10 to 50c sizes, assorted, \$1.00 per Doz., \$5.00 per 100.

100 Rose Corals, *Manecina areolata*, good, 75c Doz., \$5.00 per 100; 100 poor, 40c Doz., \$3.00 per 100.

50 large Sea Beavers, 25c each, \$2.00 per Doz.

200 Curio Sponges, assorted at from 50c to \$2.00 per Doz.

Shell, Mineral or Curio Collections at any price from \$2.00 to \$100.00.

We also have a large collection of each Rocks, Minerals and Butterflies; also a Whale's Rib and Vertebratae; a 2-ft. Chinese Pagoda, bronze; a large piece of Tapa Cloth from Samoa.

We may close our Ann Arbor store during the latter part of February and would rather bring back the CASH than ship our goods home; hence are willing to let our patrons have the above goods at prices quoted.

All prices quoted in January OOLOGIST for Agate and other goods will hold good through February.

While all goods will be shipped from Ann Arbor, it may be better, in order to reach me personally and avoid any possible delay, to address me at headquarters.

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, - N. Y.

# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1891.

No. 2

## Flycatcher Notes.

Students of bird life often spend a deal of time studying the habits of new, or rare, species, thus, sometimes, failing to note the greater part of all that goes to make the life histories of our common birds—most of which is written so plain by the little feathered autobiographers. Many, I am glad to say, prefer to cultivate a deeper acquaintance with our common door-yard and wood-land birds. It is this one thing which makes the OOLOGIST worth so much to many of us, presenting, as it does, so many interesting notes on species whose identity is so exceedingly general. With this little note, by way of introduction, I offer the following notes on a few of our common birds.

The Kingbird or Bee Martin is found breeding in this locality in most every place where trees of sufficient size are found; except, in woods. It shows a preference for trees standing alone in the center of our fields and along roadsides where a sharp outlook is kept for passing insects, which it generally takes on the wing. Twice I have found nests in trees standing by a pond and in both instances the nest was about 10 ft. from the shore and a little over that in height from the water. In the next tree to one of those containing one of the above nests was a nest of the Wood Pewee containing a full complement of eggs and in a grove hard by I found three nests all containing eggs. Runt eggs of this species are often found. Last summer I passed by a tree in an open field, which, from the noise made by a pair of these birds, led me to look for a nest; but when I found it it was empty. As the birds did not leave I got up in the tree and made a thorough search and was all the more surprised

not to find any young birds. I left the tree thinking how nicely the old birds had fooled me, when, looking back, I saw in one of the large limbs a number of Woodpecker holes. Some of the cavities had been partially torn open, probably by some boy, and I thought it barely possible that the young might be in some of them. I climbed up and after rattling on the limb sure enough out they flew,—three of them—and in a few short flights reached an orchard near by. At each stop the old birds became very much excited and seemed to be urging the young to keep moving. They arrive here about May 10th, but nesting is not generally commenced until the latter part of the month. I have found most all my nests in elm trees and never have found an egg of the Cowbird in this species' nest. How is this in other localities? Most writers speak of the pugnacious disposition of this bird but I am led to believe that some exaggerate the truth somewhat as I have found other species nesting in close proximity to them and never noticed any fights between them. I admit, however, that I have often seen them act the part of a "bully"; that their song, if one may call it one, has a sort of challenging ring; and that they have a savage look; but who can say that this may not be but their way of living up to that well known maxim: "In time of peace prepare for war?"

Although dressed in very plain colors and boasting of no song; yet what lover of birds has not listened, on those frosty spring mornings, when the grass is commencing to green and all Nature is awakening, with as much longing for its tinkling "pe-wee" as for the Bluebird's "Bermuda! Bermuda! Bermuda?" I doubt if any bird is better known or loved, throughout its breeding range,

than this one,—the Pewee. Reaching us a little after the first of April, they soon pair off, and, after inspecting all old sheds, bridges, and culverts, they finally settle down in earnest to the nest-making and afterwards to the raising of the hungry brood. A second nest is sometimes commenced before the young have left the nest. One May morning while strolling along the banks of a small stream, which runs along side of a clay bluff (about 30 ft. high) for quite a distance, I noticed a green ball of moss on the perpendicular side of the bluff, and, out of curiosity, threw a stone at it. I was surprised to see a Phoebe leave the spot and climbing to the top of the bluff I looked down and saw a beautiful nest of this species containing a full set of eggs. On account of a number of springs, which trickled down from the top, the moss, of which the framework of the nest was composed, was always kept green. The young reached maturity; yet the danger during rains must have been great. A pair of Kingfishers, nesting in the same bluff, seemed to take great sport in scaring the wits out of the sitting bird and the young by flying back and forth over the nest, just as near as they could, making a great noise; but it seemed to me purely in sport. About two rods from this nest, in the stream, was a stump which had been brought down by the spring freshet and the roots had become filled with drift material. In this drift, not over eight inches from the water, a Phoebe had built her nest, and, while listening to the purring, water had brought up her brood.

Arriving about a month after this species and none the less highly esteemed, by those who do not confuse the two species, is the Wood Pewee.

The songs of the two birds are very much the same but the way Wood Pewee renders his puts him far in advance as a musician. And how beautifully

Wood Pewee can harmonize his song with his surroundings so we ever come to associate it with his haunts, and, when wandering through our beautiful groves, listen, unknowingly, for his sweet cadence. It always gives me a thrill of pleasure when I find its nest, for to me, when containing its complement of eggs, it presents such a beautiful contrast; and I doubt if I ever shall experience as much joy when I find my first Ruby-throat's nest, if I ever do, as I did when I found my first Wood Pewee's nest. Two broods are often raised in a season as I found on Aug 30, '89 four nests of this species all containing eggs. Six nests, lying before me, average two inches in diameter and three-fourths of an inch in depth inside. One of these nests is lined with wool and I have collected two sets lined with skeletons of leaves with but a slight covering of bark fibers over them. The nests are always on a horizontal limb and sometimes saddled on a crotch. Most of my nests were found in oak trees in woods which are high and dry. Only twice, have I found nests in butternut and once in ash trees. Sometimes the eggs are deposited at quite a little time from each other but I never noticed, myself, whether they all hatched. My friend, Mr. Strong, did watch, however, and he found, in one case, that one egg was deposited nearly two weeks before the rest; but on careful observation he decided that it never hatched. Mr. Strong found, also, a most beautiful nest of this species which was lined with the green seed-pods of a weed found growing near by and when just completed was very striking. It is very easy to locate nests of this bird but not so easy to find them even when you know about which tree they are in so much do they look like the tree.

The Least Flycatcher is often seen in this locality but I never have been so fortunate as to find its nest with eggs.

Messrs. Strong and Sherin have both taken sets here. Mr. Strong taking three sets last season. One of the nests which he gave me looks very much, as Langille and Davie both say, like the American Redstart's nest. My nest measures, inside,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches in depth. It is composed of vegetable fibers, thistle down, string, some silk cord, horse hair, one or two long straws, and a little dried grass. Mr. Strong found in one or two of the nests fibers from the milk-weed. The eggs are out of proportion compared with the size of the nest but would not be apt to be confused with those of other species when accorn panned with nest. Most nests are placed about ten feet from the ground and often in the young growth of trees along our river bottoms; but Mr. Strong has found two nests in orchard trees. They breed about the first of June in this locality; generally a little later.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

#### Collecting in the Marsh.

On May 11th, a friend and I started up the Mississippi River in a small boat for Sping Lake to look for water birds' eggs. After a hard row of five miles, we arrived at the lake at 11 o'clock a. m. We then proceeded to the head of the lake and arrived there at noon. After eating our dinner we left the boat and began to wade among the rushes. I had not gone very far before I flushed a Sora Rail. I found the nest at the foot of a clump of rushes. It contained ten eggs. The nest was made of last year's reeds and lined with a few small pieces of the leaves of the surrounding rushes. It was very compact and did not look large enough to hold all the eggs as some of them were piled on top of the others.

After wading around for some time I found a Marsh Hawk's nest containing

five young birds and an egg. Some of the birds were quite large and showed fight. I took the egg which I afterward found to be rotten. By this time I began to feel a little tired so we got into the boat and started back.

On the way down I found two Florida Gallinules' nests with seven eggs in each nest. The nests were built in a clump of rushes and were composed of last year's rushes, and were lined with the leaves of the same. The eggs were a creamy-buff, thickly spotted with dark brown and amber.

Several Black Terns began flying around us uttering sharp cries. I thought they must have nests and began to search for them. After searching awhile we collected a set of three and a set of two eggs. Also two singles. The nests were on decayed vegetable matter and sunken muskrat houses, and I found one egg on a stump. A few pieces of rushes were on the nests to keep the eggs from rolling off. Eggs were all fresh.

We had not paddled very far when my friend found an American Coot's nest containing seven eggs. They were a creamy-white uniformly spotted with dark brown and black. This lake is a favorite breeding place for these birds. Where the water is clear it is "black" with them. It is quite a sight for the collector when they leave the water. We found a large number of their nests. Some of the birds would not leave the nest until we could nearly touch them with a paddle.

Next we found several nests of the Pied-billed Grebe. The usual number of eggs in a nest was seven, sometimes only six. Most of the eggs were covered with green vegetable matter.

Among other birds that abound here are the Yellow-headed Blackbirds. We collected quite a number of these eggs.

A large number of Ducks breed here, but we were not enabled to find any on that day; although I have found them before.

I hope this will be of interest to the readers, of the OOLOGIST and that we will see more articles in its columns on water birds.

F. C. SHEPHERD,  
Hastings, Minn.

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### House Finch.

(*Carpodacus frontalis*.)

A common resident of all parts of California is the House Finch, or as he is more commonly termed Red-headed Linnet. I have found this species of *Fringillidae* very common in Southern California where the serenity of nature is undisturbed by wintry blasts, where frost and storms are unknown.

The House Finch is a sweet songster; from any suitable perch, a tree, chimney, fence, or house-top. The merry song of this bird may be heard in any month of the year. Spring and Summer are to him days of sweetest bliss; feeding and singing, singing and feeding from morning till night. How often does he visit the cherry orchard, but does he not pay for the cherries in songs? I fear, however, the farmers prefer the more substantial, money realizing cherries, rather than the pleasant songs. To-day in mid-winter I heard a little fellow on the top of a neighboring barn singing with all his might. Perhaps the bright sun and green fields reminded him of his distant summer home which he had just left cold, dreary and lifeless. He must have been a stranger for his song seemed to out-class the songs of our birds which have grown somewhat indolent basking in the rays of an ever genial sun. The invigorating sight was conducive to such a song; everything was green with a cloudless sky overhead, the gentlest of breezes played carelessly in an orange grove below exposing, now and then through the leaves as they opened and closed with the varying winds, rich

golden oranges. A strawberry patch lay close at hand and from this the little rascal had just emerged after having a delicious feast, yes, a feast on rich, red strawberries in mid-winter. He sang as if his little throat would burst, his form quivered with the fervor of his song—ample remuneration was given for the few berries he had taken. At last his song ceased, and with a few merry chirps he threw himself into the air and was soon lost to sight. I will wager, however, the strawberry patch will receive another visit from this same roguish little fellow, but let him come with that cheerful song—he is a welcome visitor.

Although his habitat is confined to the temperate parts of Western North America. I venture to say that the House Finch has as much bird knowledge and experience as any cosmopolite in the feathered world. Quick yet dignified in actions, pleasant in appearance, sweet and cheerful in song, the House Finch has made himself a favorite in the homes of the West.

As may be expected, the House Finch is not select in its site for a home. After match-making is over, any place that suits the artless fancy of the birds is chosen as the place for their home, then both male and female go to work with a will collecting roots, bits of paper, strings horse hair, in fact anything readily obtained, The nest is soon constructed and in it are placed four or six bluish-white eggs, dotted with dark brownish black. The eggs are about size of those of the Orchard Oriole, perhaps a trifle smaller. I well remember my first find as an oologist was a set, of this species. I remember how I scrambled out on the horizontal limb of an oak, swaying to and fro with the breeze while a friend coaxed me on with flattering terms only used by those who stand on the solid earth. I got that nest and carried it home in triumph,

but alas those eggs are no longer among existing things, they have passed into that great oblivion of demolished oological specimens from which they never will nor never can return.

HARRY C. LILLIE,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

#### Bald and Golden Eagles in Iowa.

Bluffton is a village about 12 miles from Decorah. As its name indicates, there are a number of high bluffs near the village. Both Golden and Bald Eagles had been seen a number of times by different parties. At last Chas. Jackson made up his mind that there were eagles nesting there, he began to look and, after a time, he found their nest on Silver Creek, about 5 miles from Bluffton, but secured no eggs, as it was then winter.

He then set a trap and captured first a Golden Eagle, (a very large one) then, setting it again, he captured a Bald Eagle measuring 8 ft. from tip to tip.

That there are many eagles there is no doubt. A Mr. Neill, the miller, has told me that he frequently seen them from his mill.

This gentleman also saw one Golden and one Bald Eagle on his way home from Bluffton to Decorah last Friday.

I shall investigate the matter myself in the spring as I am going up there.

A. V. THOMSON,  
Decorah, Ia

#### A Curious Pair of Swallows.

A pair of swallows built their nest in the highest part of our barn; when all the other swallows left I still noticed this pair of swallows flying about catching flies and feeding their young. Now last week, the 19th of Nov., I missed the swallows, and in order to clean the barn I took a stick and poked the old nests down. Now here I found two (2) young swallows so I picked them up

and examined them and noticed that neither had wings nor legs—there were no signs of either. I pulled the feathers away to see, but the skin was just as smooth there as on the breast.

I would like to hear of any of the readers if they ever run across a bird like these two.

V. LINSENBARTH,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

#### Nesting of *Spinus pinus* in the North-west.

Although the Pine Siskin is listed in most of the northern localities as common or perhaps abundant, there has been but little said about the nesting habits.

In this section it begins to carry building material about the 15th or latter part of April and fresh eggs may be found as early as May 1st.

It generally nests in fir trees, but nests have been found in both maple and oak trees. They are placed from eight to twenty-five feet from the ground.

A set of three eggs before me was taken May 7, 1889. The nest was placed on the end of a fir bough, eight feet up, and composed of fir twigs and grass, and lined with hair. The eggs are pale greenish-blue in color, sparingly spotted near the larger end with reddish-brown and pale lilac, and average .63 x .49 in size.

Three eggs seem to be the standard number in a set here, for out of several taken, (among which two sets were incubated) none of them contained over three eggs.

CLYDE L. KELLER,  
Salem, Oregon.

#### Early Nesting of *Bubo Virginianus*.

H. E. Hershey, of Nebraska City, Neb., thinks he is entitled to a medal for taking a set of two eggs of the Gt. Horned Owl, on Jan 17th, but as C. B. Vandycook reports a set of three on Jan. 10th, "ten days along," we hardly think it would be fair to send him one.

# THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## A Correction.

If the observer, who writes from Conn. in January number of the OOLOGIST, had taken a little more pains to inform himself, he never would have made such a random assertion about the Sparrow Hawk as is contained in the latter portion of his article. It does not seem to me to be the part of a true ornithologist to so condemn any bird, without a long series of most careful and accurate observations.

In the works of nearly every ornithological writer, may be found favorable mention of the Sparrow Hawk; and the report for 1887 of the Ornithologist and Mammalogist of the Department of Agriculture furnishes conclusive evidence of this little falcon's good qualities. It is there seen from the table of

stomach contents, that out of 133 stomachs examined, only 29 contained birds of any kind, while 15 of these contained also small mammals, insects, or larvae. Of the remainder a very large proportion contained small quadrupeds (principally mice) or insects.

In light of these facts it is safe to assume that our friend erred through ignorance rather than an intention to mislead.

H. C. OBERHOLSER,  
Wooster, O.

## A Large Set or Series of the Red-headed Woodpecker.

While looking over some back numbers of the OOLOGIST, I saw recorded several large sets of the Red-headed Woodpecker. I think that I can beat all previous finds, if the following series of eggs, can be considered a set.

On May 5th, 1890, while collecting eggs in an old orchard, I saw a Red-headed Woodpecker fly out of a hole in an large apple tree. I climbed up to it. Instead of cutting the hole open in the usual way, I cut a small aperture a little larger than an egg, near the bottom of the nest, and obtained 5 fresh eggs by means of a bent wire. I plugged the aperture with a piece of wood, thinking that the bird might lay again.

On May 12th, I chanced to pass the same tree, and thought I would see if any more eggs had been laid. I found that it contained 5 more fresh eggs. I again visited it on May 17th, and got 4 eggs. I took 5 more from the same nest on May 25th, and 5 more May 31st, and 4 more June 4th.

During a storm, the plug of wood was blown out, and it rained in the nest and the birds deserted it. Three weeks later, to my surprise, I found that the bird had built a new nest in the same tree, and it contained 4 young birds. The entire series of 28 eggs being taken in 31 days.

C. C. BACON, Bell, Ky.

### The Barred Owl.

This wonderful bird is found throughout New England. Its plumage is extremely soft and cinereous, which combined with its great breadth of wings, makes it remarkable for its soft, rapid and noiseless flight.

The reports that it preys upon fish are probably false, but if it does prey upon them it is a very rare occurrence, and then only when pressed by hunger. It is very easily tamed and at once becomes a very interesting and amusing pet.

A Barred Owl that is in my possession, I keep in the hay-loft of a barn. When I go to feed it, it flies down and alights on a beam, close by me, and there allows himself to be fed. If a stranger comes into the loft however, the owl at once spreads out his wings, and ruffling his feathers, he snaps his bill and winks at the intruder.

One day a kitten got into the owl's domains and there was at once great confusion. I heard the noise and went to the kitten's rescue but not before her back was bleeding from the sharp talons of the owl. Not knowing whether my bird was able to supply himself with food or not, I did not feed him for eight days. On the morning of the ninth day, on showing him his meat, he grasped it in his talons, and then before eating it he disgorged a ball about the size of silk-worm's cocoon. On examining it, I found that it was composed entirely of fine hairs and the vertebra of a mouse. This showed me he was clearing the loft of its mice and could take care of himself in case of my absence.

When the owl is hungry or lonesome, he utters a long sad wail, which sounds like the cry of an infant. On offering him a pigeon he will ruffle his feathers, and if it is put close to him he will strike at it with his wings.

Most people believe that the Barred

Owl, or any owl for that matter, is only able to see in the dark. Probably this is merely supposition, as my owl can see as well in the day time as any other bird I have ever seen in captivity.

EDWARD FULLER,  
Norwich, Conn.

### Yellow-breasted Chat.

(*Icteria virens*.)

This brightly plumaged warbler is quite plentiful in this locality (Hudson Co., N. J.) though not often seen on account of its retiring habits.

The color of an adult male is as follows: Above, olive-green or olive-grayish; the throat, chest and breast, rich gamboge yellow; belly, anal region, and under tail coverts, white; eyelids, supraloral streak and malar stripe, white; lores deep black. It measures in length from 7.00 to 8.00 inches, wing 3.05 to 3.35, tail 3.30 to 3.60. The coloring in the female corresponds to that of the male, except being some what duller, and the black and white markings less contrasted.

The nest is generally placed in clumps of bushes or briars from two to three and one-half feet from the ground. A nest found May 30, 1890, containing four fresh eggs, which were glossy-white, with a pinkish cast spotted with madder-brown and lilac-grey. The nest (a typical one) was composed outside of withered leaves, grape-vine bark and grass; lined with finer grass. Three to five eggs represent a clutch of this species. The eggs vary in size from .84 to .95 inches length, and .65 to .70 inches breadth.

*Icteria virens* is an inhabitant of the briars, brambles, bushes and such shrubbery as grows most luxuriantly in low wet places. Its principal food, larvae and insects, seldom leading it higher than the tops of the under brush.

JOHN LUHRMAN,  
Jersey City, N. J.

### Anna's Hummingbird.

This beautiful little hummingbird is quite plentiful in this locality, being seen in most every orchard and flower garden nearly all the year around. The male is of a green color on the back and top of head, and throat (when held to the sun at a certain position) of a glowing red color. The female being of a plain color and without the nice throat and top of head.

In Nov. and Dec. these hummingbirds begin to mate by flying in pairs one after the other at a very fast speed all through orchards and air, and in as early as Feb. they begin to nest till as late as July.

Last season I took one nest in Feb. and another in March, both not being more than 50 feet apart. I suppose they were built by the same pair.

The nests of this bird can be found in willow, sycamore, live oak, orange, peach and plum trees; in fact they have no special choice. I have found one nest placed on a bud of a thistle; the nest was built of a material of the same color as the bud, thus making it very hard to find.

These birds may be found to nest in orchards, on mountains, in swamps, in canons, and along streams.

The nests are built of the down of trees or other vegetation, and always has such a color as to look the object in which it is built.

As this is one of the commonest of our hummingbirds I take it up first, but later on I will let the readers know something about others of this locality.

A. W. NOLTE,  
Los Angeles, Cal.

### Birds North of Their Usual Range.

Returning here in June, from a collecting trip along the Mexican Border, I immediately began to look after the birds, hoping to fill up a few gaps in my list of skins or eggs.

While shooting one day on a range of high hills about a mile west of this place, I took a Wood Thrush. This surprised me; as in many years collecting I had never seen or heard of one here before, and the books all agree that their northern limit is farther south.

A few days later I took two others and saw more. They seemed to be common.

I also found a nest with one egg, but when I went to it again it had been destroyed.

Now this place is in the north part of Washington Co., N. Y., on the Vermont line, and about even with the south end of Lake Champlain.

While on the same hills one day I heard the well-known notes of the Yellow-breasted Chat, but did not take the bird. A few days later, however, I shot a fine male in the same locality, and have no doubt the pair were breeding.

Subsequently, in a dense thicket, and three miles away, I heard another Chat singing, and saw a female bird very distinctly. They seem to have the same habits as the Long-tailed Chat of which I have taken a great many. At times I find them singing and have no trouble to shoot them. Again they will get into a thicket of vines and bushes, and I have watched for them two hours, hearing them all the time, but going away without getting a shot.

Now with a very mild winter and early spring, did the birds go farther north than usual that they should appear where never seen before?

I have also known of three instances where the Orchard Oriole has nested in this town.

F. T. PEMBER,  
Granville, N. Y.

### Egg Collecting—The Two Classes.

For convenience in writing this article, I have divided my subject into two

classes, viz.: Scientific collecting, and collecting simply for the purpose of having a collection. The former should be allowed, the latter suppressed, and the sooner the better.

A great deal of complaint is being made about the destruction of our native birds by killing and by the robbing of their nests, but this complaint is mostly done by those who do not stop to make any distinction between these two classes of collectors.

The destruction done in the name of science is not one-half so great as the wanton destruction done by the boys who collect eggs, put them on a string, and pride themselves on having the greatest number of eggs of the robin or catbird.

One case comes to my mind while writing, of two boys who, in one day, gathered together 64 eggs of the catbird, and all these were broken by them, not one being kept to grace the cabinet of even a "Great American Egg Hog!"

The nests robbed by this class of collectors are mostly those of the small insectivorous birds which nest in our gardens and orchards, the collectors usually lacking that knowledge of birds which enables them to discover any nests except those upon which they stumble by mere chance.

In most states there is a law prohibiting the robbing of birds' nests. I think that scientific collectors should be protected, but the other class should be watched closely and punished to the extent of the law for each and every offense.

To the "Egg Hog" the bird's egg is nothing, and to him it appears as of no more value than an oval stone, while to the scientific collector it is the most wonderful thing in the world.

It makes my blood boil within me to think of the great number of eggs that are taken each year, without the cause of science for the collector to lean on.

But, after all the complaint that has been made against the wanton plundering of birds' eggs, is there any way of putting a stop to it?

If any of the readers of the OOLOGIST have an opinion on this matter, I would like to hear from them, either personally or through the pages of the OOLOGIST.

"AIX SPONSA,"  
Nebraska City.

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#### A Perfect Collection.

It has occurred to me to write a short sketch of a valuable collection of eggs made here in Michigan, and of its owner who possesses some peculiar and laudable traits as a collector. The gentleman referred to is Mr. K. R. Wilhelm of this city, Kalamazoo. The sketch given here would appear like an advertisement for him did I not assure your readers that M. W. has never sold any eggs or made any exchanges from his collection.

Mr. Wilhelm has been engaged in the scientific collecting of eggs for eight years and has devoted his spare time to this interesting pursuit from February to July each season. His occupation is such as to demand nearly all of his attention during the spring months and therefore his time in the field is often limited to a very few days. The devotion exhibited in collecting is only surpassed by his superior skill in preparation of his eggs, and for conscientious work in saving specimens advanced in incubation, it is fair to say that he has no superior. To my knowledge he has removed the contents of the larger hawks' eggs when ready to hatch, through one hole of three-sixteenths inch size. His skill and process of preparing eggs are entirely from his own efforts and study and are the outcome of patience and love of a perfect collection.

Mr. Wilhelm is an intrepid climber

and the feats that he performs if recorded would only be believed by others of equal powers. Climbing smooth-barked sycamores of from six to ten feet in circumference are easy performances for him and I have seen him ascend a tree five feet in diameter. Not long since the tackle at the top of our city weather-signal pole became clogged and a big reward was offered to anyone who would ascend the pole and arrange the ropes. All the telegraph pole climbers in the city bluffed at it, but Wilhelm went to the top—one hundred and thirty feet—arranged the tackle and came down again in six minutes. Not less than three thousand people witnessed the performance.

Of course it will be remarked that such a climber would be valuable as a collector of hawks' eggs, and it may be said that his skill as a climber is a direct result of his liking for eggs of hawks and owls, and some of his scores indicate his success in this line of collecting. Perhaps his largest score is one made during the past season, when in a three days' float down the St. Joseph river, he collected one hundred and thirteen eggs of the *Buteos*. On single days he has taken over fifty hawks' eggs and I have seen him collect over forty Cooper's and Red-shouldered's eggs in ten hours. It must not be thought that hawks' eggs are more plentiful here than elsewhere, the point of his success lying in his accurate knowledge of the habits of the birds, covering a large tract of territory in a day and quick climbing.

Many of his hawks' and owls' eggs are blown with so small a hole that nothing larger than a No. 10 shot pellet will pass in and all are perfect; in fact I have never yet seen so perfect a collection as his. He has never added to his collection by exchange or purchase, preferring to collect all his sets alone.

SCOLOPAX.

### Texas Notes.

This locality is probably a very rich ornithological field; but there seems to be a scarcity of collectors here.

Though during the last season, I have had very little time to collect eggs, I managed to spend the latter part of the season in the observation of the species here which are mostly new to me, I having lived in Kansas for the last nine years and just arriving in this county at the beginning of the season.

Among the birds which I noticed first were the Nonpareils or Painted Buntings, the Roadrunners, Loggerhead Shrikes and Scissor Tailed-flycatchers, all of whom were new to me. The Shrikes are unusually voracious and will even dash into houses in their attempts to kill canary and other cage birds. The Loggerhead in striking a bird in a cage usually manage to strike it squarely on the neck, nearly severing the head from the body. One raided a cage of my canaries early this year, and was only killed after having made way with one, and seriously wounding another.

The birds which are most common here are Turkey Buzzards, Mocking-birds, Catbirds, Robins and Field Larks, which are here by the thousands at the present time.

While boating on the Brazos, one day, I noticed quite a number of Herons, Cranes and other long-legged birds, but could not get close enough to find out definitely of what species they were.

I have also observed several species of Hawks and Owls, and a solitary White Pelican.

I would like to hear more from Texas collectors through the columns of the OOLOGIST.

J. K. STRECKER, JR.,  
Waco, Tex.

# PRIVATE COLLECTION FOR SALE!

By F. T. JENCKS, (Formerly Southwick & Jencks).

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| Franklin's Gull            | 3         | .75    | Wood Pewee                 | 3        | 15   |
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| Royal Tern                 | s         | .40    | Trail's Flycatcher         | 4        | 20   |
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# OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1891.

No. 3

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25¢ per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25¢. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

**WANTED.**—To correspond with anyone that is interested in getting up a collection of minerals by exchange. A. E. COLE, East Concord, N. H.

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**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

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Exchanges and Wants continued on second inside cover page.

# THE OOLOGIST

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., MARCH, 1891.

No. 3

## A New Year's Soliloquy.

'Tis New Year's day, and around many of our homes the snow, covers hill and dale, and perhaps is falling fast, while around others, the green valley and hills lie before us, and there we find the many birds who have left their colder clime for the milder.

How many of us to night sit by the open fire place, and with slippers feet against the fender, we are looking over and studying the many notes found in our note book of years past. and then we pause a moment in those fond recollections, and our thoughts wander into the future and we wonder what the coming year of '91 has in store for us.

For the earnest and careful student, of ornithology, this year will bring its many surprises as has the past.

For what can be more pleasant, than when out on some pleasant morning's stroll you stumble (I say *stumble* for this is the way we often come across our most favorite finds) upon some pretty warbler's nest hitherto unknown to you.

This is a surprise indeed, and our hearts seem fairly to leap up in our throats as the saying goes, as we sit down, and write a few hasty notes, thinking to recall the rest when we get home.

But alas we were to hasty, for when we get home, after collecting a dozen sets perhaps, we find we cannot recall definitely which it was that had a certain peculiarity, and in this way lose many valuable points and facts.

Therefore I say, do not be so hasty when you go into the field, take plenty of time have a roomy note book and take down all facts as they appeared and if you collect but one set on your trip it will be of more value than the dozen otherwise collected.

If you find a nest with which you are not acquainted, do not take it but wait until you can procure the bird, for by so doing you have a positive identification, which can in no other way be secured, and when once gotten can never be disputed.

Not only will you work be a pleasure and benefit to you, but to others who perchance may not have had the benefit or advantages which nature has given you.

And again I say collect fewer sets and be more thorough, in the coming—no—in the present year of 1891.

After wandering so aimlessly over my subject we will again return, to where you or I perhaps together with a friend are seated by the open fire place, and comparing our notes books of the old year.

Oh, yes, and here as we turn to page 20, we note:

701, *Cinclus mexicanus*.

### Water Ouzel.

First nest found June 2, containing 4 eggs, incubation slight; color pure white; size .97 x .62. Nest placed on shelf of perpendicular rock about 15 ft. above water, and nest made of moss, round with an entrance on side. A hard climb and fall.

Thus you pause a moment and after addressing your friends perhaps somewhat like this, you say:

Yes, I remember well, what a time I had securing this set and nest. As the rocks were nearly perpendicular and directly above water, I secured a long stout pole and placing it slantingly I began my ascent, but oh! when near the top, by some queer freak the pole suddenly turns and I find myself in the bottom of the creek. Picking myself up, although somewhat wet, I again try the experiment and this time

succeed, and reaching the nest, passing my finger in, I discover 4 eggs.

This is all; my story is told, and only those of you who are earnest students can imagine or have realized the feeling I had, in this my first find of the Water Ouzel.

And thus it is (as we turn over page after page of our note book, each telling a story in connection with our facts,) that we spend so many pleasant winter evenings, and long again for the spring and summer day, when the feathered warblers will again make their home with us, and give to us new stores of valuable information.

Wishing you all a prosperous new year, I remain

DR. A. G. PRILL,  
Sweet Home, Oregon.

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An Ornithological Paradise.

---

May 19, 1890 presented to my view as I opened my bedroom window, an almost matchless morning. A cloudless sky into which the sun was just gliding, a gentle breeze stirring the maple leaves, and the peculiar freshness that spring alone can offer. A splendid day for the woods, so after a hasty breakfast I take my gun, cartridges and fish creel and step across the road to hitch up the horse. Even this early my luck begins for in a small white birch I espy a fine male Cape May Warbler; rather risky to shoot in the city but the rarity of the bird seems to warrant it so a light load is his destruction. In the apple trees around the barn are two Tennessee Warblers but these are left unharmed.

After a drive of two miles in the slushy mud of the city streets I at last emerge into the country and far ahead view my destination, a large clump of pines. Near a farm house I see a pair of Orchard Orioles, the male warbling his pretty song; farther along three brilliant Scarlet Tanagers are indulg-

ing in a free fight over an olive colored maiden while a Red-bellied Nuthatch toots away in applause. In a few moments I am hitching securely to a small tamarack and am just ready to start when I notice a female Yellow Warbler fly into a clump of bushes fifty yards away. Even at that distance something peculiar in her movements arrested my attention and approaching nearer I am delighted to see that it is a male Wilson's Black-capped Warbler. I notice that his movements are rather deliberate and that he is shy, but fearing an escape I suspend further investigation and shoot him at once. In the bushes the Golden-winged Warblers are everywhere uttering a harsh "*che tzay tzay tzay*" while the common birds fairly fill the air with their melody. In all this medley of sound I distinguish a new song proceeding from the lower branch of a young elm; my note book gives the following version: "A. clear sweet song, exquisitely modulated, resembling the syllables, *chera che chera che che che*." The little performer is between me and the sun so no alternative is given to the death of the songster; somewhat to my surprise I find I have secured a male Maryland Yellow-throat.

Then comes the pines. How delightful they are! Pushing through a protecting barrier of raspberry vines I stand within the grand cathedral of Nature. A dim semi-twilight pervades the place through which lofty columns fade away into distance. A solemn hush in the air, even the footsteps are deadened by the soft carpet of needles. Lest all might seem bare and desolate a multitude of vines twine delicate forms about the feet. Lest all might seem lifeless hundreds of voices of Nature sing a beautiful hymn of praise. Here the Ovenbird supplicates with his methodical chant, "teach me teach me;" here the Hermit Thrush rolls forth his grand and soul stirring hymn; here the

Grouse booms on a fallen trunk in rising cadence. It seems that if a person could understand all this, could enter into the spirit of the place, he would have gained Paradise.

Much as I would like to linger yet hosts of Warbler voices in the woods beyond call me onward and I am soon in the thick of battle. Magnolia Warblers have begun to sing, something that I believed they never did in this latitude; in the small evergreens the Canadian and Nashville Warblers are in full song, so my note book and fish creel are rapidly filling. Black-throat Blue Warblers have begun their quaint "che che che che z-u-we e e e e" in the maple woods. Far away the whistles blow for noon so I return to my starting point, shooting the first Crested Flycatcher of the season on the way. After my return home I find my brother has shot a female Cape May Warbler, perhaps the mate of mine, near the barn.

STEWART E. WHITE,  
Grand Rapids (Kent Co.,) Mich.

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"The English Sparrow Must Go."

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In the last number of THE OOLOGIST, Mr. B. S. Bowdish, of Phelps, N. Y., very ably expressed himself in an article headed, "Now,—the time to wage war on the English Sparrow." Mr. Bowdish strikes the nail squarely on the head when he says "now," is the time. "Behold now is the accepted day," might be the motto of every ornithologist and collector in our country would they but arouse themselves to action. "Now" is the time, not only because each and every spring brings a decided increase in the myraid hosts of these, the destroyers of "avine happiness," but this season of the year is peculiarly suitable for a war upon this troublesome pest. As Mr. B. says during the winter season this one species is left almost entirely alone, and pres-

ents itself an isolated object to our raids—for *raids* they should be.

Now any sort of weapon that will kill at short range can be used in this extermination, but about the handiest and cheapest we know of is a 22 calibre rifle using B B caps. This is not only effective but almost noiseless, scarcely any sound being made in the discharge, consequently there can be no objection from any one in regard to the noise, and the sparrows can be reached in their haunts even in the midst of the city. In a certain city in Indiana where these birds were very numerous I have used these caps with telling effect right around the business part of town and no objections to my shooting were raised.

Only two years ago, on coming into this town for the first time, I remarked about the small number of English sparrows there were here. To-day their number has increased 150 per cent from what it was at that time. This is only one of many instances of their rapid growth, and this growth, if not soon checked, will end disastrously to the songsters in our locality.

Let us one and all prepare for action and at once exert all our forces to rid our communities of these intruders and thus befriend the bird creation by destroying their chief enemy.

GUY M. WELLS.  
Gibson, Neb.

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Fond Mothers.

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Whether walking in the field or in the forest, in the meadow or by the brook side, one cannot help but notice the peculiarities of instinct manifest in animal life.

This is in all probabilities more noticeable in birds because they are more domestic and more is seen of them. At any rate the instinct which leads birds to the protection of their eggs and young is truly sublime.

If the nest of the Whip-poor-will be discovered, the owner immediately removes the eggs to a place of greater safety by taking them in his or her capacious mouth and flying off with them.

Imagine yourself if you can, for the time being, walking in the meadow on a bright sunny afternoon in early summer. You notice the wild flowers nodding to you as you pass as if they were bowing to welcome you to their home. You hear the songsters pouring forth their little hymn and anthems.

As you walk along musing on all the glories of Nature and listening to the warblers in the neighboring hedges, you are suddenly surprised to see just in front of you that well known and respected little fowl the quail, while running about her in all directions are to be seen the members of her numerous family, each not much larger than an English walnut; but possessing an untold amount of activity. At a cry from Mrs. Quail you know that you have been discovered and each little quail scurries off to the nearest place of refuge. On a second look you see poor Mrs. Quail tumbling about like a decapitated chicken. You think she is hurt and hurry forward to take her prisoner (the usual first impulse of man) but as you approach she jumps along awkwardly trying to elude your grasp, still you follow her, when suddenly she jumps to her feet and is off with the swiftness of an arrow. For a moment you stand in mute astonishment and then turn to secure the little ones, which you are surprised you have not stepped on. But on a close examination you see they are no where to be found. You have been decoyed into following the parent and the offspring has made good their escape.

The Black-headed Plover of Africa when it observes any one approaching its nest will, with a dexterous movement of the feet, entirely cover the eggs with sand and then, with its head high

in the air, will walk about with as much dignity as a stork as though it would say "Sir, if you are looking for a nest you are in the wrong country."

The Pigny Swift builds its nests by curling up the tip of a leaf on a species of palm tree. This shallow nest swinging at the top of one the tallest of trees you would naturally think a very insecure repository for the pearly eggs, for the slightest breath of wind would be sure to dislodge them. Ah! but the fond mother has also thought of this and prevents it by sticking each egg down to the bottom of the nest with the glutinous saliva which is secreted by so many of this species.

"ELANUS"

D, Ithaca, N. Y.

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#### Passenger Pigeon.

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#### *Editor Oologist:*

Why is it that we hear so little about the Passenger Pigeon? I am sure some of the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to learn something in regard to the present status of this famous bird. Can someone tell us anything about its present breeding place? or is it now so nearly extinct that it has no regular roosts or nesting places such as we used to see in Wisconsin and Michigan, where I have seen millions upon millions of them in perfect clouds so thick as to darken the face of the earth.

I notice in some accounts that it is a question whether this pigeon ever breeds alone in pairs, and in this connection I would say that in 1876 I found a nest, containing one perfectly fresh egg, in an oak tree about thirty feet from the ground in a strip of woodland near Waukegan, Ills. I distinctly saw the bird leave the nest and could easily have killed it had I had a gun. The egg is of rather a dull white and measures 1.50 x 1.05. It is still in my collection. At another time a friend and myself while hunting in the woods along the Des Plaines river in Lake Co.,

Ills., discovered a nest and my friend shot the bird on the nest (the female.) Upon investigation we found two well-incubated eggs—one of them had been broken by the shot, the other I still have. There must be many other cases where these birds have been found nesting in single pairs; and there can be no doubt but what they do. Up to the year 1884 the flights of these pigeons in migrating, as seen both in spring and fall, passing along the lake shore near Waukegan, was sometimes wonderful. Many times as I have watched the countless numbers have I wondered where they all came from; but after having seen one of their breeding places I wondered no longer.

During these flights the woods afforded fine sport for us young hunters, and many a time have I shot from fifty to one hundred before breakfast. I remember one time shooting at a single pigeon in a burr-oak and killing nine, the tree was simply alive with them, although I saw but one on account of the foliage.

Now a pigeon is never seen in this locality, when but a few years ago they were so abundant. Is it a fact that the Passenger Pigeon is nearly extinct? and are we destined soon to speak of it only as a bird of the past. I do not think it possible that when less than a decade ago they were so abundant they can possibly be now near extinction. They must have their breeding places still; perhaps in the far north, perhaps in the west, can anyone tell? if so, let us hear from you.

W. B. PORTER,  
Chicago.

—♦♦♦—  
The Oologist.  
—♦♦♦—

Every egg-collector should be a subscriber of at least one magazine devoted to the study of birds and especially their eggs. The comparatively small number published renders the selection

of a favorite no difficult task. There are, however, certain points to be considered before any choice can be safely arrived at.

In the first place, the collector must decide upon the relative value to himself of the several publications. Then, too, if his means are limited the question of price as well as availability comes up. Hence that magazine that combines cheapness with reliability at once commends itself both to the young and advanced student of ornithology.

At the solicitation of no one, I can recommend, as the direct result of personal observation, THE COLOGIST as the magazine for the collector. Nay, more. I hold it indispensable to the live collector, in that it opens its columns to the communications of those inexperienced in writing. By that I mean that we contributors do not retain any bit of ornithological news that might prove interesting to our fellow-subscribers, because we feel that our article does not teem with beautiful expressions or the choicest of words. Thus many valuable facts are disclosed and preserved that might otherwise have been lost.

The special efforts of late, of the publisher, Mr. Lattin, to improve THE COLOGIST, have not been without success as its many readers can testify. Notwithstanding this, more is promised, if, through our co-operation, the list of subscribers is to any extent increased.

AN OBSERVER,  
Wethersfield, Conn.

—♦♦♦—  
A Correction.

Editor Oologist:

A little mistake appeared in my article which I would like corrected (Fly-catcher Notes, P. 28.) The date on which I collected four sets of Wood Pewee should be Aug. 3d instead of Aug 30, '89.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,  
Madison, Wis.

# THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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\* \* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

### Caracara or Mexican Eagle.

(*Polyboros auauboni*.)

This useful bird is quite common in this section of the state. I have also found them quite abundant on the Gulf Coast, associating with the Black and Turkey Vultures.

Their plumage is very attractive—the white and black being sharply defined—while the yellow of the cere and feet contrasts very nicely.

A friend of mine has collected several sets of two and three eggs annually for several years from the same pair and same nest.

The nest of this pair is placed in a low scrubby tree and is composed of coarse branches laid loosely together forming quite a bulky affair.

On Sept. 12, '90, I shot a beautiful specimen, one shot passing through his head and one of his eyes, thinking him dead, I put him into a sack,—next morning I found him out in the yard; on approaching he left for parts unknown, flying as if hot lead was an every-day diet.

"Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers" and Hummers have visited us in great numbers last season.

I would like to hear from other collectors of the Lone Star State through the columns of the OOLOGIST or by correspondence.

S. W. PARISH,  
Calvert, Texas.

### The Cooper's Hawk.

What collector, who on passing beneath the spreading branches of the sycamore or the tall chestnut tree which seems to touch the very heavens, with collecting box at his side and irons strapped to his back, has not seen circling high above his head the graceful and even beautiful figure of the Cooper Hawk?

This handsome bird although not so large, by several inches, as the Red-tailed Hawk, is to my eyes positively, far more grand and imposing. It may be that my closer attention to the Cooper's Hawk gives me that impression, but I am quite certain that anyone who has made himself acquainted with the true character of each will agree with me.

When out collecting one day last May, I got a shot at a Cooper's Hawk, but did nothing more than to wound it slightly in the wing. It fell to the ground, however, and after a short chase (for although wounded, yet it fluttered along the ground), I came up with it. When I put my hand towards the hawk, it immediately lay on its back and drew its claws in close to its body. I did not expect anything, but when I tried to take it up, its claws flew out

with such force as to open the back of my left hand, and leaving a scar when it healed, about two inches long, which I have to this day.

I took out my handkerchief, and after throwing it over the hawk's head so that he could not see, I put one hand around his legs and the other around his throat, and in about half of an hour he had a new home in the shape of an unused pigeon loft.

The Cooper's Hawk feeds upon mice, rats, etc., with now and then a bird for a change. I have seen Cooper Hawks attempt to catch quail and rabbits, but they invariably lose them by their intended prey taking refuge under brushwood. I have no doubt, however, that quail are caught sometimes when the hawk is hard pressed by hunger.

The Cooper's Hawk generally lays four or five pale blue, unblotched eggs; but I have a set of six in my collection which are all blotched more or less with brick-red colorings, two of the set being very handsome eggs, the colorings being so dark and clear. The hawk is very shy and is never seen close to his nest until after the eggs are hatched.

If a person attempts to rob a nest of its young, then the hawk will circle just above his head and utter whistles or screams in high notes, and try to draw away the thief's attention from the object in quest.

EDWARD FULLER,  
Norwich, Conn.

#### Some Early Winter Birds of Linn Co., Oregon.

List of birds observed at Sweet Home, Ore. during Oct., Nov. and Dec., 1890 and Jan, 1891. A. O. U. Nos.

40a Pacific Kittiwake Gull, *Rissa tri-dactyla pollicaris*. One specimen secured on Dec. 16, '90. Very uncommon in this locality. This bird was found dead near the Santiam River.

132 Mallard, *Anas boschas*. Occasionally seen in flocks of six or seven.

174 Black Brant, *Branta nigricans*.

One specimen shot on Dec. 4, '90, but many seen flying over during migrating season, usually in Oct. and Nov.

194 Great Blue Heron, *Ardea herodias*. Quite common and seen along the rivers and large creeks. It breeds in this vicinity, a pair being located about every half mile along the wooded districts, building their nest in the high firs.

230 Wilson's Snipe, *Gallinago delicata*. Seen in Jan. in flocks of five to twenty, in low marshy ground. Occasionally a single bird is only found. They are not generally found in the same feeding grounds on two consecutive days, but on the third will probably be seen there again. It is a bird swift of flight and hard to shoot.

297a Sooty Grouse, *Dendragapus obscurus fuliginosus*. Seen last in Oct., when they ascend far back and high up in the mountains, returning in April or May, when we are first aware of their presence by the hooting of the males, high up in the fir trees.

300c Oregon Ruffed Grouse, *Bonasa umbellus sabinii*. Very common and a favorite game bird.

325 Turkey Vulture, *Cathartes aura*. Two birds seen Dec. 20, '90, not common during winter.

360 Am. Sparrow Hawk, *Falco Sparverius*. Seen occasionally sitting on some fence in watch for field mice etc.

375a Western Horned Owl, *Bubo virginianus subarcticus*. Very abundant and seen the entire winter except at present date, when they have receded to some dense firs to breed.

390 Belted Kingfisher, *Ceryle alcyon*. Quite common along rivers and small streams.

292 Mountain Quail, *Oreortyx pictus*. Very common and may be seen in flocks of five to twenty in their favorite feeding grounds which is generally near some small stream, preferable covered with dense underbrush, but sometimes seen in the open fields and if in severe

weather come into the gardens and barn-yards in quest of food. At these times many are caught in traps.

405 Pileated Woodpecker, *Ceophlæus pileatus*. Seen occasionally in the dense wooded districts. A very retired species.

413 Red-shafted Flicker, *Colaptes cafer*. Exceedingly common the whole season.

485 Oregon Jay, *Perisoreus obscurus*. Very common. The plumage of this bird is less brilliant than its eastern relative, the Blue Jay.

486 Am. Raven, *Corvus cora sinuatus*. A few seen, generally near some dead carcass. Measurements of one specimen secured by me was Alar spread four feet, length 26 inches. They breed mostly in Eastern Oregon.

501b Western Meadow Lark, *Sturnella magna neglecta*. Very common, seen in small flocks the entire season.

581e Rusty Long Sparrow, *Melospiza fasciata guttata*. Quite common, generally seen in the early morning.

588b Oregon Towhee, *Pipilo maculatus oregonus*. Oregon Ground Robin, as it is familiarly known here is very abundant and may be seen in almost any thick hedge or brush heap.

722a Western Winter Wren, *Troglodytes hiemalis pacificus*. Quite common in the partially cleared districts, and seen mostly near some small stream.

761a Western Robin, *Merula migratoria propinqua*. Very plentiful and seen the whole season, especially in the early morning, when they may be seen in larger numbers, leaving their nesting place. I have observed several Robin roosts in this locality.

762 Mountain Robin, occasionally seen in small flocks in mountainous regions and in dense fir groves. This bird is exceedingly sly.

701 Am. Dipper, *Cinclus mexicanus*. Quite plenty along the rivers and small streams, where they may be seen stand-

ing on some rock just covered with water, bobbing up and down in an exceedingly grotesque manner.

767 Bluebird, *Sialia mexicanus*. Observed in Nov., '90 generally in pairs, but uncommon at this date. This bird much resembles the Eastern Blue Bird, only being much lighter in color.

\*\*\* Cal. Crow, *Corvus americanus hesperis*. Very common. Seen the entire season and in large numbers.

Several species of Woodpeckers were also observed, but not being sufficiently acquainted with them I omit them from above list. Also a few Nuthatches and Warblers.

DR. A. G. PRILL,  
Sweet Home, Ore.

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Broad-winged Hawk.  
(*Buteo latissinus*.)

The Broad-winged Hawk is generally distributed over the eastern portion of North America, but seems nowhere common. It prefers the low swampy woods for breeding and feeds mostly on frogs, and small quadrupeds, occasionally varying its diet with a small bird.

This Hawk is much more easy to approach than is the Red-shouldered or Red-tailed, and is prosecuted fully as much by the farmers, who know all Hawks as "Chicken" and "Hen-hawks" and show no mercy to any. It is probable that when all the Hawks have been driven away or exterminated, the farmer will awaken to the fact that Hawks are of some use, but it is useless to argue this point with them, for they will at once launch off into yarns about devastated poultry yards, and still continue to punish *Buteo* for the capers of the wily *Accipiter*.

The measurements of the egg of this bird are greatly overestimated by authors, being given by one as from 2 x 1.70 to 2.15 x 1.72 inches. Dr. Coues, in his "Key" gives measurements as 2.00 x 1.60 Langille, in "Our Birds in Their

Haunts," gives measurements as 2.10 x 1.65. Davie in fourth edition of his check-list gives measurements as 1.90 x 1.50. I think Davie the more nearly correct.

As I have said before, this bird prefers a low swampy wood near a stream of water, and Mud Creek, near Utica, answers all requirements. The creek proper is not muddy, but near it is a swampy wood, which contains about as much mud to the acre as could be found. In this or a neighboring wood, a pair of Broad-winged Hawks have nested for many years.

Mr. F. J. Davis, of this city, first found them nesting in Mud Creek in 1873, and since then has robbed them many times, often twice in a single season, and still they do not leave.

In this section they prefer birch or beech trees, but have been found nesting in pine, hemlock and elm.

Two years ago I found an Am. Crow's nest in Mud Creek wood, containing four eggs. May 2, 1890 I was walking through the wood with an oological friend, and chancing to think of the Crow's nest, I instinctively turned my steps in that direction, and on approaching the nest was surprised to see a Broad-winged Hawk in the act of leaving the wood, having slipped from the other side of the nest on my approach.

You may suppose I lost no time in ascending to the nest, and found three lavender gray eggs, spotted and blotched with fawn chestnut and umber-brown. Unfortunately in descending I broke one.

CHAS. C. TREMBLY,  
Utica, N. Y.

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#### The Extinction of Our Birds.

In no way do our forests show us so plainly how much we are indebted to them for evenness of temperature and rain fall throughout the year than when

a wooded country, covered with "the forest primeval," gives way before the industrious white man's axe. Spring freshets and summer drouths of the streams whose perennial springs the forests fed are the common occurrence. That such changes have taken place, causing great damage, no one can deny. Congress, even, has been called upon to protect the water supply of our rivers. Besides this American push is draining our swamps, irrigating deserts, leveling hills, changing the courses of rivers, and building up as if by magic great cities when but a few years ago waved the farmers' harvests, or Nature, in all her beauty, held high carnival and disclosed her teachings to but a sacred few.

The two great factors in this movement are steam and electricity. These changes have had a noticable affect on all animal life, and birds especially, causing species in some cases to change their habits almost entirely, others to shift about and appear in new localities, and some to decrease in number. But with all these more or less indirect hindrances man has placed checks on certain species in a more direct way. Torrey says: "Every creature no matter how brave, has some other creature to be afraid of; otherwise how would the world get on?" Probably many birds count man as their worst enemy. States have passed bounty laws on certain species which occur within their boundaries, thought to be harmful, but it is a debatable question as to whether they have received the benefit the outlay of such an amount of money ought to bring. It is certainly no easy task to tell which are useful and which are detrimental, and so complicated is the evidence that one often finds that a certain species, which he supposed detrimental, after studying their ways prove beneficial. Generally it might be said that birds which feed on detrimental plants, noxious mollusks, crustaceans

and worms, carrion, and injurious mammals, are beneficial; again, birds which feed on beneficial plants, shrews, moles, bats, other beneficial birds and eggs, beneficial insects, carrion worms, beneficial worms, spiders, and myriapods, are detrimental. Yes who would say that because a certain species lived for a time on food which might make it for the time being harmful it must be harmful no matter how much good it might do at other times; hence every one should make war against it? If such were the case one robin would have to be called detrimental on account of the fruit and earthworms he eats. The food, which a bird eats, varies at different stages of the bird's life, at different seasons of the year, and to a great extent in different localities. Some birds during migration are a sore trouble to raisers of crops, but it must be taken into account that this does not last forever, and that it may be in their northern homes they are more than paying for the damage they may create elsewhere.

A state, therefore, can not afford to offer a bounty on a species whose identity is not exceedingly general, for the verdict: "Weighed and found wanting," must only be rendered after all the evidence gathered by the many has been thoroughly sifted by the state. The farmer, who keeps his gun loaded for "hen-hawks," and who cannot distinguish the species of hawks common to his locality, will not be able to bring in evidence of any value, as he is down on hawks on general principles and not some one species which may pay his poultry-yard a visit during his absence. It is expert testimony that is wanted, and we can but commend our Dept. of Agriculture for the great work it is doing in this direction.

Many of our game birds are fast disappearing in some sections of the country. The great flocks of Passenger Pigeons which used to darken the sky,

for days are stories of the past. In my locality the Partridge has chosen to rear her young amid the secrecy of our tamarac swamps, that is near their edges. I know of two nests having been taken in one of the thickest parts of the swamp. The Am. Woodcock is also fast disappearing in this vicinity except in the most secluded places. It is certain that of some game birds the number shot every year must approach very near the number reared; and when we know how many of our water birds are disturbed in their haunts during the period of incubation is it surprising that we constantly hear of sportsmen petitioning our legislatures? Pot hunters stimulated by prices paid for game in our city markets have made sad havoc among some species. The millinery trade has done its share of the work too, but it has not taken game birds. Whole heronries in our southern swamps have been depopulated by the plume hunter. Of course some may say their destruction may not be felt directly; but who can say it is not felt indirectly? As birds of brilliant plumage are the ones desired, those from the south are most taken, but some of our northern song birds are shot in large numbers. Men spend their whole time collecting skins for the millinery trade, and the business often pays him better than can a Natural History dealer a collecting naturalist, who has spent years in study and collects for strictly for scientific purposes. In some cases they cover their deeds "under the gauzy lace of science," and in others under Fashion's roof. It is to be hoped that in that bright Utopia of which Edward Bellamy gives us such graphic descriptions no store keeper will ever be called upon to punch cards for bird mummies for hats.

While the collecting of eggs and skins by naturalists and others has done much toward furthering the science of Ornithology and Oology, the spreading

of these discoveries has awakened among many the desire to form collections. Any person has a right to study the habits of our birds, and along with careful data to form collections, if the number of specimens he takes is not a serious drawback to that species; but the abuse of this privilege has forced before true Ornithologists and Oologists problems which are hard to solve. One of the problems is: how can we prevent the collecting of eggs and skins by persons, young or old, who, collecting merely for sport, money, or because "it's the craze," do not have the love of the science at heart and do not take pains to carefully identify their specimens? Collecting series of sets should only be practiced by those who intend to give careful study to color, variation, etc. Most states have laws against collecting eggs and skins; but scientific collectors are generally unmolested. Now here comes another problem: where shall collecting end and scientific collecting begin? Who is to judge as to whether a person is a scientific collector? Should a person's age have any thing to do with it? Can a person commence scientific collecting without knowing anything about birds and their habits or must he commence as a novice and gradually grow into a scientific collector? These are certainly hard questions to answer; but anyone can ask hard questions.

Many dangers attend the rearing of a brood. Rains and cold weather may delay nesting, spoil the eggs, or kill the young. Some animals count the young, dainty morsels of food. A cowbird often happens to be an occupant of the nest. In this way I could go on and name numerous perils through which the young go. Diseases, the same as with other animals, are common to birds. No doubt migration carries off many of the sick and old as it is often made in all haste. The number of eggs in a set and the average number which,

when hatched, reached maturity of course has a deal to do with the relative abundance of different species. The length of the breeding season must also be taken into account; in the north where the season is necessarily short, it is evident that if birds are broken up during nesting or are hindered in any way it would be impossible for them to rear a brood as the season passes so quickly. As stated in the beginning of this article, changes in surroundings have had a great affect on the abundance of certain species in different localities. Stated briefly it is as follows: changes in surroundings, when not conducive to the furtherance of that species, have told on the numbers if it has been slow to adapt itself to the new surroundings or to seek others to its suiting; and a species which has not changed as civilizations forced it upon them, and would not seek, or, having sought could not find those surroundings, which were necessary for the continuance of that species, have gradually grown extinct. It is interesting to note that it has probably been these changes which have given us our finest song-birds. Listen to John Burroughs in "Wake Robin:" "Indeed, what would be more interesting than the history of our birds for the last two or three centuries? There can be no doubt that the presence of man has exerted a very marked and friendly influence upon them, since they so multiply in his society. The birds of California, it is said, were mostly silent till after its settlement, and I doubt if the Indians heard the wood-thrush as we hear him. When did the bobolink disport himself before there were meadows in the north and rice-fields in the south? Was he the same blithe, merry-hearted beau then as now? And the sparrow, the lark, and the goldfinch, birds that seem so indigenous to the open fields and so averse to the woods,—we cannot con-

ceive of their existence in a vast wilderness and without man."

As to the future, we can only hope our song birds will be able to fight out their war for independence and come out victorious over their British invaders; that our more retired species will accept civilization when it is forced upon them, and that their songs, rehearsed from morn till eve, will grow richer and sweeter as time rolls by.

Some species will, inevitably, grow extinct, and others, much to be mourned, will decrease in numbers; but we will, however, have to count them among the prices, which we are daily paying for an ever advancing civilization.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

## BLACK GETS A BLACK EYE.

A New York Judge Renders a Decision in favor of  
th<sup>o</sup> R. S. Peale Reprint of the Encyclopædia  
Britannica.

[New York Special]—Judge Wallace, in the United States Circuit Court rendered a decision today refusing to grant an injunction against the firm of Ehrlich Bros., to restrain them from selling the "Encyclopædia Britannica," published by R. S. Peale & Co. of Chicago. The complainants are the firm of Black & Co., publishers of the original work at Edinburgh, Scotland. In his decision Judge Wallace holds that rival publishers in this country have a legal right to use the contents of the original edition, except such portions of them as are covered by copyrights, secured by American authors. The defendant's work, he finds has substituted new articles for these copyrighted ones.

This decision is a square set back to the book trust, and directly in the interest of education and general intelligence. As an educational factor in every household, no work in all literature is so important and desirable as this KING OF ENCYCLOPÆDIAS, of which it has been said that "If all other books should be destroyed, the Bible excepted, the world would have lost very little of its information." Until recently its high cost has been a bar to its popular use, the price

being \$5.00 per volume, \$125.00 for the set in the cheapest binding. But last year the publishing firm of R. S. Peale & Co. of Chicago issued a new reprint of this great work at the marvelous price of \$1.50 per volume. That the public quick to appreciate so great a bargain is shown by the fact that over half a million volumes of this reprint were sold in less than six months. It is the attempt of the proprietors of the high priced edition to stop the sale of this desirable low priced edition, which Judge Wallace has effectually squelched by his decision. We learn that R. S. Peale & Co. have perfected their edition, correcting such minor defects as are inevitable in the first issue of so large a work and not only do they continue to furnish it at the marvelously low price quoted above, but they offer to deliver the complete set at once, on small easy payments to suit the convenience of customers. It is a thoroughly satisfactory edition, printed on good paper, strongly and handsomely bound and has new maps, later and better than any other edition. We advise all who want this greatest and best of all Encyclopædias to get particulars from the publishers, R. S. Peale & Co., Chicago.

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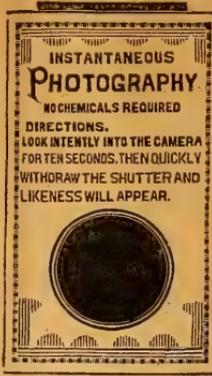
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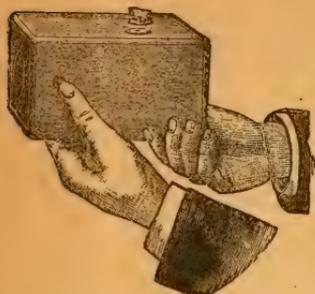
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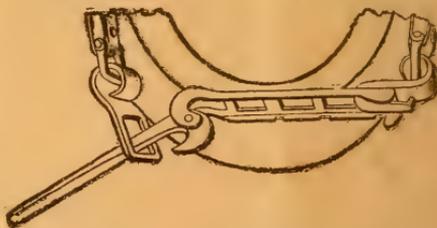
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Monthly.

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VOL. VIII. ALBION, N. Y., APRIL & MAY, 1891. No. 4 & 5

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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I WILL Exchange Eggs in sets or singles and Books for a good 22 cal. rifle with good sights. Address, T. E. STUART, 250 Fletcher St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

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WILL EXCHANGE.—Dead Game Pit Fowl or a Tame Coon for Minerals, Eggs, Live or Mounted Specimens or most anything useful or ornamental. Write anyway if you have time. MILO BILLS, 66 Lansing St., Auburn, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Collection of about 1005 Postage Stamps and Album no two alike; for best offer of first-class single Eggs send me your list by Ridgway's Nos. Lattin's list. Address, WM. A. ACHILLES, 1504 Lavacca St., Austin, Tex.

TO EXCHANGE.—3d edition International postage stamp Album and 500 different U. S. and foreign stamps for best offer of Birds' Eggs in sets. JOHN WILLIAMS, Wenham, Mass.

ATTENTION! I have 30 eggs of 405 in sets of 2's and 3's and a number of sets of 397 420, 431, 436, 369 and other desirable eggs; to exchange for an egg or mineral cabinet, eggs of Ostrich, Rhea, Emu or other desirables. DR. W. S. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ill.

WANTED.—Taxidermist tools. Oologist outfit. Coues' Key, Davie's Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, Bird Skins; will give in exchange, Bird Skins, Eggs in sets, mounted specimens, Buffalo horns, minerals, etc. Send for list. W. W. SEARLES, Lime Springs, Ia.

TO EXCHANGE.—A good nickel-plated Quackenbush "Eureka" air pistol worth \$3.50 and outfit; for best offer of Taxidermist's Instruments, no postals answered. A. MECH-ELKE, 1401 Frankford Ave., Phila., Penn.

NOTICE.—The undersigned wish to become acquainted with all Collectors in Ontario Co. and to correspond with working Ornithologists throughout the State. B. S. BOWDISH, Phelps, N. Y. E. B. PECK, Clifton Springs, N. Y.

For 75c worth of first-class eggs (not listed less than 10c). Minerals, or Indian Relics. I will give receipt and full directions for the mounting of Birds and Mammals, without skinning. D. J. BULLOCK, Marshalltown, Iowa.

WANTED.—To exchange singles or sets of Bald Eagle, for singles or sets of Golden Eagle, Kites, Swans, or Geese. Parties having such will communicate to M. C. WHITE, Mathews C. H., Va.

I WOULD like to hear from Collectors, south and west who are desirous of exchanging Coleoptera for their own locality for those from New York. CHAS. TUNISON, No. 59, West 92nd St., New York, N. Y.

T. R. TAYLOR, 90 William St., Rochester, N. Y. desires to become acquainted with persons interested in Ornithology or Oology, living in Rochester or vicinity.

TO EXCHANGE.—676 different foreign postmarks, also two stuffed Ostriches, two weeks old, worth \$12.00 apiece; for best offer in Eggs in sets, with full data. H. L. HALL, Carpinteria, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set of 2 eggs of the Whip-poor-will, 8 of Ruffed Grouse, 4 of Golden-crowned Thrush, 4 of Redstart with nest and egg of Cowbird; for best offer of singles. Rare Eggs preferred, only first-class given or received. M. D. COOPER, Antim, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE.—Collection of over 500 U. S. and foreign postage stamps and many duplicates, cash value \$8.00, and 32 cal. revolver, nearly new, cost \$3.50; for best offer of Eggs in sets. PAUL VAN DEUSEN, 2105 Tioga St., Phila, Penn.

WANTED.—A 1st-class skin of Red Phalarope, spring plumage preferred. Will give good exchange or purchase if prices suit. E. E. N. MURPHEY, 44 Telfair St., Augusta, Ga.

LOOK!—A fine collection of birds' eggs, single and pairs, 113 varieties; to exchange for first-class sets with data. WILLARD ELIOT, Thonotosassa, Fla.

NOTICE!—Parties wishing to obtain carefully prepared eggs of this section during the coming season, would do well to address A. H. CRANDALL, Worthington, Minn.

WANTED.—Cone's Key of N. A. Birds, Ridgway's Manual of N. A. Birds, and Nomenclature of Colors. Will give in exchange bird skins. D. A. G. PRILL, Box 11, Sweet Home, Oregon.

A SCROLL Saw with drill attachment and 50 saws, for a "World" or any equally good typewriter. Also will sell a Quackenbush rifle in good condition for \$5.00. J. LOSEE, Richfield, Spa., N. Y.

CHOICE Collection of stamps, with International Album, 300 varieties, valued at \$15. Wanted camera, rifle or revolver. E. G. RUNYAN, 633 "P" St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

WANTED.—Stamps, Indian Relics, Fossils and Curiosities, for same will exchange good fossils and fine quartz and flint arrow points. Only fine specimens wanted. HERBERT E. BROCK, Mason City, Cerro Gordo, Iowa.

TYPE-WRITERS, Revolvers, Musical Instruments, Collections of Stamps, Coins, Relics, etc., wanted in exchange for first-class sets and singles, curiosities, etc. CHAS. TURTON, Box 956, Los Angeles, Cal.

WANTED TO EXCHANGE.—Six Volumes (L.—LVI.) Scientific American, and rare foreign and Native Moths, valued at \$16.25, for a good microscope. Must be in perfect order. Write, giving description, name of maker, cost, etc., and I will send list of moths. All are first-class. RALPH BALLARD, Niles, Michigan.

MINATURE Steamboat, 38 in. long, 17 in. high, 8 in. wide, nicely painted and perfect in every respect, cash value \$10.00, will exchange for best offer of eggs, singles or sets. GEO. W. MORSE, 311 East Coats St., Moberly, Mo.

WANTED.—A Taxidermist's outfit, Oologist's supplies, Collecting gun, Birds' eggs and skins, all in A-1 condition. Address A. V. THOMSON Decora, Iowa.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED parties to collect Birds in the meat or 1st-class skins. Please write stating which you can collect, for which I will give 1st-class skins and eggs in sets and singles; also shot gun (double-barrel, B. L.) and Safety Bicycle wanted. A. W. NOLTE, W. 16th St., Los Angeles, Cal.

WANTED.—Back volumes of "Ornithologist & Oologist" of Boston, and "Auk" of New York. Kindly send full particulars, and whether you will exchange for first-class sets of Birds' eggs. Also wanted to exchange first-class sets of eggs with parties of other sections. Send lists. Address, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of shells, (value over twenty-five dollars) and natural history papers, for books on natural history and first-class original sets with data, of Warblers, Vireos, Hummers and Woodpeckers. Send your lists to ED. RAUBE, Giddings, Tex.

FOR EVERY \$5.00 worth of Eggs sent me with datas, singles or sets, none listed less than 10c, I will mail a receipt for making Arsenical Soap for preserving Bird Skins used in the Scientific School of Taxidermy in Paris, France, nothing better. GEO. W. MORSE, 311 East Coates St., Moberly, Mo.

FOR EXCHANGE.—100 best Limerick Fish Hooks, assorted sizes, for every 40 cents worth of birds' eggs sent us. 6 good Lines, assorted sizes, for 20 cents worth of eggs. All eggs to be first-class and valued at not less than 5 cents each. Don't miss this chance to get your spring supply of hooks and lines. UNION TACKLE CO., Middlefield, O.

DURING the past season I mounted several birds, which remain uncalled for; these I will exchange for eggs single or sets, rare or common; among them are Western Great Horned Owl, Flicker, Northern Shrike, Long-crested Jay, Song and Tree Sparrows, Blackpoll, Ovenbird, Cedar Waxwing, Am. Robins and Blue Jay. Parties wishing any of above will please send list of eggs they have to exchange. JAS. P. BABBITT, 10 Hodges Ave., Taunton, Mass.

BREECH-LOADING shot-gun with tools, Tenney's Manual of Birds with five hundred engravings, Manton's Complete Manual on hunting and preparing and preserving birds, eggs, nests, etc., 32-cal. revolver, 52 in. Volunteer, A.I. condition, with cyclometer, bell, luggage-carrier, whistle, tools, etc., for sale or in exchange for first-class eggs. Have also first-class eggs to exchange. It will pay to write for terms. All answered. JAS. P. ROBBINS, So. Norridgewock, Maine.

WANTED.—First-class sets of Gt. Horned Owl, Screech Owl, Bobolink, Am. Bittern, Osprey, rare Warblers with nests, Cedar Waxwing, Black Tern, Gt. Crested Flycatcher, Whip-poor-will, Nighthawk, Hairy and Downy Woodpeckers, Barred Owl, Caracara Eagle, Swallow-tail Kite, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Golden Eagle, Gt. Blue Heron, Wood Ibis, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Am. Oyster-catcher, Whooping Crane, Leaches Petrel and others. I can offer rare species from Iceland, Alaska and Northwest Canada, including Snow and Lapland Buntings, Raven, Martin, Golden Plover, Red Phalarope, Swans Ducks and Geese, Little Brown Crane, Bonaparte's Gull, Am. Loon, Yellow-Billed Loon, Pacific Loon, Cassins, Crested and Great Auk and others. W. RAINE, Hayden St., Toronto, Canada.

WANTED.—A good pair of climbers; for which in return I will pay cash or trade. All letters answered. SIGMUND H. HILL, Box 25, New Milford, Conn.

COLLECTORS!—I have a large lot of Minerals, Fossils, Eggs and Curios, to exchange for Books and Magazines. All answered. T. S. HILL, Knoxville, Iowa.

I HAVE one Manton's Taxidermy without a Teacher, and one of Lattin's Taxidermist outfits, which I will exchange for 2 doz. Bass files. C. C. RENSHAW, Boyce, Clarke Co., Va.

WANTED.—A good double barreled shot gun, breech loading, 10 or 12 bore, have to exchange for same Venezuelan stamps in any quantity, South American and West Indian stamps, also coins and a few birds' eggs from South America and the West Indies. CHESTER JOHNSON, 1325 Third Ave., S., Fargo, N. Dakota.

TO EXCHANGE.—\$38.00 worth of 1st-class sets, taxidermist's outfit, value \$4.00, oologist's outfit, value \$3.40 and Horseman's No. 2 Eclipse Camera, for a 30-inch Safty Bicycle. H. A. HESS, Edinburg, Ind.

COLLECTORS!—For every first-class set of Eggs, any kind, with data, sent me, I will send complete directions, how to mount and embalm Birds, without skinning, very easy to learn. For best offer of first-class sets, with data, I will exchange one first-class single each of Short-eared Owl and Am. Osprey. What offers? Address all letters and packages to THOS. A. SMITHWICK, Walke, Bertie Co., N. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—4 x 5 Camera, 3 fold tripod, 2 double holders, all of polished mahogany, 3 rubber trays, printing frames, quantity plates, chemicals and everything to produce finished photographs; for egg cabinet. Specimen photograph sent. HARRY SARGENT, 399 Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

IN THE UPPER Countys of So. Ca. are found in the old fields and new ground, varieties of Sea Shells, in perfect condition and of many kinds. Some very pretty but are small—none over an inch and one-half in diameter. I have just received a large consignment of the above, and will exchange for best offers. S. A. TAFT, Aiken, So. Ca.

WANTED.—Any of the following Old Violins: Antonio Stradivarius, Nicolo Amati, Giusseppe Guarnerius, Carlo Bergonzi, Paolo Maggini, Antonio Ruggeri, Jacob Stainer, Mathias Klotz, J. B. Vuillaume, George Gemunder; will exchange a 22 cal. J. M. Marlin sporting rifle in good condition, Birds' Eggs or cash. Those having any of the above Old Violins must give a full description of same. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kan.

WANTED.—Copies of the following books: "Ismalia," by Sir Samuel Baker; "Darwin's Voyage of the 'Beagle,'" "Du Chailieu's Ashango Land;" "A Naturalist's Wanderings in the Eastern Archipelago," by Henry O. Forbes; "Central Africa," by Col. C. Chairer Lang; "The Heart of Africa," by Dr. Georg Schweinfurete; "Journal of the Discovery of the Source of the Nile," by Capt. Speke; "The Malay Archipelago," by Alfred Russel Wallace. Care given in exchange for any above books Birds' Eggs, Stuffed Birds, War Relics, 1 Cornet, with case, 1 Spencer 7-shot Repeating Rifle; 14 x 5 Photo Camera and many other things. THAD SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

**NOTICE!**—I have \$50.00 worth of first-class sets, with data, for a good folding canvass boat. Send description to J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Plymouth, N. C.

I WOULD LIKE to correspond with some young collector in the south with regard to exchanging eggs and skins, the coming season. JIMMIE PHILLIPS, Box 527, Paw Paw, Mich.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Compound Microscope, with forceps and prepared object, magnifies 400 times; all in mahogany case; for best offer of eggs amounting to \$3.00 or over. C. G. SARGENT, Winnebago City, Minn.

**WANTED.**—Cigarette albums, Base Ball players, or Mounted Birds; will give in exchange \$5.00 worth of the best detective stories. Cards not answered. Address, ERNEST E. LEE, Covington, Ga.

**WANTED.**—Kodak, (No. 3 or 4 preferred) or other good automatic Camera; will give good exchange in nicely made western Bird Skins. Address with full particulars, GEO. G. CANTWELL, 105 Pikes Peak Ave., Colo. Springs, Colo.

35 SECOND-CLASS eggs (\$1.50) 10 story cuts (\$5.00); for 4 lb. Indian clubs, climbers, and offers. Best offer receives proofs of cuts. EDW. D. BARKER, 316 Center St., Elgin, Kane Co., Ill.

**SETS** 211a, 80, 705, 594, 703, 683, 316, 326, 362, A. O. U. and Sawfish saw; for best offer U. S. or Confederate Stamps. WALTER E. GROVER, 1520 E. Market St., Galveston, Tex.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Choice Crystallized Minerals; for Indian Relics, Fossils or Minerals. A fine cabinet specimen for every perfect Arrow head sent me. R. HAGELSTEIN, 96 Stanhope St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

**COMMON EGGS WANTED.**—I wish to obtain following species, in full sets, with data: Rdgw. Nos. 61,61a, 67a, 151, 158, 161, 168, 181, 182, 189, 193a, 198, 198a, 202, 211a, 212, 213, 237a, 139, 248, 249, 251, 321, 425, 432, 443, 449, 456, 473, 482, 487, 490, 492, 493, 495, 497, 498, 520, 594, 602, etc. Will exchange for them such species as 581, 463, 464, 469, 373, 15, etc., etc. THOMAS H. JACKSON, Box 1668, West Chester, Pa.

**EXCHANGE.**—Have 1000 Cocoons of the Southern Polyphemus much richer in color and larger than Northern specimens. Have from 300 to 500 Lopd. in papers both American and Foreign. Have a few American Indian Arrow heads and fragments of pottery collected in Aiken Co., So. Ca. about 50 in all. Vol. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. YOUNG OOLOGIST and OOLOGIST, Vol. 13 Ornithologist and Oologist, Vol. 1 Am. O. and O., Vol. 1 O. and O. Semi-Annual and copy of Davie's Key. I want any standard Medical Works, any standard Chemical Works, or any Chemical Paraphernalia (Retorts, test-tubes, etc., etc.) First-class sets with data, of all the Warblers. Less than three varieties will not be accepted from any one person. Address, S. A. TAFT, Aiken, So. Ca.

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Enclose stamp for catalogue. Sample of views will be sent upon receipt of 25 cents.

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**VICK-MICHIGAN.**

It has been decided that the \$1000.00 prizes offered on Vegetables by James Vick, Seedsman, will be contested for at the fair to be held at Hillsdale, Mich., Sept. 28—Oct. 2, 1891.

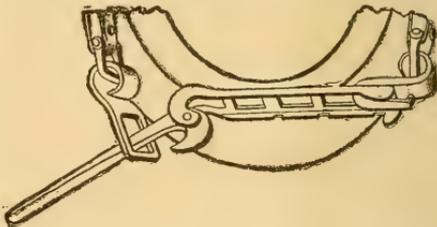
There are four prizes on each of the following eight varieties of Vegetables—first \$65, second \$30, third \$20, fourth \$10, making in all \$1000, which is very large and liberal:

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- One pkt. Cabbage, All Seasons.....10c
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- One pkt. Cauliflower, Vick's Ideal.....50c
- One pkt. Tomato, McCullom's Hybrid.....10c
- One pkt. Musk Melon, Irondequoit.....15c
- One pkt. Onion, Danvers Yellow Globe.....5c
- One pkt. Mangel Wurzel, (Beet), Golden Giant.....10c

Select one or more that you would like to grow and enter for a prize. Be sure and state in your order that you intend entering for competition. Write James Vick, Seedsman, Rochester, N. Y., for Vick's Floral Guide, which will give full particulars.

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**AGENTS**

**33**

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We intend after May 1st to carry a large and complete stock of minerals, and being pressed for room, we will have to dispose of the following stuffed birds at prices never before so low. A nice stand goes with each bird, and the whole will be sent post or express paid.

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| Common Tern.....         | \$ 1 10 | Sawwhet Owl.....         | 4 95 | Evening Grosbeak.....    | 2 00     |
| Roseate Tern.....        | 1 75    | Screech Owl.....         | 2 95 | Am Crossbill.....        | 65 to 85 |
| Great Blue Heron.....    | 8 00    | Great Horned Owl.....    | 9 50 | Grey-crown. Leuc'sticta  | 85       |
| Green Heron.....         | 2 00    | West'n Gt. Horned Owl    | 6 50 | Am. Goldfinch.....       | 40 to 80 |
| Least Sandpiper.....     | 95      | Hairy Woodpecker.....    | 95   | Vesper Sparrow.....      | 70       |
| Semipalmated Sandpi.     | 1 10    | Flicker.....             | 1 10 | Tree Sparrow.....        | 50       |
| Bobwhite.....            | 1 55    | Phoebe.....              | 55   | Slate-colored Junco..... | 70       |
| Mountain Partridge.....  | 2 45    | Bluejay.....             | 1 10 | Song Sparrow.....        | 50       |
| Scaled Partridge.....    | 1 95    | Longcrested Jay.....     | 1 45 | Fox Sparrow.....         | 85       |
| Ruffed Grouse.....       | 2 45    | Am. Crow.....            | 2 10 | Towhee.....              | 80       |
| Red-tailed Hawk, wings   |         | Cow-bird.....            | 75   | Northern Waxwing.....    | 2 45     |
| spread tearing Quail,    |         | Red-winged Bl'kbird..... | 95   | Cedar Waxwing.....       | 85       |
| fancy stump.....         | 10 00   | Meadow Lark.....         | 1 10 | Northern Shrike.....     | 95       |
| Am. Long-eared Owl.....  | 3 85    | Purple Grackle.....      | 85   | Black-poll (fall).....   | 65       |
| Am. Short-eared Owl..... | 3 10    | Bronzed Grackie.....     | 85   | Oven-bird.....           | 70       |
| Barred Owl.....          | 4 95    |                          |      |                          |          |

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Full sets with complete data can be furnished of most species, especially the rarer ones. All are strictly 1st-class and correctly identified.

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| Western Grebe.....       | \$ 35 | Bartramian Sandpiper.....  | 30   | Bullock's Oriole.....       | 10 |
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| Am. Eared do.....        | 18    | White-fronted Dove.....    | 45   | Arkansas Goldfinch.....     | 14 |
| St. Domingo do.....      | 75    | Wild Turkey.....           | 50   | Western Lark Sparrow.....   | 04 |
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| Loon.....                | 1 40  | Cooper's Hawk.....         | 20   | Samuel's Song Sparrow.....  | 04 |
| Black-throated Loon..... | 1 40  | Red-tailed Hawk.....       | 45   | Herman's Song Sparrow.....  | 08 |
| Pacific do.....          | 1 75  | Red-shouldered Hawk.....   | 40   | Towhee.....                 | 10 |
| Red-throated do.....     | 70    | Fla. Red-sho'ld' red H'wk  | 1 10 | Canon Towhee.....           | 35 |
| Tufted Puffin.....       | 85    | Red-bellied Hawk.....      | 80   | Calif. Towhee.....          | 05 |
| Puffin.....              | 20    | Sparrow Hawk.....          | 18   | Black-throated Bunting..... | 05 |
| Large-billed Puffin..... | 70    | Screech Owl.....           | 35   | Scarlet Tanager.....        | 18 |
| Horned Puffin.....       | 4 00  | Burrowing Owl.....         | 15   | Summer Tanager.....         | 18 |
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| Mandt's do.....          | 95    | Black-billed Cuckoo.....   | 09   | Barn Swallow.....           | 03 |
| Pigeon do.....           | 35    | Red-headed Woodpecker..... | 05   | Tree Swallow.....           | 10 |
| Murre.....               | 20    | Red-shafted Flicker.....   | 07   | Rough-winged Swallow.....   | 12 |
| Calif. Murre.....        | 25    | Whip-poor-will.....        | 1 20 | Loggerhead Shrike.....      | 09 |
| Pallas's Murre.....      | 70    | Night Hawk.....            | 30   | White-rumped Shrike.....    | 05 |
| Brunnich's Murre.....    | 20    | Arkansas Kingbird.....     | 06   | Calif. Shrike.....          | 05 |
| Razor-billed Auk.....    | 18    | Black Phoebe.....          | 15   | Ovenbird.....               | 10 |
| Am. Herring Gull.....    | 15    | Wood Pewee.....            | 09   | Am. Dipper.....             | 80 |
| Vega Gull.....           | 95    | Western Flycatcher.....    | 19   | Mockingbird.....            | 04 |
| Franklin's Gull.....     | 40    | Little Flycatcher.....     | 28   | Texas Thrasher.....         | 20 |
| Black Tern.....          | 08    | Crow.....                  | 05   | Curved-billed Thrasher..... | 20 |
| Least Bittern.....       | 15    | Fla. Crow.....             | 30   | Crissal Thrasher.....       | 35 |
| Green Heron.....         | 08    | Cow-bird.....              | 03   | Cactus Wren.....            | 10 |
| Clapper Rail.....        | 08    | Dwarf Cowbird.....         | 15   | Parkman's Wren.....         | 08 |
| La. Clapper Rail.....    | 15    | Bicolored Blackbird.....   | 07   | Long-billed Marsh Wren..... | 04 |
| Sora.....                | 08    | Tricolored Blackbird.....  | 12   | Russet-back Thrush.....     | 14 |
| Fla. Gallinule.....      | 10    | Meadow Lark.....           | 10   | Olive-back Thrush.....      | 40 |
| Am. Coot.....            | 07    | Hooded Oriole.....         | 25   | Hermit Thrush.....          | 40 |

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**JAMES P. BABBITT,**  
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It is unnecessary for us to say to old residents of Kansas anything in regard to Col. Goss or his accomplishments. But to others we will say, that he is a life-long Naturalist; an enthusiast in his chosen study of Ornithology; a member of the Council of the American Ornithological Union, and a recognized authority on his chosen subject.

The Goss Ornithological Collection is solely the work of this author. Each specimen has been obtained and preserved by his own effort, and the entire collection—which is one of the largest in the country, the result of one man's exertions—has been presented to the State of Kansas, and is on exhibition in a room in the State House set apart by law for that purpose; and his entire time and fortune are devoted to its perfection; long and expensive trips are annually made to increase the collection. Within a few years he has generously prepared for the State, without cost, two separate catalogues of Kansas Birds.

The book is handsomely bound in full cloth, with gold embossed back and sides. There are 633 pages, beside the photogravure illustrations of 529 birds.

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### The Birds of Greenland

By Andreas T. Hagerup. Translated from the Danish by Frimann B. Arngrimson. Edited by Montague Chamberlain. 8vo. Paper. Sent post-paid on receipt of One Dollar.

This is the only complete catalogue of the birds that have been found in Greenland which has been published since 1875, when Newton, of Cambridge, England, issued a list for the guidance of northern explorers. His list, however, was published in a large book, with other matter, and is not well known.

In the Hagerup-Chamberlain catalogue there are some ten species given that did not appear in Newton's list, and several species given in the New Catalogue have not before been known to occur in Greenland.

Hagerup is a Danish Mining Engineer, who spent two and one-half years in Southern Greenland. His notes on the habits of little known birds—several of the Sea Fowl, Gyrfalcon, Ptarmigan, Redpoll, Snow Bunting, Wheatear, etc. are interesting, and many of them are valuable. Some of his opinions upon disputed points differ from those of the chief "authorities," and some of his facts differ from those stated by other observers. These are stated tersely, and are supported by direct evidence drawn from his note-book. His opportunities have been greater than those of any other observer, who has written of the birds of Greenland.

The editor is well known to ornithologists, having been one of the founders of the American Ornithologists' Union, and for several years an associate editor of "The Auk." He is author of The Birds of New Brunswick, Canadian Birds, and numerous minor papers.

# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL & MAY, 1891.

No. 4 & 5

## A List of the Birds of Elgin County, Ontario.

F. L. Farley, St Thomas, Ontario.

St. Thomas and vicinity where most of these observations were made, is situated centrally in this county, eight miles from Lake Erie, north. Kettle Creek has its source about fifteen miles north-east from here, flowing around the north and west sides of the city, and thence to the lake.

My observations are given briefly, nothing being presumed, only such occurrences as I have personally noticed or obtained from authentic sources are given.

Of the well known and generally distributed species, no reference is made, but when there are only one or two specimens taken, the authority is given, as also the date of the capture, etc.

I am indebted for valuable assistance in completing this list, to Mr. B. P. Wintermute, Mr. William Dodd, and Mr. Orville Foster, local Ornithologists.

1. *Colymbus auritus* (Horned Grebe). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor.
2. *Podilymbus podiceps* (Pied-billed Grebe). Occurs under the same circumstances as the foregoing species.
3. *Urinator imber* (Loon). An uncommon migrant.
4. *Urinator lumme* (Red-throated Loon). A very rare migrant; one was shot on the mill pond west of this city on the 25th of November, 1886, with the chestnut patch on the throat. It is now in my collection. They are seldom taken in this part of Canada in this plumage.
5. *Larus argentatus smithsonianus* (American Herring Gull). Sometimes common on the lake during the migrations, a few remain all winter.
6. *Larus philadelphia* (Bonaparte's Gull). An uncommon migrant at the lake.
7. *Merganser americanus* (American Merganser). Our commonest river Duck in winter.
8. *Merganser serrator* (Red-breasted Merganser). Very rare, Mr. Wm. Dodd of this city has one in his collection, taken here some years ago, the only record.
9. *Lophodytes cucullatus* (Hooded Merganser). A regular spring and fall visitor.
10. *Anas boschas* (Mallard). Rare, several have been shot on the creek.
11. *Anas obscura* (Black Duck). Sometimes appear in small flocks in spring and fall.
12. *Anas americana* (Baldpate). Migrant, not common.
13. *Anas carolinensis* (Green-winged Teal). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor.
14. *Anas discors* (Blue-winged Teal). Occurs as the preceding, more often seen in the flocks.
15. *Dafila acuta* (Pintail). Migrant, not common.
16. *Aix sponsa* (Wood Duck). A regular spring and fall visitor. A few may breed.
17. *Aythya americana* (Redhead). Rare. Two shot on the creek in November, 1889.
18. *Aythya vallisneria* (Canvas-back). A very rare migrant, several shot on the pond.
19. *Aythya marila nearctica* (American Scaup Duck). Sometimes common in flocks, in spring and fall.
20. *Glaucionetta clangula americana* (American Golden-eye). A spring and fall visitor, a few remain through the winter.
21. *Charitonetta albeola* (Buffle-head). Quite a common migrant in flocks on the ponds.

22. *Clangula hyemalis* (Old-squaw). Very rare migrant, I only know of three specimens being taken.
23. *Erismatura rubida* (Ruddy Duck). A common migrant.
24. *Branta canadensis* (Canada Goose). A rare migrant. Occasionally a flock is seen passing over.
25. *Botaurus lentiginosus* (American Bittern) I have found these birds rare, may be more common in other sections of the county.
26. *Botaurus exilis* (Least Bittern). A rare summer resident.
27. *Ardea herodias* (Great Blue Heron). A common summer resident. One of these birds was seen flying over in January, 1880, by Mr. George E. Casey of Fingal. Seven miles north-west of this city there is a Heronry, where nearly one hundred pairs breed. I visited it on the 24th of May, 1889, in company with my friend Mr. B. P. Wintemute of this city. It is in an immense swamp, very dense with different kinds of large ferns, and thick bushes, and was nearly knee-deep in water. Several of the trees had as many as eight nests in them. The trees preferred by the birds for nesting in, were mostly black ash. The date of visiting we found was about ten days too late, as most of the nests contained young. However two fine sets of four eggs were taken. On the 12th of the same month in 1890 we visited it again, and that date we also found to be too late; although we secured several fine sets of eggs.
28. *Ardea egretta* (American Egret). A very rare visitor, Mr. Wm. Dodd of this city, has stuffed two that were shot on the creek.
29. *Ardea virescens* (Green Heron). A tolerably common summer resident.
30. *Nycticorax nycticorax naevius* (Black-crowned Night Heron). Mr. Jas. Haight of Union has a bird of this species in his collection, that we shot on the pond at that place, a few years since.
31. *Porzana carolina* (Sora). A common summer resident.
32. *Gallinula gaita* (Florida Gallinule). A rare summer visitor near St. Thomas. May be more common in other sections of the county.
33. *Fulica americana* (American Coot). This species is sometimes common in the spring, and again in the fall, but I do not think it breeds.
34. *Philohela minor* (American Woodcock). A common summer resident.
35. *Gallinago delicata* (Wilson's Snipe). A tolerably common spring and fall visitor. Two birds of this species were shot in a sheltered spot south of this city on the 4th of February, 1888, and an old hunter told me that he once found a nest and four eggs belonging to this bird north of this city. He said the bird was lame, and that accounted for her remaining with us.
36. *Tringa maculata* (Pectoral Sandpiper). I find this a rare migrant, having only one record of it, this I shot in the creek on the third of October, 1889.
37. *Tringa bairdii* (Baird's Sandpiper). A very rare migrant, I shot one on the 17th of August, 1889, on the creek, this is the only record.
38. *Tringa minutilla* (Least Sandpiper). A rather common migrant at the lake.
39. *Ercunetes pusillus* (Semipalmated Sandpiper). Appears here as the last species.
40. *Calidris arenaria* (Sanderling). A tolerably common migrant.
41. *Totanus melanoleucus* (Greater Yellow-legs). A common spring and fall visitor on the creek.
42. *Totanus flavipes* (Yellow-legs). A less common migrant than the preceding.
43. *Totanus solitarius* (Solitary Sandpiper). This bird appears sparingly in the spring, and again in August in increased numbers.
44. *Bartramia longicauda* (Bartramian Sandpiper). Mr. Dodd has one in his collection, shot here about twenty years ago, this is the only record I can find.
45. *Actitis macularia* (Spotted Sandpiper). A very common summer resident.
46. *Charadrius dominicus* (American Golden Plover). A rare migrant.
47. *Egialitis vocifera* (Killdeer). A common summer resident.
48. *Egialitis semipalmata* (Semipalmated Plover). Common migrant.
49. *Egialitis meloda* (Piping Plover). An uncommon migrant.
50. *Colinus virginianus* (Bob-white). A common resident in some parts of

51. *Bonasa umbellus togata* (Canadian Ruffed Grouse). A common resident.

52. *Melcagris gallopavo* (Wild Turkey). A very rare resident, the last taken in the county was one shot out of a flock of eight near Eagle, by Mr. Charles Ax-ford a hunter, in November, 1889.

53. *Ectopistes migratorius* (Passenger Pigeon). A rare migrant now, years ago it was very common.

54. *Zenaidura macroura* (Mourning Dove). A common summer resident.

55. *Cathartes aura* (Turkey Vulture). Several birds of this species have been taken here. Mr. Dodd has three in his collection, shot within a few miles of this city.

56. *Circus hudsonius* (Marsh Hawk). An uncommon summer resident, al-though I have no record of their breeding.

57. *Accipiter velox* (Sharp-shinned Hawk). A very common hawk during the migrations.

58. *Accipiter cooperi* (Cooper's Hawk). A tolerably common summer resi-dent. Mr. Wintermute took a set of five eggs, in May, 1887, near this city.

59. *Buteo borealis* (Red-tailed Hawk). A common summer resident, a few remain through the winter.

60. *Buteo borealis calurus* (Western Red-tail). Mr. Dodd shot one in the spring of 1885. This is the only record we have of its occurrence in Ontario. It is now in Mr. W. E. Sanders' collection in London.

61. *Buteo lineatus* (Red-shouldered Hawk). A common summer resident. A few remain through the winter.

62. *Buteo latissimus* (Broad-winged Hawk). Sometimes these hawks appear in large flocks in the fall, but this is the only time I have observed them.

63. *Archibuteo lagopus sancti-johannis* (American Rough-legged Hawk). A rare migrant.

64. *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* (Bald Eagle). An uncommon resident, several pairs have their nests in this county, but they are not as common as they for-merly were.

65. *Falco columbarius* (Pigeon Hawk). A rare migrant.

66. *Falco sparverius* (Sparrow Hawk). A common summer resident.

67. *Pandion haliaetus carolinensis* (American Osprey). An uncommon sum-mer resident.

68. *Asio wilsonianus* (American Long-eared Owl). Several of these birds are shot every winter. A farmer living south of this city found a nest of the Crow occupied by this species, out of which he took two eggs, and left two to hatch. He found the nest on the 18th of April, 1889.

69. *Asio accipitrinus* (Short-eared Owl). A rare winter visitor, do not think they breed.

70. *Nyctala acadica* (Saw-whet Owl). Some winters these little owls are found in small numbers, and others they are never seen. Two were shot about a mile west of this city, in the same woods, at different times, in May, 1889, a male and female, which looks as if they had reared their young, or had a nest in that locality.

71. *Syrnium nebulosum* (Barred Owl). They use to be our commonest owl, but of late years they have decreased greatly in numbers. They have been found breeding here.

72. *Megascops asio* (Screech Owl). Resident, not common.

73. *Bubo virginianus* (Great horned Owl). A common resident.

74. *Bubo virginianus arcticus* (Arctic Horned Owl). This bird is quite like the foregoing in habits, food, etc., but is lighter in plumage. I have one shot in November, 1886.

75. *Nyctea nyctea* (Snowy Owl). An irregular winter visitor.

76. *Coccyzus americanus* (Yellow-billed Cuckoo). Common summer resi-dent.

77. *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus* (Black-billed Cuckoo). A more common species than the foregoing.

78. *Ceryle alcyon* (Belted Kingfisher). Common summer resident, have seen them in December and January.

79. *Dryobates villosus leucomelas* (Northern Hairy Woodpecker). Common

80. *Dryobates pubescens* (Downy Woodpecker). Common resident.
81. *Sphyrapicus varius* (Yellow-bellied Sapsucker). Spring and fall visitant. A few may breed.
82. *Ceophlæus pileatus* (Pileated Woodpecker). A rare visitor. I saw three on the 31st of March, 1888.
83. *Melanerpes erythrocephalus* (Red-headed Woodpecker). A common summer resident, a few remain through the winter. These birds are not nearly as common as they formerly were.
84. *Melanerpes carolinus* (Red-bellied Woodpecker.) A tolerably common winter resident, I think a few breed here.
85. *Colaptes auratus* (Flicker). A common summer resident. Have seen them remain through the entire winter.
86. *Antrostomus vociferus* (Whip-poor-will). A tolerably common summer resident.
87. *Chordeiles virginianus* (Nighthawk). Common summer resident.
88. *Chaëtura pelagica* (Chimney Swift). Common summer resident.
89. *Trochilus colubris* (Ruby-throated Hummingbird). Summer resident.
90. *Tyrannus tyrannus* (Kingbird). A common summer resident.
91. *Myiarchus crinitus* (Crested Flycatcher). A tolerably common summer resident.
92. *Sayornis phæbe* (Phœbe). A very common summer resident.
93. *Contopus virens* (Wood Pewee). Common summer resident.
94. *Empidonax minimus* (Least Flycatcher) Common summer resident.
95. *Otocoris alpestris praticola* (Prairie Horned Lark.) Common resident. Generally more numerous in winter than in summer.
96. *Cyanocitta cristata* (Blue Jay). A common resident.
97. *Corvus corax sinuatus* (American Raven). A very rare migrant. I have no record of its having been taken recently in this county.
98. *Corvus americanus* (American Crow). A very common resident.
99. *Dolichonyx oryzivorus* (Bobolink). A common summer resident.
100. *Molothrus ater* (Cowbird). An extremely common summer resident.
101. *Agelaius phæniceus* (Red-winged Blackbird). Common summer resident.
102. *Sturnella magna* (Meadowlark). A common summer resident, have seen them in January on two occasions.
103. *Icterus spurius* (Orchard Oriole). Until the last few years this bird was considered a very rare summer resident, but of late it has become quite common.
104. *Icterus galbula* (Baltimore Oriole). Common summer resident.
105. *Scolecophagus carolinus* (Rusty Blackbird). A common migrant.
106. *Quiscalus quiscula æneus* (Bronzed Grackle). A common summer resident.
107. *Coccythraustes vespertina* (Evening Grosbeak). An accidental winter visitant, the only records I have of its being taken or observed in the county, are a pair, a male and female shot by Egerton Farley on our grounds, on the 22d of January, 1890, and a third shot by myself a week later, there were about a dozen in the first flock.
108. *Pincola enucleator* (Pine Grosbeak). A very irregular winter visitant.
109. *Carpodacus purpureus* (Purple Finch). Common as a summer resident, but less so during the winter.
110. *Loxia curvirostra* (American Crossbill). An irregular winter visitant.
111. *Acanthis linaria* (Redpoll). Some winters these birds appear in large flocks, and again they are entirely absent during the whole season.
112. *Spinus tristis* (American Goldfinch). A common resident.
113. *Spinus pinus* (Pine Siskin). An irregular winter visitant.
114. *Plectrophenax nivalis* (Snowflake). A common winter visitant, remaining as late as the first week in April.
115. *Pooecetes gramineus* (Vesper Sparrow). A common summer resident, arriving very regularly on the 7th of April.
116. *Ammodramus sandwicensis savanna* (Savanna Sparrow). A tolerably common summer resident.
117. *Zonotrichia leucophrys* (White-crowned Sparrow). A common migrant.
118. *Zonotrichia albicollis* (White-throated Sparrow). A more common migrant than the foregoing species.

119. *Spizella monticola* (Tree Sparrow). A common migrant, and winter visitant.
120. *Spizella socialis* (Chipping Sparrow). Our commonest native sparrow.
121. *Spizella pusilla* (Field Sparrow). A tolerably common summer resident.
122. *Junco hyemalis* (Slate-colored Junco). A common resident.
123. *Melospiza fasciata* (Song Sparrow). A very common summer resident, occasionally met with in mid-winter.
124. *Melospiza georgiana* (Swamp Sparrow). A very unobtrusive bird, very seldom noticed by any other than the collector. In some parts of the county it is quite common, especially in the large marshes.
125. *Passerella iliaca* (Fox Sparrow). A very rare migrant, I shot one on the 19th of April, 1888, west of this city, this is our only record.
126. *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* (Towhee). A common summer resident.
127. *Cardinalis cardinalis* (Cardinal). Accidental. Mr. Dodd has one in his collection that he shot about 1860, and Mr. Orville Foster of this city shot one, a male in full plumage, west of St. Thomas, on the 4th of May, 1890.
128. *Habia ludoviciana* (Rose-breasted Grosbeak). A common summer resident.
129. *Passerina cyanea* (Indigo Bunting). A common summer resident.
130. *Spiza americana* (Dickcissel). A very rare summer resident. A nest of this bird was found near Union Pond in 1885, containing four eggs, they are now in Mr. M. G. Kain's collection of this city.
131. *Piranga erythromelas* (Scarlet Tanager). A tolerably common summer resident.
132. *Progne subis* (Purple Martin). A common summer resident.
133. *Petrochelidon lunifrons* (Cliff Swallow). A common summer resident.
134. *Chelidon erythrogaster* (Barn Swallow). A common summer resident.
135. *Tachycineta bicolor* (Tree Swallow). A tolerably common summer resident.
136. *Olivicola riparia* (Bank Swallow). A common summer resident.
137. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis* (Rough-winged Swallow). An uncommon summer resident, generally found in company with the preceding species.
138. *Ampelis garrulus* (Bohemian Waxwing). A very rare winter visitant. Mr. Dodd shot several out a large flock about the year 1875, and has two of them in his collection now. He said they were very common that year.
139. *Ampelis cedrorum* (Cedar Waxwing). A common summer resident, often observed during the winter.
140. *Lanius borealis* (Northern Shrike). A regular winter visitant, arriving from the North in October and departing in March or April.
141. *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides* (White-rumped Shrike). An uncommon summer resident.
142. *Vireo olivaceus* (Red-eyed Vireo). This bird is the commonest representative of this family.
143. *Vireo philadelphicus* (Philadelphia Vireo). A very rare summer resident, our only record was one that was shot by Mr. B. P. Wintermute on the 15th of May, 1889, at Port Stanley.
144. *Vireo gilvus* (Warbling Vireo). A common summer resident.
145. *Vireo flavifrons* (Yellow-throated Vireo). An uncommon summer resident.
146. *Vireo solitarius* (Blue-headed Vireo). A rare migrant, only two specimens taken, both in May, 1888, by myself.
147. *Mniotilta varia* (Black and White Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident, more common as a migrant.
148. *Helminthophila chrysoptera* (Golden-winged Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident.
149. *Helminthophila rusticapilla* (Nashville Warbler). Common as a migrant, and I think a few might breed, but so far we have no record of their doing so.
150. *Helminthophila celata* (Orange-crowned Warbler). A very rare migrant, Mr. Orville Foster and myself each got one, a male and a female in the same orchard, on the 11th of May, 1889. On the 15th of the same month Mr. Wintermute shot a male near Port Stanley.
151. *Helminthophila peregrina* (Tennessee Warbler). The Only record I have of this bird being taken here, is one I shot early in September, 1889.

152. *Compsothlypis americana* (Parula Warbler). An uncommon migrant, might breed.
153. *Dendroica aestiva* (Yellow Warbler). This is our commonest warbler.
154. *Dendroica caerulescens* (Black-throated Blue Warbler). An uncommon migrant, being very irregular in their movements, sometimes not appearing during the spring migrations.
155. *Dendroica coronata* (Myrtle Warbler). A very common migrant.
156. *Dendroica maculosa* (Magnolia Warbler). A common migrant.
157. *Dendroica caerulea* (Cerulean Warbler). A tolerably common summer resident.
158. *Dendroica pensylvanica* (Chestnut-sided Warbler). A common summer resident.
159. *Dendroica castanea* (Bay-breasted Warbler). Mr. Wintermute shot one on the 16th of May, 1889, at Port Stanley, this is the only record.
160. *Dendroica striata* (Black-poll Warbler). A tolerably common migrant.
161. *Dendroica blackburniae* (Blackburnian Warbler). An uncommon spring and fall visitor.
162. *Dendroica virens* (Black-throated Green Warbler). A common migrant.
163. *Dendroica palmarum hypochrysea* (Yellow Palm Warbler). Several of these birds have been taken, but they are by no means common.
164. *Seiurus aurocapillus* (Oven-bird). A common summer resident.
165. *Seiurus noveboracensis* (Water Thrush). An uncommon migrant.
166. *Seiurus motacilla* (Louisiana Water Thrush). This form occurs sparingly throughout the county. It is not as common as the foregoing species.
167. *Geothlypis agilis* (Connecticut Warbler). A rare migrant. I shot one on the 30th of May, 1888, and Mr. Wintermute shot one on the 24th of May, 1889.
168. *Geothlypis trichas* (Maryland Yellow-throat). A common summer resident.
169. *Sylvania pusilla* (Wilson's Warbler). I generally find these warblers regularly in the spring and fall.
170. *Sylvania canadensis* (Canadian Warbler). A tolerably common migrant.
171. *Setophaga ruticilla* (American Redstart). A very common summer resident.
172. *Anthus pensylvanicus* (American Pipit). A tolerably common migrant.
173. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis* (Catbird). A very common summer resident.
174. *Harporhynchus rufus* (Brown Thrasher). An uncommon summer resident. They have decreased greatly in numbers during the past five years.
175. *Troglodytes aedon* (House Wren). A common summer resident.
176. *Troglodytes hyemalis* (Winter Wren). These birds generally appear in small flocks, but regularly during the migration. I have never yet observed them in winter.
177. *Cistothorus palustris* (Long-billed Marsh Wren). A very unevenly distributed species. Two of three pairs nest near this city, but these are the only ones I know of.
178. *Certhia familiaris americana* (Brown Creeper). Appears under the same circumstances, and in company with the Winter Wren.
179. *Sitta carolinensis* (White-breasted Nuthatch). A common resident. More often seen in winter than in the breeding season.
180. *Sitta canadensis* (Red-breasted Nuthatch). A common migrant, sometimes observed in winter.
181. *Parus atricapillus* (Chickadee). A well known bird remaining all the year.
182. *Regulus satrapa* (Golden-crowned Kinglet). A common migrant, often observed in mid-winter.
183. *Regulus calendula* (Ruby-crowned Kinglet). Not so common a migrant as the foregoing species.
184. *Poliophtilus caerulea* (Blue-gray Gnatcatcher). A tolerably common migrant, might breed.
185. *Turdus mustelinus* (Wood Thrush). An abundant summer resident.
186. *Turdus fuscescens* (Wilson's Thrush). Not as common as the foregoing species.
187. *Turdus ustulatus swainsonii* (Olive-backed Thrush). A rare migrant, I shot one on the 7th of May, 1887.

188. *Turdus aonalaschkæ pallasii* (Hermit Thrush). A common migrant, I saw several and shot one on the 13th of December, 1878, also saw one on the 10th of December, 1890.

189. *Merula migratoria* (American Robin). An abundant summer resident, often observed in winter.

190. *Sialia sialis* (Bluebird). A common summer resident.

The above list includes 190 species, divided thus:

|                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Residents.....        | 20  |
| Migrants.....         | 74  |
| Summer residents..... | 75  |
| Winter visitors.....  | 14  |
| Accidentals.....      | 7   |
| Total.....            | 190 |

### Random Notes on the Belted Kingfisher.

(*Ceryle alcyon*.)

The Kingfisher although a "common bird" its habits are but little known to many of our collectors. Its erratic flight and queer rasping call, demands attention and creates surprise every where. The *Alcedinidæ* are known in nearly every country, and in many places they are held in superstitious dread. To the poor ignorant Tartan and Ostiaks of India their feathers are a charm against all evils. They are the halcyon bird of the Ancients from whose habits of incubation arose the term "Halcyon Days" or those days which are particularly peaceful and happy. The English species is smaller than our Belted Kingfisher, also of brighter plumage, though their nesting habits are the same.

To frequenter of creeks or small rivers this bird is one of endless interest. A careless observer would think it to be of no small size (judging from its bill and head which are grotesquely out of proportion to the weight of the body), as it suddenly dashes by you with its peculiar harsh call and beautiful metallic plumage. Yet upon examination it proves to be scarcely as large as a dove. In South-Eastern Kansas where I took my first notes on this bird it is very abundant, staying all winter.

Many a time while skating have I seen the peculiar antics of this bird in search of small fish around the shallow and unfrozen pools of the river.

They begin nesting about the last of April and raise from 6 to 14 young. Their nests are but rarely disturbed owing to their position. I have found the nest proper as far as 12 feet back from the face of the bank, the tunnel usually sloping from the nest to the opening. Speaking from experience, the collecting of their eggs on the high banks of rivers is no easy thing, were it not that they always tunnel their nests near the top of these steep banks but few could be collected at the locality from which they are taken, for after digging a couple hours to find nothing at the end, is enough to dampen the ardor of the ordinary oologist. Remarkably, on three-fourths of all the nests which have had eggs I would also find a bird, and in one instance the bird had broken all the eggs when I reached the nest, either through fright or natural meanness.

A Kingfisher may well be called a fit example of patience, upon seeing one sitting quietly for hours at a time on a dead stub or drift near the water waiting for a meal. We might draw a striking contrast. Their manner of catching fish is a very peculiar one, and original to their family. I take an instance

from my notes of last summer, it was June 6, I was walking a long the bank of a creek when my attention was attracted by the peculiar motion of a Kingfisher seated on a snag in the creek, he was moving his head backward and forward, it made a shadow on the water. He continued this for sometime and I was wondering whether he had a "jag" on, so to speak, or whether he had swallowed a fish crosswise, when suddenly he rose obliquely in the air to a distance of about 15 feet when he turned and made a dash for the water almost perpendicularly coming up with a good sized perch. I am inclined to think that the shadow attracted the fish. I have also seen them fall on pieces of flesh from dead animals near rivers and creeks. I at first thought they were after the meat, but after seeing them capture three or four small fish which were attracted by the carcass, I concluded it was the fish and not the meat they were after.

The Kingfisher, all in all, is a very interesting bird and of whose peculiar habits I have never grown tired of studying.

JOHN W. MYKRANTZ,  
Ashland, Ohio.

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#### The English Sparrow.

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A number of years ago few English Sparrows were to be seen in Nebraska City. When the packing houses located here, they constructed a large number of sheds and yards. This was a perfect paradise, for the Sparrows, for food could be procured easily. Their whole time was occupied in constructing nests and rearing young. Soon this place became to small for their numbers. Some ejected the Blue-birds and Martins from their homes, others laid claim to the woodpecker's holes, still others took possession of the Bank Swallow's burrows along the river.

In the fall of 1889 two lonely Sparrows were seen to alight on my Grand-

fathers farm which is a distance of six miles from the city. Early in March 1890 they returned and immediately established themselves in a nest, that had been built and occupied for years by a pair of Barn Swallows. When the Swallows returned they were promptly driven off by the squatters. Instead of the pleasant twittering and flash of gay wings, we heard nothing but the harsh rasping scold of *Passer domesticus* throughout the whole summer. After the breeding season was over I found by a careful examination, that the flock contained fifteen members. But a sad day came,—they left. Over the side of their old brood-nest an unfortunate Sparrow swayed, to and fro, in the breeze, hung by a horse hair.

I send the following newspaper clipping, hoping the readers of the OOLOGIST who have the future safety of our native birds at heart, will try this way of exterminating this free-booter, who evidently thinks this whole universe, with all it's Wren, Blue-bird and Martin boxes were constructed for his especial benefit: "Dr. S. B. Collins, the noted opium and morphine habit doctor of the world, gives a sure and safe way of exterminating the pesky English Sparrow. He says feed them corn-meal and salt, one pint of salt to one peck of corn meal. The salt should be dissolved in water and thoroughly mixed with the meal, then dried. The best time to destroy them is in cold weather, when food is scarce. Within thirty days every Sparrow in the United States can be exterminated."

J. ELLIS McLELLAN,  
Nebraska City, Neb.

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#### A Few Articles for the Collector.

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An article which will be found very convenient in collecting, is a cheap fish reel and one hundred feet or more of strong small line. This will be found very useful in hauling up a collecting box, etc., to a high nest, also in measuring height of nest from the ground. It is well to have a small snap hook fastened to the end of the line.

A good collecting case for an extended trip, collecting water birds eggs from a boat etc., is made as follows: Get a box of light material and suitable size—mine is 17 inches long, 11 wide and 7 deep, made from 3-16 inch material, corners dovetailed together. Nail the cover on tight, and saw the box in two so that each half shall measure 17x11x3½ (if your box is the same size as mine). Hinge the two parts together on one of the 17 inch sides so that the case will open like a satchel. It may be fastened with small hooks and, if satchel lock cannot be procured, with a tiny hasp and padlock. The case should be covered with heavy duck canvas, and this should be treated to several coats of asphaltum, which renders it nearly waterproof. The interior may be divided up by thin board partitions into compartments of size to suit the taste. It is well to have one compartment specially for carrying climbers in, and one or two others may be for other instruments. A case like this will hold a great many eggs.

Small nets, of at least three sizes will be found of value, one about five inches in diameter, the other two, two and one inches respectively. These should be made with a good stiff wire frame, and the net made of cotton twine. This will be found to be better and to last longer than cloth or mosquito netting. The two smaller nets may be crocheted and the larger one made as follows: Having got the wire frame ready, fasten it up in a convenient place to work on. Cut the twine in lengths about three times as great as you wish the depth of the net to be (for this net should be about twenty four inches). Double these in the middle and loop them onto frame at a distance apart varying according to the size you wish the meshes of your net to be. After having fastened these entirely around the frame you will have the twine hanging in two strands, each place. Separate

these and tie, forming half meshes. When the first row of knots is complete continue on the second in the same as the first. Continue in this way until the net is nearly as deep as you wish it to be, then narrow rapidly, by tying the succeeding rows of meshes smaller. When the aperture at the bottom becomes so small that the number of strings become troublesome, tie the knots *very tight* and clip off one string from each pair, and continue to tie as before. When the number of strings is sufficiently reduced these may be tied together and the ends clipped off.

The wire handle should now be bent in form on an oval hoop. This net is tied to the end of a pole when needed and is useful in scooping the eggs from nests of Hawks etc., which could not be otherwise reached. The two smaller nets are left with long wire handles and are used in taking the eggs from nests in hollow trees and banks.

A hook made of stiff wire, with loop for tying to a pole, is useful in bringing nests on long slender limbs within reach. The collector should always have plenty of twine with him as he will frequently need it very much.

A climbing strap is of almost as much value as climbing irons, and the collector who wishes to take Hawks and Owls eggs should never be without either. A climbing strap should be at least fifteen feet or more in length, and two inches wide, made of good leather in two parts, buckling together in one place, and fastening with a snap hook and several stout rings at distances of six inches apart, in the other. A good description of a strap will be found in the Mar.—April 1886 number of the OOLOGIST, page 20. A water blower and a case instrument are both indispensable to the collectors. These have both been described in former numbers. A good dark lantern will be found of great service at times, both for investigating nests in holes, and for use in

"shady" night collecting. It is a good thing to prepare a few eggs for substitute for Hawks eggs in case of finding an incomplete set. This may be done by selecting hens eggs as near the size and shape as possible, boiling them hard, and spotting them carelessly with brown paint. Last, but not least, Lat-tin's new Hand-Book should always be in the pocket ready for reference. For constant use it will be found that the flexible leather covers are decidedly preferable to the paper.

B. S. B.  
Ontario Co., N. Y.

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**Screech Owl.**  
*Megascops asio* (Linn).

This pretty mottled Owl is found throughout the eastern part of the United States and Canada; west of the Rocky Mountains.

He is known by various names, some of which are, "Mottled Owl," "Little Red Owl" and "Gray Owl."

The female is from nine and a half, to ten inches long; the tail being about three and a half inches; the male is nearly the same size.

The Screech Owl is speckled and barred; the ground color is gray or red, the two colors bearing no relation to age, sex, or season. The two conditions of the plumage, gray and red, generally give rise to the belief that they are two distinct species. This, however, is erroneous.

The food of the Screech Owl consists of mice, insects and small birds.

He has ear tufts about one inch long.

March 17, while I was out for Owl's eggs, I caught a Gray Owl on the nest. Immediately after I had removed her from the hole, she disgorged a ball of fur and bones commonly known as "Owl Spit."

The nest was built in a hollow limb of an apple tree, and composed of sticks, leaves and feathers; to my disappointment there was no eggs.

She is brown on the back with a few white markings; the breast and underparts are white, beautifully mottled and barred with brown; the eyes are large and yellow. When she is disturbed, she grates her beak, (making a noise like that which is produced by snapping the fingers) and puffs out her feathers. It is queer, but so, that I have not heard her utter any noise other than that which I described above.

The eggs, like those of other owls, are pure white and nearly round; they measure on an average 1.40x1.20; from four to six are the number usually laid, but sometimes eight or nine make up the set. The nest is made in a hollow tree, stump, barn or shed. The notes of the Screech Owl are uttered in a tremulous, doleful manner, and may be heard a hundred yards or more. He is an entirely inoffensive species and not unfrequently flies about during the daytime.

H. T. GREENE  
Montclair, N. J.

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**Western Meadow Lark.**  
*(Sturnella magna neglecta.)*

The Western Meadow Lark is found, regularly, from that tier of states bordering the Mississippi on the west to the Pacific; to the north as far as British Columbia and Manitoba; and southward into the northern limits of Western Mexico. It is found sparingly east of its regular range within the territory of its cousin, *Sturnella magna*. It is imperfectly migratory and breeds throughout its range.

The Western Meadow Lark is a common resident of California. Almost every grassy plot has at least a pair of these agreeable tenants. The spring breezes that waft across these happy homes come to the ardent student of Nature laden with the delicious fragrance of unnumbered flowers; and the sweet strains of the Meadow Lark

bestowing upon his mate melodious assurances of fidelity and love. Then a Goldfinch, in undulating flight, festoons the other with its plaintive song. Emulous and with joy-glowing breast, the lark springs from his grassy covert to wing his brief, uncertain course; as he rises on fluttering pinions he glances at every side, his throat swells with blithesome song, the musical accents resound throughout the meadow; his flageoletic song ceases, a short sail and a few flutters terminates his flight.

From morass, thicket and woodland come the voices of Warblers, Wrens and Thrushes, joined in harmonious union, loud rings the concert of approbation; the Mockingbird, accompanying his strains with aerial evolutions, leads the throng; the rhapsody of the Thrasher, the whistle of the Wren-tit, even the sad *pe-wee* of the Phœbe bird help swell the chorus. A swoop and the fierce shriek of a hawk silences all.

The great interior valleys of California, the valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin, which combined extend over four hundred miles in length and from forty to sixty miles in width, seem to be the natural home of the Western Meadow Lark. I can conceive of no place more thickly populated with these merry denizens of the fields than that part of the San Joaquin situated in the western part of Tulare county known as Lucerne Vale, a district of about four hundred square miles. Here are extensive wheat fields; the monotony of the scene is broken by farm houses, here and there, surrounded with poplar trees and orchards, and also by darker hued fields of Alfalfa, in early summer the color of which is in marked contrast to the ripened grain. Lines of drooping willows, which fringe the banks of capacious irrigation canals, weave their way through these fertile plains and can be traced for miles until they become as threads and are lost in the dimness of the distance.

Far in the east the Sierra Nevadas left their lofty forms in rude grandeur above the plain; Mount Whitney, 14880 feet in elevation, towers above the others and presents to the sun, a glittering, snow-capped peak. The Coast Range mountains can be traced a dim outline on the western horizon. Such is the model home of the Western Meadow Larks.

Unmolested, they congregate here in countless numbers. On driving along the road, they arise in flocks from the road-side, fluttering a snort distance and settle again. They are easy to approach—a poor marksman, indeed, is he who must fill his bag with Meadow Lark.

The flight of the Meadow Lark is peculiar. It springs from the ground, glances about as if in fear and beats its wings in a laborious manner; after attaining a certain height it flies and sails alternately, it but seldom enters upon protracted flights, yet when shot at it sails and flies, until lost in the azure depth.

The nesting time is from the middle of April to July; the nest is built in a tuft of grass and is well concealed. The eggs, four to six in number are white, spotted with reddish-brown. The Larks make model parents, showing great solicitude for their young.

HARRY C. LILLIE,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

#### Hermit Thrush.

(*Turdus aonalaschke pallasiæ.*)

Of the family *Turdidae* resident in Southern New England the Hermit Thrush is undoubtedly the rarest. This bird, as its name implies, is solitary in habit; and one must search in the deep woods away from the "haunts of man" to find it.

On the nineteenth of June, 1887 I had the good fortune to discover a nest and eggs of this species in Hartford county, this state. I had set out to look for a

few plants of the Pink Cyrepedium. In my search I entered a deep wood by an unfrequented road. On one side were low trees and saplings intermingled with bushes' where evidently the attempt to clear the land had long since been abandoned. On the other side a forest stood which had not yet yielded to the encroachment of man. Tall pines their lower branches interlocking rendered an ingress a difficult task. Here and there, were open places filled with dense shrubbery and undergrowth. Clumps of Mountain Laurel and the low whortle-berry bushes were interspersed now and then with a bare sandy tract covered with pine needles.

Into this wilderness I plunged to obtain if possible the object of my search (and here let me say, although I was not particularly successful in this, a greater pleasure was in store.) Pushing aside the branches impeding, I advanced into one of the open spots previously mentioned, upon my approach, a Hermit Thrush flew from a clump of bushes near by, and alighted a short distance away. My suspicions aroused—I penetrated the shrubbery from whence the bird had flown. Much to my delight I discovered the nest containing three eggs. The opportunity for making the identity certain was given: for the thrush was still near at hand. The nest was a rather bulky affair composed of grasses, weed-stalks, leaves and strips of bark, lined with dried grasses. It was placed in a whortle-berry bush about two feet from the ground, at the point where the slender branches dividing in several directions form a crotch of varying size. The eggs were greenish-blue in color darker than those of the Wilson's Thrush (*Turdus fuscescens*) and larger. I regret to say that but one egg was taken. This measured .88x.66, as this specimen was partially incubated, the set must have been complete.

AN OBSERVER,  
Hartford Co, Conn.

### Aves Urbis.

Such a beautiful morning, the air so fresh and clear, the sun so bright! Just the day for a trip in the woods and here you are helpless because of that sprained ankle. Do not give up entirely, there is a good deal of ornithology to be learned in the trees around your city home, and many a pleasant half hour may be spent in the discovery of birds you had supposed unique to the fields.

We dwell in the heart of a city of 62000 inhabitants but have the good fortune of a roomy back yard with five fine apple trees; as many more stand over the fence in a neighbors yard and in this miniature orchard many birds dwell. In and about this yard I have observed 74 species, 21 of which have been found breeding, quite a number for so limited an area.

Of all the aquatic birds but one has been observed, and that a solitary Woodcock flushed from the long grass in early spring. Bobwhite once made us a flying visit for the purpose of eating our grapes, The Raptors sent only Cooper's and Sparrow Hawks as their representatives while the Picidæ were generous enough to bring to notice five species. The Flycatchers have at various times exhibited six species of which Traill's was the most remarkable. Both Orioles, the Cowbird, and Bronzed Grackles comprise our Sternidæ but of Fringillidæ we have a goodly number, fifteen species swelling the list. The tramp English Sparrows have nearly disappeared, thanks to relentless persecution on my part, thus leaving room for their more welcome relatives. Purple Finches pay us visits in spring and fall and are especially welcome because of their sweet songs. White-winged Crossbills and Pine Finches have once dropped in on us but the Red Crossbills are not on the list. Fox Sparrows and Towhees are with us in spring but soon depart, the one for

it's Northern breeding places, the other for the surrounding country. When the apple blossoms are just in their prime, with a true eye for the beauty of contrast the Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks come, catching flies from the tops of the trees. Bohemian Waxwings tantalized me on Sunday morning when I dared not shoot. It is surprising to see how many of his favorites the Warbler admirer could find in haunts apparently unsuited to them. During migrations Creepers, Nashville, Yellow, Myrtle, Black-thr. Green, Oven birds and Yellow-throats are abundant while Tennessee, Golden-winged, Cape May, Black-thr. Blue' Blackburnian, Prairie, and Wilson's Warblers are not so common but still not rare. Other birds one would not expect are Ruby-crowned Kinglets, Wood, Olive-backed Gray-cheeked, and Hermit Thrushes.

With all these who would despair of a pleasant trip among his friends even through fortune may frown on his country attempts?

STEWART E. WHITE,  
Grand Rapids, Kent Co., Mich.

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#### A Much Occupied Nest.

A rather peculiar case of the nesting of birds came under my notice lately, and I will try and tell the readers of the OOLOGIST about it, hoping it may be of interest to some.

In a grove not far from the city a pair of crows built a nest in the fork of a tree early in April. Perhaps they fitted up some old hawks' nests; however that may be, they laid their complement of five eggs which were immediately secured by an enterprising young oologist (?).

Not long afterwards (about the 25th of April) another friend while wandering in the grove, shot a nice male Long-eared Owl and shortly afterwards came to the crow's nest on which Mrs. Long-

ear was busily engaged. He "klim" up and was rewarded with a set of four fresh eggs.

For some time this nest "of my tale" had a rest but on May 6. a pair of Cooper's Hawks were hanging around and on the twelfth a set of four were taken and the male, who was on the nest at the time was shot.

Again on May 22d while I was collecting Warblers in the same patch, I noticed a Broad-winged Hawk sail around over the trees and thought I would take a look at the nest. After an easy climb I found one egg of the Broad-wing. Afraid to leave this I substituted a hen's egg in its place and went out two days later and got another, adding another hen's egg decorated with umber "spots" and "blotches."

Two days later I went out again and found that some enterprising oologist had taken the "decoys" and killed one of the birds. I heard later an amateur egg-collector who does it for the "fun" of the thing, relate in glowing terms of the taking of an incompleated set of Broad-winged Hawk's eggs on which the spots washed out, but he added, I have positive identity because I "nailed" the bird!

About the middle of June the nest was again occupied by a pair of crows, probably by some birds who had lost their first set, these birds only laying three eggs. Not visiting the nest any more I am unable to say positively what happened. However I heard that the young birds had been taken by some farmer boys for pets.

Now the only thing needed for this story to make it a "whopper" was for a Horned Owl and then a Red-tailed Hawk to have occupied in turn before the Long-eared Owl, but truth forbids. The nest still stands and I hope will yield more sets the coming spring.

PHALAROPUS,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

### The Whip-poor-will.

"When purpling shadows westward creep  
And stars through crimson curtains peep,  
And south winds sing themselves to sleep;  
From woodlands heavy with perfume  
Of spicy bud and April bloom  
Comes through the tender twilight gloom,  
Music most mellow.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will  
—Will, oh!"

The bosom of the brook is filled

With new alarm, the forest thrilled  
With startled echos, and most skilled.

To run a labyrinthine race

The fireflies light their lamps to chase

The culprit through the darkling space—  
Mischievous fellow.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will  
—Will, oh!"

From hill to hill the echoes fly

The marshy brakes take up the cry,

And when the slumbering waters lie

In calm repose, and slyly feeds

The snipe among the whispering reeds,

The tale of this wild sprite's misdeeds  
Troubles the billows.

'Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will—will, oh!

Whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will, whip-po'-will  
—Will, oh!"

Arriving here about the tenth of April, the return of the Whippoorwill is welcomed by almost every one as a happy signal of the near approach of the balmy days of spring. His familiar notes, which are listened to with such interest by all, are at first heard from some retired part of the woods, but soon he begins to visit the more open fields and roadsides, and frequently ventures within a few yards of our dwellings. These friendly visits have been regarded by the superstitious as omens of disaster, hence we sometimes hear of death or some misfortune which has followed these nocturnal visits. It is very remarkable how the syllable representing the notes of this bird, are changed to suit the fanciful imaginations of different persons. To many it resembles the syllables *whip-*

*poor-will*, from which its name is derived. To me it is a distinct articulation of *whip-o-will*. Mr. Langille says to his ear it is like "*chick-hoo-rhee*." We are informed by Nuttall that some of the Indians tribes gave to this bird the name "*Wecoalis*," for the same reason that it has been given "*Whippoor-will*" in English. By the casual observer there is no distinction made between the note of the Whip-poor-will and that of the Chuck-wills-widow, no difference being known between the two birds, as they are rarely or never; as a result; the notes are heard as coming from one bird. This may be an explanation of some of the various renderings by different ears. It is not our purpose to criticise, but unless it be considered as poetic license, which permits the use of *peculiar forms and expressions*, the author of the pleasing and expressive lines as quoted above must have fallen into the same error. Observe "*will-oh*," at the conclusion of each line representing the song which follows each verse. This seems to be a corruption of *wid-ow*, the last two syllables of the Chuck-will's-widow's note; the sound of *d* being displaced by that of *l*. In habits the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow are very similar, retiring to some unfrequented part of the woods during the day, there remaining in perfect silence, and unseen. But no sooner does night spread its curtains of darkness around, then the woods begin to reverberate with their vociferous notes, which is apt to produce a feeling of loneliness upon one if alone in the woods at this time, yet the sound is not unpleasant. These strains die away as night advances, when at the hour of midnight all is silent, but start afresh in the morning, saluting the dawn with their "melodious music."

Many are the erroneous ideas entertained by intelligent persons, who have never taken the pains to ascertain the

true facts regarding the Whip-poor-will. The Nighthawk or Bullbat, which can be seen in summer evenings, a few hours before sunset, skimming over the green meadows, describing his semi-circles and cutting his oblique lines through the air, uttering all the while his harsh note, accompanied by an occasional "booming" is supposed by many to be the same bird whose note a little later is change to the Whip-poor-will's song. There are others, less enlightened, who are possessed with the curious notion that at the first fall of frost this mysterious bird of the night is transformed into a frog, and thus spends the whole winter season in entire seclusion, until called out again by the first sound of thunder in early spring, when he again assumes his former shape, once more becoming a messenger of bad tidings.

Laying begins in this latitude about the middle of May. So far as I have observed, both the Whip-poor-will and Chuck-will's-widow, during the day, remain near their nests or the spot to be chosen for the nest. I have secured eggs of both species by locating the bird. This can be done by going about sunset, to some locality where they frequent, and remaining quiet until the first note is heard, which is usually preceded by a low clucking sound, then creep stealthily in the direction from which the sound comes, so as to get a clearer view of her position. If the effort proves a failure or if there is any doubt as to her exact position, it would be best to try the experiment another evening, until her position is located with certainty. When this is done mark the spot, and return next day, when it is likely the bird will be flushed, perhaps near the spot that was marked, or, if setting, from the nest. Now look carefully in every direction, near every bush, beside every log or stump, within fifteen or twenty yards from the place marked. The

eggs are very likely to be found if they have been laid. They are placed on the bare leaves, no pretensions, whatever, being made at nest building. To follow the above directions, strictly, will require a little trouble and some patience, but remember the way of the true oologist is hard. I hope some of the readers will try this plan and report through the columns of THE OOLOGIST.

M. C. WHITE,  
Mathews Co., Va.

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**Nesting of the Red-tailed Hawk.**  
(*Buteo borealis*) Gmel.

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The Red-tailed Hawk or Red-tailed Buzzard as it is sometimes called is distributed sparingly throughout this section—Eastern Penna.—and breeds, though in some few localities it is considered quite common. Broad meadow and pasture-lands bordered by heavy woods afford this hawk his favorite hunting ground. Wherever squirrels, chipmunks, ground-mice, moles and small rodents abound some species of Hawk will invariably be found breeding; and also where crows nest abundantly they are generally found for the crow is in many instances the architect of the hawk's nest. This species is the largest of the common hawks, it may be readily identified by the brownish-red color on the under side of its tail. The nest is placed in the largest trees from 40 to 60 or in a few instances 80 feet from the ground, many of them being practically inaccessible owing to the size of the tree trunks. It varies in size from that of a crows to a great bulky mass of sticks, grass, twigs, corn-stalks and moss as large in diameter as a buggy wheel, though very large it is comparatively shallow. The number of eggs laid is two or three rarely four. They are bluish-white to a soiled white in color heavily blotched and splashed with red and chestnut with obscure markings of purple on the larger end

or occasionally one egg of a set is marked on the smaller end. In very rare instances they have been found entirely unmarked. The average size is 2.36x1.80 inches. I report my first find of this species for this year on Mar. 20th.

This nest is placed high in the forks of a giant poplar tree in a small grove bordering a stream. Last year a crow built and occupied this nest but owing to its being so admirably located a pair of *Buteos* has taken possession of it this year. It is about 64 ft. high and owing to the size of the tree I think this clutch of eggs will remain unmolested. If any readers of the *Oologist* know of any safe and practical plan of reaching the eggs of species which nest so high in large trees—hawks especially—they will confer a favor by having it published in that live and wide-awake paper to the interest of collectors—THE OOLOGIST. When flying machines are invented I expect to take several sets of Red-tails which so far have defied all attempts on the part of collector to reach them.

JOS. P. JACKSON.  
Kelton, Pa.

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#### Cooper's Hawk.

The Cooper's Hawk commonly called the Chicken Hawk by the farmers, is quite common in Western Massachusetts. It is about 18 inches long, and has a long, slightly round tail some eight or nine inches in length. This bird can be recognized by its easy flight, and which in the open country, is near the ground, but when in pursuit of its quarry, it is very quick and powerful in its flight, and soon captures its prey. It is a great nuisance to the farmer who wishes to raise chickens for profit. If it once gets a taste from a brood, nothing except a heavy charge of shot fired with deadly effect, will drive it away till every chick has been taken. We remember when a boy, that one of these hawks

commenced to pick up a brood of chickens near the house. They were disappearing fast when one morning on going out to feed them we saw the hawk sitting on the coop waiting for them to come out. We took our gun and followed it to a wood lot near by, and shot the female on her nest, from which we took three eggs. This was in the days when we were beginning our collection of eggs and placing them in our cabinet without blowing out the contents. This nest was in a beech-tree about forty feet from the ground and it resembled the nest of the Red-tailed Hawk, and was built close to the body of the tree. The next year we took four eggs from the same nest. This was about twenty-five years ago. A few years later, while fishing for trout, we found another nest beside the brook about one half mile from the old place containing five eggs. The birds had taken possession of an old crow's nest which they had repaired and used for their domestic arrangements. This too, was in a beech-tree some twenty-five feet from the ground. The eggs were fresh and easily blown, some of which Friend Lattin took in exchange for eggs not in our collection. Our fourth and last nest was found in another beech-tree in the same wood lot, where the first two sets were taken. The birds had taken possession of a Red-tailed Hawk's nest, from which we had taken a set of three eggs a few weeks before. We find by referring to THE OOLOGIST for December 1886. that the three Red-tailed Hawk's eggs were taken April 10, 1882. and that the five Cooper's Hawk's were taken from the same nest May 17th of the same year, a little more than a month later. A description of the difficulties experienced in securing those two sets of eggs, can be found under the subject "A Newsy Letter from Massachusetts" in THE OOLOGIST of that date. This bird usually lays four or five eggs. Probably in those instances

where collectors have only taken three eggs, the set was incomplete or the bird had been robbed of her eggs several times. The eggs are bluish or greenish-white with occasionally a few obscure blotches of dark color, averaging about 1.90x1.50 of an inch in size. In our experience with this hawk we have found that instead of building its own nest, it has repaired either an old crow's or one of the larger species of hawk's nest, and thus has saved a good deal of hard work building such a bulky affair. The breeding season varies considerably, even in the same latitude, with this species. Usually the eggs are laid between the 10th and 20th of May, but some collectors report finding their eggs as early as May 1st. and others as late as June 1st. A set of their eggs makes a fine addition to a collection and are well worthy of notice.

ERWIN G. WARD,  
Palmer, Mass.

—♦♦♦—  
The Eagles of North America,  
BY J. W. P. SMITHWICK, SANS  
SOUCI, N. C.

□ In this article I will try to describe the different species of eagles that inhabit North America, and give a few notes on each species. Only three species of these grand birds make this Continent their home; but these are the noblest and finest of the whole family. What nobler bird than the Bald Eagle—the emblem of our Republic—can be found anywhere; and, the Golden Eagle, too, cannot be surpassed in stateliness. Eagles are birds of very great strength and power of endurance, capable of performing the longest journey seemingly, without fatigue.

BALD EAGLE (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*.)

This eagle frequents the whole of North America, but is more numerous in Florida than anywhere else. Dr. Coues says in his Key, that it inhabits N. A. anywhere, common—for an

eagle: The size of the Bald-headed species, varies from three feet to three feet and three inches in length; and in extent, from six to eight feet, and I have even heard of them being killed which measured nine feet in extent, but have never met with an instance of this, and therefore I cannot verify the statement. Several years ago, four Bald Eagles were fighting in the air over my grandfather's farm, when two of them clinched and fell to the ground, not many yards away from the house. They thoroughly terrorized the two colored people that were working there, because they believed that Judgement Day had come, and this occurrence was to warn them of its approach. One of them, an old man started for the house to get the gun. When he got to the steps, he changed his mind and thought that he would take them alive, and started back; but when he caught sight of the birds his heart failed him, and he started to the house again half running, only to repeat the same performance as soon as he reached the door steps. My aunt and the colored woman in the meantime assailed the eagles with a board apiece, and in a short time dispatched them both. When they came through the yard gate, each carrying a dead eagle; they saw the old man still running back and forth, calling out, "Oh! Miss S——, where's de gun, where's de gun." In answer to him they held up their eagles, which completely overcame him to think that they should kill them without a gun.

The Bird of Washington which the immortal Audubon thought was a new species was nothing more than the immature Bald Eagle. In speaking of The Washington Eagle, Audubon's own words are: "It was in the month of February, 1814, that I obtained the first sight of this noble bird (meaning the supposed new species, The Bird of Washington), and never shall I forget the delight it gave me. Not even Her-

schel when he discovered the planet which bears his name, could have experienced more rapturous feelings. We were on a trading voyage, ascending the Upper Mississippi. The keen wintry blasts whistled around us, and the cold from which I suffered had, in a great degree, distinguished the deep interest which at other seasons, had been wont to wake in me. I lay stretched beside our patroon. The safety of the cargo was forgotten, and the only thing that called my attention, was the multitude of ducks of different species, accompanied by vast flocks of swans, which from time to time passed us. My patroon, a Canadian, had been for years engaged in the fur trade. He was a man of much intelligence; and perceiving that these birds had engaged my attention, seemed anxious to find some new object to divert me. An eagle flew over us. How fortunate! he exclaimed, 'this is what I could have wished. Look, sir, the great eagle, and the only one that I have seen since I left the lakes.' I was instantly on my feet, and having observed it attentively concluded as I lost it in the distance, that it was a new species quite new to me."

A few years after this Audubon had the pleasure of killing one of this supposed new species, and preserved it. Afterwards he made a drawing of which it took him fourteen days to complete. He gave it the name of 'The Bird of Washington. As great a Naturalist, and bird-lover as Audubon was he had made a mistake. His new species was nothing more than an immature Bald Eagle. Such must certainly be the case, or some other Naturalist would have seen this new eagle, and noticed it. Mr. Webber in his book, "Wild Scenes and Song Birds" says in regard to the certainly new species: "That Mr. Audubon has made a mistake in regard to the fact, of this being a new species."

Bald Eagles nest in Florida more

than anywhere else on this Continent. There, along the Indian River region, you can find the nest and be able to see one or two more not very far distant.

I know where a pair of eagles nest in this county (Bertie) every year, but that is all I know about it. I have often wished that I could climb to it; but it is useless to wish, since the nest is at the top—the very pinnacle—of a very high dead pine. This pine is in a swamp, on the left hand bank of the Cash River where it empties in the Albemarle Sound, and if any reader of the OOLOGIST wishes to know the exact situation of an eagle's nest, will take a Geography and look at the place, he will see the place where a pair of Eagles build every year and raise their young ones in safety, from the simple reason that I am not able to obtain their eggs.

#### GOLDEN EAGLE (*Aquila chrysaetus*.)

This species is about as common in California as the Bald Eagle is in Florida. They usually build in the mountain cliffs, but often appropriate trees for this purpose. In all cases their nest is very hard to reach, as they build in the highest trees that they can find, or else upon inaccessible crags of the mountains of which of either they can find a plenty, because the country round about California is noted for these two things. The Golden Eagle is very near the same size of the Bald Eagle, but differ greatly in plumage. The former is of a rich golden brown, while the latter is a vandyke brown with white head and tail. In Asia Minor this species is very common, nesting among the Taurus Mountains in the almost inaccessible crags and clefts. It is with great difficulty that the nests can be reached. I have a set of two in my collection that was collected there, and the description of the nest on the data reads thus: "Nest, was made of sticks, sods, feathers, bones, etc., placed in a cliff, reached by a man being lowered with ropes from above." By the

above you see that it is as hard to get to the nest after you find it, as it was to find it. The Golden Eagle also is known to breed in the mountainous districts of New England and New York.

These are the birds that trouble the sheep-raisers of the West. I have been told that they swoop down upon and carry off the young lambs so unexpectedly and easy that it is impossible to keep a lookout for them and prevent them from catching the unfortunate lambs. But the eagles must be fed, and I suppose that this is as good as any way. It is only a lamb gone, and the eagles feast thereon.

In the cliffs and high trees where they build, they lay generally two, but sometimes three eggs. In color they vary from almost pure white to thickly spotted with brown, with shell markings of lavender and purplish.

GRAY SEA EAGLE (*Halicæetus albicilla*).

This eagle is admitted to the Check List of North American Birds upon its occurrence in the southern part of Greenland. As its name implies, it is truly a Sea Eagle hardly, if ever being found far inland. They breed quite commonly in South Greenland, and abundantly along the coast of Great Britain in the rocky cliffs that overhang the ocean. They, like other eagles, lay two and sometimes three eggs—plain white in color.

—————  
 Nesting of Black-capped Chickadee in Kalamazoo Co., Mich.  
 (*Painis rtricipitlvs*.)  
 —————

The Black-capped Chickadee may be found in these parts through the entire year. Although I think it migrates and those found here in winter breed farther north.

Its bold habits make it to most people a well known bird. The nest of the Chickadee when once its habits and general nesting sites are known, is very easy to find. The nest according to my

observations is usually placed in a hole made by the birds in a small stump from four to eight inches in diameter, and from one to three feet from the ground, always in a swampy place or near water. A nest found April 22d, 1889, in a small ash stump 18 inches from the ground. The entrance to this nest was one and one half inches in diameter and the cavity five inches deep, larger at the bottom than top and filled about half way with moss, fur, hair and fibrous bark. The eggs seven in number were covered over, a habit of the Chickadee before leaving the nest.

A nest found April 27th, 1889, in a stub that leaned over a creek. The birds had drilled in from the under side and had a young bird fallen from the nest, nothing would have prevented it from going in the water. The entrance was about three feet from the surface of the water. This nest contained six slightly incubated eggs.

A set of six slightly incubated eggs was taken from a small poplar stump May 6th, 1889. The stump was in a swamp nearly covered with tall, rank grass.

The bird was on the nest when found and had to be removed in order to secure the eggs. Another set taken May 9th, 1890, from a stub that ran obliquely from the body of an alder bush, contained eight nearly fresh eggs, a large set.

The stub was about four inches in diameter and two feet from the ground. when I first found the nest I broke open the hole and found but one egg. I went to a marsh near, got some long grass and with it tied the thin shell back to its place. Ten days later I went to the nest and found eight eggs as above stated. This nest I have in my cabinet. It is built of green moss and bits of bark, lined with bits of fur, hair and a few small feathers.

The eggs of the Chickadee do not dif-

fer greatly and can be distinguished from all others in this locality. Color, white, marked sparingly over the entire surface with reddish-brown spots, chiefly at the larger end.

B. R. W.

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#### Nesting of the Purple Finch.

---

This species also known as the "Linnet" arrives in this locality about the first of April, and but few remain with us to breed.

I was fortunate enough last year to have the pleasure of finding a nest of *Carpodacus purpureus*, which now is in my possession, with four of the finest specimens of the eggs I ever saw.

While passing through an apple orchard on June 30th, 1890, my attention was drawn to the opposite side by the Canary-like song of the above species, which I did not recognize at first. After walking to the other side of the orchard, there upon the top-most branch of an apple tree sat the male so absorbed in his song as to be oblivious to all around him; glancing to the opposite side of the tree I saw a small shallow nest built upon a branch about eight feet from the ground.

The nest generally consists of a frame work of vegetable fibres, grass stems and strips of bark, and lined with minute fibres closely woven together.

The eggs are oblong-oval, and vary in size and configuration. They are a pale emerald green and spotted with a dark brown.

The average size of the set taken by me was somewhat larger than any I ever saw. The average measurement being .89 by .69 of an inch.

CHARLES A. ELY,  
Monmouth Co., N. J.

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#### The Red-eyed Vireo (*Vireo olivaceus*.)

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The Red-eyed Vireo is a quite common summer resident in this locality, as it is in all the eastern part of this

country. It is one of the most joyful and tireless of our feathered songsters. One can hardly stir out of doors during the spring and summer, without hearing snatches of its melodious song. Its song seems too large for its body, and to swell and burst out without assistance from its owner. It builds its nest between the fork of a small limb generally near the tip. The nest is firmly woven of fibers of bark and lined with grasses or pine needles.

In some parts of the country the nest is said to be placed almost invariably in maples, but I have seen it here in both beech and apple trees. It is usually placed within arm's reach, though I once saw one twenty feet up a cedar tree. The eggs are sometimes two, sometimes four, but generally three and rarely five. They have a pure white ground rather thinly dotted with reddish spots. Those in my possession average .80 x .56. The bird itself is a slim, graceful, olive-brown creature about three inches long. It has a way of jumping and darting from limb to limb, in and out of sight and peering at you when you are near its nest.

W. E. AIKEN,  
Benson, Vt.

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#### A Living Egg-Blower.

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ONLY A SUGGESTION.

If collectors have tried every possible means of blowing badly incubated eggs, such as eggs that are about to hatch, drill the hole a little larger than usual, and apply a leech.

The leech will suck the blood out of the chick till it becomes so full that it drops off, keep on applying other leeches which in turn will suck their share of blood, till nothing remains but the skeleton and skin, the latter of which oologists already have their methods of removing. Remember this is only a suggestion.

ROBINSON C. WATTERS,  
Baltimore, Md.

# THE OÖLOGIST

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FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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We have a bushel (more or less) of queries to answer and notes and items to sift out, which should have appeared in this OOLOGIST. Pressure of other business prevented. Will try and have them in June issue sure.

During the past two years we have mailed the OOLOGIST between the 5th and 10th of each month. Owing to a large amount of extra work, we were unable to mail last month's issue until the 15th. In order to "catch up" and to mail future issues on the *first* of the month we make this issue a double number and mail it on April 25th. We think this change will prove highly satisfactory to our friends as this issue contains double the usual amount of reading matter, and future issues will

be mailed not later than the first day of the month of issue, and possibly on the 25th of the preceding month, in which case, our patrons would receive their OOLOGIST by the first of the month.

All copy for June OOLOGIST must be received not later than May 20th.

## Bird Life of an Islet.

BY W. N. C.

Situated in Casco Bay, on the coast of Maine, distant about three-quarters of a mile from the nearest land is an islet which though not large is of interest to the Collector as being the home of a number of birds. The writer has visited this islet a number of times and collected somewhat in the oological line upon it, and now proposes to offer a few notes upon the species occurring there.

□ Although bird life teems I have seen but four species, namely: The Sharp-tailed Finch, Spotted Sandpiper, Arctic Tern and Bank Swallow. I have named these in the order of their abundance.

First let us speak of the Sharp-tailed Finch. They are abundant in every sense of the word; the island fairly swarms with them, but in spite of their numbers they hide their nests so cunningly that it takes considerable time and patience to discover one; since the writer is sadly deficient in the later quality, all of his nests were discovered accidentally. I have found three sets of four and one of six, all placed in the side of the bank that skirts the rocky beach.

The little Spotted Sandpipers are everywhere, and their obtrusive habits make them appear upon one's landing, the most abundant species on the islet. They are the earliest breeders, and on June 24, 1889, I found many fragments of egg shells of this species among the

rocks on the shore. How they got there I am unable to state. It would seem a curious place for the species to nest. The only set found on this occasion, perfectly fresh, and probably a second one, was placed in the long grass of the afore-mentioned bank.

Arctic Terns are quite numerous, but they are decreasing, their number being much smaller last summer than in the two preceding ones, which is as far as my observation extends. Their nesting is as usual. About June 25th is the time to look for full sets. The most nests are found in the driftage which is deposited in patches in the salt grass, but some are found in other locations. Here as elsewhere two or three is the common number, but in this colony it sometimes exceeded, for in my short experience with it, I have found two sets of four and even one of five. These latter were undoubtedly all laid by one bird since they agreed perfectly in a rather rare type of coloration. I also found six eggs in one nest, but these were easily divisible by markings, into two distinct sets.

The fourth species observed on this islet is the Bank Swallow. There are only a few pairs, nesting in the earth banks with no variation from their habits on shore. They breed earlier than any species except the Spotted Sandpiper.

I have found the bird life of this little islet very interesting, as representing four typical species of our native birds and I hope my account of it may prove so to others.

---

Migration of the Canada Goose.  
(*Branta canadensis*.)

---

A long time ago, I remember the flocks of Canada Geese that passed on their semi-annual migration flights. I remember the strange feelings I had when I saw the large, rare birds. I

or from their breeding grounds which were supposed to be so very far away in the cold north that they had not been discovered. I had read that their nesting grounds were unknown.

When I would see them passing overhead, with strange and beautiful flight I would have that pleasure which an ornithologist has when he sees some rare new bird. Some of the mystery and wondering thought connected with the "Wild Goose" has been cleared away. It is now known to breed not only in the northern part of the United States, but even as far south as southern Illinois, Ornithologists have found its haunts and studied its nesting habits to their pleasure. The migration of any bird is an interesting study, but it seems to me that the study of this movement in the Canada Goose is of superior interest. It passes here in its fall migration on dark, cloudy and often rainy days. I have wondered why it chooses such days to fly, and also why they always fly Southeast, instead of South in the autumn, when they pass over this locality. It is an invariable fact that they choose such days and fly in the directions I have just mentioned. I can only account for it in this way. In the fall, so I have read, great flocks of these birds gather for food and rest, after the work of the breeding season, on the great plains of the West and Northwest. The long dreary fall rains come from those directions, and bring the flocks of Geese with them.

About the time of their migration they are probably warned by an approaching storm—It is said that birds can foretell changes of weather,—and commence their journey, often to be overtaken by it before they have reached their southern destination. Now these storms from the northwest may be the cause of the direction they pursue or it may be they prefer the pleasant

part of the Gulf of Mexico to any other.

In the spring they fly in a northwesterly direction, but I can not account for this by the directions of the storms. March 26, 1891, I saw a large flock, perhaps 75 in number, flying nearly directly west. Can anyone account for this direction? I can but guess. They may go to breed in the northwest, or they may gather in large flocks, on the plains and then pass on north.

How many interesting and often perplexing questions are raised by the study of migration! But it is pleasant nevertheless. Last spring on a beautiful bright day I studied the Warblers, near a little stream where tinted Hepaticas were almost as thick as the pebbles at the bottom of the water. I was happy in the woods that day. But all days are not pleasant out of doors. When "the days are dark and dreary" I feel as much pleasure, almost in seeing flocks of the great Canada Geese flying high overhead, as I do when I find some rare beautiful Warbler in the blossoming April woods.

EARLE A. BROOKS,  
French Creek, W. Virginia.

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#### Association of American Ornithologists.

A number of the ornithologists, of Washington, D. C., and vicinity, met with a view to organization, on April 11th last. The meeting was held at F. S. Webster's studio of taxidermy, on Penn. Ave., and a partial organization effected.

The following officers were elected:

Pres., Rev. J. H. Langille, Kensington, Md.; Vice Pres., W. H. Aspinwall, 1305 Riggs St., Washington, D. C.; Treas., to be filled; Sec., A. B. Farnham, Bennings, D. C.; Board of Corresponding Secretaries, Chairman, W. A. Merritte, 118 Md. Ave., N. E. Washington, D. C., other Sec's to be supplied.

The above name was determined on

weeks, when an association organ will be determined on, and other matters perfected. The main object of the association is the effective study of bird life by ways and means adapted to those who are not professional naturalists.

Corresponding members are desired everywhere, especially those isolated regarding ornithological tastes. Such persons gather much that is new to many students of bird life, and as the associations headquarters are in Washington it hopes to offer advantages to such members-at-large, in the way of identification, comparison and the accounts of eminent naturalists. The association having access to the collections and library of the Smithsonian Institution it will be easy for it to furnish its members any such information. Persons wishing to ascertain more regarding the association and membership in the same will please write the Cor. Secretary or any of the officers.

A. B. FARNHAM,  
Cor. Sec.

---

#### Notes on Wright's Flycatcher. (*Empidonax obscurus*)

The eggs of this species being considered quite rare, I thought a few notes on the nesting habits would be acceptable. I have found this Flycatcher in young aspens, willows, etc., and usually near water, during the breeding season, but never have I gained any knowledge as to the nesting habits, until the season of 1890, when I collected a fine set of three fresh eggs. The nest was a very neat structure, composed mostly of soft grass, but with a few fine strips of bark and a small piece of twine, tightly woven together with a lining of horse hairs. It was placed in some buck-brush, only three feet from the ground and but two feet from a creek. The eggs were a pale buffy-white, but

white with a delicate bluish tinge, yet when held to the light, the buffy appearance is still visible but is very faint.

The parent birds were at least from five to ten feet away all the time I was near the nest, but didn't seem to be excited in the least when I took the eggs, although they seemed to be watching me all the time. Occasionally one would repeat that familiar note which sounds something like *whit*.

Returning to the same locality later in the season I found they had nested again, this time with success. They had raised four young, which were in good plumage for the time being. I secured one to assure identity to the set of three I had previously taken. On the same day (June 25) that I collected the eggs, I found an old nest, which was in all appearances, the same as the one taken, and it was only about thirty feet from it. Probably the same pair builds in that locality from year to year. During the coming season I shall visit the same place with hopes of finding another set of this species.

CLYDE L. KELLER,  
Salem, Oregon.

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number of nests, and after the full complement of eggs has been laid and the birds began incubating, to "make the rounds" and gather up all the eggs? Then invite all your ornithological friends to a "Grand Egg Breaking Matinee," have ice cream and cake and enjoy yourself generally over the murder of the *innocents*.

"A. M. S."  
Poynette, Wis.

#### A Correction.

In March OÖLOGIST in my article of "Winter Birds of Linn Co. Oregon," "No. 762 Mountain Robin" should be No. 763 Mountain Robin or Varied Thrush *Hesperocichla naevia*.

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DR. A. G. PRILL.

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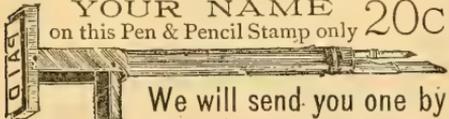
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It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the *Ms.* for a new Oologists' Hand-Book is nearly ready for the printer and, that under ordinary circumstances it will be ready for delivery early in June. The new Hand-Book, for the money, we think will be one of the most valuable works for one interested in birds, ever published. Our old '85 edition was issued as our catalogue—Our new '91 edition will not be a catalogue at all, but simply and purely a Collectors' Hand-Book in the fullest sense of the word, and will contain, at least 150 pages, each teeming with valuable information. It will also contain two or three full page plates and many illustrations. The size of the pages will be about 6 x 4 inches, making a volume that can be conveniently carried in the pocket. Two editions will be issued, one in paper covers at 50c per copy, and the other in flexible leather at 75c.

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It will give the common and scientific name of every North American bird known at the date of going to press. These names will be numbered, arranged and given according to the A. O. U. nomenclature, they will also be divided and sub-divided into the orders and families which they belong. It will give the numbers of each species as used in Ridgway's nomenclature of 1881 and those used by Coues' in 1883. It will give the value of the eggs of over 600 species and sub-species of North American birds, as fixed by some of the most competent American Oologists, at date of going to press, this fact alone making it invaluable to collectors, as a basis on which to make exchanges. It will give the breeding range of each species. It will give a considerable information about the nest of each species. It will give the shape, color, markings and size of the eggs of each species and will also state the number usually found in a set. It will also mention some of the more common local names by which each species is known in different localities. It will also give a considerable information on the collecting and preparing of specimens for the cabinet and will have something to say about making cabinets, making exchanges, packing, etc., etc. It will also tell how to make a good bird skin, and many other useful hints and items, most of which will be well illustrated.

PRICE:—In paper covers, 50c; flexible leather, gilt title, 75c.

Mr. FRANK H. LATTIN,

*Publisher the OOLOGISTS' HAND-BOOK, Albion, N. Y.*

Sir: Herewith please find \$..... for which send me by mail, post-paid.....copies of the OOLOGISTS' HAND-BOOK for 1891 bound in.....

Name.....

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State.....

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## SPECIAL OFFER TO ADVANCE SUBSCRIBERS

Until June 1st advance subscriptions, accompanied by the cash, will be accepted as follows:

Paper covers, 40c; 3 copies, \$1.00.

Leather " 60c; 3 copies, \$1.50.

Advance subscribers will receive their books by the first mail, after we obtain them from the bindery. All orders will be filled in rotation received.

## COUES' KEY TO NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS,

*Contains a concise account of every species of living and fossil Bird at present known on the Continent north of the boundary line between Mexico and the United States, including Greenland.*

The Fourth Edition, exhibiting the New Nomenclature of the American Ornithologists' Union, and including descriptions of additional species, changes, etc., up to May 1, 1890.

WITH WHICH ARE INCORPORATED

GENERAL ORNITHOLOGY.—An outline of the structure and classification of Birds; and

FIELD ORNITHOLOGY.—A manual of collecting, preparing and preserving Birds.

By ELLIOTT COUES, M. A., M. D., Ph. D., Member of the National Academy of Science, &c.

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The three former editions of this Standard Text Book of Ornithology being entirely out of print, and still very much in demand, the publishers have spared neither pains nor expense in the preparation of "THE NEW KEY," in which the whole subject is carefully brought down to date. "Coues' Key" is too well known as a leading and authoritative treatise to require remark. The work contains over 900 pages and is fully indexed with several thousand entries.

ROYAL OCTAVO, VELLUM \$7.50. SAMPLE PAGES FOR STAMP.

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

## NEW DIRECTORY FOR ORNITHOLOGISTS AND OOLOGISTS

Realizing the fact that a new and strictly reliable directory is greatly needed by the collectors of this country as a medium for exchanges and correspondence, we have decided to compile one which will meet the demands of the public. This directory will contain the names and addresses of the principle Ornithologists Oologists and Taxidermists of North America and Great Britain, the cards of the principal dealers of these countries; exchange and want notices, natural history press directory etc.

### DESCRIPTION.

52 or more pages, printed in suitable type, on good book paper, bound substantially, in heavy tinted covers. THE PRICE of this directory will be 25c after publication, but to those sending in their names immediately and signifying their wish for a copy, on publication the price will be 15c.

### TO ADVERTISERS.

Through correspondence with many prominent collectors throughout the country will find the general opinion is that a good directory is badly needed. We will make this directory a good one. Great care will be taken to make the compilation strictly correct. And as for the typographical appearance, we are sure you will be pleased with it. We solicit your advertisements for this work. Nothing objectionable will be inserted and only reliable dealers need apply for space. PLEASE SEND FOR PROSPECTUS which will explain our plan of securing dealers and others making remittances and gives full explanations.

### EXCHANGE AND WANT NOTICES.

We will insert a limited number of exchange and want notices at the following rates:

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| \$ .25 | for a 2 line notice |
| .40    | " 5 " "             |
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Send for prospectus etc. mailed free.

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## A JOB LOT.

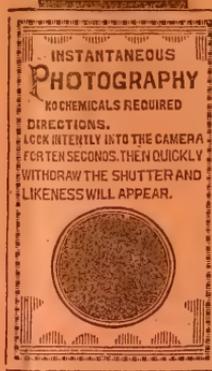
We have just purchased of the manufacturers at less than actual cost of plating, a lot of gold and silver plated charm rules, size and graduations are as illustrated. We have less than 75 all told and until June 1st (unless sold before) we will mail them prepaid at the following low rates:

Silver Plated 15c regular price 50c  
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## AN UNPAKALLELED ONE



Any person sending us 15c before March 15, 1891, we will, in order to introduce our goods, send prepaid the following articles, viz:

Mexican Resurrection Plant, Instantaneous Photograph Camera (will be sold separately for 10c,) 2 Japanese Napkins, 1 Japanese Envelope, 1 Leaf from Japanese Book, 1 pkg. Scrap Pictures, 10 varieties of Foreign Stamps, Coupon good for 25c on an order of \$1.00 or over.

The entire package will be sent you by return mail, prepaid for only 15c. address,

CURIO NOVELTY CO.  
Gaines, Orleans Co., N. Y.

WM. G. SMITH,  
—COLLECTOR OF—

Birds, Mammals and Eggs,  
LOVELAND, COLORADO.

I make a specialty of mailing birds same day as skinned, or sent in the flesh after subjecting them to a preservative preparation. Enclose stamp for Price List.

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If you want anything in the RUBBER STAMP LINE, write to "FORD," for prices. He will furnish you a four-line stamp with pads and ink for only 33c, post-paid. Address,

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BRISTOL, - - - CONN.

Imported Japanese & Indian Silk Worm  
Eggs for Seed, in Silk Culture.

Different species, also the celebrated Madras Silk Cocoons, warranted to be raised successfully in this country. Directions given how to raise them profitably. Prices Low.

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400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.  
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GREATEST BARGAINS in King Crabs.—Send twelve perfect arrowpoints for two eight-inch king-crabs, or six for two small ones. Make offer for fifteen inch ones. ROLLIN T. TOMS, Stamford, Conn.

ATTENTION!—Wanted collectors to send 2 (2 cent) stamps for samples and prices of our new wooden trays. LOUCKS & KINNEY, 114 Ellis St., Peoria, Ill.

FOSSILS, 10 Species, 75c; 20 for 75c; 35 for \$1.50; 50 for \$3.00; 75 for \$8.00, Ill. List. Ayr FRANK KINNE, Knoxville, Iowa.

## Dealers and Collectors

Desirous of obtaining fine rare sets of Pacific Coast birds' eggs this season, will do well to send me list of wants and prices paid.

**N. R. CHRISTIE,**

Rye Patch, Nev.

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We do all Job Printing in the latest and best styles, at bottom prices. Printed to order with neatness and dispatch.

Data Blanks, Naturalists' Labels, Cards, Note Heads, Envelopes, Tags, Price Lists &c.

Send us a copy or write us what you want, and get our prices before giving orders elsewhere. We will save you money. Address,

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## Natural Science Establishment.

NEW CATALOGUE OF

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## BIRDS' EGGS

Eggs of the North and South African Ostrich. South American Ostrich. Ibis, Cassowary, etc., with other rare species from all parts of the Globe

ARE OFFERED IN THIS CATALOGUE.

ÆPIORNIS MAXIMUS (east) from Madagascar, one of these eggs is *thirteen* inches long, will hold 2 gallons of water and is equal to 14½ hens' eggs. Price \$3.00, with mounting \$4.00. Price of catalogue, 10c.

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Anyone wishing to invest \$500.00 may secure a splendid stock of Birds' Eggs, worth \$1500.00. This is a good chance for anyone starting as a dealer in Oological Supplies and may not occur again. Apply at once, F. W. BERRY 53 Foxley St., Toronto, Canada.

DEALERS AND COLLECTORS desirous of obtaining correctly identified first-class and original sets of Western eggs this season, will do well to send me list of wants and prices paid, satisfaction guaranteed. N. R. Christie, Rye Patch, Nev.

SEND stamp for price-list of Birds' Eggs at rock-bottom prices, to W. E. PRATT, Lake Forest, Ill.



# OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1891.

No. 6

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—Manton's "Taxidermy without a Teacher," bound in cloth, in first-class condition; for best offer in Entomologists' supplies. DAVID A. YOUNG, Washington Heights, Ill.

EXCHANGE!—Will exchange New Jersey eggs for same, Lattin's value as per 1891 Catalogue for yours. 33 $\frac{1}{2}$  off for mine. W. WILKINS, Rahway, N. J.

TO EXCHANGE.—Telegraph outfit complete key, sounder, battery and wires; for machinists' books or nickel plating outfit. WALDEN T. ROWELL, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

TO EXCHANGE.—A 22 cal. rifle globe and elevating sights; for Telescope, 4 or more slides good condition. All correspondence answered. PERRY MARKS, Newton, N. J.

WANTED.—The correspondence of everyone who is interested in the collecting of Birds' Eggs. Write, you will never regret it. OSWOLD B. COOPER, Coffeyville, Kansas.

WANTED.—The Boston "Ornithologist and Oologist," previous to the year 1885, also any other magazines or works relating to Ornithology for which I will give good exchange in eggs. F. L. FARLEY, St. Thomas, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—Job Printing for Coues' Key, Natural History Specimens and Curio. Dates and Labels any way you want them. Here is your chance, write and make offer. ELBERT L. POTTER, La Motte, Iowa.

3 VOLS. Harper's Young People, Old Coins, Stamps, Confederate Money, International Album. Send for list and condition. Send your lists. F. L. ENGLEBERT, Des Moines, Iowa.

WANTED.—To purchase a good collection of first-class Birds' Eggs, in Sets with data. Also eggs singly and in sets. Address with lists and price wanted. JAS. McEVOY, JR., Graham's Warehouse, Park Ave. and Dolphin St., Baltimore, Md.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—Large quantity display and body type for bicycle or field glass. Curiosities in bulk for Bird Skins. GEO. GUELF, Taxidermist, Brockport, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Hopkins and Allen, 22 cal. double action revolvers for best offer of eggs, amounting to \$4.00 or over. C. G. SARGENT, Winnebago City, Minn.

WANTED.—Good exchange in first-class eggs (sets preferred) for Stamps, over 2200 varieties, Eggs and Vols. of Golden Days. Correspondence desired. W. C. JONES, Box 239 Bradford, Mass.

FOR EVERY \$1.00 worth of first-class sets, I will give a valuable receipt for Arsenical Soap, used at the Jardin des Plantes, Paris. A live tame Hawk for best offer sets. W. LOUCKS, Box 478, Peoria, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Beautiful Cigarette Albums, Cards, etc.; for Indian Relics, Fossils, Curios, Confederate Stamps, Coins, etc. EWING L. DAVIS, Box 153, Tullahoma, Tenn.

I WISH to exchange first-class carefully identified sets, for the same not in my collection. Reliable collectors send lists and receive mine. HERBERT W. MCBRIDE, Elkhart, Ind.

I HAVE two bald Eagles' eggs, one end-blown, other with large irregular hole in end, to exchange for Rifle or Revolver. A. C. JOST, Wolfville, Nova Scotia.

FOR EXCHANGE.—900 different kinds of United States and Foreign postage stamps, in album, value \$16; to exchange for best offer. BURT RAYMOND, Addison, N. Y.

WANTED.—Natural History specimens of nearly all branches, in large or small quantities. Will exchange specimens or supplies, or pay cash. Send list with lowest prices. I have some paper-cover "Davie's Keys" to exchange. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis. JES

DAVIE'S "NESTS AND EGGS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS."—In reply to dozens of queries we take pleasure in announcing that during the month of June we will exchange Davie's invaluable work for any of the Eggs wanted in our Exchange-Extraordinary at the following liberal rates:

Paper cover edition \$1.00 in Eggs and 40c cash  
Flexible cloth " " " " 65c "  
Extra " " " " " 90c "

We make this offer for June only and will never renew it. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

I HAVE a Columbia Volunteer Bicycle, 54-inch, in very good condition and a 22 cal. Winchester single-shot rifle in perfect condition. Will sell Bicycle for \$50. and Rifle for \$9. HARALSON PACE, Covington, Georgia.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few more sets and singles of Franklin's Gull which I will trade for other good species, also the following "big cents" for good offer in first-class sets: 1802, '47, '51, '53 (2), '54 (2), '47, '55, '56 (2), '63, '51. Send lists. FRANK HARRIS, La Crescent, Minn.

WANTED.—Minerals, Fossils, Indian Relics and Curiosities, for same, exchange fine Fossils also Pet. Moss from Iowa. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Cerro Gordo Co., Iowa.

WANTED.—U. S. and Foreign Stamps, have for exchange Stamps, Coins, Indian Relics, War Relics, Fossils, Minerals, Rocks, fresh and salt water Shells, Butterflies and Moths, Insects, Corals, Curios, Eggs and Woods, all fine specimens. GEO. B. BENNETT, Cor. Beech and Lafayette Sts., Terre Haute, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Guns, Revolvers, Mounted and Unmounted Specimens, Musical Instruments and fancy Horn Work; for Eggs, Skins, Mounted Specimens, or personal property. All correspondence answered. CAPT. TESCH, Lexington, Neb.

THE FAST MAIL will bring you California Eggs, Skins, Minerals, Curiosities, Job Printing, etc., in exchange for your Natural History specimens, Tools, Supplies, Useful Articles, Office Materials, Apparatus (scientific) Natural History books. Send lists, U. L. HERTZ & Co., Napa City, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—45 cal. loaded cartridges, second-class Eggs, and a Magic Lantern; for first-class Eggs, JAMES EGBERT, Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

WANTED.—Bird's Eggs in sets or single; for Magic Lantern, Press, Rifle, Books, Papers, Revolver and Eggs. All answered. FRANK L. BURRILL, Lisbon Centre, Me.

NOTICE!—I have a Printing Press complete to sell for \$5. Almost new. 4 or 5 alphabets Old English type, prints 2¼ x 3¼ inches. Nice brass cut, 1 x 2 inches. LEON J. COLE, 27 Lake St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Full sets, nests and datas, including, 300, 494, 423, A. O. U.; for Remington Rifle or acromatic Telescope. Write Quick! E. O. GROVER, Hanover, N. H.

BIRDS' EGGS.—To exchange for same, also for well-prepared specimens of Beetles and Sea Crabs. Send lists! I have nice assortment of eggs. F. E. FORD, Middlefield, O.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class original sets of 666a½, with complete datas. Name a basis of exchange. CHAS. A. DAVIS, 109, E. 3rd St. Duluth, Minn.

FOUR Photographs, all different, cabinet size of the most curious archaeological relics yet discovered, for one dollar's worth of good crystals, corals or arrow points. C. M. SLAYTON, Grattan, Kent Co., Mich.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Eggs in sets with data of Ridgway's Nos. 1, 2, 128, 151, 161, 181, 197, 244, 257, 271, 300a, 320, 360, 361, 387, 388, 516, 557 and others. Also large list of singles; for first-class sets or offers. ELMER J. GILLETT, Barre Centre, N. Y.

FOR EVERY \$2.50 worth of Stamps, Eggs, or Curios, sent me, I will mail the formula for making the Embalming Preparation used at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D. C. to mount Birds and Mammals without skinning. GEO. B. BENNETT, cor. Beech and Lafayette, Terre Haute, Ind.

A 4 x 5 CAMERA taking either vertical or horizontal photographs, a 3 fold sliding leg, tripod, two double plate holders' all of solid polished mahogany, first-class landscape lens with instantaneous shutter, 3 elaborate trays, 3 printing frames and a full outfit of chemical plates, etc. To exchange for Eggs or Skins. Specimen photo sent. No attention paid to those not sending lists, or to cards. HARRY B. SARGENT, No. 390, Lexington Ave., New York, N. Y.

WANTED A CAMERA.—I have a collection of Eggs, nearly 100 varieties, many rare, a kit of Taxidermist's and Oologist's Instruments, a small Microscope, first five volumes THE OOLOGIST, bound and unbound, books on Taxidermy etc. and a few other articles, to exchange for Photo outfit complete. CHAS. J. THOMSON, 746 North 20th St. Philadelphia, Penn.

TO EXCHANGE.—5 second class eggs for first class singles listed over 10c. "Spare hours made profitable" a nice book for offers. DICK WAUGH, Plattsmouth, Neb.

RARE SETS AND SINGLES.—Including Little Flycatchers, Hummers, etc., to exchange for Rifles, Revolvers, Stamps, Relics, etc. Large collections for Safety Bicycle. C. TURTON, Los Angeles, Calif.

WANTED AT ONCE.—First-class original sets of the following A. O. U. Nos.: 10, 41, 50, 53, 69, 86, 105, 120, 120b 123a, 128, 135, 159, 164, 172, 179, 180, 183, 186, 187, 198, 196, 188, 204, 205, 206, 224, 227, 228, 241, 242, 249, 258, 272, 277, 278, 281, 286, 292, 293, 297, 298, 301, 302, 310, 320, 321, 334, 337a, 340, 341, 342, 348, 349, 355, 356, 356, 362, 375a, 381, 394a, 399, 402a, 414, 419, 420a, 420c, 428, 433, 434, 445, 455, 459, 466a, 468, 469, 469, 469, 474a, 474e, 475, 478a, 478b, 479, 483, 484, 485, 486a, 487, 494a, 504, 505, 511a, 517a, 518, 521, 528, 530a, 531, 534, 538, 540a, 540b, 542b, 546, 546a, 549, 550, 556, 559, 567a, 573, 575a, 581a, 581e, 587a, 549, 597a, 603, 607, 611a, 618, 628, 629, 634, 636, 638, 641, 642, 645, 646a, 668, 655, 660, 661, 662, 671, 675, 677, 680, 685a, 686, 697, 707a, 708, 711, 715, 717a, 718a, 719a, 722, 725a, 726, 727a, 730, 732, 735a, 735b, 740, 741, 748, 751, 752, 753, 754, 757, 757a, 763. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

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Paper cover edition \$1.00 in Eggs and 40c cash  
Flexible cloth " " " " 65c "  
Extra " " " " 90c "

We make this offer for June only and will never renew it. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.



**EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY Continued.**

The following Shells are included in our Exchange Extraordinary offer.

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All Extra Fine Bright Specimens.

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|------------------------------|-------|
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| Cypræa helvoia.....          | .10   |
| "    isabella.....           | .20   |
| "    talpa.....              | .50   |
| "    moneta.....             | .15   |
| Mercenaria laiteri.....      | .15   |
| Purpura patula.....          | .15   |
| Murex pudoricolor.....       | .15   |
| Oliiva fusiformis.....       | .15   |
| "    litterata.....          | .15   |
| "    ispidula.....           | .15   |
| "    inidata.....            | .10   |
| Fissurella barbadensis.....  | .15   |
| Strophia glans.....          | .10   |
| Dentallum entalis.....       | .05   |
| Strombus bituberculata.....  | .35   |
| Perna ephippium.....         | .25   |
| Apporhais pes-pellicani..... | .10   |
| Nerita peleronta.....        | .10   |
| Pterocera lambis.....        | .50   |
| Voluta vesperilio.....       | .25   |
| Ovula oviformis.....         | .35   |
| Turbo chrysostrumus.....     | .35   |
| "    samaticus.....          | .60   |
| Nanina hepatica.....         | .50   |
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**SPECIFIC No. 28**

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Of 1, 2, 3, or 4 lines with Pads and Ink  
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**R. M. GIBBS, M, D., KALAMAZOO, MICH.**

# A NEW WORK, THE OOLOGISTS' HAND-BOOK

FOR 1891.

It will contain over 150 pages of Valuable Information.

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce that the *Ms.* for a new Oologists' Hand-Book is nearly ready for the printer and, that under ordinary circumstances it will be ready for delivery early in June. The new Hand-Book, for the money, we think will be one of the most valuable works for one interested in birds, ever published. Our old '85 edition was issued as our catalogue—Our new '91 edition will not be a catalogue at all, but simply and purely a Collectors' Hand-Book in the fullest sense of the word, and will contain, at least 150 pages, each teeming with valuable information. It will also contain two or three full page plates and many illustrations. The size of the pages will be about 6 x 4 inches, making a volume that can be conveniently carried in the pocket. Two editions will be issued, one in paper covers at 50c per copy, and the other in flexible leather at 75c.

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### BIRDS' EGGS.

O. J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

ELEGANTLY MOUNTED Horned Frogs, \$1.00 each. For sale or exchange.

A. McALPINE, GALVESTON, TEX.

### SPECIAL.

We have just received from the bindery 50 copies of "Davie's," bound in flexible cloth covers. As long as they last we will send them to our patrons for \$1.40 per copy.

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Pub. of the OOLOGIST,

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NEW YORK.

# THE OOLOGIST

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1891.

No. 6

## The Humming Birds of California.

The Hummingbirds occupy a prominent place in the Avi-fauna of California, there being no less than six species found regularly within the borders of the state. Although none of these possess the extravagant features found in some of the more tropical representatives of this family, they are interesting little creatures and command the admiration and attentive consideration of all lovers of bird life. Hummingbirds are strictly American, and in their incomparable beauty are unrivaled by even those feathered fairies of the Old World whose small size and gorgeous colors have won for them the name of Sun-birds.

A visitor to Southern California is impressed with the large number of Hummingbirds seen; in every garden, field and canon, even in the shaded depths of woodland districts and on the bleak, inclement mountain summits, these aerial gems, doubtless the most gorgeously hued of created things, are found in large numbers. In the vicinity of Santa Barbara, Anna's Hummingbird is quite common; the male, Anna's perched upon one of the uppermost twigs of a tree is a familiar sight. Conscious of his ostentatious array, he sits upon his swinging perch and proudly scans the environs stretched below in their magnificent, semi-tropic splendor, and soliloquizes in a creaking-tone while his coruscant gorget flashes with fiery tints at every change of position. Suddenly from his lofty perch he sees an enemy, real or imaginary, then high he mounts on whirring winglets until all but lost in the azure depth, now downward he plunges with inconceivable speed—an iridescent spright of the skies—describing an ellipse in his flight,

and when he nears his foe he gives utterance to a shrill shriek of hate and defiance; as he rises again to repeat the performance he poises for an instant to locate his foe. These efforts usually are of no avail and the Hummingbird, seeing his opponent haughtily repudiating the assault, hies himself to a neighboring tree where he consoles himself by casting vague maledictions upon the whole feathered tribe, excepting of course himself and his immediate relatives.

Among the other common Hummers of this vicinity are Allen's, Costa's, and the Rufous. The latter frequents the well watered canons where it appears as it darts hither and thither like the reflections of many jewels. The Allen's is a seclusive bird, the male is seldom seen; the female may be seen flitting about cypress hedges where the nests are likely to be found. The Alexander or Black-chinned Hummingbird is found in this locality but not numerously as its habitat is further south. The Calliope Hummingbird is a mountain species and is only found in the high altitudes.

The nests of all species of Hummingbirds are architectural models; they are composed of fine materials and are made extremely soft and comfortable. The complement of eggs is two.

The identification of the male birds is an easy matter, the females, however, will give trouble. There are but two Hummingbirds in California with metallic scales on the top of the head, these are Anna's and Costa's; and they may be recognized readily by the difference in size and in the color of the helmets, the Anna's being larger than the Costa's and the color of its helmet crimson; the color of the Costa's helmet is violet. The Rufous is easily recog-

nized in its resplendent fiery hues. The Callilope has a lilac gorget set in white, like lilac stars on a white field. The Allen's resembles the Rufous to a considerable degree; the colors are not as bright, however; the back is of a greenish-red color, the underparts light, cinnamon on sides and flanks, gorget fiery red. The Alexander has an opaque or velvety black gorget posteriorly glittering with emerald and sapphire, underparts whitish, green on sides.

The female Anna's resembles the male without a gorget, no rufous any where. The female Costa's is smaller than the female Anna's otherwise resembling very much, outer tail feathers very narrow especially so in male. The female Rufous is extensively rufous, but overlaid with green, underparts white; no gorget. Female Allen's resembles the latter, but the rufous is not so prominent; extensively green on back; slight metallic scales on throat. The female Callilope may be recognized by a white mark under each eye. The female Alexander has a rounded tail, the feathers of which have a dark purplish space near end and tipped with white; no gorget, resembles the female Ruby-throat of the east.

HARRY C. LILLIE,  
Santa Barbara, Calif.

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### Ring Pheasant.

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*Phasianus torquatus* (GMEL)

---

Common name—Chinese Pheasant.  
Mongolian Pheasant.

Habitat—Western United States—Willamette Valley and Southward into California.

Description—Male total length 34 to 40 inches. Length of tail 15 inches to 24 inches. Bill dark,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches long, Iris yellow. Crown greyish-green with a white stripe extending over each eye.

Around the eyes is found a large red patch of hair feathers.

Neck—Changeable green and purple, following which is a circular band of pure white extending around the entire neck, from this it receives its name.

The breast and point of shoulders is a changeable fire red and purplish blue.

The border of the feathers being tipped with blue, following this in the median line is a narrow strip of blue feathers which gradually emerge into black as we approach the under tail coverts which is greyish-brown.

The tail consists of sixteen feathers, the outer ones being shorter, and gradually becoming longer up to fifteen in. or twenty-four inches, the two center feathers being longest.

The under coloring is greyish-black, the upper brown with light-grey and black, and brown bars.

Upper tail coverts Irish green bordered with old-gold and tinged with bright green.

Under wing greyish-white. Body light yellow and end of feathers tipped with deep blue.

Female—Is about  $\frac{3}{4}$  size of male, and of a uniform mottled pale yellow with slight shades of brown, black and gray, variously intermixed. It has none of the gay colors of the male.

The above description, although very poor and wanting in many respects will at least I hope, convey some idea of the beauty of the species.

A few general notes may also be of interest.

This bird was imported from China by O. N. Denny.

Six pair were let loose on Peterson Butte about twenty miles from this place. A law was at once enacted for the protection of the birds for six years, this law expiring Oct. 1st, next.

After four or five years the birds became so numerous that a great many of the farmers complained severely that they were very destructive to grain and gardens. There is no doubt but what they frequent such places, but the harm they do is slight in comparison with the

good done, and the pleasure of having such a beautiful bird in our country.

They have been killed in immense numbers and stripped of their feathers, the meat being sent to the Portland market.

The farmers in this county are taking active steps for the protection of the bird in the way of putting up trespass notices, but this is not done with an idea to keep the species, but to kill them at their pleasure (which is at every opportunity afforded) for the benefit of their own table, and I might add they are very delicious for such purposes.

The bird has many cunning devices to deceive the hunter. At the approach of foot-steps they will squat down close to the ground and a person can pass within a few feet of it and not discover it, nor will the bird fly until seen by you, when it is up and away like a flash.

In an open plowed field the bird will lie so close that it can not be seen at a distance of two rods.

They are also very swift of foot, it requiring a good dog to catch one that has been winged.

Their breeding habits is somewhat peculiar also. The female deposits her first complement of eggs about April 15th, or May 1st, laying from seven to fifteen eggs. As soon as the young leave the nest the male takes charge and the hen again lays about the same number of eggs. By the time these are ready to leave the nest, the first brood is able to take care of themselves, and the male again takes charge of the second brood. A third complement is then laid and when they are hatched the male and female both take charge.

Three broods are generally raised in a season by one pair and by a little figuring one can form some idea of the increase of the species.

You can also see the same from the fact that from the six pair let loose in Oregon, the entire western coast has

been densely populated by them in five years, and thousands have been killed.

They nest upon the ground in open fields. Oat stubble field is a favorable resort for their nest. The nest is made of leaves and dry grass, placed in a clump of grass or perhaps under some small brush.

In captivity the birds do well, and even nest and breed while so confined.

I have an adult male in confinement and he will eat most anything given him, but prefers wheat and oats, and seeds of all kinds generally. In the wild state during winter they feed upon fir seeds and buds, but during summer they feed upon seeds and green leaves.

They seem to be fearless coming unto barn-yards and feeding with the domestic fowls. Only a short time ago one came within fifty feet of my house right in the village.

The males during the spring, crow similar to a domestic cock and taking advantage of this the hunter locates them and slowly and gently slips up on them and is generally sure of his game.

Much more might be said in regard to this one of our most beautiful birds, but for fear of tiring the readers I will close.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

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#### The Carolina Wren.

When I came South, this species was comparatively new to me. I had studied it in New Jersey, but did not find it numerous there, and it did not reach Western New York. Around Washington it is abundant, and every where it has its peculiar haunts. If one makes a clearing in the woods, setting a portable saw-mill on a little run of water, these wrens are pretty sure to be found afterwards in the slab-piles and among the rubbish. It may also be found in open ravines. For instance, it is very numerous along the steep and craggy banks of the Potomac

River above Washington. Here it revels during the sunny days of spring and the long scorching days of summer, never being very far from the moist shady gorges or the springs which discharge themselves like little cascades over the rocky cliffs. Here one associates them early in spring with the crimson mantle of the Judas tree, and later in the season with the flaming blossoms of the trumpet creeper.

They will not infrequently become as semi-domesticated as the common wren, nesting in the corn barn or the hay mow. Last year a pair took up their quarters in the second story of my carriage barn, where the hay was stored. The first nest made early in June was placed in a corner between the post and the brace, and was made of the most flexible bits of hay and the softest clover leaves, being lined with hair and feathers. It contained six eggs, white specked with reddish-brown. The second nest built in August, and containing five eggs, was diagonally across the room in the corner similarly placed, and the same in general construction, but lacked the lining of hair and feathers. The bird was very tame and kept her nest quite closely. I even looked at her once by night with the lantern without disturbing her in the least. The young were raised successfully, and took their departure in the most leisnrely and proper manner.

At Sandy Spring about eighteen miles from Washington, one was known to nest in a corn-barn for several years in succession, building its nest of the silks of the corn. It seems therefore, to make its nest out of any soft and flexible material which may be at hand.

It has various twittering conversational notes, easily identified. Its song, loud, spirited, clear and resonant, and some what varied, is cheerful indeed, but not so highly musical to my ear as it seems

to some. Its greatest charm is in the fact that we hear it more or less frequently nearly all the year, for the bird is a resident. It is but a plain artist in song compared with the voluble and rapturous winter wren, as we hear it in the swamps and low woodlands of the north.

J. H. Lanille.

---

American Dipper.

*Cinclus mexicanus.*

Hab.—Western North America in mountainous districts.

Des.—The entire bird is of a grayish-slate color.

Length—Six inches, length of tail one and one-half inches, length of bill five-eighths of an inch, length of wing three inches. Iris brown.

A few general notes on this species may be of interest to the readers of the OOLOGIST as I doubt if many of you have the opportunity of seeing it in its natural haunts.

The Water Dipper frequents wild mountain streams where the water is very rapid, where perpendicular rocks line the borders and where the mist and spray of the swift running stream are continually falling on it. Here it loves to stay and may be seen upon some rock, bobbing up and down like a Sandpiper or diving up the swift current, letting the water wash it back upon the rock. The rocks which they frequent most are either just above or below some water-fall.

I have seen this bird dive under the swift running water and come up a distance of thirty feet from where it entered. At other times it will drop upon the water and float down two or three hundred feet, when it will fly back and repeat the operation.

Its song is as beautiful as the mountain stream which it frequents and cannot be surpassed by any. One can sit

and listen for hours to its beautiful notes as it flies back and forth over the water and fairly makes the conon echo with its vibrations.

Its nesting place and nest is in full accord with all these surroundings. It is generally found upon some rock near where the water is swift and where the spray keeps the outside damp. The nest is made of sticks and coarse grass, which are placed in the shape of a dome. This is covered with mud, which makes the whole quite solid. It then receives a coating inside and out of green moss, such as is found growing on rocks. This moss often takes root in the mud, of which the nest is made, and grows very green, so that the whole nest has simply the appearance of a tuft of moss, except to a practiced eye.

It has been my pleasure to find three nests this season, as follows:

(a) Found May 1, 1891. Contained four slightly incubated eggs. The nest was found on the underside of an old deserted mill. It was on a beam just over the water falls of the mill. It was so situated that the spray from the falls was keeping the moss damp. The nest was made of usual material. The female was shot and the nest and eggs secured and all preserved. Length of nest twelve inches, width eleven inches, height seven and one-half inches. The entrance was placed on one side near the center, but a little below the middle line. In order for the bird to reach the nest proper, she must pass a little upward and backward through the opening. The bed upon which the eggs lie is made of fine grass and moss. The eggs, four in number, are pure white and measure  $1.01 \times .74$ ,  $1.00 \times .73$ ,  $1.01 \times .73$ ,  $1.01 \times .73$ .

(b) The second nest was found May 4, 1891, and contained three young. This nest was placed on the side of a perpendicular cliff about four feet above the water and sixteen feet from the top. It was only accessible by lowering one over the cliff by a rope.

(c) The third nest was found the same day, (May 4, 1891), but the female had not deposited her eggs. The nest was located similar to the previous one (b), but not in quite so perilous a position, though one must be lowered by a rope in order to examine the nest.

I will close by adding that although the haunts of this bird are as wild as could well be, the bird itself is not so. It will often light within a few feet of you, and remain for some time.

DR. A. G. PRILL,  
Sweet Home, Oregon.

#### Bird Migration.

Following are the dates on which the birds named arrived at White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. Latitude 37 degrees, 48 minutes, N. Longitude 80 degrees, 23 minutes, W., i. e.:

For March.—House Wren, 1; Phoebe, 17; Meadow Lark, 10; Red-wing Blackbird, 15; Kildeer, 2; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 24.

For April.—Osprey, 10; Flicker, 11; Bank Swallow, 13; Brown Thrasher, 14; Yellow Warbler, 15; Whip-poor-will, 16; Chewink, 17; Kingbird, 19; Barn Swallow, 19; Balto Oriole, 21; Warbling Vireo, 21; Green Heron, 22; Least Flycatcher, 23; Spotted Sandpiper, 23; Chimney Swift, 23; Catbird, 26; Redstart, 26; Orchard Oriole and Hummingbird, 30.

For May.—Indigo Bunting, 1; Red-headed Woodpecker, 2; Scarlet Tanager, 4.

On May 1st, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) was seen here. This is the first record for about ten years (May, 1880.) A Northern Raven (*Corvus corax sinuatus*) which is now considered rare here, was also seen May 1st.

I have noted at least five Red-bellied Woodpeckers here this spring, the first for several years. Redstarts are more abundant than I ever seen before as are also Brown Thrashers.

THAD. SURBUR.

May 5, 1891.

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

On May 24th, while walking through a bushy pasture, about two miles south-west of Albion, K. B. Mathes found a set of three eggs of the Chewink, (*Pipilio erythrophthalmus*) incubation commenced. This species is very rare with us, and this set, the first recorded one found in Orleans county.

A. G.—Lawrence, Kans. As the young Gt. Horned Owls remain in the nest nearly, if not quite three months, we doubt if more than a single brood is ever reared in a season. When the first set is taken, another is usually laid in the same nest. We have our doubts as to whether pounding on the trunk of the tree is an infallible rule for raising the old bird from the nest.

We cannot say as to whether the Turkey Vulture occupies a nest more than one season or not. Who can?

Fred S. Wilder, Worcester, Mass., sends us the following extracts from his '90 notes:

May 18th, I collected a set of seven fresh eggs of Bluebird.

May 21st, found a nest of seven fresh eggs of White-bellied Swallow in a bird-box.

July 11th, I collected a set of five eggs of the European Goldfinch. The nest was in an apple-tree about five feet from the ground, very neatly made of hay and cotton and thread and hair. The eggs are of a dirty-white, tinged with green and streaked around the large end with dark-brown and spots of black, and vary from .62 x .48 to .72 x .42. I have the female in my collection.

W. W. Searles, Lime Springs, Ia., writes:

"While collecting in a heavy growth of timber on April 8, 1889, I found my first nest of the Am. Crow, which to my surprise contained ten eggs. Taking six I found them all fresh. Returning to the nest in a few weeks I found the other four eggs hatched. Do two crows ever lay in the same nest or is this a large set? Since then I have found them breeding very abundant, and never found more than five in a set. The nests are always placed in black oak, and made of sticks, moss, binding twine, hair, etc."

G. L. A., would like to know the name of Gulls quite common on Puget Sound during the winter and early spring months. Who can write us an article on "The Gulls of Puget Sound?"

Our old friend H. W. Davis, now in Bolivar Co., Miss., must think he has struck the sportsman's paradise. Under date of March 9th, he writes of shooting ducks from the back door of the house.

We take the following extracts from '90 notes kindly furnished us by B. H. Swales, of Detroit, Mich.:

"April 13th, saw a flock of about 150 Evening Grosbeaks, tame and easily approached.

April 20th, saw a Large-billed Water Thrush."

Mr. S. would like to obtain a list or book of Michigan birds. Who can help him out?

A. Dockery, Jr., of Hernando, Miss., reports an Albino Bronzed Grackle.

G. H. G., Baltimore, Md., queries as follows: Will some of our older ornithological readers answer?

"Through your query column I would like to learn something concerning the distinction between Harlan's Hawk (*Buteo borealis harlani*) and the common Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo borealis*).

1. Has the *Borealis* at any stage of development a yellow eye?

2. Is the tarsus in *Borealis* not feathered half way down the front?

3. Has the *Borealis* never the incision in the primary feathers?

In others words are the distinctions made by Maynard quoted in Laugille, p. 97, now considered accurate I have a specimen corresponding to that description, but since I have seen several specimens labeled, "Red-tail," I feel that I may not be safe in labelling mine otherwise."

J. C. G., Montgomery, O.—'Twould be a hard matter to decide from your description whether your eggs are those of the Red-tail or Red-shouldered Hawk.

The Am. Woodcock nests very early, but your date, March 22d, we think more than ordinarily so.

J. E. S., "Jordan's Manual," is a standard and inexpensive key and text-book on the "Vertebrate Animals of Northern United States."

G. K. B., wishes to know the use of the comb-like projection on the middle toe of the Nighthawk, and other members of the Goatsucker family.

G. W. M., Moberly, Mo.—The young Red-headed Woodpecker does not have a red head.

Harry R. Painton, of College Park, Cal., writes of taking a finely marked set of two eggs of the Golden Eagle on March 14th.

H. A. H., Edinburg, Ind.—The signs and abbreviations used to indicate the age and sex of a bird are as follows:

yg—young; ad—adult; sign of the planet Mars—male; sign of the planet Venus—female.

H. W. Carriger, of Sonoma Co., Cal., took three nests of the Anna's Hummingbird on March 2d.

Mr. K. Atkinson, of Dime Box, Texas, writes that the Turkey Vulture frequently kills pigs and lambs, very rarely young calves and that only in two occasions has he been able to closely approach them when on the nest. Mr. A. has been on the Range stock-raising for the past twenty-five years and his observations cover that period.

Hugh Hartman, Ft. Wayne, Ind., writes that a flock of about twenty-five Passenger Pigeons was reported as staying in the woods eleven miles north-east the city last fall.

F. L. Englebert, Des Moines, Ia., writes that he has found Caustic Potash very effective in removing embryos, and says:

"Dissolve in water to form a solution, and insert into the egg by means of a blowpipe or syringe, the process being repeated, after washing out each egg before each insertion, until the embryo is all eaten and removed, and being animal matter, is easily acted upon and dissolved by the potash. Great care must be taken, however, not to allow any of the solution to get upon the hands or into the mouth, as it has about the same effect as lye, but is not so dangerous to handle. I have seen it successfully used for several seasons past, and used it with success myself last season."

U. L. Hertz, of Napa, Cal., says that the English Sparrows persist in making a hay stack of their palm trees but, has cooled their ardor a little by taking 45 eggs at a single raid.

Harry Smissen, of Snyder, Tex., took a set of two eggs of the Bald Eagle on June 20, '90.

F. S. H., Chagrin Falls, O.—Taxidermists use arsenic or preservative (arsenic and alum) as an insect preventative.

The readers of the OOLOGIST are most certainly up with the times—the latest is from Mr. R. C. Watters, of Baltimore, who proposes to slaughter the English Sparrows by the million through the agency of electricity—a cleverly executed drawing illustrates the battery and electrocution perch or wire in position,—operator "pressing

the button," and sparrows coming and falling by the dozens. The scheme has yet to be tested.

C. D. M., Cinti., Ohio.—The Cowbird, Red-winged Blackbird, Bronzed Grackle and Am. Crow are common in Southern Ohio.

The Ann Arbor taxidermist, Mr. A. B. Covert, of Kirtland Warbler fame, has been so busy on work in the University for the past few months that he has been unable to put in his usual amount of field work this spring. A few days since, however, he writes of collecting a day for the U. of M. Museum and mentions the taking of thirteen warblers, twelve different species.

A photo of a Moose just mounted for the University by Friend C. speaks volumes as to his rank as an artist in the profession.

To many correspondents desiring descriptions, measurements, etc., etc., of the eggs of various species, we *must* refer them to Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." Were we to attempt to answer all the queries of this nature that we receive it would require the entire space of several issues of the OOLOGIST.

H. S. D., Fremont, O., writes of taking sets of two eggs of the Mourning Dove from the *same nest* on April 19th, April 26th, May 1st and a single egg on May 6th.

The following corrections should be made in Mr. F. L. Farley's "Birds of Elgin Co., Ont.," which appeared in the last issue of the OOLOGIST.

No. 176. Winter Wren, "appear in small flocks," should be "small numbers," and No. 183. Hermit Thrush, "shot one in Dec. 13, 1878," should be "1888."

Several errors also appeared in Mr. M. C. White's article on "The Whip-poorwill." The most glaring of which, were as follows:

In the quotation at the beginning, third verse, third line, the word *when* should be *where*. In second column, fourth line, "*Chick-hoo-rhee*," is a misrepresentation of Mr. Langille, the *h* in the second syllable should be *k*. Fourteenth line of same column, the word

*seen*, which is entirely omitted, should follow the word *never*. In first column, eighteenth line, the omission of *s* in "*syllable*," causes a double error; it should be *syllables*.

Errors also occurred in spelling, etc., as Mr. W's. Mss. was faultless, the poor printer and proof reader must be given full credit.

C. A. H., Mt. Pleasant, Mich., writes: "A week or two ago I noticed a bird fly into one of the electric street lamps here. Yesterday I got permission to let the lamp down and there, on the switch board, I found a nest of the English Sparrow. The nest contained two fresh eggs. It doesn't seem that a bird would build its nest in such a place; as the lamp has to be lowered and raised every day."

C. E. Brown, of Beverly, Mass., writes:

"In reply to "Aix Sponsa's" article in Feb. '91, OOLOGIST, I would state that the robbing of birds' nest by boys is also a nuisance in this part of the country, and ought to be suppressed. In this State it is almost impossible to get a permit to collect for scientific purposes. Now it seems to me that a man wishing to collect for scientific purposes should be allowed a permit by proving that it is a scientific purpose that he is collecting for. I also think that if permits were granted to this class that they would help to stop the destruction of nests and eggs, as they would then feel that they were not law breaking themselves, and had some authority to speak on the subject. Who is more interested in the protection of the birds than the true ornithologist and naturalist? And they do not feel like trying to stop the small boy from robbing nests at the cost sometime of exposing themselves. In this section there are plenty of people that would be more pleased to catch a man taking birds and eggs, whether for scientific purposes or not and report him than they would a boy robbing a nest for fun."

#### A Trip to Pelican Island.

The morning of February 17, '91, six of us set out in the yacht Lida for Pelican island on which was quartered a large colony of Brown Pelicans. This

island, four or five acres in extent, is a low tract, barely above the water, and offering excellent nesting sites for the uncouth birds; it is situated in the Indian river about twenty miles south of Melbourne in Brevard County, Fla., and has been known as an assemblage ground for Pelicans for many years. There are not nearly as many birds to be seen about the place as there were formerly, but a sufficient number still nest there to warrant an article for your readers.

When our craft came within three hundred yards of the shore the birds began to get uneasy and when we had approached within fifty yards of the island an immense number arose from the surface and a few stunted trees and flew about. It was not, however, until a gun had been fired, that a good idea of the colony could be had. Clouds arose from the ground and settled on the water, where they watched us on shore. Most of the nests were built on the ground and generally contained two or three eggs or young, rarely four. A few black mangroves offered support for nests on branches from five to fifteen feet from the ground. They differed from those made on the ground in having many more and heavier twigs, and formed with more of a hollow and less in height. Many nests on the ground were built to a height of nine or ten inches and one or two were over a foot deep. As a rule the nests were about two feet in diameter, but some were larger by about five inches and a few were smaller. They were all built of dead and dried grass, very coarse and much resembled straw from a distance. Some nests were constructed very shiftlessly and not over four inches high at the edge. Again many were deeply hollowed. It was evident from an examination of the structures that the birds during incubation, invariably sat on the nest in one position—the head generally facing the water.

In those nests containing large young the nests was generally much beaten down and greatly disarranged.

There must have been two hundred nests containing eggs and young birds. Many contained both eggs and young. In many nests could be seen birds of ages that varied from a few days to two weeks and in one instance the dissimilarity in size of the young was so great that the larger bird in the nest was endeavoring to swallow his diminutive squab relative. We were informed that when the eggs roll from the nests there are frequent fights resulting from anxiety of the birds to gain eggs for their nests. In this manner eggs are frequently introduced into new nests and the emerging of the young is correspondingly differential. We secured about seventy eggs that had not been incubated for our cabinets. The young are fed entirely on fish and the amount which a squab can place itself outside of is truly astonishing. One old one had thirteen fish in its pouch.

In a careful estimate we agreed that there were four thousand birds in the colony and some of our party placed the number as high as ten thousand. Our stay on the island was not agreeable on account of the stench arising from the decomposing bodies of the Pelicans butchered by tourists, and the fish. We could have killed hundreds of birds, but our party contented themselves with ten good plumaged birds.

M. GIBBS, M. D.

#### Michigan Ornithology.

In last number of the OOLOGIST I notice an article on "An Ornithological Paradise," decidedly interesting to me. Michigan is a great state, one of magnificent distances. The whole state is a paradise for the scientist, and as yet there is much of the state that needs careful exploration by him. There is a great variation in surface, soil and climate, hence a great variation might be

expected in the Geology, flora and fauna. A floral or faunal catalogue made in one portion of the state will be so different from one made in another portion, that one might think it belonged to another state.

Glancing through the article referred to I notice names of birds either very rare or unknown in my portion of the State—the South-eastern.

I have not yet found any of the following species:

Cape May Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Orchard Oriole, Red-bellied Nuthatch, Wilson's Black-capped Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Oven-bird, Hermit Thrush, Magnolia Warbler, Canadian Warbler, Nashville Warbler and Maryland Yellow-throated and Black-throated Blue Warblers.

As birds are by no means scarce here, and of many species, I am led to believe that a comparison of the catalogues of the species found in Eastern and Western Michigan, would be of a decided interest to the Ornithologist.

It may be well to remember that while the upper Peninsula may be buried beneath three to six feet of snow, and snow shoes be in every day use, the ground may be bare in the South-eastern portion of Lower Michigan, and rain may be falling. The ground here has been bare more than half of the time this winter, while in the Upper Peninsula the snow has been three feet or more deep.

Pine woods are scarce here, still there is one some fifteen miles to the North-west upon the rather level summit of the great moraine or ridge that crosses South-east Michigan. Perhaps a further study of these pine woods would reveal many of the species I have not met with where I reside. Here upon the eastern slope of the great ridge just noticed, I find a journey of a few miles shows a great difference in both flora and fauna. For instance a few miles east, and the plains of South-eastern

Michigan with their characteristic flora and fauna—to me a decided monotony—are reached.

Eastward and Northward hills and valleys succeed each other in rapid succession, the hills steadily increasing in height and steepness of slope, and an immense number of lakes are found,—450 in Oakland Co. alone—and of course many streams. So a great variation of flora and fauna are found in a journey of but a few miles.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON.

Rochester, Mich.

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#### A Duty to Perform.

Now that the collecting season is actually here, and other things claim our attention, let us still not forget to do our duty by the English Sparrow.

As winter presents a specially good opportunity for the direct destruction of the bird. So summer presents an equally good opportunity to prevent their increase.

This is something that every collector in the land can aid in, there being no one, who cannot prevent these birds from breeding in his special domain, and the hearty co-operation of all collectors, cannot but leave a marked effect on the numbers of the "pest."

Let us then not neglect a duty, so easy of accomplishment, but each covering as much territory as possible, destroy alike, nests, eggs, and young.

This may seem somewhat cruel, but we should remember that it is the ruffan element among birds. That we are destroying those who if left to multiply unchecked, will go on with the work already so keenly felt in many of our cities and villages.

The first Bluebird seen here this spring, had scarcely been noted, before the English Sparrows pitched on to him, and forced him to move on.

A correspondent from Rochester writes me that the first Robin which he

noted in the city, was attacked by "About ten millions English Sparrows," who did their best to make life miserable for him.

Let us then have these things in mind take them home to ourselves, and ask ourselves if we wish the English Sparrow to increase to the partial or entire driving out of our own birds.

If there is any one who doubts the charges made against the English Sparrow he need not take any one's testimony, but let him for one year carefully watch the life and habits of this bird and he will become fully convinced, and I venture to say that whoever he is, he will not hesitate to join the ever increasing number, who proclaim that the "English Sparrow must go."

B. S. B.

Phelps, N. Y.

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#### Gt. Horned Owl.

The Gt. Horned Owl is not a very common bird here. At least I have never been able to find it breeding in any very great abundance.

The bird is very shy and seeks as a nesting place some very retired place, where its nest is to be found in some lofty tree or else in some hollow rotten limb in an almost inaccessible one.

In my experience of collecting I have found it nesting near a house or in a small tree but twice, one of these times it was in a small white oak, not more than 12 feet from the ground in an old crow's nest. The nest contained two young Owls, about two or three days old.

The other instance the tree was a big black oak that was hollow and had been broken off about 15 ft. from the ground, down in the hollow, about two feet was the nest containing two eggs, perfectly fresh. I found this nest on April 15, 1891, the tree stood about 30 rods from a house.

I know of another tree where a pair

of Owls and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks make a home every year, and are liable to for some time to come, as that Oologist who "robs" their nest must be an adventuresome one.

It is in the very top of a black oak, about 75 feet high, the tree leans out over a rocky gorge so that the nest is fully 125 feet from the ground. The old Owls are usually not very savage, but sometimes they are very bold when their nest is molested.

The eggs are nearly round and almost white, different eggs show great variation in size and shape. They average about 1.86 x 2.25 inches.

There seems to be no regularity in the time of nesting, as I have found nests containing young at least two weeks old by the 26th of Feb., and nests containing fresh eggs as late as April, but the last of Feb. and the first part of March seems to be the best time.

A rap on the trunk of the tree is usually enough to scare the old bird off the nest. Sometimes the old bird will stay on the nest until you climb up to it, and sometimes they will leave the nest before you see it. Whenever you hear an old Owl hooting in the spring you may feel pretty sure there is a nest near the place.

The Gt. Horned Owl is more plentiful here than the Barred Owl. Hoping to hear more about the Owls through the columns of the OOLOGIST I will close.

R. M. FRISBEY, Jr.

Sparland, Ill.

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#### Enemies of Our Feathered Friends.

When standing in the dense undergrowth of some shady grove, where no sound but that of nature is heard, do you not often wish you were a bird, with no trouble, no task, and have life seem like a pleasant dream? I do; but then as we look into the habits of the

warblers, whose lives seem so gay, we find there are thorns on their roses too.

First of all there is the cat, who is seen creeping through the bushes trying to jump upon some unfortunate bird, who is not aware of its enemy. Then there is the grass snake, who glides with its flexible body through the grass, trying to find the nest of some bird who builds within its reach, to suck its eggs or kill the young or the old bird.

But worse than these or any other is collector, egg-hog, nest-robber, or any other name you may apply.

Although I profess to be a collector, I don't collect in sets. Some of you may say "not much of a collector," well, think so. If I have one egg of a set and my data shows how many there were in the nest, what do I want of them all, are they not more valuable to the bird than me?

There is a class of boys here, and maybe there is where you live, who don't really collect eggs, but get all they can in the spring, punch a hole in each end and blow the inside out, put them in a cigar box and let them lay around all summer and throw them away in the winter, so as to begin again in the spring. I heard a boy say he had 25 "Growney's" eggs.

I think a nice collection of single eggs, side blown, first-class, with data, is a very nice thing to have and to keep and to collect them is much better than loafing around smoking cigarettes or reading dime novels.

I take a great interest in birds, and should like to learn about them without robbing them of all their eggs.

GEO. R. COOLEY,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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### Queer Neighbors.

While out collecting last May, in Northampton Co. Va. I stumbled over

an oddity in the way of a rookery, tenanted by Purple Grakles and Green Herons. The former were much the more numerous, their nests numbering a hundred or more while the Herons could probably muster no more than twenty-five pairs.

The colony occupied a grove of small second growth pines, some twenty feet in height, the nests of the Grakles invariably being placed up in the very top of the trees while their less assuming companions were content to dwell in the lower story, so to speak, their "platforms" seldom being over ten feet from the ground and loosely balanced on the top of a horizontal branch. As the breeding ground was some distance from the water it was somewhat surprising to find the Herons so numerous, as in this locality they usually nest singly or in bunches of three or four pairs, on the small islets that strew the shore.

In spite of their dissimilar tastes, the two species seemed to get on well together, possibly because most of them were busily employed in feeding half-grown young at the time of our visit. This seemed to be true with all the grakles, but some of the Herons had nests filled with fresh sets of eggs, doubtless the second attempts of those birds whose earliest efforts had met with disaster.

The difference in the behavior of the young was very noticeable. The young Blackbirds were scattered indiscriminately through the branches and over the ground below, each one making more noise than his fellow. Their lanky neighbors on the contrary knew enough to stay near home and could always be found, silent and perfectly motionless, by the side of their miserable bed of sticks, the whole outfit forming as comical a picture as one can find in a month's collecting.

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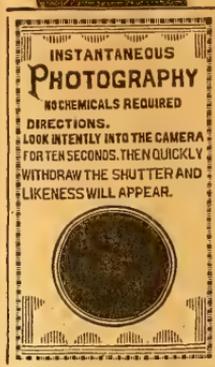
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# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

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No. 7

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OÖLOGIST?

STAMPS or Eggs wanted. Have to exchange 2 sets 1<sup>2</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Bald Eagle 3 sets 1-5 Gt. Blue Heron. Clearing out. write at once: WM. PURDY, Aylmer, Ont., Canada.

D. BIGGAR, Fulton, Wis., wants big cents, V nickles without cents, twenty cent pieces, old dimes and quarters. Can exchange arrow-heads, scrapers, eggs or skins.

WANTED.—Sets with data, for sets and singles. Send your lists and receive mine. An opportunity to get rare Southern eggs. Also stamps to exchange. S. W. PARISH, Calvert, Texas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Will exchange an egg of 622 and 452 for either of 273, 619, 488, 394. A. O. U. Data must accompany all eggs. They must also be fresh. GEO. F. MIMS, P. O. Box 67, Eddefield, S. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—A 4 x 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> in chase printing press, Double roller and six fonts of type, all complete; also collection of stamps numbering 800 in Scott's album, for first-class birds' eggs in sets with data. LOUIS KELLOGG, 450 Water St., Kalamazoo, Mich.

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I HAVE first-class California sets and singles to exchange for sets with data. Send list and receive mine. ED. WALL, Box 473, San Bernardino, Calif.

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## THE OOLOGIST.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs, singles for singles, also magic lantern worth \$4.50. Send for description of eggs. Exchange lists. FRANK WILLARD, 510 N. Cherry St., Galesburg, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Birds' Eggs, singly and in sets. I especially want Gulls, Terns, Petrels, Cormorants, Herons, Rails, Hawks and Owls. C. B. JOHNSON, Red Wing, Minn.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—An A-1 Coues' Key; for best offer of Eggs in sets with data. ALMA KING, San Bernardino, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—700 first-class Eggs in sets of this locality; for Western Eggs. Send lists and receive mine. J. S. SQUARE, Stratford, Ontario, Canada.

FRAGMENTS of Petrified Bones of the Mastodon and Saurian, plainly showing bone tissue, recently discovered in one of the canons of the Grand, also cactus plants in exchange for Birds' Eggs. Address, PAUL E. KENNEDY, Member Western Colo. Academy of Science, Grand Junction, Colo.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following first-class sets with data. A. O. U. Nos.: 208 1-5, 273 1-4, 420 3-2, 418 1-2 568 1-2 1-3, 337 1-2 1-3, and numerous other singles and sets to exchange for first-class singles. MILO W. KIBBE, Princeton, Kas.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Birds' Eggs in sets and singles, and Stamps for same. FRED A. GREGORY, 1214 N. Court St., Rockford, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class mounted specimens of Cooper's Hawk, Red-Shouldered Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, for eggs in sets with data; write what you have for exchange. GEO. V. SMITH, Tioga, Tioga Co., Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs in sets, collected by myself on the lower Rio Grande, Texas. A. O. U. Nos.—335, 341, 325, 326, 311, 419, 421, 573, 706, 707, 289b, 293a, 319, 594, 487, 512 and others. Will exchange with reliable collectors for eggs in sets that I can use. D. B. BURREWS, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Elegantly finished photographs of nests and eggs of the following birds: Wood Thrush, Wilson's Thrush, Ovenbird, Whip-poor-will, Ruffed Grouse, Indigo Bird, Worm Eating, Nashville, Blue-wing, Yellow, Black and White and Chestnut-sided Warblers, and many others to exchange for sets that I can use. Send lists. H. W. FLINT, Carey National Bank, New Haven, Conn.

YES! I want a good 22 or 32 cal. Rifle, for which I will give a bargain in Eggs, sets of singles. My list contains Barn Owl 1-4, Screech Owl 1-5, Burrowing Owl 1-9, Marsh Hawk 1-5, Night Hawk 1-2, Chewink 1-4, Cardinal Grosbeak 1-4, Chickadee 1-7, W. Meadow Lark 1-5, Kingfisher 1-7, Scarlet Tanager 1-4, Killdeer 1-4, Leaches' Petrel 1-1, Prairie Horned Lark 1-2, Downy Woodpecker 1-5, Prairie Hen 1-12, Bartramian Sandpiper 1-4, etc., with full data. Send full description of gun, and list of what you want to MILFORD PEW, Hebron, Neb.

WANTED—To exchange Fossils, Mounted birds and skins. Eggs singles and sets also. Magic Lantern with 200 views, watch, etc., for Minerals, Fossils, Bird eggs and skins, confederate money, relics, coins, stamps, Sea Shells and Curios. Write quick with list, correspondence answered. W. A. & W. E. BRYAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Auk Vols. I and VII, also No. 4, Vol. V; O. & O. for '87, '88, '89, '90; two sets of first three Nos. of O. & O. Semi-Annual; a fine egg cabinet holding 192 trays 3 x 4 inches; 7 doz. trays, 2 doz. 6 x 4; book of datas; pair of Buffalo horns; first-class ostrich egg; Prang's Natural History Series of birds, mammals and flowers (colored plates in holders); and hunting coat. Will exchange above for books on Natural History. EDWARD P. CARLTON, Watoussa, Wis.

# EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON AUG. 15, 1891.

I want at once the following first-class eggs, either in singles or in sets, in exchange at 1890 prices, or if in sets, I will allow 10 per cent. above these prices, in exchange for the articles mentioned below. Eggs taken in large or small quantities. No exchange amounting to less than \$1.00 can be "bothered with" unless 10 cents additional is enclosed for return postage and packing. If you have any of the rarer species to offer send lists. Species wanted, Ridgway's Nos.: 2, 26, 27, 41, 42, 47, 50, 51, 56, 68, 99, 128; any of the rarer Warblers, 157, 168, 193a, 197, 198, 198a, 214, 217, 248, 251, 257, 277, 278, 278b, 293, 306, 301, 320, 326; any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 357, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 465, 473, 482, 483; any of the Herons, 497, 498, 501, 505, 507, 516, 520, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 574, 578, 582, 583, 601, 609, 613, 618, 634, 640; any of the Cormorants, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 686, 687, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 760, 761, 763a, 522, 231, 304, 315, 460.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the prices quoted.

## SUPPLIES.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Brass Blowpipe.....   | \$ .25 |
| Imperfect Blowpipe.....   | .10    |
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| " 2, 12-100 " ".....  | .12    |
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| " 4, 18-100 " ".....  | .18    |
| " 5, 21-100 " ".....  | .20    |
| Nickel-plated 4½ in. Embryo Hook.....   | .30    |
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| Oologist's Hand-book, 1885.....   | .15    |
| Hand-book on Insect Collecting.....   | .15    |
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| A few Incomplete Copies of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America," newly bound in boards and leather, (Publisher's cash price \$18.00)..... | 15.00  |

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|   |        |
|---|--------|
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| Lucky Tooth of Codfish.....                                     | .25    |
| Starfish, Martha's Vineyard, fine.....                          | .25    |
| Pod of Sabre Noun, very curious.....                            | .35    |
| Rajah or Beetle Nut.....  | .15    |
| Brown-banded Sea Bean.....                                      | .10    |
| Red Sea Bean.....   | .03    |
| Gray Sea Bean.....  | .03    |
| Trilobite ( <i>Calymene Niagraensis</i> ).....                  | .25    |
| Scaphites from Bl'ck Hills, choice, desirable.....              | .30    |
| Resurrection Plant.....   | .15    |
| Barnacle, Pacific, choice double specimens.....                 | .25    |
| Polished Agate, pendant.....                                    | .25    |
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| Egg of Skate.....   | .12    |
| " " Shark.....  | .25    |
| " " Hammerhead or Leopard Shark.....                            | .25    |
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|  |     |
|--|-----|
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|  |      |
|--|------|
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| Barrow's Golden-Eye.....               | 1.25 |
| Noddy Tern, set of one, with data..... | .75  |
| Sooty " " " ".....                     | .40  |
| American Eared Grebe.....              | .50  |
| American Scoter.....                   | 2.50 |
| Sennet's Thrasher (13a).....           | .40  |
| American Scaup Duck.....               | .75  |
| White-winged Dove.....                 | .40  |
| " " " " ½, with data.....              | 1.00 |
| Arkansas Goldfinch.....                | .20  |
| Velvet Scoter.....                     | 1.50 |
| Tufted Titmouse.....                   | .40  |
| Carolina Wren.....                     | .20  |

## FOREIGN EGGS.

|                                |        |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Bul-bul, from Philippines..... | \$1.00 |
| Black-headed Weaverfinch.....  | .50    |
| European Blackbird.....        | .15    |
| " " " " Song Thrush.....       | .15    |
| Ruddy Sheldrake.....           | .50    |
| Med. Black-headed Gull.....    | .35    |
| Barbary Partridge.....         | .25    |

Continued on next page.

If you desire to obtain anything on the above list in exchange, send on your eggs at once. If you have no eggs, but have other desirable specimens in quantity, write what you have, with price; or will exchange for collections of fine Postage Stamps or second-hand Books on Natural History, or choice Indian Relics.

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We will receive hundreds of packages in answer to this exchange and if you do not write your name plainly on the outside of the packages you send, your exchange will be delayed and packages possibly lost.

This offer will hold good until July 15th only. Send on your specimens at once in large or small quantities, it makes no difference to us whether you send \$1.00 or \$100.00 worth, but if less than \$1.00 worth, 10 cents extra must be enclosed for return postage and packing.

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No. 7

## Some Florida Notes.

Where is there a collector in the United States who has not a strong desire to visit Florida and add rare birds and eggs to his collection? For over a quarter of a century the writer has longed for a chance to go there and spend a few of the winter and spring months, and during the past season I was gratified in my great desire. It occurred to me that some of the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to hear something of that land and of its creatures, and though I cannot occupy sufficient space in the valuable columns to give much of an idea of the country, I can still offer a few suggestions and draw a few comparisons, which to the wise will certainly be worth considering, and I may add a little advice to those who contemplate a trip there.

Bald Eagles breed in abundance in Florida, but a number of full-sized young, which I saw in late February, led me to think that the eggs were laid in December, according to general report. Brown Pelicans and several species of Herons breed in immense colonies and the eggs may be gathered till one is tired, however, the majority of species of birds use the same precautions to hide their nests that they do at the north, and I often thought were even more careful to conceal them. Even with one's best endeavors, and one can collect every day from February first till June, not nearly as large or varied series of bird's eggs can be taken as at the north in the same time.

To be sure I am now past the impulsive age of youth, still I have the same boyish spirit that pressed me a score of years ago. A new bird gives me as much pleasure now as then, and my interest does not appear lessened. And

for these reasons I was all the more disappointed, when only 67 species of birds were recorded on my note book in over three month's time, and of these birds 52 were known to me in my native state of Michigan.

It is needless to say that very little escaped my eye in any quarter I visited and I traveled over 1,000 miles in the state, and from the northern boundary to within three degrees of the tropics on the south, both on the coast and in the interior. When it is a common thing for me to note over seventy species of birds on a spring day in Michigan and I have once recorded 83 birds, the largest number recorded one day,\* it is no wonder that disappointment should result in this poor showing.

Now it is not my intention to belittle Florida in the eyes of Collectors or other tourists, on the contrary it is a wonderful state in many respects, and as a winter resort cannot be beaten. All that I am anxious to impress upon my readers, many of whom have heard much of the south and are very desirous of visiting Florida, is that it is not the wonderful paradise of Collectors that it is claimed, and allow me to suggest to the hundreds of oologists throughout the north, that there is just as much glory in working in your local haunts as in trying to cover ground far from home.

The average length of time which an egg collector is engaged in the work is four or five years, to be sure a few last longer and a very few stick to it for a period when they may really, fairly be called oologists, but these scientific collectors are unfortunately quite scarce, the common ephemeral egg crank, who

\*One day in May 1879 we noted 88 species between the hours of 4 a. m. and 7 p. m. in Ottawa County, Mich.

rarely gets higher than the lower stage of mediocrity, being in the vast majority. Yet all of these oologists and numerous collectors of eggs have a duty to perform and a work to do, which if properly followed will redound to their credit, as well as give pleasure to the students of the science.

"Dear bought and far fetched" is an expression we hear frequently and is unfortunately applicable too often to collectors of birds, eggs and other cabinets of natural history specimens.

The sooner a boy or man learns that his field of labor as well as pleasure lies all about him in the ornithological and oological line, the better, for attention and study given even to one of our common birds is more to be commended than the purchase of a whole collection of Icelandic or Australian eggs.

Now another word before I close. Don't forget the OOLOGIST. Support it by your example, as well as with your cash subscriptions and field notes. Don't forget to pay when called upon for your dues. Neither should you complain if your articles are not accepted or published. Try again and you will improve and succeed. The little OOLOGIST has done more than any other magazine in its line to elevate and promote oology and should be patronized by every lad interested in natural history.

SCOLOPAX

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#### The New Era in Ornithology.

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To those who have studied birds for a quarter of a century or more, the astonishing development of interest in ornithology on this Continent during the past century is most gratifying.

It seems but yesterday when Wilson, Nuttall and Audubon were about the only authorities on the birds of this country. No paper, no pamphlet nor periodical of any kind came to bring us

tidings, either new or old about the birds.

Literature on this subject was so expensive, so unavailable to the student of ordinary means, that he was compelled to do without the charming aid of book instruction and companionship.

By and by the grand work of Baird, Brewer and Ridgway made its appearance, containing so much new matter that the above named works seemed antiquated, but this work was also too expensive for the common reader.

But few of the lovers of birds could pay \$50 for their reading matter. Meanwhile Samuel's work in a single volume, made its welcome appearance. Then that new departure of close analytic method, Coues' Key came to hand, moderate enough in price, to be within the reach of most bird students. Still there was no single handy volume on the birds of Eastern North America, with enough analysis to guide the common reader, and affording pleasing biographies of enough species to make the book at the same time fine consecutive reading and an adequate reference. It is needless to enumerate the works now before the public, on the habits of the different species of birds in our country, while the number of periodicals now greeting us on every hand, bear ample testimony to the aspiration of authors on this subject. A few years since one could almost count on his fingers the writers who were able to speak to the public on bird life, but now one is greeted by new names all over the country of persons, who can tell us something gratifying, often something new about our feathered friends. We hail with joy the rising brotherhood in our favorite science. A happy people indeed must the lovers of nature ever be. For them a pure and peculiar well-spring of joy, gushes up here and there all over the land, a fountain sealed to all else of the multitude of mankind.

But why do we not know each other

better? Is not the time fully come, for a grand fraternity of bird students all over the continent? The American Ornithologists' Union is excellent for the savants in the science, but we of the laity must stand in the outer porch of associate membership, or stay out-doors entirely, if we are too indigent to raise \$3.00 per year for the "Auk."

Let us who are of the people, aye, even those who are in the "primer" of Ornithology, strike hands and with a grandeur of enthusiasm, that can stand alike in the icy cold of winter and the burning heat of summer, talk with each other continually along the various lines of enquiry.

Some of us here in Washington and vicinity have been trying for several months to lay the foundations for such a fraternity. Sickness has hindered some of us from doing our part to push the work rapidly, and the undertaking being one that requires thought and tact, we find ourselves obliged to move slowly. It will probably be some months hence, before we can decide upon the details of the membership. The most difficult part of the organization will be in respect to corresponding members—how to attract them with mutual advantage and how to secure an active fellowship at a distance. In other words, what can we do for them, and what can they do for us? Through some chosen periodical we can give them the results of our researches; we can advise them of the information, which reaches the various institutions at Washington, concerning the birds of North America or the world, and we can reply to correspondence, inquiries, etc. such as can be answered better here, with our immense resources, than elsewhere.

But no one can answer all these letters of inquiry, without a few stamps, a little stationery, and a contribution of valuable time, which his circumstances may not allow him to loose. Yet no

one here wants to make any money out of ornithological students. In other words the most difficult points are the choice of a periodical which shall talk best to the largest number, and fixing of dues for corresponding membership, such as they can conveniently pay and will at the same time enable the corresponding secretaries to give due attention to enquiries.

Any suggestions from friends at a distance on these points will be most welcome.

J. H. LANGILLE,  
Kensington, Md.

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#### The Amusing Antics of a Pair of Brown Thrushes.

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A few years ago I had the pleasure of securing two young Thrushes for pets. I took the nest before they could fly, and placed it in a large wire cage. Where in a few hour's time, they would take the food from my hand as readily as from the beaks of the parent birds. They soon evinced a great fondness for their captor, and would flutter against the wires of their prison when I would leave them, as though begging to go with me. Sometimes I would take them out, when they would cuddle down in my hand to sleep, as contented as two kittens. When they became almost grown they seemed so tame, I concluded to turn them out and see if they would go away. They never offered to leave the trees and shrubs near the house, until late in the fall, when they became very restless, and also a little shy. They would perch high on some tree top, uttering loud cries, as though trying to attract the attention of others. Each night they would return to their cage to roost, but each day would go farther and farther from home, and seemed to loose all their cunning playful tricks. I became suspicious that they were preparing to take their departure for a sunnier clime than

that (Eastern Indiana) and shut them in their cage. They did not relish that a bit, and at first refused to eat, however, they soon got over that, but would strike savagely at my hand whenever placed near them, and soon began fighting between themselves. I saw that would not do so I turned the most quarrelsome one out again, thinking I could drive it away. But it was not going to be treated that way, and would persist in coming into the house at night.

One night I thought I had succeeded in shutting it out, but next morning it crept out from under the treadle of the sewing machine and flew onto the table to help himself to breakfast. The following night I felt sure that I had him shut out, as I could not find him any place. Next morning he was nowhere to be found, and I concluded he was gone, but to my surprise, about eleven o'clock he crept out of a fold in a window curtain, where he had been concealed all night and morning, and perched on a chair back, with such a saucy triumphant air, as though to say "You might as well give up." I concluded then to let him stay, and turned the other one out again. They never attempted to go away after that.

One of them reminded me of a mischievous stubborn child more than any thing I ever saw in the bird family. It would get into everything it could find in a pan or dish uncovered, and was especially fond of getting into flour. When punished for any of its mischievous tricks it would get on a window sill or on the roof and pout for hours at a time. It could not be induced to either walk or fly. If we would set it on its feet it would fall over as though perfectly helpless. I went into the kitchen one day to find that "brownie" had been in a dish of boiled starch, and a more comical picture of abject misery would be hard to imagine, for the starch had partially dried, plastering

every feather to its body. Its inquisitiveness proved fatal at last and brought it to an untimely death in a water tank. The other one was not so inquisitive, but his propensity for stealing and hiding small articles was equal to any crow. Thimbles, buttons, matches, carpet tacks and all such things were always missing when needed. He would get into the work basket, and everything small enough for him to lift would have to be thrown out on the floor.

He took great delight in unwinding spools of thread by catching the thread in his bill, and either flying or running as far as he could, then going back to the spool and taking a new start. If no one happened to see him he would unwind a whole spool without stopping. I had kept him four years, when a neighbor's cat sprang in at the open door one day and caught my little pet. I got the bird but it was dead, and the cat came to an end a few hours later.

MRS. LILLIE CONLEY PLEAS.

Clinton, Ark.

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#### The Chewink in Orleans County.

BY NEIL F. POSSON, MEDINA, N. Y.

There is an old proverb to the effect that "an unlucky copper always happens around when it is not looked for,"—or something like that. Well—that's a very true saying, as I know all the readers of the "OOLOGIST" will agree, when they find who is the author of this article.

The OOLOGIST has not heard from me lately,—not on account of any lack of *interest* on my part, but more on account of lack of *time* and *opportunity*; but more chiefly (and if the truth were told without reserve) the reason of my silence is purely because of my sympathy for the many readers of the little journal.

I presume I would'nt have "happened

around" yet, if it hadn't been for my reading in the June number on Page 122, something about a nest of the Chewink being found about two miles south-west of Albion by K. B. Mathes.

Now I believe it is the custom always, that whenever anyone reports the "first recorded set" of any species, that someone else just "happens around" and claims a *previous* record. I think that that has come to be the universal custom. Now, I am not going to do that, but I would just like to call the attention of all interested to a short note on page 163 of the August, 1890 OOLOGIST which relates the taking of a nest of the Chewink near Medina.

The note referred to was in the editorial column of that number; and I quote it here,—“Just as we are going to press, a ‘small boy’ comes into the office of ‘ye Associate Editor’ and displays an egg which he found and gives a description of the bird and nest, and we are convinced that it is the Chewink. This is valuable in that this is rather a northerly breeding-place for this bird and this is the *first instance of its breeding here, etc., etc.*”

Now I don't know as that set found in '90 was properly "*recorded*," it being found by no-one more significant than a "*small boy*" and neither parent birds taken. However, I would like to add in regard to that set of eggs, that it was a set of *four*; that the egg brought me by the boy, was an egg of the Chewink; and that his careful and accurate description of nest and parent-bird were as good and perfect identity as the most cautious could desire, even if the egg had not spoken unmistakeably for itself. And so I hardly think that the nest found near Albion by Mr. Mathes, can be called the "*first recorded nest*" found in our County, since the August, 1890 OOLOGIST, spoke of the above found nest near Medina. No, I think it is true in this (as in most other things) that *Medina* has the start of *Albion*.

Please do not understand me as claiming the honor of this achievement. I did not find the nest, nor is it anything to me, further than that I think that out of justice to science, May 24, 1891 ought not to be considered as the earliest record of *Pipilo's* breeding in our county.

I regret that I am unable to give the date of the taking of the Medina nest, but it was quite late in the season of '90.

And now, as to just what the *status* of *Pipilo erythrophthalmus* in our county is, I think that it just reaches the limit of its northern migration here, and that Orleans County is situated just in the northern suburbs of its habitat, we being visited only by a few of the most northerly migrating pairs.

Mr. J. L. Davison, of Lockport, in his Annotated List of the Birds of Niagara County (September, 1889) speaks of this bird in the following words, viz: "A rare summer resident. On May 1 and 10, 1886, I saw and secured the first I had seen of this species, both females. On June 14, 1887, I saw a male and female; did not succeed in finding a nest, but concluded that they breed here." (Niagara County I might add, adjoins Orleans County directly on the west, and as regards latitude and other conditions relative to the migration of the Chewink, it is just the same in all particulars.

In the List of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity by W. H. Bergtold, M. D., we find in regard to the Chewink: "*Tolerable common. Breeds.*" But when we consider that this list of the Birds of Buffalo and Vicinity includes notes from a *very large* vicinity, and that even such southern counties as Cattaraugus and Chatauqua are included in the word "vicinity," we are not surprised to find *Pipilo* rated as a trifle more common in that list.

I am of the opinion that we would not have to go far south of our county

to find the Towhee Bunting increasing appreciably in numbers.

We are peculiarly located (as I take it) just on the north edge of the Chewink's habitat. The bird arrives quite early. The first one I ever saw, was noted on the 7th. of April (1888) and I think that that is about the date of its arrival in these parts.

#### The Yellow-billed and Black-billed Cuckoos.

In this vicinity both of the Cuckoos named above are quite common. The Black-billed, although considered the rarer through the country as a whole, is, I think the more common of the two here. It may be distinguished from the Yellow-billed by its different figure, being thicker and perhaps a trifle shorter bodied, and by its darker plumage. Also, as its name signifies, by its dark colored bill. Its nesting place is evergreen bushes, such as cedar and hemlock bushes but its favorite nesting place is in pine shrubs where it builds a loosely made nest of sticks lined with a few leaves. It lays from two to five eggs in this nest which is from four to six feet from the ground.

The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is a trimmer built bird than the Black-billed. Its bill is yellow and curved downwards and the bird has light spots on the underside of its tail. Its favorite nesting place in this vicinity is in beech or hardhack saplings from five to ten feet from the ground. Its nest resembles the Black-billed. The cry of the birds are much alike being something like "cow-coo cow-coo" several times repeated varying to a clucking sound when driven from the nest. Either bird will stay on its nest till one is very near them. It is not uncommon to find an egg of either bird in the others' nest. The number of eggs of the Yellow-billed are from two to four.

W. E. AIKEN,  
Benson, Vt.

#### Changes in Michigan Ornithology.

In less than twenty years a great change has come over the flora and fauna of the south-eastern portion of Michigan. Of course a similar change has taken place in a large portion of the state, but I propose to notice more especially the changes in the ornithology of the south-east portion of the state, simply noticing the Ravens and Bald Eagles, once very abundant in most parts of the state, especially in the Upper Peninsula, are now local chiefly in the Upper Peninsula. In 1885, the only Ravens I found in numbers were near Escanaba. Young Bald Eagles were not rare along the lake shore. By the way, the difference in the appearance of the young and old Bald Eagles is so great that it is difficult for one not familiar with them to believe that they belonged to the same species, however, an Eagle is always a royal bird, and could not be mistaken for one of another race.

It is decidedly interesting, when boating on the great lakes, to round a cape and suddenly surprise a pair of these royal birds standing upon the beach, looking for fish cast up by the waves.

Eagles are now rarely seen in south-east Michigan. Ravens have entirely disappeared. Crows are as numerous and noisy as ever, so are Blue Jays, Robins, Blue-birds, Bob-o-links, Baltimore Orioles, Cedar Wax-wings, Redwing, Black-birds, Cow-birds, etc. While the Bronzed Grackles are still common, owls and hawks seem less abundant, still the Great Horned Owl is by no means scarce, and the blood-curdling cry of the Screech Owl is still heard in some localities. Four or five other species are now rarely met with. Ruffed Grouse, Wrens, Indigo birds, Swallows, Martins, Snipes, Plovers, and most waders and swimmers, are less common than formerly. The Great Blue Heron, however, still holds its

own,—decidedly an interesting bird. Bitterns are also fairly common in some localities. Loons make the nights about many inland lakes hideous with their weird shrieks, during their spring migrations greatly to the disgust of early campers. One who has never experienced a night in such localities, can not imagine the horrible noise a dozen Loons can make. It is terrifying to one not acquainted with it. Coots are still numerous and decidedly bold, as they will swim about on the millponds in cities or villages, as will also the beautiful little Dipper Duck. Gallinules and Rails are not yet exterminated, as I met both last year.

But what has become of the millions of Passenger Pigeons that literally passed over here in clouds twenty years ago, when making their migrations from and to the south? Had any body predicted in those days that in a year or two, those mighty flocks would cease to journey north and south, he would have been called a fool. Yet these migrations suddenly ceased. What was the cause? Where have the Passenger Pigeons gone? Where do they breed now? Have they become exterminated? If they still have breeding places, where are they and what route do they take to reach them? Since 1874, few Pigeons have been met with here. In 1871 or 1872 they began to decrease, but the great migrations ceased suddenly three or four years later. I sometimes find breeding places where three to ten pairs build their nests and rear their young. Unlike the Mourning Dove, so solitary in its habits, the Passenger Pigeon prefers to have the company of its fellows, and single pairs are seldom found nesting here.

Wild Turkeys, once very numerous here, suddenly disappeared about the same time that the Pigeons did. Once they were met with in nearly every woods, now they have utterly dis-

appeared, and I have not heard of one since their sudden disappearance. Where have they gone? Are they extinct in Michigan? [While waiting for a train at Lawton, Van Buren Co. a year ago—an old sportsman, from the country told me he heard one call that morning and that they were not uncommon in his neighborhood.—Ed.] Where are they abundant?

When they were abundant, I often met with hybrids or cross-breeds between the wild and domestic Turkeys,—hybrids, if the Mexican Turkey, the parent of most of our domestic Turkeys is a distinct species; cross-breeds, if it is not. It is my opinion that they are distinct species, for a critical comparison of the two when pure reveals a great difference in general appearance. Still the Bronze Turkey is evidently a descendant of the northern wild Turkey or a mixture with it,—if the latter, a possible example of a fertile hybrid, something not entirely unknown.

A careful research will show that Pigeons and Wild Turkeys disappeared immediately after the timber was removed from a large portion of Michigan by lumbermen and by the terrible fire of 1871; and without a doubt the removal of the forests caused the disappearance of the birds.

Scarlet Tanagers and Rose-breasted Grosbeaks, Wood Thrushes and perhaps the White-breasted Nuthatch are on the increase. All these are now found in or near cities,—a decided change in the habits of the two first named. The Indigo Bird also some times enters villages. The Brown Thrasher is less abundant now. New species of birds have also appeared in this state. Conspicuous among these is the Black-throated Bunting—a welcome addition, and the European House Sparrow—a nuisance.

I have written this hoping that other observers may give us more light.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON,  
Rochester, Mich.

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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## My First Nighthawk's Nest.

The 8th of last June, while out walking with my brother on a large hill east of our city, I found a Nighthawk's nest. It was a warm day and not having anything to do, (it being Sunday) I determined to take a walk. So I went to the hill, named above. This hill is very rocky, and there are a few small pines and poplar growing there.

While walking along, suddenly a large bird flew up directly in front of me, which I soon determined was a Nighthawk. It circled around for some time, and then alighted on a log fence near by. Thinking there might be a nest near we went to work to try to discover it. Neither of us ever having seen or found a Nighthawk's nest, we did not know where to look. I had

hardly taken more than three steps forward when I saw two eggs lying on the ground. There was not the least sign of a nest. The eggs were simply lying on the hard bare ground. They were so much like the ground (which was greenish-black) that it was hard to distinguish them from it.

I was surprised to see the eggs in so conspicuous a place. There was nothing in the least to conceal it. I probably should not have found it, but for the bird leaving it. Soon as I found the nest I went off and hid to see what the bird would do. After waiting for some time, the bird flew off from the fence, and began circling around in the vicinity of the nest. This it kept up for about five minutes, when she settled down on her nest. While flying around she seemed to be trying to make out if her eggs were in their accustomed place for sometimes she flew directly over it and within a few inches of it.

Soon as she had settled down on her nest we went away. The next day I returned to see if any more eggs had been deposited, but finding that none had I took one of the eggs and left the other there, to see what she would do with one gone.

The egg I found when I came to blow it, was slightly incubated. For a day or two I was detained from going to see how my bird was getting on, but when I did go I found that the nest had been deserted, and so I took the other egg. I now have a fine set of eggs of the Nighthawk in my collection.

I have often seen it asked whether a bird could tell if any of her eggs were missing. I have come to the conclusion that they can, or else why should this bird have left her nest when I took an egg, but stay there when I did not take any? I have also noticed the same with other birds.

U. N. CLARK,  
Sturgeon Bay, Wis.

## The Wrens of North Carolina.

J. W. P. SMITHWICK, SANS SOUCI, N. C.

Carolina Wren. (*Thryothorus ludovicianus*). As its name implies it is the Wren of Carolina, inhabiting the state from the wave beaten coast to the grandeur of the western mountains. There are perhaps more of this species in the state than all the rest, put together, leaving out the little Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes hyemalis*).

Early spring mornings about the first bird you hear is the 'Long-tailed Wren' [It is generally known by this name.] sitting on some favorite limb or fence, warbling forth his unexcelled ditty to the rising sun and his mate that is just in that clump of briars near there. He is a faithful husband and on no account will he desert his mate. They are affectionate parents and I have often seen them following fine broods of young Wrens, trying as if it seemed to get them to do this way or that, which of course was resented by the youngsters if it did not exactly agree with their wishes. They are *free* and want to enjoy their freedom. Who blames them? I do not.

The Carolina Wren is rather an early nester, and nestbuilding often commences in March, and any time from then until the middle of June. I know that they raise two broods in one season, and am inclined to think that some pairs raise three broods, as I have seen three sets of young near the same place. In the sets that I have taken I find five the usual complement of eggs; variation, four to six, and in rare instances, seven.

Bewick's Wren, (*Thryomanes bewicki*), is a rare winter visitor, but perhaps oftener seen on or near the coast than in the western part of the state

House Wren, (*Troglodytes aedon*).—Rare transient. Possibly may breed.

Winter Wren, (*Troglodytes hyemalis*.)

A common winter visitant in the eastern and middle section, but Mr. John S. Cairns reports it as rare in Buncombe County. In this locality no other small bird is more seen (except the gregarious species) than the Winter Wren. Every pile of brush has its little occupant. They leave in March for their northern homes, and return in November.

Long-billed Marsh Wren, (*Telmodytes palustris*.) Tolerable common migrant.

There is a legend—better a "saying"—among the people of this section, that one day a Hawk caught a Wren that was trespassing, and was going to eat him, when his pity was moved by the hard pleadings of the Wren. The Hawk desisted for a while, but after all let the Wren go upon his promising the Hawk that he would never be caught flying higher than the fences. To-day if you ask any of the people why a Wren keeps close to the ground, they will at once enter into half an hour's job to tell you that about the "Hawk and Wren."

There is another such tale about the Buzzard, giving the reason why their heads are bald. Perhaps I may give it to you later.

#### What Causes the Quick Notes of the Whippoorwill?

In the OOLOGIST for Aug., 1890, page 155, the "Arkansaw Hoosier," writes among other things of the Whippoorwill, and says:

"Often when whistling they seem to get excited, or in a hurry, and repeat the words very rapidly for a time."

The following incident was observed under my window. One evening, before it was too dark to see, and while we were sitting quietly without any light in the room, a Whippoorwill lit in the yard, some eight or ten feet from the house and began his song. He had not sung long until another lit within

two or three feet of him. As the last one was lighting, the singer rattled off his notes with great rapidity, and then ceased. Immediately swelling his feathers, he began walking around the new comer, uttering a low peculiar noise similar to that made by a male tame pigeon when voicing its mate. A slight noise made by me in endeavoring to get a better view of their actions, caused both to take wing. Now how can we account for this action?

Do the male Whippoorwills thus call the females to them, as do turkey gobblers? Or do they mate like Robins and Blue Jays?

Will the "Arkansaw Hoosier" or some other observer note if the song does not always cease after the quick notes; and is not this an evidence of the arrival of the female?

Let us hear from others on these points.

J. C. ELLIOTT,  
Swanwick, Ill.

#### A Better Report from Texas.

While perusing the February number of your publication I noticed an article from the Lone Star State by Mr. J. H. Strecker, Jr., of this city, which does Texas an injustice, and I hope that you will allow me the space in your very valuable monthly to correct same and give Texas a better "send off" than Mr. Strecker, Jr., did.

The gentleman's observations most certainly were not very close, as he names a very few of the feathered inhabitants of this part of the country.

Texas is a very rich ornithological field and if his "niblets" will take a little stroll up the Brazos and Bosque rivers he will find something besides "Turkey Buzzards" and "Field Larks," for in my stroll I found in abundance the Robin, Red Bird, Blue Bird, Black Bird, Jay Bird, Blue Finch, Sparrow, Dove, Wren, Quail, Prairie Chicken,

Kildeer, Snipe, Plover, Ducks of many varieties, Swallows, Crows, Geese, White and Blue Crane, Pelican, Hawks and Owls too numerous to mention, Buzzard, Carrion, Crow, Chapparells, Birds of Paradise, Wheat Bird, Snow Bird, Field Lark, Woodpecker, Red-head and other varieties, Martin, King fisher, Humming Bird, Rain Crow, Oriole, and the Mocking Bird.

Not being an ornithologist am unable to give the scientific name of our birds, but their common names.

Hoping to hear from other Texas correspondents, I remain yours,

Very truly, ED. N. McDONALD,  
Waco, Texas.

#### Items of Interest from Florida.

Fla. Blue Jay; a common bird here, breed abundantly but the nests are hard to find as they are always well hidden in a bunch of moss. The most common nesting site is in tall pines about fifty feet from the ground. It also nests in oak trees and orchards.

Between April 13th and May 20th, '89, I took fifteen nests, all except one contained four fresh eggs. The color is a greenish ground rather evenly dotted with bronish spots more numerous near the large end. The average size 1.12 x .65.

Fla. Screech Owl; a common bird, and a friend to man because it carries on a relentless warfare against roaches and vermin of all sorts. The 'Screecher' begins nesting the last of March and I have taken full sets on the 29th of March, but fresh eggs may be found as late as the 15th of April. The deserted hole of the 'Flicker' is its favorite nesting site, usually about ten feet from the ground, but I have taken them as high as fifty feet up. The full set is three pure white eggs, nearly round, the average size is 1.30 x 1.13.

Fla. Nighthawk: this is a rather smaller species than the northern bird, it nests in the month of May; have taken

fresh eggs as early as the 7th and as late as the 3d of June. Two eggs are laid on the bare sand, the ground color is greyish white and the egg is so blotched with brownish black that it is sometimes difficult to see the ground color; average size 1.15 x .90.

Bald Eagle: this bird is common in this section and I have seen three or four at one time. The nest is built in tall bushy pines about fifty feet from the ground, is made of sticks and moss about five feet broad by four thick; the nest is flat on top except a hollow in the middle just large enough for two white eggs, average size 2.75 x 2.20.

Am. Sparrow Hawk: one of our commonest birds, no piece of timber is complete without one or more pairs of this little hawk. In spite of all that is said against feathered friend it is a great insect destroyer and should be protected. Nesting begins early in April or latter part of March, as I have taken full sets of eggs as early as the 5th of April. The favorite nesting site is in old 'Flicker' holes from fifteen to sixty feet from the ground. Out of fifteen sets that I taken the last two seasons all except one had four eggs each, the other had five. The color is white, speckled with reddish brown, sometimes the ground color is entirely concealed; size 1.40 x 1.10.

WILLARD ELIOTT.  
Thonotosassa, Fla.

The American Osprey.  
(*Pandion halioëtus*.)

Surely the most interesting of all predaceous birds is the beautiful American Osprey, or Fish Hawk, whose range is the whole of North America. As the Osprey lives entirely upon fish, it is generally found along the sea-coast or along the banks of some large river or lake. When fishermen see the Osprey strike for a fish, they hasten to the spot and draw their nets for they will be sure to have a good haul.

The Osprey breeds year after year in the same spot, generally choosing the top of some lofty tree as its building site. It lays two or three eggs—rarely four—of creamy tint and largely blotched with reddish-brown colorings, which are generally collected around the larger end of the egg.

Like the Eagles, the Osprey is monogamous, but if either of the pair dies the remaining bird soon finds another mate to whom it is extremely affectionate and loving.

If the female bird loses a limb or disables itself in any way, its mate insists upon his partner staying at home on the nest while he goes in search of food for his hungry family. The feet of the Osprey are unnaturally large in comparison with the size of the bird, but are just what are needed in catching fish.

The flight of the Osprey is extremely easy and elegant, which one would naturally expect, as its body is but twenty-two inches in length, while its breadth of wing is nearly five feet and a half.

The Osprey may be seen on a clear day sailing in wide undulating circles, as it hovers over the water intently watching for its prey. As soon as a fish comes in sight the Osprey shoots down like a meteor, and dashing at the luckless fish so as to raise a cloud of spray, he grasps it in his strong claws and bears it away in triumph to his loving mate, who has been watching all the while, perched on a limb near her young.

In commencing to describe how the Osprey is often robbed of its hard-earned food, I hope all who read this will pardon me for quoting just at this point from what has been written by an eye-witness. "The Bald Eagle, who is a sort of omnipresent predator wherever the primeval nature holds her own upon the continent, sometimes makes his appearance suddenly on his wide-visiting wings amidst these solitudes,

that seem rightly to the Fish-hawk alone. His hoarse bark startles the deep silence from afar, and every natural sound is mute. Wheeling grandly amidst the dim blue cliffs, he subsides on slow and royal spread upon some blasted pine beside the lake-river, and with quick short screaming, announces to awed nature that its winged monarch has come down to rest. The friendly Fish-hawks, in silent consternation, dart hither and yon in vexed uncertain flight, and tiny songsters dive into the deep thickets, while the shadow of that dread sound passes over all. But now the kingly bird grows quiet, and with many a shift of feet and restless lift of wing—while fierce far-darting eyes are taking in all the capabilities of his new perch—he sinks into an attitude of deep repose, one yellow-heated eye upturned, watching the evolutions of the startled Fish-hawks, whose movement, becoming less and less irregular as they wheel to and fro, gradually subsides into the measured windings of their habitual flight in seeking prey, while the buzz, the hum, the chirup, the chatter, and the carol creep up once again, and nature becomes voiceful in her happy silence."

Then the Osprey, at last quieted, sweeps down from on high, and grasping a fish in his claws he soars away uttering an exultant scream. Now is the time for the couchant tyrant, and elevating his war-crest and spreading his wings, the Bald Eagle leaps upward in pursuit. The Osprey becoming alarmed wheels upward with all the strength of his powerful wings, but as the Eagle approaches nearer and nearer, the poor Fish-hawk loosing all hope of escape, utters one last despairing cry and dropping its would-be prey, sails away to seek its rest upon the branches of some tall pine. But the Eagle poising for a second, as if to make more certain his aim, drops like a shot upon the falling fish and clutching it just as it reaches

the water, he soars away with boastful pride to a spot where he can either hoard or eat his stolen meal.

Sometimes, however, the Ospreys congregate to defend their rights and then it generally goes hard with the overbearing tyrant. A gentleman who witnessed a scene of this kind, says of the Ospreys: "They seemed to have formed a sort of colony for mutual protection, and the moment their foe, the Eagle, made his appearance among them, the cry of alarm was raised, and the vigilant colonists, hurrying from all quarters, attacked the robber without hesitation, and always succeeded in driving him away.

There was always a desperate battle first before the savage monarch could be routed, and I have seen them gathered about him in such numbers, whirling and tumbling amidst a chaos of floating feathers through the air, that it was impossible for a time to distinguish which was the Eagle, until, having got enough of it against such fearful odds, he would fain turn tail, and with most undignified acceleration of flight would dart toward the covert of the heavy forest to hide his baffled royalty, and shake off his pertinacious foes amidst the boughs."

The general color of the Osprey is dark brown, but it is pleasing variegated with various shades of black, gray and white, making it a truly elegant bird. The crown of the head and nape of the neck are covered with long gray-white feathers streaked with dark brown, while the under surface is white, with the exception of a light brown band which extends across the breast. The primaries are brown tipped with black, and the tail is barred above with a light and a deep brown, and below with brown and white. The legs, toes, and cere and blue, while the eyes are of a golden yellow hue, and the beak and claws black.

I cannot end without again mention-

ing the singular beauty of the Osprey. Wherever it is, soaring aloft, covering its eggs or young, or perched on the top of some lofty tree, it is still the same handsome bird, and anyone who has spent any time by the seashore or on the banks of our large rivers, will always remember with a mixed feeling of admiration and pity, our most beautiful of predaceous birds, the American Osprey.

EDWARD FULLER.  
Norwich, Conn.

#### Nesting of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee.

The eggs of the Chestnut-backed Chickadee, like the Pine Siskin and Wright's Flycatcher, (on which I have previously written) are quite rare.

This bird is not distributed over so much territory as the other two species therefore their eggs must be of more value to the collector, than either *Spinus pinus* or *Empidonax obscurus*. (Their value, however, is not given in "The Oologist Checking List" of 1890.) On May 27, '89, I took a set of five eggs, it being my first set of this chickadee. It was situated in a snag, five feet up, the excavation being one foot deep. I also found a fresh set of seven eggs of *Parus rufescens* on May 3d, this season.

This nest was in an alder stump three feet from the ground, composed of moss, hair, wool and a few feathers, felted together.

The eggs resemble those of the Common Chickadee or the Oregon Chickadee in a general way, but average larger in size and the markings are larger also, with an inclination to form a wreath near the larger end.

There can be no mistake as to the identity, for in the first instance the birds were observed carrying building material to the nest, and in the second, the female was caught; then, too, the Chestnut-backed and Oregon Chickadee's notes (as well as their plumage) differ very much. I also observed an-

other pair digging in a tall snag on April 17, '91, but upon visiting it again later on, found they had disappeared.

CLYDE L. KELLER,  
Salem, Oregon.

#### Owl's Tenacity of Life.

I see in the January OOLOGIST in an article by Mr. Joel A. Harrington of Butte, Mont., that he wonders much at the great tenacity of life in a Great Horned Owl.

Now the solution is simply this: In all birds there is a communication between the lungs and the large bones, and the wing being broken when the strap was placed around his neck the bird obtained his supply of air through his broken wing.

How wise is Nature in her provisions for her creatures!

A. V. THOMPSON,  
Decorah, Ia.

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This work is descriptive of the Nests and Eggs of the Land and Water Birds of North America, which includes all the species known to exist—those that occur or are indigenous north of the Southern United States boundary, including Greenland and the peninsula of Lower California. The breeding range of each species is given, the time of nesting, the exact number of eggs laid, their color and size together with the chief characteristics of the birds.

The arrangement of the work is according to the new nomenclature of the A. O. U. Code and Check List, and the old numbers (Ridgeway's), as used in former editions, are placed to the right of each species. Throughout the text all the common names of the birds are to be found, and a COMPLETE ANALYTICAL INDEX of these is given.

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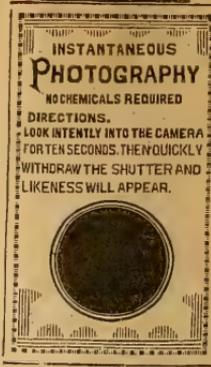
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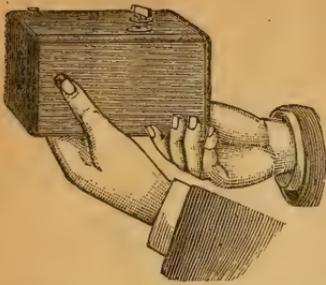
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# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1891.

No. 8

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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## THE OOLOGIST.

### EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1891.

No. 8

## The Story of a Flood. By *Fulica americana*.

June 12, 1891, was almost as beautiful as any member of the avian or any other order could wish for. I was sitting on my nest of rushes over water near the edged of one of the numerous sloughs of Northeastern Buena Vista Co., Iowa. My eggs were well advanced in incubation and I was expecting to soon have a dozen little Coots to provide for.

All around was peaceful. No sense of impending calamity depressed our spirits. In the different slough around me the Black Terns were gathering insects or incubating their eggs, which were laid on bogs, small piles of rushes or even on nests deserted by some of my own species or *Podilymbus podiceps*.

Many nests of the Yellow-headed Blackbird, containing eggs and young, were situated in the sound green rushes among which my nest was placed. Near the shore were those of the Red-winged Blackbird nearly all containing young. Numerous nests of the Long-billed Marsh Wren, some of them containing newly laid eggs were there also.

The nest of the Pied-billed Grebe which looked like the bottom of an overturned wash basin, was floating near mine. It contained half-a-dozen eggs, nicely covered with the material of which the nest was composed, viz.: mud and decaying vegetation. A little way out from this an Am. Bittern was setting on her nest of rushes, guarding her precious, drab-colored eggs.

The Wilson's Phalaropes were incubating their eggs on the low ground near the water's edge. All feathered creatures were intent on the propagation of the species. As for the human race, they were all busily engaged in

cultivating corn so as to have it ready for the Blackbirds to feast on just before going south in the autumn.

A long toward evening it became somewhat dark in the west. A small shower in the southeast seemed to be going all around us. This came nearer and it began to sprinkle. The farmers sought the shelters of their houses and the birds cuddled more closely over their eggs and young. We were getting a fresh water bath for nothing and did not trouble ourselves about it.

About 7 o'clock, somewhat to our surprise, it began to rain harder. Then still harder and harder and harder! Oh, my, how it rained! It poured! It fell with all the fury of a demon bent on destruction. Soon the water in the pond began to creep, creep, upward, while my nest seemed to be gradually sinking. Then as water began to run into the sloughs from the adjacent hill-sides it rose faster and my eggs were submerged. I left the nest and the wind and waves took my eggs off of it and scattered them in every direction. My nest, following the waves was carried out and deposited among other drifting material on the shores. Some of the eggs had followed the nest and were floating upon the water near it.

Sick with despair I looked around to see what damage had been done my neighbors during the two hours rain that was the heaviest known in the history of the county.

It had stopped now, and the stars were shining pitifully down upon us, while the moon breaking through the rapidly receding clouds gave us a glimpse of her friendly face.

The Pied-billed Grebe's nest was still floating on the water and the covering had not allowed the eggs to be washed. It was some feet from its accustomed place however, lodged in a bunch of

rushes. This particular bird, however, was very lucky, many of the same species had shared the fate of the Coots. The nest of the Am. Bittern was completely submerged as you may suppose, the water having risen nearly two feet, while the nest was built only a few inches above water.

It had not yet reached all the nests of the Blackbirds, though many of them were under water, but the wind and waves had robbed all of their contents.

The nest of Wilson's Phalarope was covered with water, and it would have been so with a much lighter rain than the one we had.

Every bird was sorrowing and disconsolate, mourning for their lost nests and young. There were many sufferers besides those I have named, but I was unable to learn the extent of the damage, though I think from the sad voices of the Kildeers and other birds who had their homes in the plowed fields; that their nests were washed under or eggs carried away by the current. The Ruddy Ducks also must have been sufferers. They were just laying, and one of their eggs lay on the shore of a slough where the bird had deposited it after the flood.

The Black Terns were all heavy losers, scarcely a nest remaining, though I did see one with its eggs among a thick cluster of rushes where the wind could not well reach it.

But we could not lose much time for we all wanted to raise a brood of little ones, so we set to work to construct other nests and lay another complement of eggs. The Grebes and Terns got in their work first, as many of the former found their nests still floating flush with the surface, and the latter could utilize some bog.

At present writing, just one month from date of the great freshet, many birds are rejoicing over pretty little nestlings, myself among the number.

Others are nearly ready to hatch, and

some of the more backward ones will have to wait several weeks yet.

We learned something by the flood and built our nests very much higher than usual.

One King Rail's nest was nearly a foot high, and just as she finished laying an oologist who lives here—J. V. Crone by name—came along and took the eggs. Dirty trick wasn't it? and the only excuse he had to offer was that he had not taken any earlier, and that he had none in his collection. The Am. Bitterns wisely (or unwisely) resorted to dry land of meadows, for their second nest, I say unwisely for when the above oologist is mowing hay he finds their nest, and they lay a \$1.25 egg you know.

The Phalaropes left. I guess they could not bear the thought of trying to nest again, for I have not seen any since the flood.

The Yellow-legs are back from the north already. I wonder if they had a flood up there too. May be they had a snowstorm.

Well dear readers in spite of the heavy rain and large amount of damage, the above is written by a very happy.

MUDHEN.

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#### Feeding the Birds in Winter.

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How many of the readers of the OOLOGIST have ever tried this plan as a means of enabling them to study more closely the habits of our winter visitors? I will tell you of my experience in this, at my happy-child-hood home in Eastern Indiana.

During a long cold winter a few years ago, I found many small birds that had evidently died from a lack of food, as a deep snow had covered everything for several weeks. The thought occurred to me that it would be indeed a labor of love, as well as an act of charity, to induce the little feathered songsters to come to a certain place to be fed. I

placed some boards on a barrel in the most sheltered corner of the yard, on the sunny side of some evergreen trees, which the birds were in the habit of frequenting. I then prepared for the feast by strewing the table with bread crumbs, crushed hickory\* nuts, bits of cooked meat chopped fine, and various kinds of seeds, "borrowed" from mother's store of garden seeds. The next thing was to await the coming of the diners; and it did not take them long to begin to put in an appearance, for cold and hunger had made them very brave. Black-capped Chickadees, Crested Titmice, White-bellied Nuthatches and Snow Buntings were about all that came, for very few birds had been able to live through those dreary weeks of ice and snow.

The next winter I prepared for them before the cold weather had fairly set in. I fixed their table under shelter of some evergreens near the house, where I could watch them from a window, myself unseen. It was a delightful past-time, to listen to their chatter of delight, and watch their cunning movements as they flew from table to branch, for they preferred carrying their food up to a limb before eating it. The table was replenished almost daily, thus their food was always fresh. It seemed as though all that had been there the previous year, had returned, bringing all their friends with them. There were Chickadees, Nuthatches, Titmice, Snow Birds, three or four kinds of Woodpeckers, Blue Jays and a few Cardinal Grosbeaks, and Robins that were brave enough to face our winter winds. The Nuthatches were especially fond of pumpkin and sunflower seeds, and greedy little fellows they proved themselves to be. They would not only eat what they wanted there, but would carry away what they could not eat, and by spring every crack and crevice about the trees was filled with seeds, securely wedged in by the busy little Nuthatches.

A piece of fresh meat placed in a tree, out of reach of the cats and dogs, was a source of never failing delight for the Chickadees and Titmice. Many a noisy quarrel arose among them, but they were of short duration, and soon forgotten.

The Chipping Sparrows were my tamest friends during the summer, coming daily for their allowance of crumbs. They grew so tame they would readily come into the house to pick up crumbs that were strewn on the floor for them.

I feel that I was a thousand times repaid for my trouble, for many, many hours were spent in watching their merry actions. I think any of the readers who will take the trouble to feed the little feathered jewels, will be amply repaid, by the pleasure thus afforded, and the knowledge gained of their habits.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Arkansas.

Nest and Eggs of the Rufous Hummingbird.  
(*Trochilus rufus*.)

On the morning of May 1, '91, I awoke early and was soon on my way for a collecting trip. A cloudless sky, a refreshing atmosphere and an approaching ray of sunshine, together with a well filled basket of edibles, were a few of the features that foretold an eventful and pleasant experience in oology, and sure enough my days outing was successful in its entirety.

My first find was the subject of this article, and my delight was at a premium.

I had not gone far into the woods when a female Rufous Hummer flew by with a buzz, which told me there was a nest near at hand. Upon looking around, I at once discovered its nest. It was at the end of a branch, in a small oak, five feet up. Upon investigating closely I found it contained two eggs which were almost fresh. Their sizes are .50 x .31 and .51 x .32. Eggs of this Hummingbird like the rest of the fam-

ily *Trochilidæ* are always white and usually two in number, but I have known of one instance where three eggs were taken from one nest. The nest is a handsome structure, composed in the main of willow-floss and plant-downs. The outside is covered with bits of green moss and light colored lichens, much resembling the bunches of moss found in oak trees.

On June 2d, I again went collecting in the same locality and noticed a pair of Rufous Hummers acting rather queer. They had been flying at several warblers that came near a certain oak tree, for some time so I seated myself under its shade to study their actions, trusting the female would alight on her nest. Sure enough she did, and I was again rewarded with a set of their eggs. The nest was on a horizontal limb and in make up was similar to the first, but the eggs were longer, being .54 x .31 and .53 x .31 in size.

All nests of this species found by me have been near some creek and placed in oak trees. This seems to be their favorite nesting place. In the spring of the year when the wild currant is in blossom, one has a splendid opportunity in observing the habits of these little beauties as they glitter in the sun light.

CLYDE L. KELLER,  
Salem, Oregon.

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#### The Chewink in Broome Co.

By WILD N. CLUTE, BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

The article in the July OOLOGIST, on the Chewink in Orleans County, developed several traits of the bird that are so much at variance with what we know of him in this (Broome) county, that a few words in regard to his habits here may prove interesting.

Orleans County, although farther north, is much less elevated than ours, and this, together with its proximity to the great lakes, should make the two counties very nearly equal in respect to climate, and, therefore, to the flora and

fauna. That this is so is shown by the Chewink's time of arrival from the south in spring. Mr. Posson places the bird's appearance at about the 7th of April. That date is much too early for us. A record of bird-arrivals for the last six years, gives April 19, 1888, as the earliest date of the Chewink's arrival here, and May 10, 1889, as the latest. It would, therefore, seem that our seasons are later, and the Chewink ought to be as common in Orleans Co. as here.

From what I have learned of the Chewink's habits, he seems to prefer an elevated region for his dwelling place. In even large pieces of woodland on the level, the voice of the Chewink is seldom heard; but when we ascend to the retired upland woods, the bird must be marked as common. He does not, however, seem partial to the deep woods, but is found commonly in the scrubby growths and slashings that usually adjoin large tracts of timber. A rambler in such places, in summer, is sure to hear the Chewink's call above all others, and to get a glimpse of black and white as the bird flits from one clump of bushes to another.

In conformity with his other habits, the nest is seldom placed far in the woods. One that I found on the 8th of June, 1888, was placed in the edge of a little bank that skirted a cart-path through a bushy field. Some brush, lately cut, formed a sort of concealment for the nest, which contained four fresh eggs.

Since the Chewink is not equally common in localities in nearly the same latitude, it may possibly be due to the higher elevation of the favored region.

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#### The Carolina Wren Again.

Since my sketch on the Carolina Wren, sent to you early in the spring, I have had an interesting item of observation on its nesting.

On the 21st of May last, I found a nest with 4 eggs, the usual number, nearly fresh. It was in a new field, on low ground near a spring. The nest was neatly tucked into a recess between the roots of a chestnut stump; well hooded over, so that the bird seemed to enter through a large hole in the side, a tuft of grass screening the entrance. It was composed mostly of dried grasses, very fine and feathery, a few dried leaves, intermixed with the outside, the lining mostly of horse hair. The fine white eggs specked with reddish brown, look more like those of the Titmice and Warblers, than like those of the Wren family. Though the eggs of that family vary greatly.

Let me here tack on a little note along with Mr. Posson in your last issue, on the Chewink in Orleans Co., N. Y., and around Buffalo. I used to regard it a very rare bird in your Co., and believe with the above writer, that the south shore of Lake Ontario must be about the northern limit of its habitat. It is true, however, that it is quite common in the immediate vicinity of Buffalo, as stated by Mr. Bergtold.

In like manner, I used to find the Brown Thrush very common around Buffalo, while it was not at all common in Orleans Co., N. Y. This species, however, extends its habitat much farther north. I found it common on Manitoulin Island and in the LaCloch Mountains, just south of Lake Superior.

J. H. LANGILLE.

#### A Trip to Smith's Island.

On the morning of May 21, '91, I left Cobb's Island, Va., with two friends at 6:30, and sailed down to Smith's Island in order to get a few specimens of the Great Blue Heron. Smith's Island is about 20 miles down the coast, but the way we had to go was fully 30 miles. We had a head wind all the way, and it

was 11:15 when we arrived at our destination.

As soon as we landed the Fish Hawks commenced flying around us, screaming all the time. There were lots of their nests about, but I never saw any thing to equal those of the Great Blue Heron.

Some trees had as many as five in them. I tried to climb to some, but as I had no "irons" with me, I had to give up the job. The trees were tall dead pines, with no bark and as smooth as a telegraph pole.

I know a great many of the nests contained young, because there were lots of egg shells on the ground, and when the old birds would fly over, high in the air, the young ones would stand up in the nest and stick their heads out toward them.

I expect to go to Cobb's Island again next May, when I hope to be more successful in the egging line.

WM. N. FISHER,  
Baltimore, Md.

#### More about the Iowa Eagles.

About two days after receiving my February OOLOGIST, I was told that an Eagle had been caught and was on exhibition in Chas. Trizainski's barber shop window. I started at once for the barber shop and upon arriving there I saw one of the largest Golden Eagles that "grow," and which measured six feet, six inches from tip to tip.

It measured about two feet in length. Its plumage was very ragged but still showed its beauty. It was of a beautiful gold color on the head and dark all over the body; two light spots on the wing, tail light, legs very strong and feathered to toes, color yellow, bill blue black and very large. It seemed to take kindly to captivity and has become tame. It can be fed from the hand and does not care at all if any person pets or strokes it, provided you do not touch

its wings. It is, on the whole, a most noble bird and inspires one with a feeling of not exactly awe but something similar.

A gentleman from Nebraska, who has seen many, says this is a very large one, the largest he ever saw and this is a young one.

This bird was captured about twelve miles from Decorah and in a different direction from Bluffton.

A. V. THOMSON,  
Decorah, Ia.

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Some Notes on the Breeding of the Carolina Snowbird.

*Junco hyemalis carolinensis.*

BREWS.

Davie, in his "Nest and Eggs," says, "According to Mr. Wm. Brewster this new variety of the Black Snowbird differs from *J. hyemalis* in being larger, with lighter, blue and more uniform coloration, and a horn-colored instead of pinkish white or yellowish bill. Mr. Brewster found this bird at Highlands and on the Black Mountains of Western North Carolina. He states that it is probable that the birds represent the form which breeds on the mountains of Virginia and Pennsylvania."

I know of at least two breeding grounds of the Carolina Snowbird in West Virginia, one on Job's Knob, the other being Cold Knob in the western part of Greenbrier county. At the last named place only have I studied their habits. Here at an altitude of probably 3500 feet I found them breeding abundantly during May, June and July. I am positive from notes taken and observations made they raise at least two broods in a season, probably three as I found a nest containing three young, a few days old, the latter part of August, 1889.

Their nests may be looked for along the roadside under the overhanging bank and in tussocks of grass at the foot of a bush, but I have never yet

found a nest in a bush, although I have found at least twenty nests during two years collecting. They are quite tame, allowing one to approach within a few feet before leaving the nest which they do somewhat in the manner of the Oven Bird. The nests are generally a small quantity of moss and fine roots lined with fine rootlets and a few feathers; they are about the size of the nests of the Phoebe in interior diameter.

The eggs cannot with certainty be distinguished from eggs of the Black Snowbird, but probably average larger. One set of eggs in my collection measure as follows: 16.5 x 13.1; 16.4 x 13.0; 16.0 x 13.1; 16.0 x 13.0 millimeters. The average size of 30 specimens is 15.5 x 13.0 millimeters.

Mr. Wm. D. Doan, in his list of "Birds of West Virginia" (Bulletin No. 3, West Va. Agricultural Experiment Station) says: "Resident in the higher mountains. I found them August 26th, on Rich Mountain, where I was informed they breed."

Dr. Wm. C. Rives, in his "Catalogue of the Birds of the Virginias" says, "They are not found in the main Alleghany Range near the White Sulphur Springs."

If they are not found in the main Range they are very near it. Cold Knob only lies 25 miles north-west of White Sulphur Springs and near to the main Alleghany Range, or at least a spur of it.

THAD. SURBER,

June 8, 1891.

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A Curious Find.

On the 26th day of April my cousin, Thos. A. Smithwick, took a set of Brown-headed Nuthatch of four eggs, which also contained one single Bluebird's egg. Can any one else record a case like this?

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

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OÖLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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## Black and White Creepers.

(*Mniotilta varia*.)

This is one of the little birds which ought to be respected by farmers and husbandmen generally, on account of his extreme usefulness.

He clears their fruit and forest trees of myriads of destructive insects, particularly ants, although he does not serenade them with his songs.

He seldom perches on the small twigs but circumbulates the trunk and larger branches, in quest of ants and other insects with admirable dexterity. He is evidently nearer related to the Creepers than to the Warbler, for his hind claw is the largest, and his manner as well as his tongue, which is long and five pointed and horny at the extrem-

ity characterize him strongly as a true Creeper.

He arrives here toward the latter part of April and begins soon after to build his nest.

One which I had good luck to discover was fixed in the crack of the trunk of a large tree, and was composed of some fibers and dry leaves, lined with hair and soft cotton like down.

It contained five young ones recently hatched. This was on the 28th of April.

At about the beginning of Oct. the whole tribe leaves again for the warmer climate, probably the West Indies, though I have been informed that at least several of them have been perceived in the Gulf States during the whole winter.

The male and female are nearly alike in plumage.

E. E. HAMMETT, JR.,  
Cleveland, O.

## Nesting of the Sharp-shinned Hawk.

In my collecting this year I have come across two nests of the Sharp-shinned Hawk, (*Accipiter fuscus*) built, no doubt, by the same pair of birds.

On May 16th, while starting out on a collecting expedition with a companion, I observed a Hawk flying over a large wood with something in its claws. I watched it and saw it go down in a patch of pines about a quarter of a mile distant. The pines, to which we immediately went, covered perhaps five acres, and were sparse and tall at one end and low and thick at the other. While searching for the Hawk's nest, which we believed to exist in the pines, a male Sharp-shinned came around us several times uttering his peculiar cry. At last we found the nest in the thin pines, about thirty feet from the ground. It was built uniformly of dead pine twigs, was about seven inches across inside and one inch in depth, and contain-

ed two perfectly fresh eggs. They are of a creamy-white ground color, marked with confluent blotches of light reddish brown. These eggs are the same size at both ends.

The other nest we found May 31st. It was situated very near the first, and, like it, was near the top of the pine tree where two limbs branched off from the body.

It was similar to the first except in being a little deeper, and in having a slight lining of pine bark scales and a few feathers. This nest contained five eggs, incubation just begun. These differ from the others in being decidedly pointed at one end, and in being very much lighter, the markings being hardly darker than ash-color, on an ashy-white ground.

The female bird was very bold. While we were both up the tree packing the eggs she flew over us so close that I could have reached her with my hand, one of her wings actually striking my companion on the shoulder. After we had descended, he succeeded in shooting both the birds with his rifle.

We were particularly struck with the difference in size they exhibited.

HAROLD B. STABLER,  
Sandy Spring, Maryland.

#### Danger in Using Arsenical Soap.

As several cases (one fatal) of poisoning by arsenical soap have come to my notice, I think a few words on its dangerous properties might not be amiss.

The common white arsenic of commerce (Oxide of Arsenic) when mixed with some animal matter as the fat in soap, fat skins, or any other albumenoid substance, forms one of the most, if not the most dangerous poisons known, the Ptomaine of Arsenic, as follows:

All flesh and fats after a short exposure to air begin to decay, one of the products of decay is a cadaveric alkaloid, called a Ptomaine, the decay suffi-

cient to form Ptomaine might not be noticeable.

Now when you make Arsenical soap you probably take some cheap soap that has been made out of half putrid fat, mix your Arsenic with it and cork it up, now this corking up seems to favor the formation of the Ptomaine, or keep it from evaporating, as it has always been noticed that matter that has been exposed to the air and then closed up contains more Ptomaine than those just exposed to the air.

This Ptomaine as soon as it forms unites with the arsenic and forms Ptomaine of Arsenic.

The poisonous qualities of arsenic and the Ptomaine of Arsenic might be compared to 1 and 100, besides which the following must be considered, that there is no antidote for the Ptomaine, while Per-Oxide of Iron, or iron rust is one for arsenic, that it is volatile and can be inhaled, while arsenic is not; that it can be absorbed through the pores, while the little arsenic it would be possible to absorb would act only as a tonic, while the Ptomaine acts only as a verulent septic poison in all cases; that the lye in the soap favors the entrance of the poison by softening and more or less removing the epidermis of the skin.

Many taxidermists have remarked the effects of arsenical soap. I find the following by Maynard:

"It is a fact to which I can bear painful testimony that they are, especially when applied to greasy skins, poisonous to the extreme. I have been so badly poisoned when working on the skins of some fat water birds that had been prepared with arsenical soap as to be seriously ill."

Coues' also makes remarks to the same effect.

It is not necessary to injure you to take enough of the Ptomaine to kill you, as a small might produce much trouble not easily accounted for.

I may say in conclusion though Arsenical Ptomaine may form in skins prepared with pure arsenic there is not nearly the danger, as with the soap, but it is as Maynard says: "Arsenic and grease are generally a blood poison."

HARRY B. SARGENT.

### Interesting Notes from Oregon.

I send you a few extracts of my '91 notes thinking perhaps they might possibly be interesting to some of the readers of the OOLOGIST.

April 5th. Found a Steller's Jay's nest completed. The bird began laying the 14th and April 20th took a set of 5 eggs. Nest made of sticks, twigs and moss, lined with rootlets, measured 9 inches across and 6 inches high on outside,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. x 2 in. inside; and placed on a limb of a fir tree about 16 ft. high; eggs pale, greenish, spotted, rather thickly at larger ends; average size 1.23x .88.

April 19th. Took a set of 14 eggs of Mongolian or Ring Pheasant.

The nest was in a field of thick "Oak Grubs" placed under an oak grub, made of leaves in hollow in ground, measures 8 in. across and 3 in. deep. Eggs were a brownish cream with a faint green tinge, average size 1.56 x 1.32.

The Pheasant's note or "crow" consists of two syllables uttered with a harsher voice than our domestic cock and resembles *er er*; immediately after crowing they flap their wings making a noise like the Ruffed Grouse.

I set three eggs and succeeded at the end of 22 days in hatching one little Pheasant looking very much like a brown leghorn chick.

The little fellow done well and followed the hen, but persisted in going ahead; in three days it required a lively pace to catch him, but one morning nothing was to be seen of it.

May 11th. Took a set of 13 fresh

eggs of Mongolian Pheasant. Nest in same field and under an oak grub the same as the other, eggs pale, greenish, cream, a few spotted sparingly with olive, average size 1.66 x 1.23.

May 12th. Took a set of 7 fresh eggs of the Oregon Ruffed Grouse. The nest, unlike most nests of this species, was not concealed or at least did not seem so, as it was placed between two fir saplings in plain sight 10 or 12 ft. away; it was hollow in ground, lined with leaves.

Eggs cream, three being spotted very sparingly with light brown, average size 1.60 x 1.24

June 14th. Found a nest of Mongolian Pheasant; it was a hollow in a tusssock of timothy containing one egg laying on bare ground; there was not any more next day, and its a puzzler to me to know how that egg got there. Can anyone make a suggestion?

The following receipt I have used for the last year successfully for removing stains, although may not be new to many I hope it will to a few:

Cover the eggs 18 or 24 hours with butter-milk, too long will spoil them; care should be taken to wash the eggs thoroughly, immediately after taking them out of the butter-milk.

ARTHUR L. POPE,  
Yamhill Co., Oregon.

### Where is the Southern Breeding Limit of the Robin?

I would like to hear from any reader of the OOLOGIST who has in his collection eggs of the Robin (*M. migratoria*) taken in either of following states:

Georgia, Alabama or Mississippi. Or in Arkansas or Indian Territory, near or south of latitude 35°. Also along the southern border of Tennessee. Am. trying to find the southern breeding limit of this bird in the Mississippi Valley.

Would like especially to hear from

observers residing in above states (in proximity to latitude 35°) as to whether this bird nests in their localities.

J. T. PARK,  
Warner, Tenn.

Queries Answered.

C. D. H., Newfane, Vt.—Your sparrow is doubtless the White-crowned.

R. B., Claremont, N. H.—The description of your nest and eggs resembles that of the Acadian Flycatcher.

R. H., New Castle, Ind.—Is not your bird the Song Sparrow?

E. L. Y., Thornton's Ferry, N. H.—Your nest was that of the Gt. Crested Flycatcher.

A. H. C., Nobles Co., Minn.—Writes of taking a set of Black-throated Bunting and wishes to know if it breeds farther north.

B. S., Detroit, Mich., writes:  
"On June 3, 1891, I found the nest of a Song Sparrow built in an apple-tree about six feet from the ground containing three fresh eggs. The nest was in a sort of hollow at the end of a limb. Isn't it rather unusual for the Song Sparrow to build in a tree?"

The Song Sparrow's nest has been found almost "everywhere"—finding them in an apple-tree is rather an unusual, but not a rare, occurrence.

C. P. H., Russellville, Ind.—The birds which you describe are Indigo Buntings.

C. W., York Sta., Ala.—The crow of your locality is undoubtedly the common variety.

Answers to that Turkey Vulture Query.

In the OOLOGIST for this month you ask who can tell if the Turkey Vulture occupies a nest more than one season. Two instances have come under my observation where they have been known to occupy the same nest more than one season, one having been occupied two

years, the other three. Two sets were taken from the latter in one year (1890) and one set has already been taken this season.

JOHN HOWARD,  
Tarboro N. C.

In regard to Turkey Vultures occupying the same nest more than one season would like to give you a few lines here and there from my note book.

March 28, 1888. Took a set of two fresh Buzzard eggs from a hollow stump at Levy Lake.

Mar. 15, '89. Took a set of two fresh eggs from the same nest which resembles very much the set taken the previous year, undoubtedly the same bird.

Mar. 20, '89. I took a set of two fresh eggs from a little cave in an open field.

Mar. 15, '90. Took a set of two eggs from same cave and on April 30th took one more egg, incubation advanced.

This season ('91) I took two more sets from the same nest. The set taken Mar. 16, was fresh, the last set taken May 28th, was badly incubated. I know of still another nest from which a set of Vulture eggs has been taken every season since 1887.

However I know of instances where Vultures have deserted their old nesting site after having been robbed, but once, so could not say that they always use the same nest more than once.

T. G. PEARSON,  
Archer, Fla.

In reply to A. G.'s query would say I know of a hollow tree which has been used for six years by a pair of Turkey Vultures, and have heard of two other trees which have been used for about ten years. I find when they are once robbed they desert the tree or stump. I have collected four sets in the last six years and could have taken others, but I am no egg hog. I am satisfied with a few sets. From what I know of their habits I believe they would always lay in the same nest if not disturbed.

Mr. K. Atkinson, of Dime Box, Tex., says he has only been able to approach them on two occasions. Would say of the four sets I collected I had to raise the bird off the nest of three, the first I found by accident, while walking through the thick brush I stumbled over a hollow stump and the Vulture flew past me; on looking in stump I discovered a set of two fine eggs perfectly fresh. If a Vulture remains on nest,

tantalize with a stick she will vomit and then the danger is over as she cannot renew the attack or at least they never have for me.

C. BYRON VANDYCOOK,  
Odin, Ill.

“Meadow Larks and Turkey Buzzards”.(?)

Oh yes, Texas has some birds besides Meadow Larks and Turkey Buzzards. I have been interested in our feathered friends for some years; have also been a collector in a small way. 'Tis true one may ride an entire day behind a slow horse and never see a bird in Texas, but that has been my experience only on the Staked Plains, but even there around the little settlements one meets our little friends. I have seen there the Lark Sparrow and his sweet song can be heard almost any moonlit night, and to my mind 'tis as sweet a song as our caged yellow pets ever uttered, true it may not be so varied, but the sweetness of tone is superior. This little bird is I fear much underrated by those who see him most. His Texas name is Wheatbird.

I have found nesting in Dallas and adjoining counties, the Yellow-breasted Chat, Lark Sparrow, Dickcissel, Sparrow Hawk, Flicker, Cardinal, Black-capped Titmouse, Blue Gray, Gnatcatcher, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Orchard Oriole, House Wren, Mourning Dove, Mockingbird, Red-headed Woodpecker, Chuck-Will's-Widow, Night Hawk, Screech Owl, Yellow Warbler, Crow, Blue Jay, Bob-white, Bronzed Grackle, Crested Flycatcher, Bell's Vireo, Red-winged Blackbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Painted Bunting, Indigo Bird, Belted Kingfisher, Pinnated Grouse and several hawks and owls that I've never placed. This is only a partial list, there are many others I don't call to mind just now. I have spent many pleasant hours tramping about and trying to get better acquainted with our birds and deducting Mead-

ow Larks and Turkey Buzzards have found plenty to study and admire. While we are on Meadow Larks I'll tell you of an egg I have of that bird, 'tis one of a set of four, regulation size and ground color, but the reddish brown splotches are as large as a finger nail and nearly hide the ground color. Let us hear from our Texas boys.

FRANCOIS,  
Dallas, Texas.

Seaside School of Biology.

Mr. Frank H. Lattin, Dear Sir:

Our school of Biology will open July 6th, continuing to Aug. 29th. The deanship is held by Geo. Macloskie, D. Sc., L. L. D., of Princeton College, who will be assisted in terrestrial work by John E. Petere, A. M., D. Sc., and in the Laboratory work by Arthur M. Miller, A. M., Prof. of Biology, Wilson College.

Mr. Dumas Watkins, of Princeton Col., will be the collector of marine specimens.

Students having microscopes are requested to bring them. A dozen microscopes will be supplied for the use of experienced persons. Instructions will also be given in the use of the microscope.

The building is planned to have separate floor and foundation and the north-west corner specially well lighted for fine work.

We will have this year accommodations for 30 or 40 students. Two boats are in service, a well arranged library, also cases for preserving mounted specimens and a herbarium. Running salt and fresh water, and aquaria and other appliances will be found in the laboratory.

Come and see us.

WM. M. ALBERTI, Sec.,  
Avon-by-the-Sea., N. J.

Sorry we cannot be there, but trust many of the OOLOGIST'S readers will join the class. They will find it of interest, profit and pleasure.—Ed.

### World's Fair Notes.

An extensive display of postage stamps may be expected at the World's Fair. The American Philatelic Association and the Philatelic Society of New York have both appointed committees to work to that end.

California may show at the World's Fair, as a part of its exhibit, the finest collection of minerals in the United States. Instead of making a special collection as was done for the New Orleans, Philadelphia and Paris expositions, there is a strong probability that the state will send the magnificent collections belonging to the State Mining Bureau Museum. The State University has the collection of the State Geological Survey, the Voy collection, Hanks collection, Keene collection, and several others. These are all classified, arranged, identified and labeled. Each county and district in the state is properly represented. Every department of the mining industry has its separate place with locality indicated. No other state or territory of the Union has any such collection as belong to California now.

Tulare, California, proposes to furnish a very novel exhibit for the Fair. From a gigantic redwood tree, 390 feet high, and 20 feet in diameter, will be cut two lengths forty-five feet long, and these will be transformed into full-sized railway coaches by hollowing out the interior. The rough bark of the tree will be left on the roof and on the sides the natural wood will be left unpolished. The interior will be finished after the style of Pullman cars. One will be a buffet dining car, with bath, barber-shop and kitchen, and the other a sleeper, with observation room. Ordinary car trucks will be put underneath, and the men of Tulare, with their wives and children, will make the trip to Chicago in these strange coaches and live in them while there. The intention is to keep these cars in the Exposition grounds and to sell as mementos the portions of the tree cut away in their construction.

Captain Alexander Rodgers, the special World's Fair Commissioner to Brazil, reports that the botanical exhibit from that country will be the finest ever made. The director of the botanical garden at Rio de Janeiro, Dr. J. Barbosa Rodriguez, probably the leading scientist in that republic, is taking a

great interest in the work of preparing a fine display for Chicago. He will send the fullest possible collection of plants, and make a full exhibit of orchids and palms, on both of which he is a high authority, having himself discovered over five hundred new varieties of orchids and fifty new varieties of palms. He will send also his private ethnological collection of over a hundred pieces, the most valuable and the rarest that he found during his stay in the Amazon country. Dr. Ladislao Neeto, the director of the national museum at Rio, is also very earnest in having a fine exhibit at Chicago, and has already made requisition for funds for that purpose. Dr. Neeto organized the Brazilian section of the Berlin fisheries exhibition, and promised to get up a similar display for Chicago. This may be given to the United States fishery commission in exchange for something of theirs.

The fish exhibit at the World's Columbian Exhibition is to be a wonderful one, and not the least interesting portion of it, naturally, will be the Aquarium or Live Fish display. This will be contained in a circular building 135 feet in diameter, standing near one extremity of the main Fisheries building, and in a great curved corridor connecting the two.

In the center of the circular building will be a rotunda sixty feet in diameter, in the middle of which will be a basin or pool about twenty-six feet wide from which will arise a towering mass of rocks covered with moss and lichens. From clefts and crevices in the rocks crystal streams of water will gush and drop to the masses of reeds, rushes, and ornamental semi-aquatic plants in the basin below. In this pool gorgeous gold fishes, golden ides, golden tench, and other fishes will disport. From the rotunda one side of the larger series of aquaria may be viewed. These will be ten in number and will have a capacity of seven thousand to twenty-seven thousand gallons of water.

The entire length of the glass fronts of the aquaria will be about 575 feet or over 3,000 square feet of surface. They will make a panorama never before seen in any exhibition and will rival the great permanent aquariums of the world not only in size but in all other respects.



PIER HOUSE.

OUR  
Sixth Season  
AT  
CHAUTAUQUA

During July and August, 1891.

We have two stores at Chautauqua, N. Y., one in the Pier House and the other in the New Arcade Building.

Should any of my patrons happen in the vicinity of Chautauqua during their summer vacation, I trust they will make it a point to "step in." We have on exhibition and for sale thousands of Specimens, Curiosities, Novelties and Souvenirs.

AT THE GREAT

# International Fair & Exposition

—TO BE HELD AT—

DETROIT, MICH.

AUGUST 25, TO SEPTEMBER 4, 1891.

Frank H. Lattin will have a "carload" of Birds' Eggs, Sea Shells, Corals, Natural History Specimens and Curiosities of all kinds.

Duplicate specimens will be sold at surprisingly low prices.

"Lattin will personally attend the exhibit during the Exposition and would be pleased to meet any of his patrons. Should you visit the Fair, do not fail to visit Lattin's Exhibit, which you will find on the second floor, at the south end of the main building (same location as in '89-'90.) The exhibit will occupy 500 ft. floor space with 50 ft. frontage.

AT THE

# Inter-State Fair and Exposition

TO BE HELD AT ELMIRA, N. Y.

SEPT. 1st-9th.

We have agreed to make a big exhibit of Indian Relics. If you attend the fair do not miss seeing our exhibit we expect to have \$2,000.00 worth of Indian Relics on exhibition all of which will be for sale.

"Lattin" expects to personally be at Elmira, Sept. 7, 8 and 9 and would be pleased to "shake" with any of his numerous patrons of that vicinity, who happen around.

At Elmira we shall doubtless have a good assortment of Shells, Curios, and Souvenirs for sale at wonderfully low rates.

# WHY NOT Make An Exhibit at Your Fair?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth, of shells, agates and curios to add a variety to your present collection, and make an exhibit at your own and neighboring Fairs this Fall?

## There's \$\$ In It!

At a good Fair, with a suitable display you could sell from \$10. to \$100. per day, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG profit.

Now we will have lots or just such material on hand at Chautauqua, Detroit and Elmira, that will remain unsold, rather than ship back home will sell at very low rates, if it would be inconvenient for you to personally make your selections at any of the above places, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection for you that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewellery and Novelties. Write what you want.

Faithfully,

FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.

# PATENTS

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Taxidermy, Bird Skins and Eggs, Shells, Curios, Minerals, Fossils, Indian Relics and Naturalists' Supplies; Singing and Fancy Birds, Talking Parrots, Goldfish and Aquarium Stock. Send Stamp for Catalogues, Price Lists and Publications.

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Enclose stamp for catalogue. Sample of views will be sent upon receipt of 25 cents.

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IT IS INDISPUTABLE that more cases of **DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION, WEAK STOMACH, BILIOUS** and Gastric Derangement are cured by **HUMPHREY'S SPECIFIC No. TEN** than by all other remedies put together.

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An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving to order. **H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.**

### The Horned Frog.

This harmless little creature is something that every collector should have. They require no feeding if allowed to run free among the house plants, etc. Every collector has heard of this wonderful little animal. Live specimens sent by express prepaid for \$1. Safe delivery guaranteed.

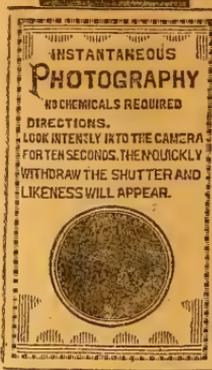
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1400 Colorado St., Austin, Tex.

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Any person sending us 15c before Sep. 15, 1891, will, in order to introduce our goods, send prepaid the following articles, viz:

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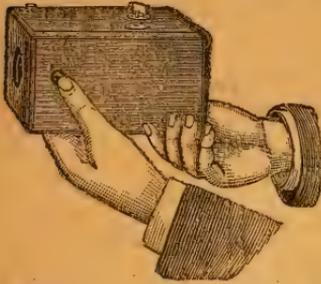
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THE OCLCGIST.

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FOSSILS, 10 Species, 35c; 20 for 75c; 35 for \$1.50;  
50 for \$3.00; 75 for \$8.00, Ill. List.  
Ayr FRANK KINNE, Knoxville, Iowa.

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Dependent widows and parents now dependent, whose sons died from effects of army service are included. If you wish your claim speedily and successfully prosecuted, address.

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# OOLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1891.

No. 9

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

WANTED.—To exchange, Mississippi Kite 1-2, with datum, for other sets with data. Semirare. Address, J. W. P. SMITHWICK, Sans Souci, N. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have first-class California sets and singles to exchange for Eastern sets with data. Send your lists and receive mine. ALMA KING, San Bernardino, California.

HAVE YOU NOTICED new list of common eggs wanted and desirable eggs offered in Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

WANTED.—A. O. U. Nos. 333, 360, 373, 377a, and any other desirable eggs. For which I will give stamps or eggs. HARRY O. TROUNCE, 14 Collier St., Toronto, Canada.

EGGS IN SETS with complete datas for exchange for same. Also a few singles. Send your list and receive mine. All letters answered. W. A. OLDFIELD, Port Sanilae, Mich.

SEE!—I will give twenty-five periwinkle shells, from Lake Erie, for every ten cents worth of curios, sent me. ALLEN OGDEN, Brocton, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Buffon's Natural History in fine condition for best offer of perfect Indian arrowheads. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kans.

TO EXCHANGE.—For the best offer of tennis racquet set 1/4 436, set 1/2 335 (Ridgeway's) 1 Indian tomahawk and grinder. ART. BIDWELL, Box 248, Baldwin, Kansas.

WANTED.—Double-barrel breech-loading shot-gun 12 or 16 gauge; will give "First steps in Scientific Knowledge," (Paul Bert) 1000 clean cigarette pictures, 100 varieties foreign stamps, thirty arrowheads, Indian axe and club, collection of end-blown eggs, value over \$45.00. Write and send lists; great bargain. Address, ARTHUR DUGAN, West Point, Miss.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—I have fine f. c. bird skins and eggs to exchange for the following: Chambers, shot-gun, rifle, books on taxidermy, ornithology or oology, camera, telescope or violin. All letters and cards answered. JNO. L. HOOPER, Lake Mills, Wis.

SETS WITH DATA and singles of this locality for Western eggs. Send list and receive mine. GEO. H. GRAY, 1326 N. Mount St., Baltimore, Md.

EXCHANGE.—Will exchange minerals and woods for same. Send list and receive mine in return. Letters answered. CRITT C. IVORY, Smithville, Jeff. Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Hérons, Grackles, Mockingbird and other eggs from this locality, for same. Send list. JESSE MILLER, 184 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

A BARGAIN.—400 eggs, 60 different kinds, in sets and single. First-class in every respect. Collected in this locality. O. H. BRAUGHLER, Santa Rosa, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Beautiful Mineral Specimens from Nevada, Wyoming, Colorado, Oregon, Idaho, and Utah. What have you to exchange? Write. EARLE A. BROOKS, French Creek, West Virginia.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sixty Argosies, twelve books and water blower, for the best offer in birds' eggs. Address, LOUIS WEHLE, 631 E. Main St., Rochester, N. Y.

WANTED.—Files or odd copies of any Natural History publications. Send lists. Will give first-class job printing for files, for what I can use. WILL A. CROOKS, Gilman, Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Will exchange single eggs of 507, 501, 465, 461, 438, 494, 357, 348, 511b, 595, 598, 613, 652, 704, 755, 619, 622a, A. O. U., for singles not in my collection. Send lists of what you have to exchange. W. J. WIRT, P.O. Box 23, Oak Orchard, Orleans Co., N. Y.

BIRDS' EGGS.—First-class sets of 212, 214, 337, 420a, 47b, 538, 539, 605 and others for same. Two Burrowing Owls for best offer of eggs. MERLIN C. JOHNSON, Aberdeen, S. Dak.

ATTENTION COLLECTORS!—I have Oliver Davie's latest work on the nests and eggs of North American birds bound in cloth and gilt in perfect condition, new and clean that I will exchange for best offer of old dollars, half dollars, quarters, dimes, half dimes, copper cents. Send lists stating year and condition. P. P. NORRIS, North Topeka, Kansas.

# THE OOLOGIST.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

HAVE you read Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

TO EXCHANGE.—A heavy 22-cal. rifle, War-nant action, for best offer of first-class land birds' eggs in sets. STANLEY E. WYLLIE, Sanford, Fla.

WHAT AM I OFFERED for Davie's Key 3rd edition, cloth bound, new four dollar field-glass, two volumes of OOLOGIST and taxidermists' implements. PAUL HUNTINGTON, 826 Mason St., Green Bay, Wis.

WANTED.—Best offer for Ornithologist and Oologist for '87, '88, '89, '90. A complete file of OOLOGIST down to present, for first-class birds eggs in sets, or duplicate volumes of Ornithological magazines. I desire to obtain several volumes of the Auk. If you have any, send price. Address, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sets and singles with data of 305 5-1, 316 7-2, 387 1-4 1-3, 444 1-3 3-4, 466a 1-3 1-4, 467 1-3 1-4, 474b 1-4 1-3, 495 15-1, 498 1-4 1-3, 501 1-3, 511b 1-5 1-4 1-3, 529 1-4 1-3, 604 1-4 1-3, 610 2-3, 613 1-5 1-4, 652 1-5 1-4, 704 1-4 1-3, 761 1-4 1-3, (A. O. U. Nos.) for sets with data or a "Eureka" shot-shell crimper (second hand) or a few lined trays. CARLETON BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Large collection of South Carolina Birds' Eggs, Indian and War Relics, Petrified Shells from Darlington; also Large collection of Stamps for Safety Bicycle. A. W. HOFFMAN, Darlington, S. C.

I WANT GOOD TYPICAL selected nests of Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Marsh Wren, Wagtail, Wren, Golden-crested Wren, Blue Yellow-backed Warbler, Blue-winged Yellow Warbler, Chipping Sparrow, Starling Ovenbird, Phoebe, Yellow Warbler, Indigo, Red-winged Blackbird and Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a number of Natural History books, each containing 620 pages, with over 500 illustrations, exchange price \$2.00 per copy. Wanted desirable eggs in sets: send lists. N. P. BRADT, Eagle Harbor, Orleans Co., N. Y.

WANTED a pair of Screech Owls (*scaps asio*) in good condition. State lowest cash price. P. DELAFONTAINE, 121 Honore St., Chicago, Ill.

EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. No.'s in sets, 51a  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 106-1, 201  $\frac{1}{2}$ , for sets from other localities. D. W. RAYMOND, Norwalk, Conn.

800 CIGARETTE pictures, 4 albums, second class eggs of 357, 516 and others, to exchange for eggs. Make offer. R. P. GILLESPIRE, Starkville, Miss.

FINE Specimens of Opals 15 and 25c exchange for sets only, 25, 35c. Agates 15c exchange 25c. Both from Pacific, also sea-moss and shells for exchange. ED WALL, San Bernardino, Calif.

FIRST-CLASS Singles, Ridgeway, 85, 186, 198, 202, 218, 241, 246, 320, 455, 492, 520, 525, 512, 643, 475, 683, 729, 285, 290, 290a, 193, 268, 256, 678. A. O. U. 339a, and sets 640  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 585 1-1, 494  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 495  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 541  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 469  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 464  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 465  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 366  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 312 1-5, 61  $\frac{1}{2}$ , for first-class original sets. I have a hunting-case, stem-winding watch to exchange for best offer of sets. Send on your lists. W. L. MORSE, No. 6 Onondaga Co. Savings Bank, Syracuse, N. Y.

HAVE YOU NOTICED new list of common eggs wanted and desirable eggs offered in Lattin's "Exchange Extraordinary" in this OOLOGIST?

WANTED.—Arrow points and Birds' Eggs in sets and singles. Have in exchange Fossil Shells, Fossil Coral, petrified Moss, fresh and salt-water Shells, 50 varieties of wood in three different forms. All the above goods are first-class. I will send my goods first. I would also like to correspond with collectors in Florida and Texas. W. R. BIRD, Lock Box 507, Mason City, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class singles and original sets with data, for like singles and sets. Send list and receive mine. Address, JOHN HAMMITT, College Hill, Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—New Winchester and Marlin Repeaters and Shattuch's guns. Want a double breech loader, a large telescope and a camera. CHAS. FOWLER, Princetown, N. Y.

WANTED.—First-class single eggs of hawks, owls, herons, gulls, terns, shrikes. Will exchange rare U. S. and Foreign stamps, air rifle and printing press. HARRY M. BLACKBURN, JR., 65 Charles St., Toronto, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with full data of 123, 155, 197, 282, 300, 375, 420, 431, 439, 494 and commoner ones for other sets. L. N. ROSSITER, Lake Forest, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Tame Red Tail Hawk, Howard Camera and Eggs, Sets and Singles, for best offers of Eggs or anything. Send lists and receive mine. THOS. GADSDEN, 199 Whitaku St., Savannah, Ga.

WANTED.—"Birds of Long Island" by Girard, cash or exchange, new or second-hand. Address, stating price or conditions, F. E. BAXTER, Babylon, L. I.

EXCHANGE.—A six-drawer, glass-covered, oak cabinet, for first-class eggs in sets. No postals. GUY A. MOORE, 1436 Wabash Ave., Chicago, Ills.

FIRST-CLASS SINGLES of A. O. U. 75 1-1, 79 1-1, 123b, 294, 337, 360, 373c, 378, 417, 431 m-1, 458, 462, 464, 466, 476, 499, 501b, 510, 519c, 530, 581d, 591b, 596, 599, 614, 624, 627, 715, 721b, 743a, 758 and 761a to exchange for first-class original sets. I also have sets to exchange. FRED A. SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cal.

TO EXCHANGE.—Pair Indian clubs, 70 tobacco tags, Bruin or the Grand Bear Hunt, Gulliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen for first-class eggs in singles, TOM FLOURNOY, Clinton, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a general collection of fossils, minerals, etc., to exchange for other fossils not in my collection. Write me what you have. C. S. HODGSON, Albion, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—A pair of live fox squirrels for eggs, coins, Indian relics or Coues' Key. Cards not answered. Send your lists to F. E. SMOUSE, 704 19th St., Des Moines, Ia.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs, including (Ridg. Nos.) 52, 77, 95, 408a, 433 for eggs, coins, books and curios. Send lists to ELMER G. BENNETT, Box 236, Guilford, Maine.

WANTED.—A good printing press, self inker, chase not less than 6 x 8 inches, also curiosities of any kind. Have for exchange eggs, curiosities, etc. H. E. PENDRY, Eustis, Fla.

**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

TO EXCHANGE.—Fine sets of Franklin's Gull, Least Bittern, Yellow Head and Redwing Blackbird. Mounted birds to exchange for eggs or other offers. **WHIT HARRISON**, La Crescent, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—First and second-class eggs for same and books on ornithology. Second-class eggs for anything. Letters containing lists answered. **F. B. WILLIAMS**, 222 Cedar St., Ottawa, Kansas.

WANTED.—All collectors who have been defrauded by dishonest collectors or dealers during '90 or '91 to communicate at once with **JNO. V. CRONE**, Marathon, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class birds' eggs for the same or books on ornithology. Second-class eggs for anything. Letters containing lists answered. **F. B. WILLIAMS**, 222 Cedar St., Ottawa, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE.—First and second-class single eggs, a water blower and sets of Bl'k Crowned Night Heron's eggs, for first-class eggs in sets. **JOHN WILLIAMS**, Wenham, Mass.

WANTED.—A 30-in. safty bicycle and a No. 4 kodak. Send for a list of the articles I will give for them. Please mention this paper. Address, **H. A. HESS**, P. C. C. & St. L. R. R. Union Station, Indianapolis, Indiana.

I WANT to exchange my entire collection and duplicates of birds' eggs for a good bicycle in good condition. I have about 120 different species and most of them in sets with data, the whole amounting to over \$55 catalogue prices. **H. J. ROGERS**, Burnside, N. Y.

WANTED.—Fancy and Homing Pigeons of all kinds and colors. Will give in exchange live Horn Frog, bird eggs in original sets with complete datas or will pay cash. Parties having or knowing persons that have thoroughbred stock of the above pigeons will kindly send their address to **O. J. ZAHN**, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

ADVANCED COLLECTORS and those in "rare" localities, write. Specialty, nests and sets. Bird skins offered for eggs. References given and absolutely required. **P. B. PEABODY**, Owatonna, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A new model champion single-barrel, breech loading shot gun, 12 bore, slide snap, patent fore end fastenings, pistol grip stock, double bolt and rubber butt; for a Marlin or Winchester repeating rifle 38-caliber, or best offer in first-class bird skins. The gun is in perfect condition and shoots well. **WM. F. SMITH**, Wayne, Delaware Co., Penna.

LARGE NUMBERS of desirable single eggs, many varieties, worth from 5 cts to \$1.25 each, to exchange for sets with data of any species worth not less than 5 cts. per egg. I wish to hear from every single egg collector or any exchanger who can use desirable singles. **J. R. CRAIGUE**, Minnewaukan, N. Dak.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a set of Mississippi Kite  $\frac{1}{2}$  at \$10 each and a set of Florida Red-shouldered Hawk at \$4 each to exchange for singles, only, by Lattin's 1891 list. **E. K. COLLETT**, Austin, Texas.

I HAVE Golden Eagle  $\frac{1}{2}$ , with datum, to exchange for a good double case Type Writer. Send description to **J. W. P. SMITHWICK**, Trinity College, Trinity, N. C.

INDIAN AXES, Scrapers, Drills, Hammers, Knives, Sinkers, Celts, Pestles, Arrowheads, and Oregon Points to exchange for first-class eggs in original sets with data. **WM. H. FISHER**, 14 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.

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# EXCHANGE EXTRAORDINARY.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES ON OCT. 15, 1891.

I want at once the following first-class eggs, either in singles or in sets, in exchange at 1890 prices, or if in sets, with data, I will allow 10 per cent. above these prices, in exchange for the articles mentioned below. Eggs taken in large or small quantities. No exchange amounting to less than \$1.00 can be "bothered with" unless 10 cents additional is enclosed for return postage and packing. If you have any of the rarer species to offer send lists. Species wanted, Ridgway's Nos.:

1, 11, 41, 42, 47, 51, 56, 67, 63, 149a, 151, 168, 170, 197, 198, 204a, 211, 214, 217, 231, 242, 251, 254, 257, 277, 278, 282, 293, 301, 304, 306, 315, any of the Hummingbirds, 353, 354, 357, 361, 382, 385, 387, 388; any of the Owls, Hawks, Eagles or Vultures, 459, 460, 465, 473, 480, 482, 483, any of the Herons, 498, 501, 505, 507, 516, 520, 522, 525, 552, 555, 557, 569, 571, 572, 574, 578, 582, 583, 601, 609, 613, 618, 634, 640, 649, 650, 664, 666a, 668, 673, 679, 681, 688, 690, 693, 721, 723, 729, 736, 760, 761, 763a. Eggs of Owls and Hawks, listing at over \$1.50 not included in wants.

We will accept any species not mentioned above at ONE-HALF 1890 prices.

In return for the above, I will give any of the following articles, specimens or supplies at the price \$ quoted.

## SUPPLIES.

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| No. 1, 8-100 Egg Drill.....   | .08   |
| " 2, 12-100 " ".....  | .12   |
| " 3, 15-100 " ".....  | .15   |
| " 4, 18-100 " ".....  | .18   |
| " 5, 21-100 " ".....  | .20   |
| Nickel - plated 4 1/2 in. Embryo Hook.....  | .30   |
| Oologist's Hand-book, 1885.....   | .15   |
| Hand-book on Insect Collecting.....   | .15   |
| 17 Back Numbers OOLOGIST.....   | .75   |
| OOLOGIST (no prem.) last 6 mo. of '91.....  | .50   |
| " " with " for one year.....  | 1.00  |
| Card for one Ex. Notice in the OOLOGIST.....  | .35   |
| A few Incomplete Copies of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America," newly bound in boards and leather, (Publisher's cash price \$18.00)..... | 15.00 |

## BIRDS' EGGS.

|  |      |
|--|------|
| Texan Cardinal.....                    | .50  |
| Dwarf Cowbird.....                     | .25  |
| Limplin, extra fine, 2nd-class.....    | 1.00 |
| Noddy Tern, set of one, with data..... | .75  |
| American Scoter.....                   | 2.50 |
| Sennet's Thrasher (13a).....           | .25  |
| White-winged Dove.....                 | .40  |
| Mountain Plover.....                   | 2.00 |
| Canvas-back.....                       | 2.00 |
| Burrowing Owl.....                     | .30  |
| American Bittern.....                  | 2.00 |
| Summer Tanager.....                    | .25  |
| Mexican Ground Dove, (fine 2ds).....   | 1.00 |
| Louisiana Water-Thrush.....            | .75  |
| Yellow-throated Vireo.....             | .40  |
| Florida Screech Owl.....               | 1.00 |
| California Screech Owl.....            | 1.00 |
| Costa's Hummingbird.....               | 1.50 |
| Hummingbird Nests.....                 | .50  |
| " " on sticks.....                     | 1.00 |

## FOREIGN EGGS.

|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Bul-bul, from Phillipines (fine 2d class).....                 | \$ .50 |
| Black-headed Weaverfinch (fine 2d-class).....                  | .25    |
| European Blackbird.....  | .15    |
| " Song Thrush.....   | .15    |
| Ruddy Sheldrake, sets 7 to 10, per egg.....                    | .60    |
| " Singles.....   | .50    |
| Med. Black-headed Gull, sets 1/2 1/2 per egg.....              | .45    |
| " Singles.....   | .35    |
| Barbary Partridge, sets 8 to 14 per egg.....                   | .35    |
| " Singles.....   | .25    |
| Python from Ceylon, large and curious.....                     | 3.00   |
| Egyptian Vulture.....  | 5.00   |
| Also Specimens, Shells and Novelties offered in Aug. OOLOGIST, |        |

## MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

We offer from one to a dozen of each the following articles in our Exchange Extraordinary offer this month.

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Ano Kato, Express.....  | \$ 1.00 |
| Electric Top.....   | .75     |
| Palmetto Sun Hats, either for Ladies or Gentlemen, are simply non-destructible, can be washed when dirty, made for us by a native on the Bahamas..... | 1.00    |
| Matchless Repeating Air Rifle, 65-shot, Ex. Challenge Air Rifle, Express.....   | 8.00    |
| Plymouth " ".....   | 4.00    |
| Sporting Rifle, No. 3 on our Cat., used one season, express.....  | 6.00    |
| \$18.00 World Type-writer in Walnut plush-tinted case, not used over a dozen times, express.....  | 15.00   |
| *Album giving photo views of the chief cities of the world.....   | 30.00   |
| Suction Hat Hook.....   | .35     |
| Combination Tool, Pincers, Nippers, Nut-cracker, Glass-cutter, Cork-screw, Screw-driver, etc., in one tool.....                                       | .10     |
| Set of 3 Blank Books in Case, Handy for taking Notes, etc.....  | .40     |
| Set of 60 Bird Cards.....   | .25     |
| Bliss Telephone, copper wire, etc., complete  | 1.50    |
| Excursionist Pocket Cook Stove.....   | 3.50    |
| Climax Folding " " ".....   | 1.25    |
| Multum in Parvo " " ".....  | 2.00    |
| Electric Door Bell with Outfit (Battery, etc.,) Express.....  | 5.00    |
| School Ma'am's Call Bell.....   | .50     |
| Eel Spear, Seven-tined, Socket Handle.....  | 2.50    |
| "Express" signifies that they are shipped in that manner at your expense.   |         |

If you desire to obtain anything on the above list in exchange, send on your eggs at once. If you have no eggs, but have other desirable specimens in quantity, write what you have, with price; or will exchange for collections of fine Postage Stamps or second-hand Books on Natural History, or choice Indian Relics.

Only first-class Specimens accepted at any price, all others returned at sender's expense.

We will receive hundreds of packages in answer to this exchange and if you do not write your name plainly on the outside of the packages you send, your exchange will be delayed and packages possibly lost.

This offer will hold good until Oct. 15th only. Send on your specimens at once in large or small quantities, it makes no difference to us whether you send \$1.00 or \$100.00 worth, but if less than \$1.00 worth, 10 cents extra must be enclosed for return postage and packing.

Large quantities shipped by express or freight, *must be prepaid.* Address,

# FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1891.

No. 9

## The Black-and-White Creeping Warbler.

That seems like a long name, but it is really appropriate, for it is true to the structure and habit of the bird; and so the very name gives us a glimpse of that black-and-white warbler, which does not flit from limb to limb and spray to spray in the bushes and tree-tops, but genuine Creeper-like threads the trunk and larger limbs.

Everywhere in Western New York; in the region of the Great Lakes, in Ohio, and Nova Scotia, I have been accustomed to find this bird; and here in Maryland and Virginia, around the Capital, this little species is common throughout the migrations and the breeding season. I have seen its nest here, within a few rods of my house, on the ground, after its usual custom. Sometimes, however, mistaking the top of an old rotten log, or even the decayed top of a stump when overgrown with rubbish, for the ground itself, it builds its nest of dried leaves, fibers of bark, etc., even there. Dr. Brewer reports a nest hid away in the drain of a house. Commonly it keeps to the thick woods.

*Mniotilta varia*, for that is his scientific name, is not altogether a warbler in structure. His front toes are a little more joined together at the base, his hind toe a little longer and his bill somewhat curved at the tip. Not only his creeping movements, but also his breeding habitat which is throughout Eastern North America, is decidedly like that of the Brown Creeper.

The thin wiry, but pleasing song—*Kitsee-Kitsee-Kitsee-Kitsee*, is familiar to every one who knows this species; but comparatively few have heard his beautiful warble, now and then delivered in the dense shrubbery of the forest. The former song is thrown in by the way as

he climbs the trees, but this latter is delivered in true artist's style, the bird being regularly perthed, and his head thrown up.

To-day being Sunday, a day of rest, I sat me down in the fork of two roads in the woods—roads not used for several years and so quiet relapsed into a state of nature—there I waited, still as the trees around, to hear what the birds would say to me. Presently I heard a soft, sweet, whistling warble which I did not readily recognize. I soon spied the Black-and-white Creeping Warbler, only a few feet from me; and saw as well as heard him render his song. Nothing of the creeper about his movements now. He perches regularly, and flits from limb to limb, in true warbler style. Thus in habit as well as in structure, he is in part at least, a warbler.

Very interesting is this double affinity of some species, standing apparently between two different families, and so shading and softening the lines which separate families and orders.

If any reader of the OOLOGIST, in Eastern North America, lives and studies where this bird is not found, will he be so kind as to report, and so let us know if there is any blank in his commonly accepted habitat.

J. H. LANGILLE,  
Kensington, Md.

Aug. 2, 1891.

## An Indiana Heronry.

The Philadelphia Press claims that Dr. W. E. Hughes, the well known, ornithologist, has discovered "the largest heronry existing within the knowledge of any scientist, in Valley Hills, Chester Co., Penn." I think I have "discovered" a greater "find" in Indiana.

On the 18th of July with two friends I boarded a train at Chicago to spend a

day in the country. Our friends awaited our arrival at the depot, and we were soon on our way to the farm, where we were to spend the following day. I had before heard of a large number of "strange" birds having been seen in the vicinity and the next morning proceeded to investigate and find out what kind of birds they were, as none were sure as to the identification.

Driving two miles through the fields we left the horses and went about one mile further on foot through grass, wild rice, etc., as high as our heads.

There was little air stirring, and the sun beat down upon us unmercifully, making the atmosphere about us nearly as warm as a furnace, giving us who were bird's nesting on Sunday, a foretaste of our future existence.

We were some time wandering about in the marsh, which is of vast extent, in quest of the birds and had found no appearance of their late visitations, when one of the party called "down" and pointing to the northward said, "there is one of the birds now."

We remained hidden in the grass until the bird had alighted, then wended our way toward the spot, and were compensated for our toil and perseverance, (and it was required on this occasion to travel far,) by seeing, not one, but hundreds of Black-crowned Night Herons rise out of the grass, lazily fly a short distance and descend again.

There were acres of ground covered, more or less, with the deposit of the birds, and the long grass was literally tramped down in places where they had roosted.

The grass being so high, it was difficult to ascertain how many nests were there, but a party who visited the breeding place in the spring declares that at least there were eight hundred (800) nests, and from my own observations I have no doubt that he does not exaggerate in the least.

He states that the nests were at that

time surrounded by water but built up about fourteen to sixteen inches above it. At the time I visited the heronry the ground was dry.

Having secured several birds, mostly young, the old ones being minus the occipital plumes, we took our way homeward feeling fully repaid for our exertions.

I hope next spring to visit the heronry and secure some eggs which I was too late for this season. Should I have the success I anticipate, will give, if desired, a further account of my observations.

Very respectfully,

ROBERT C. BENNETT.

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#### The Cuckoo in South Dakota.

For the past three years I have been collecting eggs in the vicinity of Aberdeen, and have never found a Cuckoo's egg until this last spring.

While looking for a set of Mourning Dove's eggs on the 9th of June, I passed through a thick clump of box-elder trees in a timber claim one mile from the city, and happened to look up just in time to see a Black-billed Cuckoo leaving her nest. I examined the nest, which was about six feet from the ground, and found two fresh eggs.

I revisited the place four days later, and found a fine set of four eggs, and secured the bird also. I have the eggs in my collection now. They are of a deep greenish blue in color, and nearly elliptical in shape.

Since then I have found six sets of the black-billed and four of the yellow variety.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,  
Aberdeen, S. Dak.

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#### The English Sparrow in Bay City, Mich.

In the first place, there were millions of them. Every street was crowded

with them, and you could nearly pick them up. Around the flour mills and wholesale houses, there were vast numbers of them, that came to get the wheat and oats.

The place where the most of them stayed was in the M. C. R. R. freight depot, where swarms of them stayed there the year around, building their nests inside on the rafters and scantlings.

They increased very rapidly as no one molested them.

Most every large poplar and elm tree, in town had from one to half a dozen nests in. In one nest myself and a friend found thirteen eggs (probably two or three pair in the nest.)

And also the gutter pipes of private houses made a place for many nests.

If you would put up a bird house for swallows, these little pests would soon drive them away.

My brother put up a house and in an half hour it was occupied by a pair. I shot the female and at noon the male came around with another wife which I also shot, and I kept on until I had relieved him of four wives. This did not disappoint him, and he soon had another which we allowed to stay, and they furnished a nest and laid five eggs, which my brother has with the nest in his collection. This sounds like a mammoth "fish story," but it can be proven.

One day my friend and I started out to rampage them. We went to an old vacant house and went on top and pulled off a piece of cornice and we could hear the young ones squealing "by the wholesale." We got lots of eggs and killed many old and young ones.

There is a law in that state allowing three cents a head for them and great numbers were killed every day. During the first two weeks over 800 were slaughtered, 200 of which were killed by one boy.

Farmers' boys loaded their shot-guns with number ten shot and shot them in

flocks around their barns and straw stacks. One boy killed seventeen with one shot with a number ten gun. My friend and myself did our share too.

Now they are very shy and hard to approach, and less numbers are killed.

From December 1st to the middle of last May over 900 certificates were issued to sparrow killers, all of them for ten or over and many of them for over a hundred.

It is a common occurrence to find their nests in electric light lamps.

WALLACE L. BRISCOE,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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#### Michigan Notes.

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I send you a few extracts from my '91 notes which might prove interesting to some of the readers of the OOLOGIST. I have collected this year and have in my collection 33 different sets of eggs. For a starter the American Redstart is not a very common summer resident of Bay City and there are very few ever seen around the trees. One afternoon, on the 3rd of June, as I was walking in a small wood looking for Vireos nests I happened to notice a small nest about three feet from the ground, situated in between a limb and the trunk of a thorn tree. It was composed of small fibres and cotton and lined with grass and feathers and quite deeply cuped. I shot the female and took it to Mr. Newell Eddy, who identifies all our specimens for us, and he told me it was an American Redstarts nest. Oh! but I was very glad when he told me what it was because I have made the *only* record of finding a set of three American Redstarts in Bay City or vicinity. In Davie's "Nest and Eggs of North America Birds" it says as regards to the number of eggs laid by the American Gold-finch "some writers state that the eggs range from three to five, but I can say different because all of my sets—and I have collected five of them—are five and one

set of six, on July 31 I took the latter set. [They range from five to seven with us—Ed.]

Another set which I have is a set of four Spotted Sandpipers which I took the 6th of June along side of a very much used rail-road track, among the long grass.

Black-billed Cuckoos are quite common but awfully hard to find fresh eggs. I have a set of two blown and took a set of three but could blow but one of them. Wilson's Thrush's are quite common too, a set of four with two cow-birds in it was what I found on the ground under a gooseberry bush and have found other sets of them. Blue Jays are not very common, but I have found one or two sets of them. Mostly all incubated quite badly and in pine trees ten feet from ground. The Sora and Virginia Rails are very common. I have taken sets when I did not know much about collecting by the hatsfull, and then not taken all of them. The largest set which I ever took was a set of 12 and the smallest was eight of Virginias. The largest set of Soras was 12 and the smallest seven. Seven sets of Virginia's and two sets of Sora's is all I have collected this year. The nests are composed of reeds of last year and built up in between this year's reeds. The bird will fly up and fly for a short distance with dangling legs and drop as if dead. They generally have a covering for their nests and slip out sideways to get off it.

Swamp Sparrows, Phoebes, Long-tailed Marsh Wrens, Bronzed Grackle, Brown Thrashers, Cedar Waxwings, Baltimore Orioles, Blue-birds, Wood Pewee, King-bird, Purple Martins, Woodpeckers, Meadow Larks, Least Fly-catchers, Tree Swallows, Shrikes, Field Sparrows and House Wrens are all very common.

Next year I will get some Gallinules because I have found a place where they breed every year and have not

been disturbed at all. Red-tailed and Red-shouldered and Cooper Hawks are quite common. Have found two nests of Screech Owls, but never got any eggs out of them, because I caught the bird on the nest and took her home and let her go.

E. K. "GALLINULE."

Gambel's White-Crowned Sparrow.

(*Zonotrichia gambeli*.)

This bird like a large number of the Sparrow family, frequents brushpiles and low bushes, where it may be seen, accompanied with the White and Golden-crowned Sparrow, the Rusty Song Sparrow and Oregon Towhee, hopping from one branch to another or perhaps on the ground looking for insects, occasionally climbing to the top of some tree to sing its song which, although short is pleasing to the ear, and can always be remembered by those who are interested in our feathered friends.

They arrive the latter part of March or first week in April and remain until most of the summer migrants have returned to their southern homes. Nesting season with the species begins about the fifteenth of April and fresh eggs can be found as late as the last of June.

This season I have taken four sets of four eggs respectively, which are of considerable value as a series, to show the variation in color and markings.

My first set of the season was taken May 19th, the nest was in a cypress tree 5 feet and 8 inches from the ground composed of weed and grass stems and lined with finer grass and horse hair. This set comes nearer than any of being a typical set. The ground color is pale greenish-blue, evenly spotted over the whole surface with liver brown.

Set number two was taken on the 24, of May. It was on the ground under a small bush. The female was on the nest and flew as I neared it. This set

resembles the first in a general way, but the spots vary in size more, showing the ground color more plainly. The nest is not so bulky when found on the ground as in trees.

The next set was also placed on the ground under a small fir and so well concealed that I had to look some few minutes before discovering it. The female, as in the second case flew as I passed near the nest. This set is the most peculiarly marked one of the small series. Egg number one is light greenish-blue, heavily blotched near the larger end with umber and purplish brown, number two is of the same ground color but has only a few faint markings of lavender-gray, number three and four are smaller in size and the color is light blue. These two specimens much resemble eggs of *Sialia sialis*, but if closely observed, fine brown specks can be seen.

My fourth and last set was taken June 19th, from a willow bush, two feet from the ground. I flushed the female and discovered the nest which was composed of dead leaves and grass and lined with finer grass and horse hair. The eggs are bluish-white, finely covered with brown specks, which form a wreath at the larger ends of three of them, the fourth being so thickly spotted as to almost hide the ground color at the larger end.

Later on, the first pair built again in a small fir near their first nest, but for some reason or other they left the nest. Gambel's Sparrow is one of the several species that sing at night. I have often heard it sing at eleven and twelve o'clock at night. The cause for its singing at this hour is not known, but it is thought that the bird is awakened by some passer by, or could it be that it was singing in its sleep?

CLYDE L. KELLER.

Salem, Oregon.

#### A Rambling Mixture from Connecticut.

I see so much in the OOLOGIST about what to do to drill eggs quickly, blow them and about nesting; also on the merits of poison ivy and shumach, when you get poisoned, leads me to think that I might try to add some more experience, advice, etc.

1st. If you are poisoned and are not very fond of salt in food, that is not want it all salt; you will put some salt upon the blisters and put enough hot water on to moisten it, and then rub it in; you take hot water too; try this several times a day, and it may make a decided change in your case, as it did on mine which proved successful.

2d. When you have touched or pressed Poison Ivy, wash your hands or face immediately and if water is scarce spit on "em" and wipe it off on some soft vegetable, such as leaves or moss, and if your skin is more sensitive than mine there is not any hope left.

3d. When in a swamp or near one, look out for Poison Shumach, and if you are touched with anything or touch any bush that gives you a peculiar twinge, look and see if it's this "P. Shu" and if it is, well you want to wash the hands or face quickly, and don't mind about rubbing the moisture off, as you may accidentally scratch your face which would be serious in a second collision.

I have been very easily poisoned years back, but after experimenting with sugar of lead, etc., I invented these rules and have not been laid up for three years.

I was going through a mud-hole in search of nests, when I slipped off a log and landed in the mud up to my waist which was not comfortable when you know the mud is over seven feet deep; well I grabbed hold of the first tree in reach and I felt queer stinging in my fingers and I looked and it was a Poison Shumach.

Well, Providence sent a thought into

my head to get off that clump of trees as quick as possible and wash my hands and I did; in my jump for the brook I found my first Maryland Yellow-throat's nest with eggs in it and I washed my hands and did not get poisoned, or since that time, and the eggs were new to my collection at that date.

In May, this year, I found a Cooper's Hawk's nest in a tree and did not pay special attention to the tree until it was time to climb up.

Well, I went over into the swamp and scared off the hawk and then! Well, I looked at that tree and decided for a good while whether to blow the nest up or hire some body to climb it for me, but as it was only twenty feet up, I mustered up grit and climbed up, and was rewarded with a set of five eggs.

Then I climbed down, set the eggs down and washed my hands, wrists and face pretty thoroughly in a puddle of water in the swamp, and then I picked up my climbers, eggs and walked out, when I had got out of sight, I heard the female hawk say (over at the nest) that she thought I was a hard case, a fellow that will climb a poison shumach tree and run the risks of getting poisoned ought to die, she ended this with an angry cry and came over and got some chickens at one of our neighbor's.

And I escaped being poisoned to death after having climbed such a poisonous tree, and touching my face against the branches and the little sprouts on the way up, and breaking limbs that came in my way.

#### HENSLOW'S SPARROW.

This sparrow is a summer resident, although have not heard much of in papers, still some may have a pair within the limits of their farm and not know it.

In May you may hear a *see-wick*, with first word considerably dwelt on, and you can hear it all day, and far into the night coming from some pasture, with swamps and dry uplands in streaks, and perhaps if you listen long enough

to tell the exact place, and walking to it a sparrow starts up and flying nervously drops again about a rod off and you can scare it up two and more times without any other result unless you are very lucky and find their eggs and nest. The birds stay for the most time on the ground in a growth of spare or thick short grass, and will not go off a large lot except when they migrate.

Last year two pairs of these birds bred here, and they both raised two broods of 4-5, one or the number according to the choice of Mrs. H. Sparrow. I was not successful enough to obtain the eggs, but had the pleasure of seeing the nest, and the old birds teaching the young to fly.

The nests in both cases were placed in meadows of swamps and with dry places also, and had a thin hay crop on them.

In 1891 one of the old birds was seen again, and it was feeding and uttering the note *see-wick* quite frequently, and just now though I have failed to hear it or see the bird, for a day or more, but I hope to be able to get a set if possible and get better acquainted, if it will breed again this year at the same place and grounds.

A. M. LINSLEY,  
Northford, Connecticut.

#### Unusual Occurrences.

I have three rare finds which I have taken this season.

On May 10th, Song Sparrow with five Cowbird's eggs and four of the owner; the nest was just about full.

May 25th, Ovenbird with seven Cowbird's eggs and one of owner; one egg was the only one laid by Ovenbird.

May 17th, Chickadee 1-6 and Bluebird 1-3 in same cavity; the Chickadee's nest was built on top of the other and you may imagine my surprise when I took the nests out.

ERNEST MARCEAU,  
Dubuque, Iowa.

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

**FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.**  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

\* \* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## Correspondence.

W. H. LaPrade of New Orleans, La., writes:

"I learn from strictly reliable parties that an Albino Blue Jay was killed in Wilkes Co., Ga. There were some small, faint grey spots on each wing, but at a small distance it looked pure white."

W. S. Catlin of Annapolis, Ind., writes of taking a set of two fresh Ruby-throated Hummers on Aug. 7th—undoubtedly a second set. He also writes of taking eggs of the Turkey Vulture from the same nest, both this and last season.

R. J. Joslin of Webster, Mass., writes:

"On the 30th of last May, I found, at the top of a high maple tree, a Baltimore Oriole's nest, in which was a set

of eggs, one of which is most curiously marked.

Upon it is seen the small and almost perfect image of a bird, which appears to be upon a branch."

We once took an egg of this species which had "Sin" in plain, bold markings, scrolled, upon the larger end.

Geo. G. Morrison, Fox Lake, Wis., writes:

"I have tried to keep the English Sparrows busy for the past few months laying eggs.

Have visited a locality here every two weeks regularly since May 22d, for their eggs, and always found them very plentiful.

I got 64 May 22d, 90 on June 4th, 60 the next time, 78 the next and so on up to date. If all the collectors would do this, their numbers could be held down much better. Collectors let us rid ourselves and all the feathered family of this 'Bull-dog,' the English Sparrow."

## A Few Notes on Ornithology and Ornithologists.

In the migrating seasons the ornithologists which live in the Middle and Southern States have much more work than those who live in the north, as they have to study all the movements of the resident and summer resident birds, and from the last of August to the first of December, they must keep a careful lookout for strange birds, from the northern tier of states and Canada, that they do not pass unnoted. And in the spring the number of migrants is, of course, equally great. Yet the difficulty of the study is not so much greater in the south as might, at first, be supposed.

I believe, as a general rule, the resident and summer resident species, of this section, are not very difficult to study. The Yellow, Kentucky, Hooded, Parula and Worm-eating Warblers, and the American Redstart, Maryland Yellow-throat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Golden-crowned Thrush and Louisiana Water Thrush are the commonest re-

representatives of the Warbler family, in the south Atlantic States.

These are the easiest members of this family to study, as the variations, in plumage are slighter than in those which pass farther north. Of course, we cannot judge of the character of the bird life of a region by one family but in many places we can fairly estimate by the Warbler family, as it is so large and difficult, indeed, in some places, it forms no small proportion of the bird-life judging either, from the number of individuals or species.

More than one-fourth of the migrating birds which were noted, last spring, by me, were warblers.

There is plenty of time in the breeding season to study the resident and summer resident birds; then, in migration time we can study the habits and plumage of the transient visitants and winter residents. A few hints may help some one who is just beginning the study of migrating birds in the Southern States. A young ornithologist is apt to find some species which so nearly resemble each other in color, nesting or song, that he has to spend many days in finding some characteristic, by which he may distinguish one kind from another. Many species, in some form of plumage, approach, so nearly in color, that the task of identification seems almost hopeless.

Nearly related species are apt to be most puzzling, as their habits and family or generic characteristics are almost the same.

This fact may be noticed in the fall plumage of the Bay-breasted and Black-poll Warblers.

Their habits, size and shape are, almost, exactly the same, but there is a shade of difference in coloration which is generally perceptible.

The Black-poll has a greenish tinge on its breast while the Bay-breasted retains, in a slight degree, the beautiful color which covers its breast in the

breeding and spring migrating seasons.

They come about the same time, in large flocks, from the north, and seem very fond of keeping together, thus making the slight contrast, in color, show more plainly. At a little distance or when on the wing the very dull green and bay do not show enough to distinguish between the two birds. This same resemblance may, sometimes, be noticed in birds that belong to widely different families, as the Fox Sparrow and some of the Thrushes.

The *Sylvicolidae* abounds, throughout with species which are easily distinguished in the spring, but in the fall they come south bringing their young ones with them they have changed their feathers to dull and sober colors, as if dressing in mourning, on account of eggs wantonly stolen and many other home tragedies.

Olive seems to prevail in fall, with, now and then, a spot or stripe of yellow or red which seems to have been kept in memory of the days and flowers and trees of April, May and June. This general sameness of color makes the study of birds very difficult, but when the slight differences, which always exist are discovered the trouble of identification add much to the pleasure of the knowledge obtained.

EARLE A. BROOKS,  
French Creek, W. Va.

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### The Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

This beautiful little bird is quite a common resident with us, and is probably too well known to require a description here.

There are very few persons within its range who are not familiar with its graceful form and brilliant plumage, but many have not had the opportunity of seeing the nest and eggs, which are no less wonderful than the birds themselves.

The birds arrive here early in May,

and spend the greater part of that month disporting in the sunshine and searching for food among the flowers of our fields and gardens, in some instances even entering houses through open windows to search among the flowers of house plants.

They are very familiar with man and do not seem to regard him as a dangerous enemy, although they frequently have occasion to do so.

They begin nesting about the 1st of June, and fresh eggs may be found by the 10th.

They nest in orchards, shade trees and woods.

When in the latter trees that stand along the borders of openings and roadways are usually, though not always, selected.

The nest is built upon a crotch near the extremity of a drooping branch, from eight to forty feet from the ground.

It is a felted cup-shaped structure, composed of plant down and the nests of insects, covered externally with lichens bound on with cobwebs.

In beauty and workmanship the nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird is surpassed by that of no other bird found in this locality.

It is so soft and pliable that it may be crushed between the fingers and then restored to its original shape.

We can readily comprehend the necessity of this quality of the nest when we remember that it is the cradle of as frail a creature as a young Hummingbird.

The lichens are usually fastened with their scalloped edges upward.

The cavity measures about .90 in diameter by .75 in depth.

The nest is difficult to see, appearing as a moss covered knot upon the branch when viewed from below, but the habit the bird has of leaving the nest at the approach of an intruder, and the peculiar humming of her wings as she hov-

ers around it lead to its easy discovery.

All a person has to do when he hears the buzz of the bird's wings is to locate her, then remain motionless a few seconds and he will see her settle upon the nest.

The eggs are elliptical-oval, two in number, pure white and measure about .50 by from .30 to .35.

They are deposited before the nest is complete.

Soon after incubation has commenced the male bird leaves his little mate to fight the battle of life alone, which she does in a manner to be despised by none.

This bird has not the power of song, but utters a few rather feeble squeaky notes.

It makes its music with its wings.

W. H. OLNEY,  
Poland, Ohio.

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#### Of Interest to Oologists.

In June, 1890, I had the rare luck to find a set of Albino eggs of the Bluebird which were most perfect in shape, color and size, the set averaging .75 x .62. The nest was built in an old willow stub which was in height nearly five feet, leaning out over the river at angle of about forty-five degrees.

One day in June, 1889, while in a thick, secluded mountainous piece of woods, I observed a Brown Thrasher sitting on her nest and on going to it she flew off, but imagine my surprise when on looking into the nest to see two Catbirds and two Cowbird's eggs, but no sign of the Thrasher's eggs. At first I thought perhaps some one had played a trick on the Thrashers, but then again I thought that it could not be for it was a lonely secluded spot hardly ever visited by anyone. Incubation was about seven days advanced.

Some years ago (in 1886) a pair of Chipping Sparrows built a nest in one

of our apple trees and had laid three eggs, as I found on taking a peek at them one day, but what was my surprise to see a fourth and larger egg with the rest, the color of which was white. The egg in size was about the same as a black-billed Cuckoo and I have always thought that it was an Albinos egg of this bird.

[More likely of the Cowbird.—ED.]

H. MILLER,  
West Chester Co., N. Y.

#### How I Found a Killdeer's Nest.

Killdeers are very numerous in this neighborhood, although, I only found one nest last season. I was out collecting one day when I came across a pair of Killdeers they seemed to be very much frightened about something. I thought they must have a nest near, so began to hunt for it, but after looking for a long time I gave it up as a bad job. I came back the next day but met with no better success. At last I thought I would play a trick on them. There was a stone fence near by, so I turned as if starting for home when I had gotten to the fence I got over it, but instead of going home I stooped down and looked through a hole in the fence. The Killdeers still ran about screaming just the same way that they had done when I was right by them. After a while they quieted down and then went to a rock that had a hollow in the top and one sat down in the sand on top the rock, while the other stood up on the highest part of the rock as if watching. I then got back over the fence. As soon as the Killdeer that was sitting on the nest saw me she slid off and ran around the rock and came around on the other side and sat down in the sand as if she had her nest there, when I came around she jumped up making a great deal of noise, but I knew she was trying to fool me so I went straight to the top of the rock

there I found four eggs in a hollow in the sand about an inch deep. The nest had no lining and was situated on a steep rocky hill over-lookigg a stream of water.

J. T. BURWELL,  
Millwood, Va.

Range of the Towhee.  
By F. T. PEMBER.

Granville, Wash. Co., N. Y.

In the July, '91 OOLOGIST is an article entitled, "The Chewink in Orleans Co." The writer refers to two nests of that species found in the county, and evidently considers the bird rare, and that the extreme northern limit of its migration is reached in that section. Now I have nothing to say against Mr. Posson's well written article, but feel sure that the Chewink, in some localities, has a more northerly range.

I have collected eggs and skins for many years here, and about Lake George, and the southern half of Lake Champlain, in this state, and to the base of the Green Mountains in same latitude, in western Vermont, and have found the Towhee a very common bird, if the surroundings were such as they prefer. It is not a "Swamp Robin," and I never found it in swamps, or in the low valleys, but it is most abundant on high hills or low mountains, particularly where the timber was cut off ten to fifteen years ago, and where a new growth of maple, beech, birch, poplar and cherry has sprung up. The borders of such places if well covered with briars and vines are the chosen home of the Towhee, and I can shoot a dozen any day within a mile of this village. I take fine sets of eggs every season if here at the proper time.

This bird is very abundant about Lake George, and by this I mean that I could shoot a dozen on a morning tramp. Now the localities where I have found them plentiful are from fif-

ty to one hundred miles north of Orleans County, and for all I know they may range much farther north. In the A. O. U. 1886 catalogue they give it as "Eastern U. S. and southern Canada, west to the Plains." In Coues' Key he says "Eastern U. S. and British Provinces, N: to Canada, Minn. and Dakota."

Samuel in his *Birds of New England* says that "it begins to grow scarce in northern Mass.; and, before we have passed twenty miles beyond its northern limits, it is very rarely seen." But Samuels' is wrong for the birds are by no means scarce one hundred miles north of Mass. In Gentry's superb work, "Nests and Eggs of Birds of the United States," he speaks of the Towhee as reaching the Selkirk Settlement on the north-west, and quotes Wilson as giving it as a bird of Maine and New Hampshire. In the *Natural History of New York* by De Kay, 1843, he says, "it extends its migration north to Labrador." In *North American Birds*, by Baird, Brewer and Ridgway, they give it as reaching the Selkirk Settlement on the north-west, and quote Verrill, as giving it as a summer resident and breeder in western Maine.

Perhaps some of our collectors further north can give us more light on the subject. Will add that in California and Arizona I have taken many Oregon, Spurred, Brown, Aberts and Green-tailed Towhees along river bottoms and among willow thickets—places never frequented by our own bird in this section.

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#### Owls as Pets.

In the spring of '89 I caught two young white owls, these I kept until fall; it was amusing to watch their antics; they would eat young birds or mice whenever I could catch them.

Once when an enterprising —?— started to burrow through their cage they had an extra dish.

One of our neighbors had three maltese kittens—they were the prize of the neighborhood, but one of them came too near the slats and one of the owls caught him and pulled him through; that ended the kitten experience.

After living in captivity four months one of the owls died; as the other seemed lonely I stuffed him.

This spring I caught another of the same kind; he is about ten inches high and is in a healthy condition; he will eat all I give him and yet seems to be always hungry.

Every morning he takes his bath and then rolls in the dust of his cage; his favorite food is young rabbits which the boys around town bring in to see him eat; his cry is a hissing noise which he utters with his mouth at full stretch, but when he is mad he utters a sound like the snapping of fingers or clucking.

He sometimes hops around in his cage in a dancing motion, whether he does this for exercise or to scratch up the dust to roll in I do not know.

Though owls may seem very tame I would advise one never to trust them, for in my experience they like nothing better than to tear one's hand open.

V. B. ALLEE,  
Paola, Kan.

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#### Michigan Notes.

May 10th—Took a set of five Chickadee's eggs from a nest situated in a hollow post. The eggs were fresh. This is the first nest of this bird that I ever found around here.

May 24th—Yellow-billed Cuckoo, set of three fresh eggs, nest in an ironwood tree about twenty feet up, also took two sets three and four Brown Thrashers, three Wood Thrushes, four Wilson's Thrushes and three Olive-backed Thrushes.

May 25th—While egging in a swampy piece of land near Detroit I found a nest

of the Am. Woodcock containing four slightly incubated eggs. The nest was placed at the foot of a small bush, and was composed of dried weeds and grasses. I also found several nests with young.

June 5th—Scarlet Tanager, took a set of four incubated eggs from a nest situated in a hemlock. This bird is more abundant than usual this season, excepting '88.

June 10th—I went collecting in the marshes to-day, and found three sets of Black Terns, one set of Red-winged Blackbirds, set of eight Horned Grebes, and six or seven sets of Florida Gallinules, and many Long-billed Marsh Wren's eggs. Some of the latter were pure white. I found one set of six nearly perfectly white, and several speckled with light brown.

June 12th—While collecting in the same place as on the 10th, I found a set of two Least Bittern eggs. The nest was a platform of dried weeds.

June 10th—I took many sets of Black Terns, Coots and Gallinule's eggs here. Horned Grebes were here in considerable numbers, and I collected about twenty eggs and about the same number of Pied-billed Grebes. I think the American Bittern breeds here, but I cannot locate the nest.

B. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

#### A Nest Within a Nest.

In previous articles of the OOLOGIST I have read about an egg within an egg, but I do not think many of the readers of the OOLOGIST have seen a nest within a nest.

On July 7th, while destroying some European House Sparrows' nests a nest was thrown down which upon examining proved to be a Robin's nest within the House Sparrow's. The sparrow's nest was built completely around the Robin's. The inside of the Robin's nest was lined with hen feathers upon which

were laid three English Sparrow's eggs.

The Sparrows evidently thought that the Robin's nest would make a firm fastening to the maple limb or that it would make a good receptacle for their eggs.

HAROLD WILDER,  
Atlantic, Mass.

#### A Rose-breasted Grosbeak Widower.

On June 1st as I was walking around the yard, I found a female Rose-breasted Grosbeak, lying under a maple tree dead.

I knew there must be a nest somewhere near, as I had seen both male and female daily, for sometime past. So I walked along under the row of maples and box elders bordering the street, to the end of the block, but could see nothing of it.

On my way back I heard the male's voice, which sounded as if it came from a box elder tree a short distance ahead. I walked along, the bird singing at short intervals, till I seemed to be directly under it, still I could see nothing. I stepped into the middle of the road just then the bird sang again. Looking up I saw the little fellow sitting on the nest singing "with all his heart." I tried to get him to leave the nest, tossing up stones so they would strike the boughs, but no, he paid no attention to this, continuing his song, as if still unseen.

How to get at the nest was a doubtful question, as it was placed at the end of the limb near the top of the tree. I concluded that it would be best to climb the tree next to it, and with the aid of a rake I might be able to pull the limb with the nest towards me.

I got the rake, climbed the tree and not until I had pulled the limb toward me quite a little, did the poor little widower leave the nest.

I brought it near enough to reach with my hands. The nest, unlike others of this species was very bulky, being

composed of fine rootlets and other fibers, making a very pretty nest.

The complement was complete, there being five perfectly fresh eggs of uniform size and color.

I took a set of two from the tree adjoining May 24th last year. I think it was probably the same pair that built both.

Upon opening the stomach of the dead female, I found that it was filled to its utmost capacity with husks of a certain seed.

She had probably made a breakfast of the seeds, and the husks being soaked with the juices of the stomach, became swelled, which caused death, by clogging up the passage way from the stomach.

GEO. G. MORRISON,  
Fox Lake, Wis.

#### Erratta.

In Rev. J. H. Langille's article in the Carolina Wren in Aug. OOLOGIST where the number of eggs were mentioned as "4" it should have been 6.

#### A Request.

I am preparing to study and make records of the spring and fall migrations of the birds in that portion of the country that is bounded by a line commencing at the western extremity of Florida, curving a little to the west, and terminating at Lake Erie and the western end of New York; thence, down Lakes Erie and Ontario and the St. Lawrence River to the Atlantic Ocean. In doing so, it will be necessary to have observers at different places throughout the above defined territory. I now have them at the following places: Milford, N. H.; Amherst, Mass.; Pawtucket, R. I.; and Medina, N. Y. I have written to a number of gentlemen in all sections, but a good many failed to answer my letters, and some were otherwise employed so that they could not assist me; and I take this method of securing a sufficient number of observers in all portions of that section.

I would like an observer at each of the localities named below, where none are now, and without which the work would be very incomplete.

Two wanted in Florida—one at the

southern part, one at the northern; one in central part of Georgia; one in central part of South Carolina; one each in Virginia, W. Virginia, Delaware, Maryland and New Jersey; one in western part of Pennsylvania; one in northern part of Vermont; two in Maine; one in the more eastern part and one as far north as can be had; one in New Brunswick; and, one in that portion of Quebec which is on the southeastern side of the St. Lawrence River.

I will have blanks printed out so that the number of species and birds of each species can be recorded as seen every day. These, I will send around to each observer.

I hope to receive at least one communication from each of the above mentioned places.

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

P. S. When you write, please let me know exact latitude of your place, i. e. in degrees and minutes.

#### World Fair Notes.

Commissioner Capt. G. P. Cotton, who is now at San Pedro Sula, Honduras, stirring up interest in the World's Fair, has secured a collection of over 400 varieties of birds, some of which are quite unknown to the outside world, which will be exhibited with other products of Honduras. The extraordinary collection of butterflies and insects will not be far behind, and arrangements have been made to forward a fine selection of orchids to Chicago at an early date, so that they may be growing and blooming there in 1893.

The Very Reverend Doctor Peralto, Bishop of Panama, has tendered for exhibition at the World's Fair his very remarkable historical and ethnological collection which has been for some years in a museum connected with the bishop's palace. It is one of the most superb private collections of antiquities in the world, including ancient gold and silver ornaments, vessels and objects of worship exhumed from the tombs of the extinct race that once inhabited Columbia, rare vases, pottery and earthenware, rare ornaments, vessels and missals that date back to the time of the conquest, paper and manuscripts, and various others articles of historical interest. The offer has been accepted and the collection will be shown at Chicago.

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FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.

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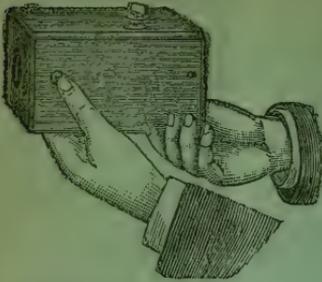
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## Exchanges and Wants.

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COLLECTION of eggs in sets with data, worth \$20, in exchange for good silver watch. JOHN WILLIAMS, Wenham, Mass.

WANTED.—Indian relics, mound relics, war relics of all kinds in exchange for one 32-calibre Revolver. Marlin. Minerals and many other articles to numerous to mention. M. ROSENBERG, Meade, Kan.

TO EXCHANGE one tame Great Horned Owl and Southern Eggs. What am I offered in firearms, eggs and etc. I. U. KINSEY, Jr., 204 New Houston St. Savannah, Ga.

TO EXCHANGE.—A nicely mounted Snowy Owl for best offer of first-class sets with data. A pair of climbers wanted. ARTHUR M. FARMER, Box 135, Amoskeag, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE: A fine collection of coins for \$8 worth of sets or Coues Key, last edition, also Coleoptera for anything relating to Ornithology. PAUL VAN RIPER, Niles, Mich.

WHO WILL GIVE me \$5 worth of first-class birds eggs—any variety—for 250 postage stamps 50 countries, catalogued at \$5. FRED BAKER, Box. 324, Stratford, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE: A printing press and font of Type, Cost \$8, in good condition, for best offer of birds eggs, singles, send list. WAIT C. JOHNSON, Center Rutland, Vt.

I HAVE a Hawk-eye Camera which cost \$15 just like new, which I will exchange for United States delivery stamps. Send for particulars. JOHN HECK, Raleigh, N. C.

WANTED: First-class Southern and Western bird skins: Have for exchange fine 45 cal Shot Gun used but little with brass shells and implements. Will exchange for \$25 worth of first-class skins. Cost with tools etc. \$18. BRAD A SCUDDER, Highland St., Taunton, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—One mounted Whistling Swan, 22 cal. Flobert Rifle, Taxidermists' tools, Advertising Space in The Spy Glass and subscriptions to the Spy Glass, for first-class specimens. Make offers. Address, LETSON BALLET, Des Moines, Iowa.

A BARGAIN: Will exchange one pair Green Heron skins, one pair of American Crows, one pair Junco, one pair Goldfinch and one pair Chewink for skin of Barn Owl. EDGAR A. FERRO, 116 Ontario St., Cohoes, N. Y.

WANTED.—Minerals, Shells, Fossils, and Indian Relics. Have for exchange, same, and all kinds of books, paper, board and cloth bindings; or pay cash, for desirable specimens. Write, stating what you have and what you want. GEO. W. DIXON, Watertown, S. D.

DETECTIVE CAMERA of some good make wanted, will give a bargain to the right party, have to exchange rare western Bird Skins (over 400), Washburn Guitar, value \$22.00, or pay part cash. GEO. G. CANTWELL, 105 Pike's Peak ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

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FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine sets of Booby, Man-o-War-Bird, Yellow-billed Tropic Bird, Royal Tern, Noddy, American Egret, Bald Eagle, Texan, Nighthawk, Parakee, etc. WM. FINNIGAN, 48 Adelaide St., West Toronto, Canada.

TO EXCHANGE.—Press, 2x3 3/4 in., chase with type; for a standard work on entomology. Box 20, Baker, Darke Co., O.

WANTED.—Repeating Winchester, must be first-class in every respect. I will give in exchange first-class Birds' Eggs, singles or sets with data. I have a few Indian Relics to exchange. Address, O. C. CHARLES, Georgetown, Tex.

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**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

TO EXCHANGE.—42 tame striped Oregon Chipmunks for Birds' Eggs, Curios, etc. Send lists. GEO. W. SAYLOR, Haines, Baker Co., Oregon.

TO EXCHANGE.—32 cal., double action, six-shooter; for best offer in eggs. Also eggs from this locality. Send list. JESSE MILLER, 184 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have eggs in sets to exchange for pair of opera glasses or anything useful. Address, W. C. MORROW, 1086 Pennsylvania ave., Columbus, O.

PHILATELIC PAPERS, to exchange for eggs. Send list of papers you wish, and list of eggs you have to exchange. HERBERT N. BUGBEE, Fitchburg, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—One book called United States Naval and Astronomical Expedition, published in 1851; for the best offer of Birds' Eggs. PASCHUL HUPPERTZ, 1604 Lavaca St., Austin, Texas.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Three Oologists' Handbooks, marvelous collection, Single-shot Revolver, Collection of Birds' Eggs, Mexican Potatoes, etc. Offers wanted in Curios and Minerals. A. R. HUTCHINSON, Gaines, N. Y.

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I HAVE a photographic outfit, worth \$30, that I will exchange for best offer. L. L. KNOX, Giddings, Tex.

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WANTED.—Good pair climbing irons, will exchange a collection of 120 stamps in album, books, etc., for same. S. E. KLINTBERG, Box 340, Plattsmouth, Neb.

TO EXCHANGE.—Wood's Natural History, On the Sea Shore, Almond Tree, Young Folk's History of France, and hand bracket saw; for Birds' Eggs. JAMES E. MALLORY, Baldwin, Kan.

WANTED.—Persons having books relating to Natural History of any branch or Taxidermists tools and supplies, that will sell cheap for cash. Write to me stating what you have, condition it is in and the lowest price you will sell. Also back Nos. of amateur naturalists' papers wanted for cash. WALTER BRADFORD, Mayfield, Ky.

LOOK HERE.—I have a first-class recipe for embalming birds and for every fifty cents' worth of eggs sent I will send it to them. W. R. BIRD, Mason City, Iowa.

FOLLOWING in exchange for Shot Gun: 22 cal. rifle, 32 cal revolver, \$2.00 Standard stamp, Vol. North American Review and Vol. paper published in 1837. All answered, ARTHUR G. POTTER, 405 S. 25th Ave., Omaha, Neb.

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TO EXCHANGE. White Pelican skin and South American birds eggs. No postals. Address, W. MORGAN MARTIN, M.D., No. 309 E. Ninth Street, Wellington, Kan.

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WANTED.—Collectors of Butterflies and Moths in every State in the Union and Canada. Will pay fine eggs in sets, or cash for them. All specimens must be perfect. PROF. CARL BRAUN, Bangor, Maine.

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# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., OCT., 1891.

No. 10

## The Screech Owl:

Throughout the temperate regions of North America few species among our nocturnal birds of prey have a wider distribution. Who is there, who has not listened to their plaintive cry, as it alternates from high to low, and is occasionally varied by deep guttural trills that cause a ghostly desolation to creep over the listener in spite of his efforts to console himself with the assurance that it is only an Owl. Where, too, is the school boy who has not spent many an hour in pursuit of the little fellows as they sail swiftly by on noiseless wings in the dusk of evening; or, who has not climbed tree after tree during the day, to find each time that his bird was just a little beyond his reach.

When disturbed during the day, they will very often stare vacantly at the intruder, and act very much like a child suddenly awakened from a sound sleep, and then drop off their perch backwards as though dead. They are not dead, however, as I have learned by experience, more than once, by having their sharp claws buried in my hand while attempting to pick them up.

They are fond of low meadows, and old barns where they devour great quantities of the small quadrupeds which infest such places. The immense good which these Owls do in the destruction of vermin should command for them the respect of everyone, but not unfrequently the most cruel persecutions are the only reward which they receive. Through ignorance and superstition they are made the scape-goats for a multitude of sins committed by some of their larger and less scrupulous brethren. Fortunately there are localities where their true worth is recognized, and where they are held in high es-

teem. Here they become very unsuspicious, nesting and roosting in very public places. I once knew a pair to make their nest in a hollow apple-tree, some five or six feet from the ground, which stood in our garden. They would sit quietly in the opening and watch us come within a few feet of them. Some times they would fly away, but would oftener drop back into their nest. They seem to court rather than shun human society. The hole generally chosen for their home is one which has been previously made by some of the Woodpecker family, but where this does not exist, a decayed stump is chosen.

The cavity is placed at varying heights, which seem to depend a good deal on the character of the neighborhood. In localities near to human habitations the nest is seldom placed at a greater height, and many are placed not more than five or six feet from the ground, while in wooded regions a height of forty feet and upwards is often chosen. The nest is placed in the bottom of the cavity, and consists of a few dried leaves and grasses, with an upper layer of feathers. In some instances the material of which the nest is composed is thrown into the hollow in a promiscuous heap entirely regardless of either order or elegance. The nest being finished, the female deposits her eggs; one a day, until the full number is reached. Incubation begins at once, and continues for fifteen days. This is claimed to be chiefly the work of the female. When with eggs or young the approach of an enemy is greeted with a hissing noise, and if the hand is put into the nest, will very often meet with a sharp reception.

The characteristic plumages of these birds seem to be purely individual,

since in the same nest may be found both red and gray young ones, while the parents may be both red or both gray, the female red and the male gray, or the reverse. I have mounted a great many specimens of both colors, but my experience has been that the per cent. of red ones is much the larger. A nest investigated last spring, April 13th, some thirty miles south of here, contained one young one, one pipped egg and one rotten egg. One old one was red, the other gray. The young one was covered with snow-white down.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

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#### The Divers.

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The OOLOGIST is so useful in raising up young students of bird-life, that I have determined to prepare for it, a series of articles on Typical and Familiar Birds.

So, according to the present received system of classification, I must begin with the Divers, represented by the Grebes and the Loons. They are in a special sense *water-birds*. The former, indeed, scarcely leave the water at all; and the latter only leave it with great difficulty.

No student of birds, should fail to strip the skeleton of one of these species, —removing the flesh from the bones by thorough boiling—and compare the peculiar bony structure with the life history and habits of the class of birds in question. It will at once be seen, how remarkably the feet and legs are constructed and placed, for swimming and diving; and how the specializing for this purpose, has about destroyed all adaptation to life and activity on the land. "Straight as a loon's leg," is an old adage, well taken as far as the loon's leg is concerned, but even it does not point out the lengthening of the bone of the heel and the immense leg muscles, by which the powerful upward

stroke is given with the foot, in order to throw the bird under water in an instant,—between the flash and the arrival of the charge of the gun.

Everything about the Grebe, even to its plumage, is a most interesting study. Nor is anything in connection with it more interesting, than its habits of nidification. The Common or Thick-billed Grebe, may be taken as representative. Its nest is a sort of a pier or mound, built up from the bottom, in water anywhere to a foot or eighteen inches deep made of various kinds of decaying vegetable matter found under water in the locality, and extending a few inches above the surface, this cylindrical shape some eighteen inches in diameter, and neatly rounded and depressed on the top, contains some six or eight eggs, 1.25 x .87 inch, white, rather rough, and tinged and waved with light green. These eggs generally very much soiled, are always more or less covered with the wet material on the nest, and the bird always manages to get off the nest without being seen. The eggs, however, are always warm as those of any other setting bird.

You need not look on the nest for the younglings, however recently hatched. Bring your boat up ever so stealthily, the instinct of fear is so strong, that they will get away before the motion of the water sways the frail fabric, or your eye can detect them thereon. But they peep like chickens among the rushes, while the mother whistles plaintively but wholly out of sight. Should you succeed in finding them, you cannot but admire their beauty. Jet black, with six narrow white stripes lengthwise along the back and up the neck, with reddish markings about the head, bill red, they are white underneath. Now hide away carefully. Soon the mother's soft whistle brings together the scattered brood; and as she swims deeply, they may mount on her back and take a ride; or, should they take alarm

they may dive. The young getting under the mother's wing as they go under, but coming up out of the water again before she makes her appearance.

These Grebes breed abundantly on St. Clair Flats, and still more abundantly to the North-west. They feed principally on fish, also on aquatic insects, varying their diet to some extent with water plants of different kinds.

J. H. LANGILLE.

Kensington, Ind., or Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D. C.

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### In Favor of an Organization.

It was with pleasure I read the article by J. H. Langille in a former number of the OOLOGIST, and was much surprised that it received no reply in the last issue. I am sure it was not from lack of interest that all was silence along the line. Perhaps others, like myself, were waiting to hear from someone else.

I am very glad this subject has at last been brought up and after a plan that I hope will materialize in such a way as to prove of lasting benefit to those interested in ornithology. For some time I have thought what a grand thing it would be if a fraternity like that proposed by Rev. Langille could be formed. The necessary foundation for an organization of that order could hardly be other than the chiefs among ornithologists, and it did not seem possible to me that they could under any circumstances give their valuable time to aid us, though we, even as they are trying to learn something of the mysteries of creation. But now that one of these men has interested himself in our behalf and is working for us, let us do all we can to further any plans for the formation of some such society as may be consistent with our circumstances.

From my study of birds, and all nature as well, I steadfastly believe we were all created for some purpose, that

each one of us have some peculiar faculty belonging to ourselves, and that by study we may develop that ability in such a manner as to be able to give to others the benefits we have derived from its possession. Now, even we may be in possession of just what is needed to throw light on some obscure point in science, and by communion through correspondence with these men be able to develop the germ that is within us and pursue to a logical sequence that which now has no definite form.

Thus we may in time repay to some extent what these men may do for us through the mediums of a fraternity. But the question is what can we do now? Will not some one come forward with a plan? How much we have lost in the past by not having the facilities that would be presented by an organization of this kind each one of us can realize, to some extent at least. Not what we might gain from now on by the aid of such a society we dare not estimate.

L. O. D,  
Litchfield, Minn.

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### What is the Highest Northern Latitude in Which the Chewink Breeds?

That discussion in the OOLOGIST regarding the most northern region in the state of New York in which the Chewink breeds, is decidedly of interest to me, as I reside in nearly the same latitude in Michigan as the counties named (42 ° 40'). The Chewink is here, one of our most common and abundant birds, and always breeds here. I had supposed we were much south of its northern breeding limit. It certainly breeds in Lapeer Co., the county north of this (Oakland), and I think somewhat farther in the two southern tiers of townships in Lapeer Co., it is about as abundant as in Oakland Co., (Latitude 43. ° 5'). The habits of this

bird are very interesting. It arrives very early in the spring and about the first indication of its presence is a great scratching among the leaves and brush.

It is very vivacious and active. It is found in most woodlands, but seems to prefer hilly woodlands, wooded slopes, and especially where the woods slopes toward some stream or lake. It moves about with a series of quick jumps, suddenly pausing now and then and causing its feet to make a series of very rapid movements, throwing the dead leaves about in a lively manner. In the presence of man it is very familiar, all the while peeping just out of reach, its sharp eyes regarding every movement of the intruder, now and then crying out "Cheewink." Like most of the Thrush tribe, it is very inquisitive and a good singer.

I would miss few birds more than this jolly, good-natured fellow. Whenever I hear a sudden and very lively stirring of the leaves, I always know the Chewink is about. When passing through a still woods, this sudden rustling among the leaves is decidedly startling to the uninitiated.

Will some Michigan correspondence tell me our northern breeding limit for this bird?

WILFRED A. BROTHERLON,  
Rochester, Mich.

#### Notes at Random.

Mr. H. L. Spinney, a taxidermist living at Georgetown, Me., has a Least Bittern taken near his place March 4, 1891. The bird is very rare in this locality; it weighed only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ounce.

The same gentleman has a curiosity in the nest of a Chickadee. The nest was built in a hollow apple tree limb and five eggs were laid. Another nest was then built over these eggs and seven more eggs laid. He sawed the limb off so that the lower eggs were visible from the bottom of the nest.

While camping near Mr. Spinney's this summer, I took a Maryland Yellow throat's nest built in a juniper bush about two feet from the ground. The nest contained four fresh eggs. I have never before heard of the Maryland Yellow-throat building above the ground. Who has?

This summer Mr. Spinney and I took several sets of eggs of the Artic and Common Terns on the rocky islands at the mouth of Kennebec River. We shot fine specimens of both birds when flying above the eggs. I know that I have these two kinds of Tern's eggs, but I am unable to distinguish them. The birds were very wild and we could devise no method of capturing them on their eggs.

The nests were of a great variety. There were a few nests made of hay and weeds. Others were simply a hand full of small stones, while a majority of the eggs were laid upon the bare rock or upon a little turf collected in the hollows of the rock. We found two sets of six eggs each and several of five, four, three and two. The eggs in the largest sets were apparently laid by two birds.

In these sets two or three were of the same shape and color and the others of another shape and color, while the incubation of the one kind was in nearly every case *very much* different from the incubation of the other kind. These facts together with Davie's statement that the birds lay only from two to four eggs, very rarely five, have led me to the conclusion that the eggs in the largest sets were laid by two birds and perhaps by two species. The eggs were taken June 28 and July 27.

Davie, in his Nests and Eggs of North American Birds, under the heading, Common Tern, says: "Mr. Worthington informs me that he never saw but one set of more than four eggs in the thousands he has collected." Let us hear from others in regard to the Common and Artic Terns.

A. B. CALL,  
Townshend, Vt.

## Ornithologists' Association.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

The Ornithologists' Association met Sept. 15th at Washington, D. C., and the following persons were proposed for membership in the Association:

Active.—A. Lake, 1337 U. St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

Corresponding.—Frank H. Shoemaker, Hampton, Iowa; Bert H. Bailey, 402 A. Ave., Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville, Erie Co., N. Y. J. Alden Loring, Owego, Tioga Co. N. Y. Richard D. Lusk, Tombstone, Cochise Co., Arizona.

As no objections were made they will be admitted to full membership on payment of dues.

I quote from the By Laws, "The dues of all active members shall be one dollar, and of all corresponding members fifty cents, per annum, payable semi-annually in advance."

## HARLAN'S BUZZARD AND THE RED-TAIL.

Some time ago the question as to the differentiating points between these two species was raised in the OOLOGIST and there was a reference to my book, "Our Birds in Their Haunt," in which I quote C. J. Maynard on said points. That quotation makes the four outer primaries "incised on the inner webs," a main point of difference. This diagnosis is at fault, and shows how we may err in quoting others without independent reflection and examination on our own part. It is strange that Mr. Maynard should not have known that *all* the *Buteos* have the inner webs of the four outer primaries incised.

Nor can anything definite be affirmed as to difference in the size of the two species; for the extreme measurements of *harlani* may be said to be included in the extreme measurements of *borealis*.

What then is the difference? Simply

the color. In structure they are identical. This difference in color is for the most part in the tail. The clear chestnut red of the tail of the mature *borealis* the regular dusky subterminal band, and the regular crossbands of light and dark dusky in immature birds of the species, are in marked contrast to the streaked and clouded tail of *harlani*, in which streaks of red are but occasionally seen, and, white or whitish soon becomes the prevailing characteristic.

Another point of difference is to be found in the absence in *harlani* of the ochreous or reddish shades so common in *borealis*, especially about the head and neck. The dusky or black so dominant in *harlani*, giving it a blackish general effect, is however, only on the tips of the plumage, the inner parts being white. This white becomes aggressive with age; and, as the under parts tend to be pure white, the species finally becomes decidedly hoary.

Allow me to note here, that Mr. Ridgeway regards one specimen from Iowa as intermediate; and hence believes *harlani* to be simply a geographical variety or race.

Harlan's Buzzard is a Southern variety, inhabiting the Gulf States and Lower Mississippi Valley, sometimes straggling to Pennsylvania, Illinois and Iowa.

## EGGS OF THE BROAD-WINGED HAWK.

A query was raised in the OOLOGIST sometime ago, as to the size of the eggs of the Broad-winged Hawk. There is a very small series in the National Museum. The average measurement is 1.93x1.56.

Please notice that this article is the substance of a discussion in the Ornithologists Association, which is now fairly on its feet and in working order.

J. H. LANGILLE.

Mr. E. J. Brown during a trip to Cobbs Island, Va. the past summer

found that the Terns once very abundant there have been nearly exterminated by the millinery skin-hunters.

They were slaughtered by the thousands, and even the native gunners declared it a shame to continue the work they were engaged in.

"Reed-birds and Sora Rail have not been very abundant, so far, on the Anacostia marshes but the gunners are persistent. One man reports having killed 60 Rails with only a paddle when the marshes were inundated by a freshet.

It seems to be nothing unusual here (D. C.) for Rail as well as Woodcock to be found under the telegraph wires, killed while migrating at night.

Is not Sept. 16th rather late for Virginia Quails to be incubating? The undersigned examined a nest of 13 eggs which will probably hatch in a few days.

A. B. FARNHAM.

Sec. and Trs. of Ornithologist Assoc'n.

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### An April's Outing.

It was a beautiful day, the 20th of April last. The sun gave down a genial light that bathed the hills and flooded the valleys; and shed a mild, invigorating warmth that made all nature exult. The sky was clear save for a few pearly clouds reposing upon the western horizon which were melting away in the swelling tide of day. The haze, which in California so often obscures the vision, was absent; the eye could range unrestrained over the vast expanse of ripening grain, and view the verdant lustre of the surrounding hills and the rugged desolation of the distant mountains.

From the redolent fields, yet sparkling with dew, the Lark had ushered in the morn with joyous strains—now the air was freighted with the melodious mingling of unnumbered sounds and scented with the fragrance of myriads

of blossoms bursting from their night's repose.

It was on such a day that two Oologists, the writer being one of the number, clad in antiquated garments, wended their way through the less frequented streets of Santa Barbara, past the limits of the city on the outing that this article concerns. Passing through a canon contiguous to the city, we, with our enthusiasm at its height, searched every bush and tree that could afford concealment to the nests of birds. Descending to the bed of a stream walled on either side by precipitous banks, we with no little difficulty, forced our way through the tangled growth of bushes, vines and weeds that grew so rank along the watered way, and now and then scrambled along the faces of the encroaching cliffs, which, crumbling beneath our weight, afforded us but an insecure passage. My companion, who was in the lead came to a sudden stop and peering over his shoulder in the direction indicated by his staff I saw hidden among the leaves of a wild rose bush a nest of the Hermann's Song Sparrow from which we obtained four eggs. Meanwhile a pair of California Towhees that seemed unusually interested in our proceedings had attracted our attention. We searched for some time for their nest and finally espied it in a bush at the top of the cliff, and after a hard scramble reached the nest and obtained three eggs. After proceeding a short distance we found a second nest of the Hermann's Song Sparrow similarly situated and containing the same number of eggs as the first. By this time we had reached a mass of flags through which we could scarcely advance. However, we essayed the passage, and upon pushing aside the flags to facilitate our progress, a nest containing four eggs of a Western Yellow-throat was disclosed. At first we were doubtful of their identity but the timely appearance of the parent bird dispelled our doubts.

When we emerged from the flags, we quit the stream for an adjacent canon where the voices of numberless songsters were lifted in generous emulation and countless bees roved hither and thither culling nectar for their succulent stores. Here we noticed Parkman's Wrens in considerable numbers and found several of their nests, which are built in the cavities of trees. This bird builds its nest as far back in the cavity as possible, filling the interior with a collection of small twigs, which protruding from the opening invariably betrays the presence of the nest. The nest is composed of horse hairs and feathers with a piece of snake's skin added by way of adornment.

We obtained three sets, one of nine eggs and two of four. The eggs of this species resemble those of the eastern House Wren in color, size and shape. In the pendulous foliage of the oak the California Bush Tit weaves its beautiful nest. This nest is a marvel of bird architecture and entirely out of proportion to the diminutive size of the builder. It is the result of many days arduous labor, and many miles must be traveled by the tiny birds in collecting the thousands of particles of wool, weeds and lichens used in its construction. The nest is cylindrical in form with a lateral entrance near the top. The walls are composed chiefly of wool and lichens, but strings, bits of weeds and twigs are used to good advantage; the bottom is lined with feathers and vegetable down. The average dimensions are as follows: Length 8 inches, breadth 5 inches, walls  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch, except at the bottom, where it is increased to 2 inches. The eggs are pure white in color and measure scarcely one-half inch in length. Both the musical Wren and the trooping Bush Tits do the farmers an incalculable good in the destruction of insect pests.

When the sun had attained the zenith, we found ourselves upon a hill com-

manding a view of the ocean; which lay as calm as any inland sea. Here, while lolling upon the green sward we partook of our lunch.

In close proximity lay a woodland through which ran a deep ravine. Thither we took our way and renewed the search. While wandering about we found a nest of Nuttall's Woodpecker in a bee tree. My companion visited it a few days later on and procured from the nest a set of six eggs. A little further on two owls flew out of a hollow tree. My companion ascended the tree and after gazing down the cavernous depths announced the discovery of a nest. Our buoyant hopes rose higher and higher. Gazing down the cavity until his eyes became accustomed to the darkness, my companion beheld, reposing upon the questionable debris contained therein, a solitary egg of high proportions. In size and conformation this egg proclaimed its parentage, while its voluble odor, as it permeated the circumambient atmosphere, firmly convinced us of its age. It was doubtless the relic of a pair of Western Horned Owls whose fate is an unsolved mystery.

Next we entered the ravine: where, enclosed around with bushy sides, and covered high with a foliaceous canopy, supported by the bare and rugged trunks of sycamore's and oaks, a silence reigned in mildness, loneliness and peace, while here and there a few straggling sunbeams found an entrance and flickered in the gloom. As we advanced the omnious denizens of this umbrageous retreat, startled from their slumbers, sought refuge in soft-winged flight. A Barn Owl sweeping by attracted my attention and I turned to watch its course. As I did so a large owl sprung from the bank directly opposite me, and so soft was its flight, that, had I not been looking in that direction, it certainly would have escaped my notice. It being no more than twenty feet distant, I obtained a good view of the bird

recognized in it a species strange to me. A subsequent consultation of Coues convinced me that the bird was the rare desirable Spotted Owl (*Syrnium occidentale*), which is known to breed in Southern California.

My dash up the bank was perhaps indecorous as well as speedy. I searched around the ferns from whence the owl had flown and soon found the object of my quest resting upon a few dry leaves in an arched recess in the ferns. The eggs were two in number, pure white, and measured as follows: 2. 12 x 1.68; 2. 24 x 1.63.

While I was thus engaged my companion, having been attracted by the cat-like cries of the Spurred Towhee, searched in the dense mass of ferns, leaves and grass that carpeted the bottom of the ravine for some depth, and formed a nest containing five eggs. A second Towhee was flushed in the same vicinity and we began to search for its nest. We could not find the nest and were about to discontinue our search when a California Partridge arose from between us and fluttered away in a perturbed manner. So dense was the vegetation that it required a lengthy search to find the nest, but our eyes sparkled when we finally glanced into the nest, fairly lined with the speckled beauties, nineteen in all. Barn Owls were numerous, but we found none of their nests. Parkman's Wrens were noticed in considerable numbers and several of their nests observed. Now and then the buzz of a Hummingbird was heard as the little fairy darted about in the passive shade. Several of their nests were found but no eggs secured.

We were now nearing the limits of ravine and, as the hour was late, we concluded to make our way homeward. About a mile from the ravine we added to our well filled boxes a set of four eggs of the California Woodpecker.

The day was rapidly drawing to a close; the shadows stretched their

lengthening forms across the valley's, and from the distant tile-roofed mission reposing serenely at the foot of the circumjacent hills, came the faint murmur of the evening chimes. When, tired and hungry, we reached the city night was at hand, naught but the last rays of the sinking sun flickered in the Western skies. A quiet peace prevailed the land, while from the neighboring copse rose the thrashers song, the last requiem for the parting day.

H. C. LILLIE,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

#### Eggs of Sharpe's Seed-eater.

As the eggs of *Sporophila morelleti sharpei* were unknown until a very recent date, and I believe are described in none of the works on oology, a description of a set of these in my collection taken with the nest at Brownsville, Texas, May, 20 1891, and positively identified, may be of interest to the readers of the OOLOGIST.

Their ground color is a light bluish-green, which is more or less spotted and blotched over the entire surface with dull brown, more numerous toward the larger end. Two of the eggs are also marked on the larger end with very dark brown (almost approaching blackish) spots and blotches. They measure .64 x .52, .65 x .51, .66 x .52.

The nest was situated in a small bush in open wood and near a running stream. It is rather a frail structure, yet well-cupped, and measures outside, 1½ inches high and 2½ inches in diameter; while inside it measures 1½ inches in depth and 1½ inches in width. It is composed of a small yellowish root, round grass stems, weeds and a little Spanish moss, woven through with horse hair.

The eggs, I believe, are known to be contained in only twelve collections.

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

# THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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\* \* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## How I Obtained an Oriole's Nest.

About May 27th, I chanced to find an Oriole's nest in an oak tree some thirty feet from the ground. Oriole's eggs being somewhat scarce in this county, I thought of all possible means by which the nest might be obtained.

Finally I thought of a plan that was worked successfully with a Hummingbird's nest.

Taking a pole that would just support the nest by resting it on the ground, I drove two nails in the end for the twigs to rest in which held the nest.

Then planting it firmly on the ground, making sure the limb was supported by the end of the pole, I took a 22-cal. rifle and shot the limb off just above the place resting on the pole, and by some

means the limb fastened itself around the pole and came sliding down. I caught it when it was "catchable," and on inspection I found it to contain three finely marked fresh eggs, not one of which had been broken.

The nest was sensibly built containing chicken feathers with the sharp ends stuck through to the outside, making a safe resting place for the Oriole's Jr.

GEO. MIMS,  
Edgefield, S. C.

## Shall We Have a General Association of Scientists?

Organization is the rule to-day among all vocations but that of the scientist.

To-day there is not a single general association of scientists, founded upon sufficiently liberal principals to enable it to do effective work, for our profession as an entity.

We are scattered abroad far and wide throughout the land, and have no facilities for becoming acquainted and cannot resist the attacks of our common enemies, who are thoroughly organized. Have scientists enemies? Certainly they have. Take the scientific profession as an entity, and you cannot find a profession accomplishing more for the general good of humanity, or one upon which mankind in general, are more dependent. And yet everywhere we meet only blind bigotry and intolerance, a relic of the barbarous age of the past, when the scientist was considered a magician in league with devils, hence to be persecuted, tortured and put to death. To-day scientists are considered vandals, cranks, fools, fanatics, etc., butts of ridicule for the ignoramous.

And this same spirit of intolerance and persecution has pervaded all our legislative halls, and left its imprint on all our statute books.

In Michigan this is especially the case. No scientist working in any department

is safe in doing the work legitimately belonging to his profession.

The Geologist, Botanist, Ornithologist, Ichthyologist, or Mammalogist finds himself confronted on every hand by laws which, were a complaint made, would subject him to severe penalties. The Ichthyologist makes himself a law-breaker if he preserves a specimen of a fish. The law distinctly says that no minnows or small fish fry shall be taken for any purpose except for bait, and makes the possession of a fish scale, fish tail, or a fish's fin, *prima facie* evidence of a violation of law. Woe unto the Biologist who attempts to make any investigations.

The Ornithologist only is recognized and he only is insulted and treated as a vandal. He must get a special permit for each month to take two of each species in one county only and only of such species as are named in his application. A fine of \$5 is imposed for every bird's egg collected, and no permits issued.

A Botanist may be arrested and punished for any specimen of plant he may dig up. The Geologist for any specimen he may collect.

That there should be some laws protecting birds, fish, game, etc., is plainly proper, but the scientist is not the vandal that calls for these laws. It is the professional sport, the small boy, the vandal who kills the small birds to obtain their skins to ornament some so-called lady's head, that need to be regulated. Some scientists may be wantonly destructive, what vocation has no black sheep? these should also be restrained. But it is an outrage, and insult, that no other vocation would bear to be treated as the Michigan statue books treat us.

Shall we as scientists continue to tamely submit to such treatment? Is it not evident that we must combine for mutual protection? And, what vocation is not benefited, enlightened, and advanced by an organization, and con-

sequent meetings? Someone asks, why is a general organization desirable? For the reason there is really but one great broad field of science comprising to be sure of several departments, each department having its own special corps of workers, and yet all these departments are mutually related and workers in each department have mutual interests with those of every other department.

Besides there are generalists among scientists, Linneus, Agassiz, Darwin, Baird, et al, were generalists, notably Linneus, who left his imprint upon every department of Botany and Zoology, one cannot glance over works in these branches without profound astonishment at the vast amount of work accomplished by these workers, as evidenced by the vast numbers of species that he named in both the animal and vegetable kingdoms. Darwin worked in the same fields, Agassiz and Baird left their imprint upon all branches of Zoology.

No worker in any branch of the vast field of science can proceed far without finding golden chains binding all branches of science together. Then why not a general organization for mutual protection, improvement, and advancement.

Four classes of labors should be recognized in such an organization,—the professional, the amateur, the student, and the friend of science. Each should be duly noticed and encouraged. Suitable fields for work may be found for each of these classes, bigotry and intolerance should be frowned upon.

There should be national, state and local organizations, and national, state and local meetings. Each organization should own and control a museum and library. Scientific expeditions should be fitted out. Annual encampments in localities specially fitted for field work and others practical work, should not be neglected.

In this organization let us have no discrimination regarding sex, race or color.

But let us have one great brotherhood,—remembering that we all belong to the great Brotherhood of man.

And let us each remember that we as scientific investigators are but students of the great book of the works of God, the great Creator of all things, and we but His children. What we now need most to bring about such an organization is enthusiasm and earnest work.

It can be done. Let us go at it, Fellow-workers in the field of science! We are brothers! Let us recognize our relationship and combine together that we may protect ourselves and build each other up, as well do more to enlighten our fellow men. Let us hear from all.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON,  
Rochester, Mich.

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#### A Trip to Cobb's Island.

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May 19, 1891.

Arrived at the island this afternoon. On the way out from the mainland stopped in New Marsh for the afternoon shooting, which we found to be very poor.

Saw a good many Curlew, but they would not decoy. Killed two Gray-back, seventeen Turnstone, three Black-bellied Plover, one Greater-Yellow legs, ten Red-backed Sandpiper and a lot of smaller fry.

May 20th. This morning I walked up the beach about two miles, and put out decoys on edge of surf. Bagged a pair of Black-bellied Plover and four Turnstones, when I had to pack up and make tracks for home on account of a heavy thunder storm. Saw a great many American Oyster-catchers near the upper end of Island, but did not have time to look for their nest then.

May 21st. Left Cobb's early this morning and sailed down to Smith's Island after Great Blue Heron. On the

way down we passed Mockhorn Island, where there were hundreds of Willet breeding.

Saw a great many Curlew, and about a dozen Cormorant.

At Smith's Island there is a large heronry of the Great Blues, but all the nests were in tall dead pines, which (as we had no "irons" with us,) we were unable to climb.

There were also a great many Fish Hawks' nests on the island.

May 22d. As this was to be my last day on the island, and the men had reported a few Robin Snipe as having been seen, I took my gun and a dozen tin decoys and walked up the beach.

About a mile up, I stooled out on the edge of the surf, and in a very short time had nineteen fine plump Robin Snipe inside my blind.

Along with these I bagged about two dozen Plover and smaller birds. After putting up my decoys and game, I walk-home through the marsh, and filled my hat with Clapper Rails eggs.

During my whole trip I saw very few Terns or Gulls of any kind. Also found Yellow Legs very scarce.

One peculiarity about the island, and a very good one, is the total absence of the English Sparrow.

Wm. H. FISHER,  
Balto, Md.

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#### One of Indiana's New Laws.

The Ornithologist has won and is happy. Indiana has at last got a law that if the birds could read, would make them feel very secure. I thought that perhaps the readers of the OOLOGIST would like to hear this law and find how they can get a permit. The following is the law in full:

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana, That it shall be unlawful for any person to kill any wild bird other than a game bird or purchase, offer for sale any such wild bird after it has been killed, or to destroy the nest or eggs of any wild bird.

Sec. 2 For the purpose of this act the following shall be considered game birds: the Anatidae, commonly called swans, geese, brant, and river and sea ducks; the Rallidae, commonly

known rails, coots, mud-hens and gallinules: the Limicolae commonly known as shore birds, plovers, surf birds, snipe, woodcock and sand pipers, tattlers and curlews: the Gallinae commonly known as wild turkeys, grouse, prairie chickens, quail, and pheasants, all of which are not intended to be affected by this act.

Sec. 3 Any person violating the provisions of Section 1 of this act shall upon conviction be fined, in a sum not less than ten nor more than fifty dollars to which may be added imprisonment for not less than five days nor more than thirty days.

Sec. 4 Sections 1 and 2 of this act shall not apply to any person holding a permit giving the right to take birds or their nests and eggs for scientific purposes, as provided in Section 5 of this act.

Sec. 5 Permits may be granted by the Executive Board of the Indiana Academy of Science to any properly accredited person permitting the holder thereof to collect birds, their nests or eggs for strictly scientific purposes. In order to obtain such a permit the applicant for the same must present to said Board written testimonials from two well-known naturalists certifying to the good character and fitness of said applicant to be intrusted with such a privilege and pay to said Board one dollar to defray the necessary expense attending the granting of such permit, and must file with said Board a properly executed bond in the sum of two hundred dollars, signed by at least two responsible citizens of the state as sureties. The bond shall be forfeited to the state and the permit become void upon proof that the holder of such permit has killed any bird or taken the nests or eggs of any bird for any other purpose than that named in this section and shall further be subject for such offense to the penalties provided in this act.

Sec. 6. The permits authorized by this act shall be in force for two years only from the date of their issue and shall not be transferable.

Sec. 7. The English or European house sparrow (passer domesticus), crows, hawks and other birds of prey are not included among the birds protected by this act.

Sec. 8. All acts or parts of acts heretofore passed in conflict with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.

Sec. 9. An emergency is declared to exist for the immediate taking effect of this act, therefore the same shall be in force and effect from and after its passage.

You see that the birds of Indiana are pretty well protected if the law is carried out but it seems as though people don't care whether it is or not, for they will let boys and men go shooting Night hawks, (commonly known as bull bats), as if there were no laws to protect them I have a report indirectly from Columbus that they were being killed by scores and just for pleasure at that. It is also reported that they are wantonly killed here in Indianapolis. Now what is the use of having a law if it can't be upheld and I think every bird loving person should rise up and uphold this law

which is complete in every detail, It would be very interesting to the readers of the OOLOGIST I should think to have the laws of every state published that is those laws that concern the protection of our native birds so let us hear from others on this subject.

H. A. HESS.

### Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada.

Finely Illustrated with Photo-Engravings and Colored Plates.

Price, \$2.00. To subscribers ordering before October 30th, \$1.25.

The above book gives an account of a collecting trip to the North-west. It describes in an interesting manner the experience of the writer and his collectors in a region which might be called the Ornithologist's Paradise. The country explored stretches from Winnipeg to within sight of the Rocky Mountains, a distance of nearly one thousand miles, and, as might be expected in such a wide tract of country, many rare birds were found breeding. It gives a full account of the nesting habits of such birds as Canada Goose, Baldpate, Buffle-headed Duck, Canvasback, Little Brown Crane, Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope and Snipe, Avocet, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, White Pelican, American Goshawk, Hawk Owl, Rusty Grackle, McCown's Lonspur, Chestnut-colored Longspur, Pigeon Hawk, Bonaparte's Gull and other rare species. It also contains plates of many of the above birds' nests and eggs; and also gives colored plates of eggs of Yellowlegs, Wilson's Phalarope, Knot, etc. The eggs of the Knot have never previously been figured in any ornithological work.

This book will be found interesting reading to British as well as American Ornithologists, as it describes the nests and eggs of many species which occur in Europe as occasional visitors.

The price to subscribers ordering before October 30th will be \$1.25; to British Ornithologists 5 shillings. The illustrations are worth the money.

Send in your order at once as only a limited number of copies will be printed.

The above is a portion of a circular received from Mr. Walter Raine, the well-known Canadian Oologist, of Tor-

onto. The readers of the OOLOGIST desiring a valuable addition to their library will wisely procure Mr. R.'s work, or at any rate send for complete circular announcement.

#### American Microscopical Society.

We have before us a "special circular" briefly outlining the fourteenth annual meeting of the above Society—at Washington, on Aug 11-14.

In conclusion this circular says:

□ "It is hoped that all members will use their best endeavors to make the aims and purpose of the American Microscopical Society known to those of their friends or acquaintances who do or should take an interest in microscopical study or investigation, and to induce them to join. The dues are so small, and so much is to be gained by association in such science, that we should have on our role, every one in the United States, who uses a microscope. By a small effort on the part of each member, a large accession of new members can be obtained at the next meeting.

It is difficult for the secretary of the Society to find out in our great country, the names of all those, so numerous, who are interested in the microscope, and who would be likely to become members of the society, if its character and work are made known to them. It is therefore particularly desired, that every one who knows and is favorably disposed toward the society, will make known to the secretary, the name and address of any who may be induced to become members, so that the secretary can send them the circulars, etc., published from time to time by the society, and that they may in this way become acquainted with it and be induced to join it.

Blank applications for membership may be obtained by addressing the secretary Dr. W. H. Seaman, 1424 11th St., Washington, D. C."

#### Fremde Eier im Nest.

(Another Bird's Eggs in the Nest.)

The above is the title of an unique work recently published by Dr. Paul Leverkuhn, C. M. A. O. U., C. M. Z. S.,

etc., of Munich, and offered to American collectors through his agent, Mr. A. E. Pettit, Box 2060, New York. The volume contains 212 pages bound in paper and as the heading suggests, is printed in German, price prepaid, \$2.

This work is not a money making scheme and the Dr. desires to sell copies only sufficient to pay actual expense of publishing, and only one hundred copies have been allotted American Ornithologists. We especially recommend the work to our German patrons and to our many bird-loving readers who are or have been students of the German language. A German friend kindly reviews the work for us as follows:

The author, well-known in Germany as an Ornithologist, discusses what is to us a somewhat novel ornithological subject: The behavior of parent birds against eggs not deposited by themselves in their nest, but introduced by other birds of the same species or another one, or by men. He gives a mass of details under each head of the four divisions, into which he divides his theme and he takes many from the American literature, which he knows in a surprising manner. All little journals are searched and investigated. Our brother ornithologists in Europe spent the highest pride and acknowledgement to the work so the Edinburgh Newspaper the "Scotsman" writes in his review of books:

"Mr. Paul Leverkuhn has studied the matter with a care that goes to the ground of it and seems to leave nothing to be done by a successor."

Similar criticisms appeared in the Ibis, Zool. Gard., Ornith. Monthly, Nature, Feathered World, Helios and many other periodicals. We recommend the handy volume, printed in large Cicero type on good paper to all our readers.

#### READ THIS.

When suffering from Malaria or Bilious Fever, don't wreck your general health with quinine or other nauseous drugs. Humphreys' Specifics Nos. Ten and Sixteen effect a speedy and permanent cure.

# FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WHY NOT

Put in a Curiosity Counter?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth of Bazaar Goods, Shells, Agates and Curios to add a variety to your present collection, and put in a curiosity counter in your store for the Holiday trade? If you have not a store, place the counter in the store of your father, uncle, cousin, friend or anywhere you can obtain a suitable location and make advantageous arrangements.

Such a display would prove the biggest "crowd catcher" in town and from that stand-point alone would more than pay any merchant for the space occupied.

## There's \$ \$ In It!

In a good location, with a suitable display your curio counter would bring in from \$100 to \$1000 during the season, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG PROFIT.

Now I have lots or just such material on hand left from my Chautauqua and Exposition trade, rather than carry this surplus over for another season will sell at very low rates, if you cannot personally make your selections, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection for you that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewelry and Novelties. Write what you want.

## FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

## THE OOLOGIST.

### THE STANDARD DIRECTORY FOR '91

Is now ready for delivery. It contains the names and addresses of the principal Ornithologists and Oologists of North America, etc., 50 pages, printed on good book paper and bound in heavy antique covers.

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I WANT AT ONCE INDIAN RELICS,—MOUND BUILDERS OR MODERN—WILL PAY CASH OR GIVE GOOD EXCHANGE. WRITE WHAT YOU HAVE QUOTING PRICES—WHICH MUST NOT BE FANCY, AND STATE WHAT IS WANTED. FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

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500 PARCELS OF MAIL FREE

We will POSITIVELY GUARANTEE you to personally receive 500 Samples, Books, Letters, Papers, Magazines etc., FREE also, insert your Name and address in bold type in the Guaranteed American Directory, which goes Whirling ALLOVER the WORLD. The entire lot, Postpaid to You, for 20 cts., FREE FROM ALL FURTHER EXPENSE. Send to-day. We reply by return mail. Address, AMERICAN DIRECTORY CO. No. 50 BUFFALO, N. Y.



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In use 30 years. The only successful remedy for Nervous Debility, Vital Weakness, and Prostration, from over-work or other causes. \$1 per vial, or 5 vials and large vial powder, for \$5. SOLD BY DRUGGISTS, or sent postpaid on receipt of price.—HUMPHREYS' MEDICINE CO., Cor. William and John Sts., N. Y.

100 FINE PRINTED Envelopes, white or colored, with name, business and address, for 40c., postpaid. Cards and Letter Heads at same price. 100 each for only \$1. Agents wanted. Big pay. Outfit 5c. A. M. EDDY, Albion, N. Y.

## THE OOLOGIST.

# Euclid Avenue Business College.

88 TO 92 EUCLID AVE., CLEVELAND, O.

The Greatest Business University in America; over 1800 students attended last year, more than twice as large an attendance as all other business colleges in Cleveland combined, more than 1000 students who attended last year are now holding good positions. The Euclid Ave. Business College employs a corps of 40 men, nearly one-half of whom have formerly been college presidents. With such a faculty is it any wonder that its graduates are sought by business men. 183 Graduates received diplomas at our last graduating exercises; of that number 175 were holding good positions within 30 days from that date. Nearly 300 will receive diplomas at our next annual commencement. Send for circulars or call at the main office, 90 Euclid Ave. Telephone No. 536. M. J. CATON, Pres.

N. B.—We have branch colleges in Buffalo, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich. Scholarships good in any of the colleges belonging to the Caton system.

**TRAPPED BIRDS.** Parties wanting live birds, such as Cardinal, Grose-beaks, Texan Bob Whites and many others. Address with stamp **KIT ATKINSON, Dime Box, Texas.**

A STEVENS 22-cal. rifle in fine condition, for \$9 cost \$18. **EDWIN WEBB, 611 E. Front St., Bloomington, Ill.**

**TO ALL INTERESTED IN SCIENTIFIC MATTERS.**—Will all interested in any branch of science please send me their address? Shall we not have a general association of Scientists for protection and mutual advancement, to include professionals, amateurs and students of science as well as friends of science? **WILFRED A. BROTHERTON, Rochester, Mich.**

**GEO. F. GUELF,**

Practical Taxidermist, Brockport, N. Y.

Dealer in Bird Skins, Eggs, Mounted Birds, and Curiosities. Send for price lists. Taxidermy executed in all its branches. Work the finest prices the lowest. Can furnish (mounted to order) any bird obtainable. Correspondence solicited.

## OUR SOUTHERN HOME

Is the Name of a 40-page Monthly Magazine

Published at Mount Holly, North Carolina. All persons wishing to learn all about North Carolina, her unlimited resources, unrivaled climate, and unparalleled inducements offered new settlers, also a full history of her flowers, birds and natural curiosities, should send 5 one-cent postage stamps for copy of **OUR SOUTHERN HOME** and receive also our little book entitled "The Grape, Fruit and Trucking industry of North Carolina. Address, M. H. PRIDE, Mount Holly, North Carolina.

**BEAUTIFUL Michigan Wild Flowers.** Some ordered of me by Columbian Exposition Authorities. Three catalogues, each free. No. 1, descriptive Retail list, No. 2, Wholesale trade list, No. 3, Carp Pond list.

**Wilfred A. Brotherton,**

ROCHESTER, MICH.

**400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00**

Duplicates can be returned.

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**W. F. GREANY,**

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Catalogue for stamp.

**FOSSILS,** 10 Species, 35c; 20 for 75c; 35 for \$1.50;  
50 for \$3.00; 75 for \$8.00, Ill. List.  
AYT **FRANK KINNE, Knoxville, Iowa.**

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—COLLECTOR OF—

**Birds, Mammals and Eggs,  
LOVELAND, COLORADO.**

I make a specialty of mailing birds same day as skinned, or sent in the flesh after subjecting them to a preservative preparation. Enclose stamp for Price List.

**MARLIN SAFETY**  
**REPEATING RIFLES**  
FOR SALE  
**EVERYWHERE**  
MADE BY  
**THE MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO**  
NEW HAVEN, CONN., U.S.A.



# O O L O G I S T Y .

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1891.

No. 11

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have first and second-class eggs in singles or in sets to exchange for same. RALPH MATESON, 114 North St., Galesburg, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Minnie Balls of the late war, old bank checks etc., for Relics, Curios, Coins, Confederate Stamps, Fossils etc. EWIN L. DAVIS, Tullahoma, Tenn.

EMBALMING! The only life-like way of mounting birds. I will send full receipt for every 25c worth of eggs sent. ARTHUR J. BAKER, Fortville, Ind.

FOR SALE.—A collection of postage stamps, comprising 840 varieties in Scott's \$1.50 album for \$10.—Write for particulars.—All letters answered. CLARK JAMES, Cheyenne, Wyo.

I HAVE fine full sets of Coot's, Gallinules, Grebes and Bitterns to exchange for eggs, skins shells and minerals. Also have sixty species of land and fresh water shells to exchange. Dr. W. S. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ill.

WANTED.—Collection of desirable eggs, as many as you have. Send list of eggs, also state what you want. G. W. ERWIN, Box 243, Giddings, Texas.

TO EXCHANGE.—Snowy Heron 4-4, 5-3, Dwarf Cowbird, 8-1, Fla. Grackle 2-3, 2-4, Mockingbird 2-3, 5-4, and other sets with data, for sets with data. JESSE MILLER, 184 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

A TELEGRAPH KEY and sounder, an old Colt's powder and ball Revolver, and single eggs of Clapper Rail, in exchange for Indian Relics. J. HARMANUS FISHER, Jr., 16 South St., Baltimore, Md.

TO EXCHANGE for book on Ornithology, or Taxidermists' Tools, the following first-class sets with data: 5 sets 431 1/2, nest, 2 sets 430a 1/2 Address, TOM STANLEY, Cuyamaca, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE.—An International Stamp Album, (\$3.50) ninth edition, almost new, with 450 stamps valued at \$19 for an egg cabinet. All cards answered. F. G. HARGEST, 278 Hooper St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—400 Tobacco Tags, 140 cigarette pictures, 30.5c novels, to exchange for best offers in Indian Relics. Address, L. M. DRESSER, P. O. Box 151, Georgetown, Mass.

WANTED.—Live Squirrels of all kinds, will give first-class eggs or cash. R. H. THOMPSON, 1109 St. Paul St., Baltimore, Md.

WANTED.—A first-class side-blown egg of White Falcon. Will pay cash for same, any person having above for sale address, E. B. SCHRAGE, Pontiac, Mich.

WANTED to exchange a live Horned Owl, perfectly gentle; for eggs, sets or singles, climbers or Taxidermists' tools. All inquiries answered. T. KEYWORTH, Entomologist, Marissa, Ills.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Hartz Mountain Canaries, Parroquets and other land birds, Parrot and other cages, for first class Sea Shells, Corals, Curios, Bird Skins and Eggs. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

WANTED.—Ornithological magazines and works, and a pair of climbers. Will give Golden Days and other papers and 100 Stamps. RALPH H. ROCKWOOD, Waterville, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a limited number complete sets of the Wisconsin Naturalist which I will mail to anyone sending me \$1.00 worth of Birds' Eggs, Skins, Curio, or Sea Shells at list prices. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Carpenter Tools, Reading Matter, Curios, Minerals, Woods, Shells, Foreign Stamps, Books, Job Printing, Cala. Eggs, and others for Minerals, Fossils, Shells, Type, Scientific Books and others. U. L. HERTZ, Napa City, Cala.

TO EXCHANGE.—1 pair Roller Skates, an Albino Sparrow, a Pheasant, Fox Squirrel, Blue Heron, Chip Munk, and Navy Revolver. GEORGE THORNTON, Alma, Mich.

WANTED.—Eggs, many common sets, as well as rare ones. Have to offer in exchange, sets of Osprey, Hawks, Owls, Gulls, Herons, Plovers, Warblers, rare sets and common, Minerals, Curiosities, Stamps. Send lists and receive mine in return. CHARLES E. DOE, 55 Comstock Ave., Providence, R. I.

WANTED.—At once Coues' Key last edition. If in good condition will give in exchange seven sets of the Black-chinned Hummer or four sets of Anna's and four of the Black-chinned all first-class sets of two eggs each with datas and nests. M. L. WICKS, Jr., Cor 1st and Hill Sts., Los Angeles' Cala.

## THE OOLOGIST.

### EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class California eggs in sets and single swith data, also strapped climbing irons, for eggs in sets, skins, fire arms etc. RAY L. WILBER, Riverside, Cala.

WANTED.—Fine Minerals, Crystals, Indian Relics, Nat. History specimens, Curiosities, etc. for same from Kans. Correspondence desired. G. E. WELLS, Manahattan, Kans.

EXCHANGE. Animals in the meat, Eggs, Naturalists, Supplies, Stamps and Philatelic, papers for coins, eggs, Taxidermists Tools, Indian Relics, Books on Ornithology and Natural History and live stock. R. L. WHEELER, 15 Varney St., Lowell, Mass.

I WILL give \$5. worth of good sets for a pair Climbing Irons with straps, Lattin's latest style and in good condition. FRED A. SCHNEIDER College Park, Calif.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs with data: 12, 16, 29, 30a, 49, 108, 120c, 123b, A. O. U. Want good 32 Cal. rifle, large Colt, or Smith & Wesson revolver, large hunting knife and tennis racket. E. R. ZION, Stanford University, Menlo Park, Cal.

TAXIDERMISTS! For every 25c worth of eggs sent me I will mail a sample bottle of my Tanning Liquid, which I have used exclusively for years. Sample of work done in 12 hours free, write for particulars. Address, J. E. Houseman, Box 361, London, Ont.

HAVE a fine telescope, and cast of Gt. Auk, to exchange for Coues' Key, Ornithological papers etc. W. LOUCKS, 166 1st Ave., Cedar Rapids, Ia.

DETECTIVE CAMERA of some good make wanted, will give a bargain to the right party, have to exchange rare western Bird Skins (over 400), Washburn Guitar, value \$22.00, or pay part cash. GEO. G. CANTWELL, 105 Pike's Peak ave., Colorado Springs, Colo.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A 20-bore gun with 100 shells and implements complete. Will exchange for \$45 worth of first-class skins with full data; or will sell for \$24 cash. Only parties having such need apply. BRAD A. SCUDDER Highland St., Taunton, Mass.

LOOK.—I have a photographic apparatus and outfit worth \$60. Will sell for \$30, or exchange for best offer of Birds' Eggs, Coins or Indian Relics. V. MUELLER, 346 9th St. Milwaukee, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE.—An advanced Taxidermists outfit containing the following: 2 pairs pliers, one large and one small, 1 Scalpel, 1 pair tweezers, 5 awls, 1 small mallet, 1 set chains and hooks, 1 set 6 curved needles, and 2 taxidermists file. Will exchange for sets of birds eggs or perfect arrowheads. K. B. MATHES, L. Box 84 Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—Double-barreled Breech-Loading Shot Gun. 12 or 16 guage, will give the following for a good gun: One 32 cal., double Action Revolver, and the following eggs in sets with data: American Barn Owl  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Screech Owl 1-5 Burrowing Owl 1-9, Night Hawk  $\frac{1}{2}$ , Chickadee 1-6, Marsh Hawk  $\frac{1}{2}$ , One American Bitnerk, Red eyed Vireo  $\frac{1}{2}$  and 40 Common eggs. All letters answered. ISADOR S. TROSTLER, 4328 Farnam St., Omaha, Neb.

WANTED.—To correspond with Botanists for the purpose of arranging exchanges for the coming year. Send List of plants common to your locality. ALBERT GARRETT, Lawrence, Kansas.

A BARGAIN.—For every 1st or 2d class egg cat. 10 cts. or over, sent me I will send one fine skate egg. Also fossils and curios to trade. J. W. MYKRANTZ, Ashland, Ohio.

EXCHANGE.—Magic Lantern and Slides (\$1.25) Upright Engine (\$1.00) and Books, for eggs, Stuffed Birds and Curios not in my collection. W. F. MOUNTAIN, 368 William St. East Orange, N. J.

WANTED.—The following sets, for which we will pay cash—if prices are moderate. The sets must be 1st class with authentic dates, showy eggs, number in set a full average, and in all respects desirable: A. O. U. Nos. 7, 132, 144, 146, 159, 185, 224, 230, 235, 260, 271, 285, 289, 300, 309, 310, 365, 494, 534, 674. Have about 40 varieties in sets if any one prefers an exchange—1st class. Address M. S. HAINES, Box 1185, Station C., Los Angeles, Cal. No postals.

TO EXCHANGE.—A solid gold enamelled locket, has not been worn only two or three times and is in perfect condition, wholesale price \$5.00. For best offer of Minerals, polished shells or Indian Relics. GEO. W. DIXON, Watertown, S. D.

WANTED.—Coues' Key, Mineralogy, Eggs, Minerals, and Skins. A. O. U. 372, 379, 381, 405, 326, 264, 267, 34. Can offer Eggs, Skins, four vols. Youth's Companion, Taxidermy by Manton, 300 Tobacco Tags, Printing Press, Adventures by Henry M. Stauley (800 pages), Mounted Coon for best offer of eggs or minerals. Letters answered. NATHAN L. DAVIS, Box 224, Brockport, N. Y.

### Chestnut-bellied Scaled Quail.

We have just received a large series of very fine sets of the above Species, ranging from 7 to 15 eggs to the set, until Jan 1st (if supply holds out) we will sell in sets at  $\frac{1}{2}$  usual prices, or at the low rate of only 25c per egg single eggs 30c each. Order early. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

### WM. G. SMITH,

—COLLECTOR OF—

Birds, Mammals and Eggs,  
LOVELAND, COLORADO.

I make a specialty of mailing birds same day as skinned, or sent in the flesh after subjecting them to a preservative preparation. Enclose stamp for Price List.

### IMPORTED JAPANESE AND INDIAN SILK WORM EGGS

For Seeds in Silk Culture. Different Species.

Also the celebrated Madras Silk Cocoons, warranted to be raised successfully in this country. Directions given how to raise them profitably. Prices low.

PROF. CARL BRAUN,

NATURALIST,

Bangor, - - - - - Maine

# FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

WHY NOT

Put in a Curiosity Counter?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of, say, anywhere from \$10. to \$100. worth of Bazaar Goods, Shells, Agates and Curios to add a variety to your present collection, and put in a curiosity counter in your store for the Holiday trade? If you have not a store, place the counter in the store of your father, uncle, cousin, friend or anywhere you can obtain a suitable location and make advantageous arrangements.

Such a display would prove the biggest "crowd catcher" in town and from that stand-point alone would more than pay any merchant for the space occupied.

## There's \$ \$ In It!

In a good location, with a suitable display your curio counter would bring in from \$100 to \$1000 during the season, upon which there would be a GOOD BIG PROFIT.

Now I have lots or just such material on hand left from my Chautauqua and Exposition trade, rather than carry this surplus over for another season will sell at very low rates, if you cannot personally make your selections, but will send me the amount you wish to invest and give me an inkling of about what you want I will personally and judiciously make a selection for you that I will guarantee to give you big satisfaction in every particular and will make the prices to you lower than you could possibly duplicate elsewhere.

Remember I also carry a full line of Agate, Spar, Pyrites and Shell Jewelry and Novelties. Write what you want.

## FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

# 6 THANKSGIVING OFFERS 6

## FOR \$1.00.

I will send you \$1.00 worth of eggs or 75c worth of anything I advertise, and the OOLOGIST, with coupons, one year.

## FOR \$2.00.

I will send you \$2.00 worth of Birds' Eggs, or \$1.50 worth of anything I advertise and a copy of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." \$1.25 edition.

## FOR \$3.00.

I will send you \$3.00 worth of Bird's Eggs or \$2.00 worth of anything I advertise, and a copy of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds." \$1.75 edition.

## FOR \$5.00.

I will send you \$5.00 worth of Eggs or \$4.00 of anything I advertise, and a copy of Langille's "Our Birds in their Haunts." \$3.00 Edition.

## FOR \$10.00

I will send you \$10.00 worth of Eggs or \$6.00 worth of anything I advertise, and a copy of Ridgway's "Manual of North American Birds" \$7.50 edition.

## FOR \$15.00.

I will send you \$15.00 worth of Eggs or \$10.00 worth of anything I advertise and a copy of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America." Publisher's price \$18.00.

**IMPORTANT!** Books and Eggs will be sent *prepaid*, other articles as per conditions in catalogue. In all offers Eggs or articles are of your own selection. Eggs may be either singles or sets.

THE ABOVE OFFERS WILL HOLD GOOD UNTIL DEC. 1st, 1891. Address plainly,

FRANK H. LATTIN, - Albion, N. Y.

# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1891.

No. 11

## The Great Carolina Wren.

The half has not been told of these pleasing little birds. Here, they are with us all the year; and every day we are delighted with their sweet song from the time the first streaks of morning light begins to appear in the East, until approaching darkness compels them to seek shelter for the night.

They are hardy little fellows, enduring the winters of the Middle States. They may recede from their more northern abodes, yet they are as common in winter as in summer, at least from Maryland southward. There they are said to be common at all seasons, though never in great abundance. Here they are more plentiful than any other of the Wren family.

We have the Bewicks, Winter and House Wrens, but none of them are very plentiful. The Carolina Wren frequents shrubery and undergrowth of all sorts, where it is oftener heard than seen. Not that it is at all a timid bird, for it often comes about the garden and out-houses, and will frequently take up its abode in an unoccupied dwelling house, if it can find an open or a crevice of any kind that it can possibly get through. When we came home from the North, last Spring, a pair had taken up their abode in our kitchen, placing their nest over a window. The previous spring they they came in and started their nest on a mantle in one of the rooms, but that did not seem to suit their fancy, so they changed it to a shelf in one corner when they completed their nest and deposited five little speckled eggs which now grace our cabinet. They are so capricious in the matter of a nesting place, that one can hardly say what their preference is; if indeed, they have

any choice. They will build in any odd nook or cranny—entering out-houses through a knot hole or between loose boards like the House Wren; taking a hollow stump or tree; settling in the midst of a thick bush or in a piece of bark curled upon a fence rail; anywhere in fact, that offers a snug retreat. Neither are they particular as to the kind of material of which to build their nests, which is rather bulky structure composed of fibrous roots, leaves, grass in fact, any trash they can find convenient. It is more or less shaped like a ball, with a side entrance. In this they lay five or six eggs, and by the time the little ones are ready to leave the nest, they have grown 'till the little home is completely full. After they leave the nest, the parents keep them about them for a few days, during which time they are in a state of perpetual panic, showing their intense worry in redoubled restlessness. If we attempt to approach the nest, the bird slips quietly off and hurries away with a low fluttering near the ground, or scurrying and hopping from one bush to another, invariably mocking us with its rollicking song as soon as it feels sure it has lured us away from its nest. It shows however the restlessness and prying curiosity of its tribe, and if we keep still a few minutes, it will return to take a sly look at us, peering from among the leaves with an inquisitive air, and performing odd nervous antics, as if it were possessed with the very spirit of unrest. When disturbed it chatters in a harsh tone, as if resenting the intrusion. This is its ordinary note when angry, alarmed, or in any way distressed. Its song is quite a different thing—loud, clear and highly musical. I scarcely know of a bird that possesses a richer voice. It also has the power of mock-

ing the other songsters, which it does with great energy and accent.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

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### A Timely Letter.

*Editor Oologist*:—A young advertiser in your columns recently sent me a mixed lot of Tern eggs, marked with ink, most of the holes  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter; most of the holes chipped, and data partial and imperfect. I notified sender to forward postage for their return. They are still on my hands. The joke of it is that the young gentlemen wanted once-and-a-half their value in nice specimens.

Another advertiser to whom I sent for a series of E. S. eggs forwarded fifteen specimens, nicely selected, indeed, but with the holes in most of them at least as large, by actual measure, as the holes in the Murre eggs which I sent him in exchange. I remonstrated with the following reply. "I know the holes were large, but that doesn't hinder the eggs being first-class." Now will you kindly say to this young person, and to all his genius, that with a large class of careful and fastidious collectors it *does* make a difference, a great deal of difference.

A third advertiser has presented the best joke of all. A much grey speckled egg of English Sparrow, well blown; and marked as follows, in pencil:—"E. S.—8-5." Now some body has written in ink, above the hole the number 85, and sent out the egg as that of the Nashville Warbler. A better example of ignorance and impudence kissing each other was never seen—even in the collection of an ornithologist.

Your paper has done much for young Oologists, will it not add another favor by way of warning them against the tricksters that are prostituting ornithology for gain? And will you not emphasize the fact that large drill holes

save where incubation is nearly complete are unnecessary, unsightly, slovenly? I hereby pledge myself to hold for postage and return all received specimens prepared thus, unless by special arrangement and I trust that all who feel as I do in this matter will send their names to the OOLOGIST for publication so that any of you egg-collecting fellows that are too lazy to drill small and smooth blow-holes and rinse thoroughly, may give us a wide berth. You don't want anything to do with us unless you decide to turn cranky and join our army. In the cause of honest and careful oology I beg to remain

Yours very sincerely

P. B. PEABODY

[Every true oologist will enroll himself in Bro. P.'s brigade. Ed.]

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### Western Robin.

No. 761a, *Merula migratoria propinqua*, Ridgw.

Habitat.—Western United States, Pacific Coast, from Mexico northward.

This species is very abundant, and from this fact I judge not much appears in print, concerning it. However it is an interesting bird. It brings to us the balmy spring days and awakens us from our winter slumbers, with thoughts of the near approach of nesting season, and we proceed to prepare for work.

The Western Robin is a resident of Oregon the entire year, and the largest numbers are seen during winter or the rainy season.

They congregate in large numbers in the fall (generally about November), near some small stream lined with bushes and trees, and from my observation, remain there the whole winter.

In the morning early they may be seen leaving these roosting places, and spreading out to feed for the day, returning again about five or six o'clock

in the evening. I have observed two of these Robin roosts near Sweet Home, Oregon, for the past two years.

In winter they feed much upon the fir buds but as the ground is always bare, they have no lack of food, insects and worms being abundant.

They nest in April and May, selecting a low fir bush generally, although I have found them in scrub oaks and apple trees, but I have not found them nesting in barns and out-buildings the way the Eastern Robin does. They are not inclined to build as near the habitations of man either.

The nest does not differ radically from that of *Merula migratoria*, and the complement of eggs is invariably 3, sometimes 4, but rarely 5.

Out of some twenty nests examined all, but four contained three eggs each, three contained four eggs and only one five eggs.

They were in various stages of incubation from perfectly fresh to nearly full term.

The eggs do not vary from those of *Merula migratoria*, but perhaps will average a little larger.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

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Western New York Naturalists  
Association.

PHELPS, N. Y., Sept. 18, 1891.

A meeting of the Naturalists of Western New York was held here Sept. 15th, for purpose organizing an association of same. Though the attendance was not all that was hoped for, yet a successful and enthusiastic meeting was held, and the Association was started, under the name of the Western New York Naturalists Association. Officers elected were, President, Ernest F. Short, Chili, Monroe Co.; Secretary, B. S. Bowdish, Phelps; Treasurer, E. B. Peck, Clifton Springs. Committee's appointed, executive committee, Neil F. Posson, E. Kirk, and T. R. Taylor; Com-

mittee on Constitution and By-Laws; E. B. Peck, E. Kirk and B. S. Bowdish; Committee on Incorporation, B. S. Bowdish. Active membership is limited to fifty. Resident in the counties: Wayne, Ontario, Steuben, Allegany, Livingston, Wyoming, Genesee, Erie, Orleans, Niagara, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Monroe, initiation fee, \$5.00, yearly dues, \$25; associate membership limited to residence in North America, no dues; Honorary and corresponding membership left open, subject to further action. All members wishing to join as active or associate members, are requested to communicate inclosing stamp, with the Secretary. A cordial invitation is extended to all of both sexes to join.

B. S. BOWDISH, Sec.

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The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.  
(*Milvulus forficatus*.)

This handsome bird is common in northern Mexico and Texas, and according to Davie, is found as far north as Indian Territory and Missouri. It arrives here late in March or early in April, and begins to lay about the last of May.

Its eggs have a pure white or creamy ground, sparingly spotted, chiefly on the larger end, with dark red and brown, occasionally with black and lilac. Five is the usual number laid though sets of four and six are not uncommon. The eggs measure about .86 x .67 in.

What I consider a typical nest is composed of cotton and weeds, lined with cotton. Situated from four to thirty feet from the ground in a tree that stands alone. I have never found a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher's nest in thick woods.

*Milvulus forficatus* is one of the most pugnacious birds in this county (Travis). It will attack and put to flight crows, jays, buzzards and sometimes hawks.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher is often confounded with the Fork-tailed Flycatcher (*Milvulus tyrannus*), as in the second edition of Davie's North American Birds.

J. H. TALLICHET,  
Austin, Tex.

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California Thrasher.

(*Harporhynchus redivivus*.)

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One who has wandered through the many retired glens of the coast region South California has surely been attracted by the brilliant song of the California Thrasher, and perhaps studied the habits of the plainly robed bird. This curved-billed, drab-garbed bird, in company with the California Towhee, frequents the districts where mosquitos and scrub-oaks abound, and here it dwells throughout the year, a happy tenant of the wooded glades.

It is pleasant, indeed, to withdraw one's self from the feve and strife of the world and seek some secluded nook that still lingers in its pristine wilderness and beauty, where the untrodden flowers bloom and the very air seems like a breathing from a rarer world, and there, amid the splendor of vernal garniture, listen to the varied strains of the Sylvan choirs. Such are the haunts of the Thrasher and thither must the lover of birds repair to catch the most eloquent strains of the Thrasher's medley:

'Here, like the nightingale, she pours  
Her solitary lays.

Nor asks a witness to hear her song,  
Nor thirsts for human praise.'

When the first notes are heard, guided by the sounds, glide noiselessly through the green, quiet vale until but an intervening shrub screens you from the musician and, reclining upon the scented sward, prepare to listen to the joyful song. The bird first indulges in a few tentative notes while secreted in

the foliage of the underbrush. These seem satisfactory, but he must ascend to the top of the tree before he breaks into song. Up he flutters, limb after limb, stopping at intervals to test his voice anew. Soon he disdains any inferior perch and mounts to the topmost limb of the tree. His throat rolls, his notes come forth full and clear; his throat swells and his breast throbs as his song grows louder and sweeter; mingled with his natural tones are bits of consummate mimicry. The bird seems carried away with the fervor of his song, his whole frame is agitated, he is transported to realms of bliss.

So enraptured is the listener that the song of a more distant bird scarcely breaks upon his ear, no sooner had the lay of the Thrasher echoed throughout the vale than a second bird burst into emulous song, thus they sing in generous rivalry and make the quiet haunts reverberate with their varied strains.

The song of the Thrasher is not limited to any particular season but can be heard throughout the year, and in winter it seems as rich and varied as in the days of courtship and match-making. Oftimes the Thrasher wanders from his accustomed haunts and seeks the presence of man to entrance him with his powers of song.

The hours usually chosen for their musical exercises are at break-of-day and eventide. Long before the other birds are stirring or the streaming light breaks upon their nest, e'er the condor, majestic monarch of the boundless realm of air, sweeps from his craggy perch, the Thrasher awakens from his slumbers, dashes the dew-drops from his wing and seeks a lofty altitude to herald the coming day. The first sound that breaks upon the quiet vale and echo through the gnarled oaks is this morning carol. But it is when the last sun rays are fading in the west, in the ravishing gleam of twilight when.

"A slumberous silence fills the sky,  
The fields are still, the woods are  
dumb,

In glassy sleep the waters lie"  
that the Thrasher sings at his best.  
The low warblings turned to an even-  
ing's song sweeter far than the music of  
the lute, touch upon the ear like the  
beatings of seraphic wings, and with  
them come a feeling of content, a spirit  
of rest, that lulls one to the slumberous  
land of dreams.

The bird is a continual resident  
wherever found. When spring blos-  
soms with the gentle rains, the Thrash-  
ers are at match-making and scarcely  
has summer come, before the fledglings  
have abandoned the nest. The eggs  
are of a bluish green color, dotted with  
reddish brown, and number from two to  
four, usually three. The nest is placed  
in some thickly foliaged tree at no  
great height from the ground, it is loose-  
ly constructed of grasses, roots, twigs,  
and moss. The bird is a close sitter  
and remains on the nest until almost  
touched by the hand.

H. C. LILLIE,  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

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### Ornithologists Association.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the monthly meeting the following  
new members were elected:

Active members:—Wm. McKnew, 212  
G. St., N. E., Washington, D. C.

Corresponding members:—E. H.  
Short, Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.; Wm.  
A. Achilles, Cor. 15th and Lavoca Sts.,  
Austin, Tex.

Remarks were made by President  
Langille on the Ring-billed Gull and its  
nesting in Georgian Bay.

Mr. Aspinwall reported the taking  
during the past season of a set of six  
eggs of Least Bittern at Colonial Beach,  
Va.

E. J. Brown has a set of five Albino

eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren,  
that they are eggs of the Long-billed.  
There is no doubt as they have been  
examined by both Prof. Ridgway and  
Capt. Bendire, who pronounced them a  
great freak of nature.

Some incidents regarding the Blue  
Grosbeak were given which I give be-  
low supplemented by a few of my notes  
on that bird.

The Blue Grosbeck is rather smaller  
than its Rose-breasted and Cardinal  
relations and bears quite a resemblance  
to an overgrown Indigo Bunting.

Its range is rather southerly but it  
has been taken as far north as New  
York and Michigan.

It is mentioned as a straggler only in  
but one of five lists of the birds of  
Chester County, Pa., hence I conclude  
that this section (D. C.) is nearly or  
quite its northern-most breeding range.  
In Coues and Prentiss, *Avi Fauna  
Columbiana* it is given as a summer  
resident, rather rare, breeding.

They state that it frequents and  
breeds in much the same situations as  
the Cardinal, though it is also found in  
orchards and open grounds.

I first made the acquaintance of this  
bird in the summer of '87 when a pair  
nested twice on my father's farm about  
one-half mile east of the District Colum-  
bia. As both nests were near the build-  
ing the opportunity for observations  
was good.

On June 24th I took the first nest and  
four eggs, from the fork of a peach tree  
about seven feet from the ground near  
the barn,

The eggs were colored much like a  
blue-birds and considerably larger.

The nest was much neater than the  
Cardinals, was lined with horse-hair  
and had a snake skin nicely woven in.

In August of the same year the same  
birds (evidently) nested in a small cedar  
tree not more than twenty feet from  
the front of a hen-house which was  
used by about fifty fowls.

The old birds became rather tame and did not greatly resent my frequent examinations of their family affairs.

This time they were allowed to raise their young and depart in peace.

This nest like the first one was partly composed of snake skin. As the only other nest which I have seen (one in the Smithsonian Institute collection) also has a snake skin in it, I have wondered if the Crested Flycatcher did not mingle its distinctive habit with the Blue Grosbeak.

I have observed the Blue Grosbeak every season since, but have found no more nests. If anyone can give me any further information on the nesting of this bird, I would be pleased to hear from them.

A. B. FARNHAM,  
Sec. Ornithologists Association.

#### Albino Birds.

In the February, 1890, No. of the OOLOGIST you will find an article from your humble servant entitled, "Albino Blue Jay." That was and is to-day a fine bird although in confinement.

Now I wish to speak of another Albino. When a boy in Wisconsin, as far back as 1856 I saw an Albino Swallow and also an Albino Black Bird. I have often spoken of it but people would say "Impossible, a black bird, cannot be white!" Very well, an old Scotch adage goes "a mon's a mon for a' a that" color cutting no figure whatever. So also with my White Black Bird.

On October 1st, 1891 I received by mail from Frederick Nordin, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota a lovely albino specimen of *Agelaius phoeniceus* (Red-winged Blackbird). I think it is a little smaller than average Red-wing, but that it is one there can be no doubt. Head and neck tinged with the very lightest shade of salmon, bend of wings bright orange with the least tint of red one black feather under right wing (out

of sight), the balance of the plumage immaculate white, eyes light pink, bill and legs white or flesh color. Mr. Nordin writes, "the air was clouded with birds when I discovered the Albino, I drew my gun up and fired both barrels, rejoice with me, I got my bird and some twenty-three black ones. When I received the bird he had been three days upon the road and began to get a little old, but I have him nicely mounted and fixed up and he is now one of the chief attractions of my ornithological collection.

R. D. Goss,  
New Sharon, Iowa.

#### Nuttall's Poor-Will.

Aug. 30, 1891.

DEAR SIR:—On Aug. 13, 1891 while hunting for my cows, I flushed a Nuttall's Poor-will, and after a close hunt, it being at dusk, I found the nest, or rather, there was no nest, eggs being placed on the bare ground beside a rock on the eastern slope of a hillside. A latitude 6000 to 6500 feet. One egg was just hatched and the other was picked.

The little bird just hatched was covered with down like a young duckling, returning a week later they were gone.

I would like to hear through the OOLOGIST the experience of others concerning this interesting species. They are quite common here, though this is my first nest.

P. L. JONES,  
Beulah, Colo.

#### Notes Wanted on the Yellow Warbler.

I am very much interested in the habits, etc., of No. 93 the Yellow Warbler or Summer Yellow Bird, *Dendroica aestiva* and will be very much obliged to receive notes, etc., from all; also narratives of peculiar nestings, etc., etc.

R. G. FITCH,  
55 N. Union St., Grand Rapids, Mich.

# THE OOLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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ALBION, Orleans Co., N. Y.

Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## Chewink or "Chewee."

Mr. Editor:

The April number of the OOLOGIST was the first I have seen of your interesting little paper, and its popular and unscientific make up, and style of printing the letters of the people who love birds and I suppose flowers, but who have not probably great ornithological attainments; at once enlisted my attention and interest; and I have read each number since carefully that comes to our City Library.

These facts may explain to some the following rambling, rollicking letter about the Chewink.

Each number of the OOLOGIST since March, I think has one or two articles concerning the Chewee or Chewink.

This fact of itself, to some extent

measures the popularity of this bird. Have we any other bird in this latitude, so well known to men, and so well liked, or better loved? I say "known to men," because only those who go about the woods or forest, are going to see our dear little friend, the Chewink. Ladies will see the Robin, the Blue-bird and the Swallow, and the Pewee, etc. He does not dwell in the fields or pastures, or come to the garden and berry patch. He is out in the woods, and over the fence, and out a space in the woods, and in shady woods, not in clearings. I always from a child liked all birds, and before I was six years old I was familiar with all the common birds and their habits in that part of New Jersey, where we resided; knew the form of the nest of each, and the material in it, and their locations, number and color of their eggs, and how often they breed in a season, and their notes I could well, from much practice, imitate.

We removed to Ohio in 1835 when I was six years old, and I have never since seen the nest or eggs of some of these birds; as the Wood Pewee (*Muscicapa sayi*) and but once the nest of that wild bird, whose egg is so peculiar in appearance and looks as though a pen dipped in purple ink, and held by a paralytic hand had been drawn in wavy lines from pole to pole of it. I mean the olive-green Pewee, or Quaker bird, we call it, perhaps from its plain colors and appearances. It is the (*Muscicapa crinita*) of Alexander Wilson. But this (*Pipilo emberiza*). I more than liked, and while we often like our fellows from an undefinable something about them, yet I think, some of the appearance and mental characteristics, (if I can speak of a bird's mind) aroused my sympathies and love for the Chewee.

Now, I suppose a lover, sees beauty where uninterested eyes might ridicule, and I must thus be excused for avowing my admiration for the beauty

of the Chewee. I love his sharp red eyes and how much of beauty we humans carry in our eyes; or lose when our eyes are not lustrous and mild and interesting.

He gets his name "*Erythroptalma*," (*Erythropt*, red and *thalmag* eyes) the Greek for "red eyes" from the deep red of his eyes in the summer season. He sees everything that takes place in his neighborhood, out of these all observing eyes, and shows it too and shapes his conduct accordingly. But I find his greatest beauty in his possession of generous quantities of black and brown colors.

Now, neither of these colors alone, perhaps is much to be admired.

Everyone seems to like pink color, but how seldom do we see this color in flowers, where its beauty is not heightened and set off by the presence of a higher shade of red, or union of green with it; but where pink fades into the polished white of the sea shell, or in the hectic cheek of a lady whose early fading away is thus heralded: it is the loveliest tint of nature. This combination of the black head, tail and sides of the Chewee, with the dark brown of the wings is to me his great "beauty spot."

Will our lady readers pardon me, when I tell them that the first "nice dress" I bought for my wife after we were married, was this very combination in a silk pattern, a broad black stripe and a narrower brown one, called in those days, forty years ago, *biadere* (byadare) stripe,

There is something about his mind (the Chewee) that forbids him to eat idle bread. He always seems busy. It is true we do not see what he kicks up the dry leaves so for, and makes such a sudden racket that a thrill of fear often comes over us, lest a viper or a *crotalus horridus* (rattle snake) is about to strike us, and when we see the harmless cause of our fright, we feel vexed at him. How often he has thrown my heart in-

to my throat; for we often hear him, before we see him; for indeed it would be difficult to seem him, generally, if he should observe proper decorum in the dry black and brown leaves and not begin to kick them up, and make this frightful racket.

By the way, if I do like him so, as I have said above, I hope there will be nothing lacking of true friendship, if behind his back, I should institute an inquiry into the cause of this peculiarity of his kicking up the dry leaves and making a disagreeable noise. I certainly do not think he does this all day long, when he is alone. Does he do it then in our presence out of vanity, to leave the impression that he has a great deal to do in making a support for himself and family? Or to scare a person who invades his haunts? I wish to be charitable and to put the best construction I can upon the actions of fellow-beings, but it seems to me that his little crop could not hold the fourth of the fat bugs and vermin he could find by scratching over a quarter of an acre of leaves in a day, as he ought to do if he is as industrious in our absence as in our presence.

One of the reasons for his popularity is his sprightliness. He is never dull, or undecided as to what next is duty. When we come upon him, he gives a few lightning kicks at the dry leaves; hops upon wings, flits, (hardly flies) a few feet to a log, a dead brush or low limb; turns half around a time or two, cries Chewee! Chewee! and jumps down again into the leaves and apparently resumes his duty.

How different the dull and striped robin who will fly to some stake or post or rail or the fence, and there sit as motionless as a pump on a log for 10 or fifteen minutes, and exhibiting no more signs of life except a few short, nervous jerks of the tips of his wings, than a piece of casting.

See too all the *muscipapa* tribe, which

sits still indefinitely on a limb or stakes waiting for a job, tramp-like, till a bee or bug or butterfly comes that way, then seemingly with a painful effort they hop off their perch and execute their capias and then return as quickly as possible to get another rest; and instead of going off like our enterprising Chewee to hunt a job, they sit still again as though they were tired, till something else again "turns up."

I intended to say a word about his habitat. I think we must accept Dr. Coues as authority on his habitat, which makes it in the northern Atlantic states, English provinces and 43° in Michigan where I have seen it—particularly on the Wisconsin river and West into eastern Kansas, and up the Missouri river as far, at least as 43° and south of course in the southern states.

W. D. F. LUMMIS.

Des Moines, Ia., Oct. 26, 1891.

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### Our Birds in Their Haunts.

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#### A SPECIAL OFFER.

I am about to issue a new edition of "Our Birds in Their Haunts." The points claimed for this work are:

1. That it is a complete treatise on the birds of Eastern North America at a very low figure, \$2.50 being the retail price of the new edition.

2. It makes a specialty of oology and nidification.

3. It contains much new matter not found in other printed works.

4. It is prepared with special regard to the pleasure of the reader, that is, readableness is a prime consideration. The birds are grouped in relation to season and locality, are studied "in their haunts," the question of habitat receiving particular attention.

The second point given above, has never been sufficiently emphasized in any notice of the work. The location, composition and structure of the nest;

the size, form and color of the eggs are all noted with the utmost interest and care. To the author oology has always been one of the most charming features of bird-study.

Under the third item, the points particularly new, are contained in the distribution of certain species, and especially the history of the water birds on the great fresh waters of the interior. It is safe to say, that no other book on American birds, will duplicate many of the facts here given; and that technical ornithologists have passed this line of facts by without due attention, simply because the book was in popular style.

*The special offer* is, that all persons sending in subscriptions, or *bona fide* applications by January 1st can have the book for \$1.60 including postage, provided that the number of applications be sufficient to enable the author to bring out the work on the present plan. The number of names pledged should not be less than 450. If the number sent in is not adequate no one will be holden for his application.

J. H. LANGILLE,

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

P. S. Applications should be sent at once to my address. In this case time is money.

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### The Lark Bunting.

The Lark Bunting arrives here the first of May. Frequenting the open prairies in company with the Night-hawk, the Prairie Horned Lark and the Mountain Plover, it rears its young and then departs for winter quarters the latter part of August.

This species commences nesting the last of May. The nest is placed on the ground at the base of any weed or small bush, but the common thistle is usually selected. The nest is composed of grass blades, stems and weeds lined with fine rootlets and occasionally a few

hairs. The eggs are from four to six in number and of a uniform, light blue color. Occasionally sets will be found which are sparingly spotted with fine brownish dots. During the season of '89 a set of five spotted eggs were brought to me for identification which from the description of the bird and nest were undoubtedly those of the Lark Bunting. On the 23d of May of this year, I found a set of four spotted eggs of this species.

I would like to hear from others through the columns of the OOLOGIST in regards to spotted eggs of the Lark Bunting; also where it passes the winter.

HARRY W. MENKE,  
Garden City, Kansas.

List of Birds found Breeding in the Vicinity  
of Peoria, Illinois.

191. *Botaurus exilis*, Least Bittern, tolerable common in the sloughs.

201 *Ardea virescens*, Green Heron, common, formerly a small Heronry of this species existed near here.

219 *Gallinula gelecta*, Florida Gallinule, a common breeder in the sloughs.

221 *Fulica americana*, American Coot, a common breeder.

228 *Philohela minor*, American Woodcock, quite plentiful in the river bottoms, as far as the writer's knowledge no nests have been found but the young have been shot early in the season.

263 *Actitis macularia*, Spotted Sandpiper, breeds sparingly.

273 *Aegialitis vocifera*, Killdeer, rather common, nests and eggs have been taken.

289. *Colinus virginianus*, Bob-white, a common summer resident, breeds.

300 *Bonasa umbellus*, Ruffed Grouse, an uncommon summer resident and breeds very sparingly.

305 *Tympanuchus americanus*, Prairie Hen, Summer resident, but not so common as *Bonasa umbellus*.

316 *Zenaidura macroura*, Mourning Dove, common summer resident, breeds everywhere.

333. *Accipiter cooperi*, Cooper's Hawk, tolerable common breeder.

337. *Buteo borealis*, Red-tailed Hawk a common Hawk and breeds early.

360 *Falco sparverius*, Sparrow Hawk a common species.

373. *Megascops asio*, Screech Owl, our most common Owl.

375 *Bubo virginianus*, Great Horned Owl, a resident the year around, breeds sparingly.

387 *Coccyzus americanus*, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a common breeder.

388 *Coccyzus erythrophthalmus*, Black-billed Cuckoo, not so common as the preceding species.

390. *Ceryle alcyon*, Belted Kingfisher a common bird along our streams.

393. *Dryobates villosus*, Hairy Woodpecker, a tolerable common breeder.

394 *Dryobates pubescens*, Downy Woodpecker, this species is not found breeding so often as the preceding species.

402 *Sphyrapicus varius*, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, as far as the writer's knowledge this is a rare species. Two sets were taken by the writer in the river bottoms from the same birds.

406 *Melanerpes erythrocephalus*, Red-headed Woodpecker, a common breeder.

412. *Colaptes auratus*, Flicker, more abundant than the preceding species.

417 *Antrostomus vociferus*, Whip-poor-will, rare, two nests with eggs have been found.

420. *Chordeiles virginianus*, Night-hawk, common, some nest on the tops of buildings.

423 *Chætura pelagica*, Chimney-Swift, this is one of our most common birds.

428 *Trochilus colubris*, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, tolerable common, not many of their nests are found.

444 *Tyrannus tyrannus*, Kingbird, common, nearly every orchard contains a pair.

452 *Myiarchus crinitus*, Crested Flycatcher, abundant, more so in the river-bottoms.

456 *Sayornis phœbe*, Phœbe, very abundant, breeds early.

461 *Contopus virens*, Wood Pewee, a common bird in the wood.

465 *Empidonax acadicus*, Acadian Flycatcher, not very common, confined

to the low damp woods along the river where it breeds.

466a *Empidonax pusillus*, Traill's Flycatcher, not very common breeds sparingly.

474b. *Otocoris alpestris praticola*, Prairie Horned Lark, common, nests early.

477. *Cyanocitta cristata*, (Blue Jay,) a common breeder.

488. *Corvus americanus*, American Crow, abundant, breeds early.

494 *Dolichonyx oryzivorus*, Bobolink, not very common, only one nest to my knowledge has been found.

495. *Molothrus ater*, Cowbird, very abundant and breeds everywhere.

498 *Agelaius phoeniceus*, Red-winged Blackbird, abundant, hundreds breed in the river bottoms.

501. *Sturnella magna*, Meadow Lark, common in our meadows.

506. *Icterus spurius*, Orchard Oriole, common, I have not only found their nests in trees but in hedges and bushes.

507 *Icterus galbula*, Baltimore Oriole, common, seems to prefer cottonwood trees to nest in.

511b. *Quiscalus quiscula cæneus*, Bronzed Grackle, abundant, more so in the river bottoms.

529. *Spinus tristis*, American Goldfinch, a common bird but not many nests are found.

*Passer domesticus*, European House Sparrow, This little pest is found everywhere.

546 *Ammodramus savannarum passerinus*, Grasshopper Sparrow, not very common, I have only succeeded in finding two nests.

552 *Chondestes grammacus*, Lark Sparrow, tolerable common, breeds sparingly.

560 *Spizella socialis*, Chipping Sparrow, a common breeder.

563 *Spizella pusilla*, Field Sparrow, very common, a bird that can be seen in every field.

587 *Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, Towhee a common summer resident.

593 *Cardinalis cardinalis*, Cardinal, tolerable common, found more abundant in the river bottoms.

595 *Habia ludoviciana*, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, a common breeder, seems to be decreasing in numbers.

598 *Passerina cyanea*, Indigo Bunt-

ing, a common bird, breeding in the thickets.

604 *Spiza americana*, Dickcissel, very abundant, delights to build in clover fields.

608 *Piranga erythromelas*, Scarlet Tanager, a tolerable common breeder and confined chiefly to the oak woods.

611 *Progne subis*, Purple Martin, a common breeder, confined chiefly to the city.

612 *Petrochelidon lunifrons*, Cliff Swallow, common, breeds in colonies.

613 *Chelidon erythrogaster*, Barn Swallow, not so abundant as the preceding species.

614 *Tachycineta bicolor*, Tree Swallow, common, confined to the river bottoms where it breeds.

616 *Clivicola riparia*, Bank Swallow, tolerable common, along our streams.

616 *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*, Rough-winged Swallow, rare, one nest found by the writer.

619 *Ampelis cedrorum*, Cedar Waxwing, a rare breeder here.

622a *Lanius ludovicianus excubitorides*, (White-rumped Shrike,) quite common, breeds chiefly in the hedges, certain specimens of skins from this County are found to be nearer *L. ludovicianus* than *L. ludovicianus excubitorides*.

637 *Protonotaria citrea*, Prothonotary Warbler, a common bird in the river bottoms where it breeds.

652 *Dendroica aestiva*, Yellow Warbler, very common especially in the river bottoms among the willows.

673 *Dendroica discolor*, Prairie Warbler, rare, only one nest has been found and that by the writer.

674 *Seiurus aurocapillus*, Oven-bird, not very common, breeds sparingly.

681 *Geothlypis trichas*, Maryland Yellow-throat, abundant and found everywhere.

683 *Icteria virens*, Yellow-breasted Chat, common, nests chiefly on the hill sides covered with hazel brush.

687 *Setophada ruticilla*, American Redstart, abundant, confined to the river bottoms, where it is as abundant as the Yellow Warbler.

703 *Mimus polyglottos*, Mockingbird, doubtful, an egg shown me, was said to have been taken here and a farmer told me of an instance where he

took the young from the nest and raised them.

704 *Geothlypis carolinensis*, Catbird, very common and breeds abundantly.

705 *Harpodichthys rufus*, Brown Thrasher, very common, majority nest in hedges.

721 *Troglodytes aedon*, House Wren a common little bird, very abundant in the river bottoms.

735 *Parus atricapillus*, Chickadee, a common breeder.

751 *Poliophtila caerulea*, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, a rare summer resident, The writer found three nests this season, but was not lucky enough to secure any eggs, F. E. Kinney took a set of four near here.

755 *Turdus mustelinus*, Wood Thrush, common summer resident, most abundant in the low woods along the river.

761 *Merula migratoria*, American Robin, very common breeds abundantly.

766 *Sialia sialis*, Bluebird, abundant and a common breeder.

The above list, which is very incomplete, the writer hopes will act as a foundation to build upon by other collectors of this locality.

Many species have been omitted on account of the uncertainty that attends their breeding here. As many more have not been looked for or studied, and certain localities have not been visited.

W. E. LOUCKS,  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

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#### World Fair Notes.

Sir Walker Bullard, who owns the finest collection of native Maori curiosities and paintings in the world, has applied for space in which to display his collection, and intends visiting the Exposition with his family. Maj. John Wilson, of Auckland, has submitted a proposition to the Foreign Affairs Committee to bring a colony of Maoris to the Exposition, house them in one of their native-built fort, and let them show their native costumes, home life, and methods of warfare. The propo-

sition is regarded with some favor, as it would add greatly to the value of the general ethnological exhibit of the Exposition.

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#### Relics by the Wagon Load.

Under the direction of Prof. Putnam, Chief of the Department of Ethnology, of the World's Columbian Exposition, a party of men has been making extensive excavations of the prehistoric mounds in Ohio and Indiana, and according to reports, received from time to time, most gratifying success has been met with. Many skulls, skeletons copper hatchets, pipes, ornaments, altars of burnt clay weighing 400 to 300 pounds, flint spear heads, etc., have been secured.

In one mound, situated near Anderson Station, Indiana, 7,232 flint spear heads and knives were discovered. The bulk was so great that it took four horses and a large corn wagon to haul the flints to camp. The total weight was a trifle over 4,700 pounds. The implements were found in a layer one foot in thickness, extending over a space twenty by thirty feet. Many of them were over eight or ten inches in length; some of them even larger, while the majority ranged from seven to eight inches. They are made of gray flint found only in Indiana, and show that there were from sixty to seventy flakes detached from each one in order to fashion it.

The largest find of flint implements, made in one place hitherto in America did not exceed 1,800 specimens. In one of the caverns occupied by primitive man in the valley of the Seine, below Paris, 2,300 implements were found in one deposit. As it is reasonable to conclude that early one day's work was expended on each implement, and as each one exhibits almost absolute perfection as far as flint chipping is concerned, the find will be of special value to ethnological research.

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## BRIDLED TERN EGGS.

In April '90 OOLOGIST, we published the following notice:

"Collectors having eggs of Bridled Tern that they obtained direct from me, will please keep the same in their possession until a question which has recently arisen, can be settled.

My collector on the Bahamas was a man of experience, and old army captain, and who, for the past dozen years, has spent from six to nine months annually in active field work. In '88 and '89 he brought home from the Bahamas several skins of the Bridled Tern and a few eggs which he positively identified as coming from the same species. That my collector is honest, in his belief in the identity of the eggs, is unquestionable, but one of the best, if not the very best Oologists in the United States—or the world for that matter—writes me that they are not the eggs of the Bridled Tern.

My collector is now in Central America somewhere and this matter cannot be straightened until his return which is not expected until July.

While I shall refuse to fill orders for eggs of this species until his return. I shall also refuse, to redeem any of the eggs that I have sold for that species during the past eighteen months, until the matter can be straightened. Should it be decided that the eggs are genuine, or should it be decided otherwise, notice will be given in the OOLOGIST and I shall straighten the matter to my patrons' entire satisfaction."

The eggs have proved to be those of some other species, but we now have, however, a stock of genuine Bridled's and our patrons having the spurious specimens obtained directly from us can return the same and we will send a genuine specimen by next mail.

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# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

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VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC, 1891.

No. 12

## Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

**BIRDS EGGS.** L. W. BROKAW, Pacific Grove, Monterey Co., Cala.

**WANTED.**—To correspond with collectors of Beetles, in Texas and the Gulf States. WILLIAM D. RICHARDSON, Box 223, Fredericksburg, Virginia.

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**EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.**

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**BRIDLED TERN EGGS.**

In April '90 OOLOGIST, we published the following notice:

"Collectors having eggs of Bridled Tern that they obtained direct from me, will please keep the same in their possession until a question which has recently arisen, can be settled.

My collector on the Bahamas was a man of experience, and old army captain, and who, for the past dozen years, has spent from six to nine months annually in active field work. In '88 and '89 he brought home from the Bahamas several skins of the Bridled Tern and a few eggs which he *positively identified* as coming from the same species. That my collector is honest in his belief in the identity of the eggs, is unquestionable, but one of the best, if not the very best Oologists in the United States—or the world for that matter—writes me that they are not the eggs of the Bridled Tern.

My collector is now in Central America somewhere and this matter cannot be straightened until his return which is not expected until July.

While I shall refuse to fill orders, for eggs of this species until his return, I shall also refuse to redeem any of the eggs that I have sold for that species during the past eighteen months until the matter can be straightened. Should it be decided that the eggs are genuine, or should it be decided otherwise, notice will be given in the OOLOGIST and I shall straighten the matter to my patrons' entire satisfaction."

The eggs have proved to be those of some other species, but we now have, however, a stock of *genuine* Bridled's and our patrons having the spurious specimens *obtained directly from us* can return the same and we will send a *genuine* specimen by next mail.

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# THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. VIII.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC, 1891.

No. 12

## The Sharp-shinned Hawk.

Little has been said through the columns of the OOLOGIST about this little compound of pluck and ferocity; is it because of its scarcity? or is it because it is not deemed worth the space. Now this bird is to me one of the most interesting of the *Falconidæ*; itself satisfied dash alone being enough to bring it into prominence. Although it is a bird that is fond of the seclusion of deep woods; it is perfectly at home in the town; several times I have seen one of them skimming laboriously over the ground, with a thrush nearly its own size in its talons, and this too in the city streets.

As I look over my collection, I see two small but beautiful eggs, the bold chocolate marking agreeing well with the character of the author of this being. Well do I remember that day when crossing a dense swamp, the quick, decided flight of the Sharp-shinned Hawk caught my eye, and through the bush and over fallen logs I followed that bird.

As as the hawk was aware of being followed, it became excited and dropped the bird it was carrying, and perched upon a high limb of a dead tree and scowled at us fiercely.

Soon after we found the nest not far up in a large pine tree, and I commenced the ascent with the execrations of the hawk and his mate who had flown from the nest, delivered rapidly in a high and shrill key. Now and then he would vary the proceedings by making a bold swoop at the intruder, every time feigning to miss the mark by a few feet, and flying into a neighboring tree to watch the effect, and then when I reached the top of the perilous climb, and put my hand into the nest I found

“ \* \* \* simply nothing,  
Not a single thing in it,  
Not even an egg-shell,—  
No, nothing at all.”

A few days after, I returned to the nest with two spotted hens eggs with which to replace any hawk's eggs I might find. The two eggs I did find were altogether unlike, in size or markings, the eggs I brought. The birds were meanwhile more excited than before and often passed so near me that I could feel the rush of their wings.

What an ecstasy of delight is that of the young collector securing his first set, how well do I remember the excitement of that moment, the hurried questions, the snail-like pace to the nest all heightened by the quick sharp chirps of the birds, and still, whenever I look over my collection and see the two brown and drab beauties my mind reverts to that scene in the bush: the tall stately pine, the beautiful and pure white trel-liums; and the beautiful birds dashing and screaming around my head.

Although the label in the tray prosaically says:

Fam. Falconidæ,

Genus, Accipiter.

332 *A. velox* (Wils.)

Sharp-shinned Hawk,

My memory thinks only of the beautiful and poetical. Truly it can be said of the oologist what Bryant says to the evening wind:—

“Pleasant shall be thy way where meek  
ly bows  
The shutting flower, and darkling  
waters pass,  
And where the o'er-shadowing branches  
sweep the grass.”

W. H. McNAIRN,

Toronto, Ont.

### A White Crow.

I noticed in November OOLOGIST an article headed, 'Albino Birds.' Now I wish to speak about such birds, as these.

On the 27th of November, 1891, my brother and I went hunting for ducks at Pequot Lake, which is situated about eight miles from this city. Well we arrived there and were walking along the shore of the Lake, when we heard an awful cawing, as though the whole creation of crows were assembled together and seemingly trying to outdo every sound.

While trying to approach the crows, I started them all on the wing, about two hundred strong.

But what should I perceive among the whole troop—a white bird wheeling and keeping right in their midst.

The thought flashed through my mind, could the white bird be a Albino Crow, impossible.

I again slowly approach the place where they had alighted in a large field when most of the crows again took flight, but several of them, perhaps fifty, settled on an old rail fence, and among them the white bird, which alighted on one of the top rails.

We stood and watched the white bird two or three minutes, the shape of its body, pose, etc. making sure that it was, without doubt, an Albino Crow. I am also quite sure that I distinguished its cry from among the others, it seemed more harsh and guttural.

I again, for the third time, advanced; my eyes seemed growing bigger and bigger, and a firmer grip of the gun did I take, as I neared, step by step, to the diamond among the setting of coals.

The black crows, one after another flew away. Could it be possible that I should get within range? But, alas, he flew, but had the credit of being one of the last to do so. I watched him fly away towards the North with his fellow but black brethren.

That it was an Albino Crow, I would be willing to stake almost anything upon it, his manner of flight, size, actions, and the immaculate white that clothed his *corvus* body.

There is a taxidermist who resides in this city who has a mounted Albino Blue-Jay, and also an Albino Bank Swallow; and another friend of mine has in his possession a finely mounted Albino Gray Squirrel.

ALBERT N. ROBERTS,  
Holyoke, Mass.

### The Pileated Woodpecker.

During my career as a naturalist and reader of scientific papers, I have not noticed a single article on this grand species.

The Ivory-billed is some larger and more scarce, but it cannot be more interesting than the Pileated, which Doctor Coues says is rare. It is quite common here, and is heard more than any other species.

They are very wary birds and if once they see you, it is useless to pursue them with a view to getting a shot at them. They are very fond of picking in rotten logs or stumps in search of ants and other insects which inhabit such places, and can often be taken while thus engaged.

I have often heard father and mother tell how tame these birds used to be when Eastern Indiana was new. When father was a boy he used to kill them with a stick, by striking around the stump on which they were at work. Mother has caught many a one in her sun bonnet by slipping up to the stump on the opposite side from the bird, and when he would put his head into some hole or crevice in search of ants or worms, would quickly put her bonnet over him.

Here, during the fall months they feed a great deal on wild grapes and berries of the Black Gum, and later on

the Dogwood berries. I have a fine pair mounted in my collection, one of which was shot a few days ago by my husband, the other by myself.

It is almost impossible to get a shot at them unless they are feeding.

A few mornings ago, I heard an unusual commotion in some trees near the house, and went to see what it was all about. It proved to be a Sparrow Hawk trying to catch a Golden-winged Woodpecker for his breakfast. Soon another Golden-winged put in appearance, and in a few minutes a Pileated came to the rescue. He would swoop down on the hawk from his elevated position in some tall tree, and drive it screaming away. He would then return to his chosen position uttering his loud metallic cry, and await the coming of the hawk. They kept up the battle till the hawk seemed completely tired out, and gave up in despair.

They utter but one note, so far as I have been able to discover. This is a series of *cuk, cuk, cuk*, with each letter sounded, thus *cuk* (short), repeated many times in succession, with a variation in pitch of voice, and rapidity. The note somewhat resembles that of the Golden-winged Woodpecker, though it is much louder and more metallic.

The towering top of some dead pine furnishes a good "lookout," and from these the males keep watch in the morning hours uttering their peculiar note and making the hills for miles around resound with their "music."

There are Tailor-birds, Oven-birds and Masons, and the Woodpecker is truly a carpenter. He shapes his home to suit his taste, the entrance being made with the precision of a compass. He is not a "jack of all trades," but works only in wood, and often in live hard timber, making large excavations which are sometimes three feet deep. The eggs are placed at the bottom of these excavations, the complement being from three to six, (generally three or

four), crystal white eggs, small for so large a bird; size about 1x1.25.

The adult is about 18 inches in length color, black, with a narrow white stripe above the eye; a wider one from the nostril feathers (inclusive), under the eye and along the side of the head and neck.

The chin is white, tinged with sulphur-yellow. Entire crown from the base of the bill, with a well-developed occipital crest, bright scarlet. Cheek patches of the same.

The female and young male lacks the red on the cheek, and the anterior half of the top of the head is replaced by black.

These birds inhabit North America, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in timbered districts, but seem to shun civilization; for, as a country becomes thickly settled they all disappear.

I took a set of four fresh eggs this season from a large dead white oak tree three of which were average sized eggs, and the fourth not more than half as large and almost spherical.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

---

#### Russet-backed Thrush.

No. 758. *Turdus rustaltus* (NUTT.)

Hab.—Pacific Coast Region of North America.

This bird is a common resident of Linn county, Oregon, during the breeding season, and can be found in the low shrubery along the many small mountain streams, at any time during the nesting season. During the morning and afternoon the birds are generally silent, but in the evening twilight, its song rings forth and fills the hills and valleys with its joyous melody. The bird is generally perched upon some small bush, head erect and thrown back while singing. At these times one can approach within a short distance, with-

out the bird showing the least fear, but during the day it is different, one can hardly approach within gun-shot distance in the thick bushes, for the bird is constantly in motion, moving from bush to bush.

It sings far into the night as I have often heard it as late as eleven o'clock. The alarm note of the bird is, *chuck!* *chuck!*

The nest is built in some low bush not over six feet high, generally, and is made of grass, roots, leaves and twigs; sometimes moss. One nest has come under my observation made entirely of yellowish green moss, which was not dry but perfectly fresh. It was a beautiful nest, and very compact.

It was placed directly over a large mountain stream and only about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the surface of the water. It was in a fir bush and contained four beautifully marked eggs. They are of a greenish blue ground color, spotted with shades of brown chiefly at the larger end, except one which was generally spotted over the entire surface.

It commences to build about May 1st, and fresh eggs can be obtained about the 15th to June 1st,

Their average size is about .96x.67.

DR. J. A. G. PRILL.

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#### How Mr. M. Keeps his Oological Treasures.

I have seen a number of articles on cabinets for birds eggs, but I have never seen one I liked as my own, so I will give it to the readers of the OOLOGIST.

You all know that light must be kept away from the eggs, and mine is planned for that purpose.

My case is made of pine, but I would have cedar if I had another made as it is something of a moth preventative.

It is six feet in height and 42 inches in width, and with a depth of 18 inches it contains 16 drawers, in two rows; ranging in depth from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 4 inches deep. This leaves room below the

drawers for several shelves for books, tools, etc.

This is not a very expensive case and and it will hold an immense number of eggs.

I would not have bird skins in the same case with eggs.

I line the bottom of the drawers with cotton wadding or cotton flannel—white.

I keep each set of eggs in a separate tray made from black card board. Do not use white card board, as I have heard that the arsenic in it was injurious to the shell.

The eggs certainly look better in a black box and when this is placed on the white bottom of the drawer, you have some thing you can take pride in looking at.

I cut a piece of wadding just the size of the tray to lay under the eggs.

I use Lattin's datas in book form numbering first book from 1 to 100, the second from 101 to 200 and so on.

In the tray with each set I put a slip of paper. Tags of various kinds or as I do insect labels, and on them I put the number of the species, set mark and a number to correspond to the data in my books. In this way I can tell in a moment all I want to know about a set and it is by far the easiest way I know to keep track of a collection.

I do not believe this method can be improved.

I make my own trays because I can do it better than any manufacturer and I can have any size.

I take a piece of board about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch thick and cut a hole in it the size I want a tray and then make blocks to fill it, and a lot of small wedges. I make one of these for each size of tray I want. I take my card board and cut it the right size. I have them  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch deep and score it with a knife  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch from and then cut in at the end with shears so the lap will come at the end, break them well at the score marks, put mu-

cilage on the flap, and place them in the forms, wedge them in and let them dry. When I take them out I trim the edges. If you do not break them well they will bow out of shape as the ones you buy.

A. C. MURCHISON,  
Kewanee, Illinois.

#### Thanksgiving Notes from the Far West.

To-day being Thanksgiving Day, I have sometime to myself, so take a walk to the suburbs of the city to study bird life. Although the winter season is near at hand, the weather so far has been very mild, and therefore there are are but few winter visitors with us; on the other hand there are several summer species still here that even up for the absence of the winter birds.

To-day bird life seems abundant. The first species noted is a Western Winter Wren, skipping about in our hedge. Next comes a Ruby Crowned Kinglet with its scolding note; it stops a moment, then goes on, and is soon out of sight. The familiar note of the Western Blue-bird is now heard and upon looking upward we see three of them, and as many Oregon Juncos flying after them. They fly at one another for some time as if playing tag, the Juncos getting the best of it. A little farther on we come to a Mountain Ash tree full of red berries and among them are four California Purple Finches eating the berries. They prefer the ones that are decayed and only eat the small seeds inside the berry. In a neighboring tree are a number of Western Robins. They are more greedy and swallow the berry whole. Both species seem to be quite tame, allowing me to stand within four feet of them, but perhaps it is the berries they are interested in. As we continue our walk we hear on either side, the song of the Rusty Song Sparrow. Its song is pleasing and no doubt similar to its Eastern cousins. Our atten-

tion is now attracted by the harsh cry of the California Blue Jay; close behind is its mate. We are still in the city and it seems odd to see a Jay here. Another bird that comes under our notice is the Oregon Towhee. It too, looks out of place in the city for like others of the genus, *Pipilo*, it delights in being in thick brush where it may be heard scratching noisily among the fallen leaves for insects.

As we near the woods we meet with the Oregon Junco, California Purple Finch, Myrtle and Audubon's Warbler, (winter plumage) and the Rusty Song Sparrow in large numbers, and in a tree not far away is seen the Oregon Chickadee feeding.

It is now nearing dinner time so I must return home and help devour *Meleagris domesticus*. I wish the editor and readers of the OOLOGIST could join you.

You can imagine what a friendly hand-shaking two thousand Ornithologists and and Oologists could have.

CLYDE L. KELLER,  
Salem, Oregon.

Nov. 26, '91.

#### The Blue-gray Gnat-catcher in Arkansas.

One of our most interesting summer residents is this little specimen of bird life. It arrives here about the twenty-fifth of March. From the top of some tall tree we are first made aware of his presence, by the shrill, wiry notes which he is accustomed to utter during the live-long day, as he flits in and out among the branches in tireless pursuit of insects. Not a crack or crevice of the tree escapes his keen scrutiny. At such times he seems to be all hurry and bustle, as though the work of a life time must be crowded into a few short days.

As the warm days advance his whole nature seems to undergo a change. We no longer hear those shrill notes, but

are regaled with the sweetest, tenderest music. This is so low, that to appreciate its effect, the listener must be but a short distant from the tree in which our modest vocalist is busily engaged. He like many of his kin dislike notoriety. He does not seek the bare branches of some tall tree, and thrill the air of the surrounding wood with ear-splitting utterances, but as he pours forth his subdued song while hid away in the leafy shelter of some gnarled oak the severest critic could scarcely fail to assign him a high place among the feathered choir.

The selection of a home-spot soon claims their attention. In the river bottom, the sweet gum seems to be the kind of tree nearly always chosen, while here on the mountains they usually build in the white oaks. They prefer trees whose branches are rough and lichen clad, although I have known of one nest being taken from the top of a small pine sapling about twelve feet high. The height at which these nests are placed varies with the locality. In some places they are seldom found above ten feet, but in the majority of cases, this limit is exceeded and the height of 50 and even 60 feet are reached. There is little variation in the form noticeable, their shape being generally that of a truncated cone. The position too is quite uniform. Most of them are placed on strong branches, both upright and horizontal, to which they are ingeniously woven. They are so securely fastened that to dislodge one is a matter of no small difficulty. By a wise provision of instinct their contents are insured against accident. Not so much by the depth of the cavity, as by the purse like contraction of the rim. Few structures of bird architecture are more beautiful than the home of this little Gnatcatcher. Its walls are of felt, closely and compactly woven of the slender stems of grasses, thistle-down, spider webs and fine vegetable

fibers. With a love for the beautiful, our little architect must go further and invest the exterior in a coat of bluish gray lichens which serves the two-fold purpose of ornamentation and protection both from the weather and discovery. The nest looks so much like a natural excrecence that only the experienced eye can detect the difference. The nest seems rather bulky compared with the tiny builders, who measure but four and three-tenths inches in length.

Having completed their home, from four to six eggs are deposited in as many days. Incubation begins at once and lasts fourteen days. This is as much the work of one sex as the other. But a single brood is raised each year. The eggs are oval in form and slightly pointed. In ground color they are white, spotted and blotched with reddish brown, slate and lilac. Cabinet specimens some times show a faint bluish or greenish white tint. The average dimensions are .59 by .48 inches. My husband found a nest in a sweet gum, which was not quite completed. He watched them for some time, as they worked away at their little home. He went back in two weeks to get it, but found it gone. The question now arises—did they remove it to safer quarters? for not a vestige of it was left. If it had been destroyed by other birds, some of the fibers with which it was securely fastened to the limb would surely have been left, but not even a spiders web remained.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

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### Shall we Organize!

This is the one great problem which agitates the mind of the student of science to-day.

We all feel that organization is necessary, and, once it is accomplished the difficulties of scientific research will

gradually melt away as the dew before the morning sun.

I would suggest that the Oologists and Ornithologists of each state unite and form an association for the edification of professionals and amateurs.

Local organizations should also be encouraged.

Each association should own a museum and library.

By this means we would become better acquainted with the scientific resources of our several states and localities as well as with each other.

The benefit to be derived from such an organization cannot be appreciated. Yet I sincerely hope that before the sun of another summer; we may be united and working for the advancement of Oology Ornithology, the most pleasant of scientific studies.

R.—Michigan.

I was rather surprised at the contents of the article by Mr. Brotherton, in the last issue of the OOLOGIST, on a general association scientists. I was not aware before that they made themselves so liable to the law.

I deprecate cruelty and waste very much, but I think such persons as devotees and students of science, should be protected, and agree with him, in advocating a general association of scientists

I am a disciple of the doctrine of protection from cruelty, &c. The following examples will help to illustrate. The Great Auk is thought to be extinct, the Eider Duck has greatly diminished in numbers. The Buffalo has almost gone, the Whale has, and the Seal is suffering &c., and all owing to the right and left slaying of man; but as I said, I unite with Mr. Brotherton in a call for protection to, and aid in their pursuits, to followers of science by association.

"In union there is strength."

WM. BINGHURST, M. D.  
Philadelphia, Pa.

In the valuable article by Mr. L. O. Dart in October OOLOGIST, the last three lines should "*but* what we might gain etc," read instead of "*not* &c."

#### Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills.

I had thought until this year that Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills had also left us, not to return again, for years had passed since I had seen them. But this year the Whip-poor-will has reappeared in eastern Oakland Co., Mich., few to be sure. During a recent trip through southern Lapeer Co. I found both Nighthawks and Whip-poor-wills fairly abundant.

WILFRED A. BROTHERTON.

#### Bird Nesting in November.

November 7, 1891.

While out hunting squirrel to-day, I had an occasion to pass through a low swampy tract of ground, overgrown with willow and thorn-apple trees.

Near the center stood an extra large thorn-apple tree, which was conspicuous and in passing by, I noticed a nest of the Cuckoo, my curiosity lead me to examine it, and I was somewhat surprised to find that it contained two eggs of the Cuckoo (Yellow-billed without a doubt.)

The nest was well preserved, and made of twigs, leaves and a little mud. The eggs had not been incubated neither were they rotten. The contents seemed to have evaporated about  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the remainder being of the consistency of the yolk of an egg.

Question.

What could probably have been the reason for the birds deserting this nest?

Crows and Jays are abundant, but did not molest it.

Has anyone a record of a similar occurrence?

DR. A. G. PRILL,

# THE OÖLOGIST

A MONTHLY MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO  
ORNITHOLOGY AND OOLOGY.

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

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

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We are also looking up the cases of several other parties—three in Iowa, one in Maine, one in North Carolina, and others and regret that we may be obliged to publish a few of them at least, in Jan. OOLOGIST,

## A Further Contribution to the Chewink Controversy.

The Chewink is not very rare in this locality, and has been observed by me abundantly in the first and second weeks in May. They then frequent high dry woods where shrubbery is plenty. The Chewink is very shy and only a very close observer can trace them. I was out in the country yesterday, and to my astonishment received from a farmer's boy three eggs of the

Chewink, which he had taken for me on or about the 1st of August. He took me to the spot where he had found the nest. It was built about one foot from the ground in thickly leafed but very thin twigged beech shrubs. The nest was similar to that of the Wilson's Thrush consisting outside of leaves and inside of hair, which were perhaps taken from a pasture close by. This shows I think, beyond any doubt that they breed under favorable circumstances, twice a year.

O. REINECKE.

Sept. 14, '91.

Buffalo, N. Y.

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### One Day's Tramp.

Well everything is ready so will go to bed. Lets see, set my clock at twenty minutes of four. Wake up at 3:10 and get up to see what time it is. Can't go to sleep again, so dress. Raining of course. Don't care, I will go anyway. So get my breakfast and start. Have pretty good load: Gun, lunch, egg-box, rope and hatchet to get those Kingfishers eggs, and climbers to get Great Blue Heron eggs. Get down there about 7 a. m., and go to work at Kingfishers hole. Work about half hour in mud and give it up as a bad job. Go on can't find those Herons nests to save me. Meet an old hunter who lives in a cabin on the bottoms, and we have quite a talk about our friends, the birds. Shows me bank of petrified moss, the first I'd ever seen, and a spring in high bank called Coffin Spring. An opening in bank about one and one-half foot long by two and one-half foot wide that extends back about eight feet and contains some of the finest water in the country. He says that the water never freezes in winter, and all the birds that stay come and drink there. He's shot fine specimens for the naturalists in town. Have to go there myself next winter. I ask him about the herony and he says he will walk over there with me. So we start through the woods

the water up to our knees in some places, and pretty soon came to some monster cottonwoods in which we see some large nests about size of bushel basket I shoot up and up flies about a dozen Herons and sail majestically around and soon alight again. But we see that the nests have other tenants than the old birds for out of every blessed nest comes two or three thin necks. Then all at once we are aware of some disturbance, a pair of turkey buzzards swoop down and try to carry off the fledglings, but the old Herons make a good fight, and soon put the buzzards to flight. Find several nests of Chewinks and Warblers, but got no Herons eggs. So after an hours pleasant tramp with my newly made friend, I leave him, and turn my steps toward home.

It has stopped raining now and I see a great many Warblers; Vireo, Grosbeaks and one Bittern, a pair of Cardinals whose nest I try to find, but fail, Mudhens, snipe, crows and as I near the city large numbers of English Sparrows around the factories. In all I think I have covered about twenty miles and am pretty tired when I get home at 3:30 p. m., and although I have not had a very profitable day, it has proved a very pleasant one.

A. G. POTTER,

Omaha, Neb.

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### The Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler.

While out collecting on June 1891 I entered a small piece of land thickly covered with small bushes. Out of these I started a small bird which I recognized as the Chestnut-sided Warbler. I quickly looked in the bush, and found a little nest composed of grass, fibres, and bark, and lined with feathers, and hair. The eggs were four in number, averaging .69 x .50, and of a creamy white color, spotted with lilac, brown, and umber chiefly at the larger end. The nest was situated about two feet

from the ground. This bird is not a very common breeder here, according to my five years' experience. It generally arrives here in the first week in May, and departs early in September. It has a very pleasing lively song some thing like a whistle. The Chestnut-sided Warbler can generally be found in open dry woods with open spots in which bushes and small trees can be found. The Cow-bird frequently uses the birds nests as a situation for its eggs. It is socially inclined, and is often seen in company with other Warblers.

B. H. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

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### The Gulls.

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Among the typical and familiar birds, we must not fail to remember the Gulls. Whether we consider their general distribution, their numbers, their variety, their great beauty or their usefulness, as scavengers, from every point of view, they are important and interesting to the ornithologist. Seen on the water, so light and buoyant from their excess of downy feathers, that they float almost like a bunch of cotton, and with a foot most admirably adapted to swimming, we pronounce these ideals among swimming birds. Seen in the air, moving their wings with the steady ease and gracefulness of a Hawk or a raven, and sailing majestically as a Buzzard or an Eagle, we are ready to accord them the highest perfection in flight. The large strong bill, much compressed, with well rounded culmen bracing it above and gonys strengthening it beneath, would seem to be of general rather than special adaptation. In accordance with this fact, we find that its bill of fare is somewhat varied, almost anything to be found in and about the sea and bodies of water in general.

The Ring-billed Gull, *Larus delawarensis*, is a species not so well known in

all respects as some others, and we will therefore give a brief account of it. The Common or Herring Gull, is so well known, that it will serve as a good starting point, to say that *delawarensis*, is almost like it, except that it is noticeably smaller, that is to a critical observer, for one untrained in observation might scarcely note the difference, whereas, the Common Gull, *Larus argentatus*, is two feet or more in length and some four feet and a half in stretch of wings. The Ring-bill is some eighteen or twenty inches in length and about four feet in extent. The latter has also very nearly the same distribution in Eastern North America as the former. When we have the bird in hand, we notice a strongly marked difference between the two species in respect to the feet. The bill of the *argentatus* is plain yellow with a red mark on the gonys that of the *delawarensis* is greenish yellow at the base, followed by a broad band of black encircling it at the gonys, while the tip is bright chrome. The feet of the former are a pale pink of flesh color those of the latter a dusky green. In habits in general, I think the two species are quite similar, except that *delawarensis* is more gregarious at its breeding places.

In Georgian Bay, some forty-four miles northeast of Collingwood, a little north of the route from thence to Parry Sound, are two groups of small islands called the Western Islands. Only one of them contains anything worthy to be called forest. Some of them are scarcely more than rocky shoals. None of them contain more than a few acres of land. Here breed the Common Gulls in considerable numbers, Wilson's Tern, some of the Ducks, and one of the islands the Ring-billed Gull in such abundance that in June 1881, when I visited the locality they could have been gathered by the barrel. The nests were placed on the ground or ledges of rock and on grassy plots, and were constructed of mosses

and loose debris in general, well heaped up and well depressed in the center. They were sometimes so close together that it must have been difficult for the birds to incubate without touching each other. The eggs commonly three, 2.07-2.50x1.63-1.70, are drab, generally, somewhat olivaceous, variously specked, spotted and blotched with shades of dark brown and grayish brown. Often the markings are very large and few in number. There is much greater variety in the color, marking and size of the eggs than in those of the common Gull. The number of this species inhabiting this island was immense. At certain points along the shore, the water and the beach were white with them; and when they rose, they spread out like clouds overhead.

J. H. LANGILLE,  
Kensington, Md.

P. S.—This article is the substance of a discussion before the Ornithologists' Association at Washington, D. C. Oct. 6, 1891.

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### The Carolina Parrot.

(*Conurus carolinensis*.)

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Having been for several years engaged in the special study of the great family of Parrots I have naturally given a great deal of attention to the one species which formerly inhabited the greater portion of Eastern North America or more properly speaking that portion of the United States lying east of the Mississippi River and south of the Great Lakes.

This Parakeet was, during the time of Audubon, found in immense numbers in all of the Southern States and as far north as Northern New York. In a recent number of the "Auk" (See Auk for October 1891) Mr. Hasbrouck has this to say regarding the former range of this bird to the north; "According to Barton, writing in 1790, a flock

of Paroquets appeared in January about twenty-five miles northwest of Albany, New York, causing great alarm among the simple Dutch folks who looked upon the advent of the birds as indicative of coming evil. Audubon also states (Birds of Am., Vol. IV, p- 309) that about 1807 they could be procured "as far northeast as Lake Ontario." This is presumably the most northern record for the species."

On November 1, 1889 Mr. F. M. Chapman read before a meeting of the Linnean Society of New York, a paper entitled "Notes on the Carolina Paroquet in Florida." In this paper, compiled from personal observation, Mr. Chapman writes as follows: "Fifteen years ago, Paroquets were more or less generally distributed throughout Florida and in many cases were extremely abundant, and even at more recent date were not uncommon in numerous localities, but to-day they have entirely disappeared from the more settled portions of the state, and we may look for them only beyond the bounds of civilization, indeed in regions which are practically uninhabitable. In what numbers they still exist is impossible for us to say."

That they were once widely distributed and that they are now confined to a limited area is an undisputed fact. On account of their great fondness for fruit and consequent destructiveness may be attributed their early disappearance from our midst as records show that immense numbers were killed by the farmers and fruit growers of the southern states. Their destruction was comparatively easy on account of their habit of slaying in the immediate vicinity of a wounded comrade till all were destroyed. Then again immense numbers have been killed by plume hunters in southern Florida, so that one desiring to see this beautiful bird in its haunts must now visit Florida "Everglades." A few are found in southern

Louisiana and Alabama and in the Indian Territory.

Among a collection of skins of Paroquets, Lories, Macaws etc., in my cabinet of which I am justly proud I find only one skin of this bird. It came from the vicinity of Lake Okeechobee and was collected in 1888. A description of this skin may be interesting to some of my readers so I will here give it. The colors are very striking: body green; head yellow; face red; bill horn-color (white in life); feet same as bill; wings variegated with blue and yellow. The measurements taken at the time the bird was killed and which accompany the skin are as follows: length 13.00; extent 21.00; wing 7.25; tail 7.00

Of late much has been written concerning the breeding habits of this *Conure*, but about all that seems to be known is that it nests in Florida among the almost inaccessible swamps of that region, in colonies of several pairs, and that it is not particular in regard to its nesting site but selects impartially hollow trees and a knot on some large cypress or live oak on which to place its apology for a nest.

Coues in his "Key to N. A. Birds," says, "eggs whitish, 1.40x 1.05, elliptical shape, rough in texture.

Let us hope it will be many years before this, the most hardy of all paroquets and the only species found inhabiting the United States, will be exterminated. Before closing this short essay I would like to call your attention to W. T. Green's recent work on parrots entitled "Parrots in Captivity." In this work, (Vol., II, p. 84.) you will find quite an interesting article on the Carolina Paroquet, *Conurus carolinensis*.

THAD. SURBER,

White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

Nov. 10, 1891.

### Bartram's Sandpiper.

(*Bartramia longicauda*.)

On June 19, 1890 a companion and myself were out after specimens on the prairie surrounding Boone, Iowa. My companion wanted a duck and after he had shot one we struck out in a northerly direction. We had poor success until we had started to return home finding nothing but Black-birds and Meadow Lark's nests.

We had just came out from a pond after searching for Rails' nests when suddenly a bird sprang up from under my feet and fluttered along the ground a short distance in front of us. My companion not being much of an Oologist shot her immediately for as he told me afterwards "he hated to see her suffer."

I was not paying attention to him at the time being busy looking for the nest and I soon found it.

It was placed in a slight unlined hollow and contained four eggs badly incubated. They were of a dirty buff color, thickly spotted near the large end with amber and yellowish brown. They average 1.83x1.26.

This bird is a favorite game bird in Iowa, large numbers of them being killed annually for the table.

Generally when they are feeding a solitary individual may be seen perched upon a neighboring fence post, after the manner of a Meadow Lark, probably acting as a sentinel.

A. FARMER.

### The Horned Grebe.

(*Podiceps cornutus*.)

The Horned Grebe is an abundant resident in the marshes of the Detroit river, and St. Clair Flats. It breeds in considerable numbers below Fighting Island in the Detroit river. My.

first experience with this bird was during the past spring. In company with J. C. Wood I took several sets of this bird. The usual number of eggs found was four, but one set of eight was taken. These were very badly incubated. The nests are simply masses of decayed flags and weeds placed upon some flats, and often floating. The eggs are always covered with a mass of decayed weeds except in one instance. The eggs measure about 1.65x1.15, but vary a good deal in size. They are bluish white in color, but so coated and stained by the decaying vegetation that they look like dirty white. This however will wash off. The Grebes are said to incubate their eggs at night, and let the sun take their place during daytime. One thing is certain, that it is very seldom one can catch a Grebe on her nest. They have a peculiar habit of sinking suddenly under water without leaving hardly a ripple to indicate where they have gone.

B. H. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

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#### World's Fair Notes.

The native flora of each State and Territory will be shown at the Exposition, under the direction of Chief Thorpe, who has enlisted the Lady Managers to undertake the collection of specimens.

All Indian exhibits at the World's Fair will be under the direction of the Government or of Chief Putnam, of the Department of Ethnology. The ways and means Committee has decided that it will consider no applications by private individuals for an Indian exhibit.

Some rare old curios in the way of saddles and ancient harness will probably be seen at the World's Fair. The National Association of Saddlers has decided to raise \$35,000 for an exhibit of their trade at the Fair. This will be expended, largely for ancient saddlery and harness which will be procured through special collectors.

Aquatic fowls of all climes will probably swim through the lagoons of Jackson Park during the period of the Fair. Landscape Architects F. L. Olmsted & Co., recommend the purchase of a great variety of water fowls. The list includes widgeons, sea gulls, swans, brown pelicans, storks, sand-hill cranes, American wild geese, blue geese, toulouses, flamingoes, snowy egrets, and scarlet ibis. The purchase of at least ten of each species of the birds as enumerated was recommended.

Prof. Dyche, of the Kansas University, one of the finest taxidermists in America, is preparing a notable exhibit consisting of about 150 of the largest mammals in the United States, including buffalo, elk, moose, antelope, deer, mountain sheep and goats, wild cats, wolves, bear, etc., etc. The different species of each are represented and almost all of the animals have already been secured.

The party which, under the direction of Chief Putnam of the department of Ethnology, of the Exposition, has been making excavations of the mounds in Ohio for three months or more, met with rare success on November 14th near Chillicothe, in making one of the richest finds of the century in the way of prehistoric remains. While at work on a mound 500 feet long, 200 feet wide and 28 feet high, the excavators found near the center of the mound, at a depth of 14 feet, the massive skeleton of a man incased in copper armor. The head was covered by an oval-shaped copper cap; the jaws had copper moldings; the arms were dressed in copper, while copper plates covered the chest and stomach, and on each side of the head, on protruding sticks, were wooden antlers ornamented with copper. The mouth was stuffed with genuine pearls of immense size, but much decayed. Around the neck was a necklace of bears' teeth, set with pearls. At the side of this skeleton was a female skeleton, the two being supposed to be those of man and wife. It is estimated that the bodies were buried fully 600 years ago. The excavators believe they have at last found the king of the mound builders.

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cially mistakes regarding habits and identification. It will include the recent and most approved terms in nomenclature, and will, in short, bring down to date the ornithology of the area considered. All of the descriptions of plumages have been rewritten and will be found to be an improvement over those of the original work. There will also be included the latest determinations regarding the sexual and individual changes, as well as the changes resulting from age, so far elaborated as the limits of a "handbook" will permit.

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Of the original work by Nuttall everything of value and interest has been retained, including all of Nuttall's delightful descriptions of bird-life, a feature of the original which has had much to do with its popularity. Only those portions which have been rendered valueless by recent discoveries and determinations are omitted.

The present work will be found to be more fully illustrated than the original, and throughout its preparation everything possible has been done to thoroughly adapt it to the needs of the time and to make it *a convenient and useful manual for the household and for the student who can carry with him only a work of moderate size*.

Mr. Chamberlain was for several years Associate Editor of "The Auk," and is now the editor of "The Ornithological Club," the leading amateur club of America. He is also a member of the "Comité International Ornithologique" of Vienna. He has already contributed to ornithological literature "A Catalogue of the Birds of New Brunswick," "A Catalogue of Canadian Birds," "A Systematic Table of Canadian Birds," a translation with notes of Hagerup's monograph on Greenland birds, and numerous articles published in "Forest and Stream," "Ornithologist and Oölogist," "Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist," "Science," etc.

 See specimen pages annexed.

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FOR SALE BY

FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.



BOBOLINK.

RICE BIRD. SKUNK BLACKBIRD. MEADOW-WINK.

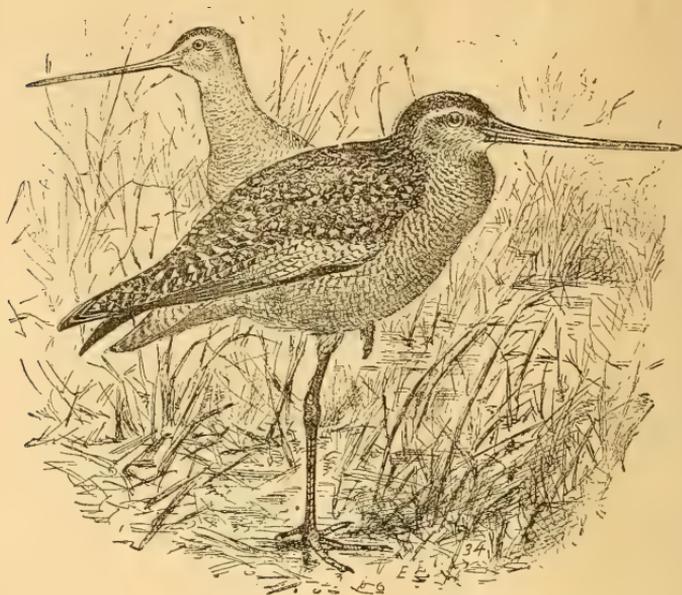
DOLICHONYX ORYZIVORUS.

CHAR. Male in summer : black ; back of head and hind-neck buff ; scapulars, rump, and upper tail-coverts ashy white. Male in winter, female, and young : above, yellowish brown, beneath paler, more buffy ; light stripe on crown. Length  $6\frac{1}{2}$  to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

*Nest.* In a meadow ; made of dried grass.

*Eggs.* 4-6 ; white with green or buff tint, irregularly marked with lilac and brown ;  $0.85 \times 0.60$ .

The whole continent of America, from Labrador to Mexico, and the Great Antilles, are the occasional residence of this truly migratory species. About the middle of March or beginning of April the cheerful Bobolink makes his appearance in the southern extremity of the United States, becoming gradually arrayed in his nuptial livery, and accompanied by troops of his companions, who often precede the arrival of their more tardy



## MARBLED GODWIT.

MARLIN.

LIMOSA FEDOA.

CHAR. Prevailing color dull rufous varied with black; rump and tail barred; bill pinkish; legs and feet black. Length 17 to 20 inches.

Nest. Near a stream or lake, — a slight depression sparingly lined with grass.

Eggs. 3-4; pale buff or olive, marked with brown and lavender;  $2.25 \times 1.60$ .

The Marbled Godwit is only a transient visitor along the sea-coasts of the United States in the spring and fall on its way to and from its breeding-place in the North. According to Richardson, it abounds in the summer season in the interior of the fur countries, being particularly plentiful on the Saskatchewan plains, where it frequents marshes and bogs, walking on the surface of the swamp-moss (*Sphagna*), and thrusting down its bill to the nostrils in quest of worms and leeches, which it discovers by the sensitive point of its bill, thus finding means to

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VOLUME IX.

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THE



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NO. 1

### Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

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| Dwarf Cow-bird                           | - | - | - | - | .20         |
| Carolina Wren                            | - | - | - | - | .15         |
| Barbary Partridge, Asia                  | - | - | - | - | .25         |
| Egg of "Shark," Atlantic                 | - | - | - | - | .15         |
| " " Hammerhead or Leopard Shark, Pacific |   |   |   |   | .25         |
|  |   |   |   |   | —————\$7.57 |

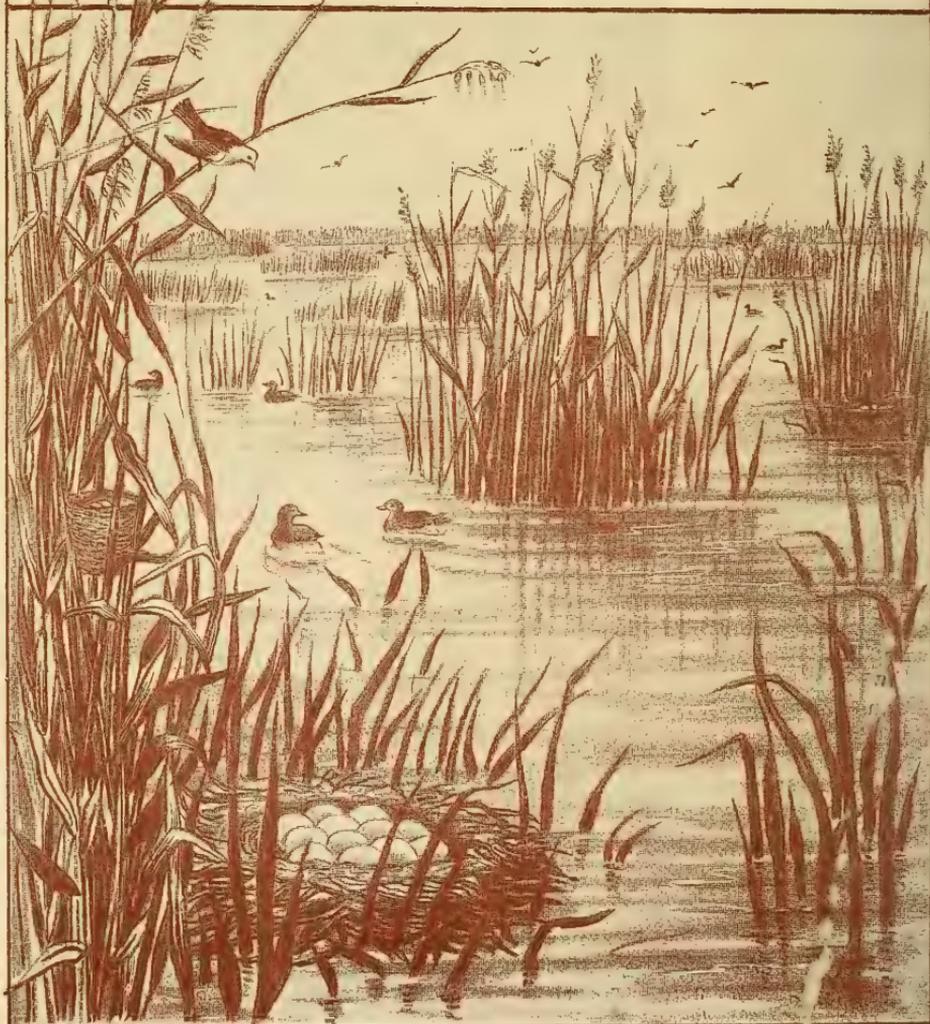
For 50 cents additional (\$3.50 in all) we will send the copy of Davie's bound in *extra cloth*. To any person accepting this offer and enclosing \$1.00 additional, we will send a bound part of Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America,"—worth from \$2.00 to \$5.00. Earliest orders receive the most complete parts, or in fact fully one-half of his valuable \$18.00 work.

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





LONG LAKE



NESTS OF CANVAS-BACK & YELLOW-HEADED BLACKBIRD.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JAN., 1892.

NO. 1

## Bird Nesting in North-West Canada.

BY W. RAINE, TORONTO, CAN.\*

Jan. 18, 1891.

Putting on my rubber boots I went down to the lake behind the cabin. Long Lake is about ten miles in length and half a mile wide. The Canadian Pacific Railway crosses over it, and I was now at the south end of the lake.

The lake is surrounded with tall rushes and wild rice which grows ten feet high. The place swarmed with birds, and only those who have visited a similiar spot, can form any idea of the number and variety of wild fowls frequenting such a marsh. Out in the open water, were Red-heads, Canvas-backs, Scaups, and Ring-billed Ducks, Blue-winged Teals, Shovellers, Mallards, Western, Red-necked and Horned Grebe, Coots and other water-birds, while amongst the rushes were hundreds of Yellow-headed Black-birds, Red-winged Starlings and Marsh Wrens.

On reaching the margin of the lake I began to examine the rushes and soon found a number of nests of the Yellow-headed Black-bird, they are handsome birds with brilliant orange colored heads and breasts. Their nests are cup-shaped and made of grasses and fine rushes and contained four or five eggs each, which resemble the Lark family more than the black-birds.

Long-billed Marsh Wrens nests were numerous and after examining about a dozen nests I found one containing six eggs. The water soon came over my boot tops, but I did not mind getting my legs wet, for I saw I was going to have some sport.

Just in front of me I saw a large basket shaped nest, covered with grass and aquatic plants, and brushing them off I found the nest to contain a beautiful clutch of twelve eggs of the Canvas-backed Duck. The birds were swimming out on the lake not far away. The nest was similar to that of a Coot and the eggs rested on a bed of down and feathers, they were pale greenish-drab and as large as the eggs of the Red-head. I saw the eggs were fresh so I put them in my handkerchief and waded towards dry land. A few yards further and a Carolina Crake stumbled off its nest, just before my feet. The nest was about the size of a basin and made of sedges and contained eight buff colored eggs, spotted with reddish brown.

I now had as many eggs as I could carry so I took them to the shore and erected a stick and fixed a piece of paper on the top of it so I could easily find the place again. I then explored the rushes further on and soon found several nests of the Coot containing from six to nine eggs each. As I took the eggs from each nest I marked each clutch with a pencil so that I could easily sort out the clutches after blowing them, this is what all collector's should do when they find several nests and eggs of the same species in one day.

Supposing you find three nests of Coots containing six, eight and nine eggs each, the first clutch should be marked 1-6, the second 2-8 and the third 3-9, and so on.

My next find was a floating damp nest of the Horned Grebe, the eggs were covered over with rushes and it is surprising how the eggs can hatch in such a damp situation. The nest consisted of six fresh eggs which are a trifle larger

\*This is character 17 in Mr. Raine's forthcoming work on Bird Nesting in North-West Canada.

than those of the Pied-billed Grebe.

Coots nests began to be numerous and I suppose I could have collected two hundred eggs had I wished, but three clutches satisfied me, so I left the rest.

Yellow-headed and Red-winged Black birds nests were also plentiful and every part of rushes contained three or four nests. As I was again loaded with eggs. I waded to the shore once more and placed the eggs with the others previously collected.

The sun was very powerful and towards evening the mosquitoes were a terror, my neck was so sore from their stings that I could scarcely sleep that night. I filled up my soft hat and handkerchief with eggs and carried them further along the banks of the lake towards another part of wild rice. On my way I flushed a male Wilson's Phalarope from in front of my feet and soon found its nest and four handsome eggs well concealed in the centre of a tussock of marsh grass. The eggs are smaller than those of the Spotted Sandpiper and are clay colored, heavily spotted and blotched with blackish brown. After the female has laid the eggs, she leaves them to the male bird, who sits on them close until the eggs are hatched. The female in the meantime enjoys herself with other females who spend their time in feeding and swimming about and flying around chasing each other for sport. Wilson's Phalaropes are like turtle doves among birds, they are gentle handsome in plumage, elegant in form and graceful in their movements.

In approaching the thick part of wild rice and rushes, two great birds flew up with a big flap and a splash, which gave me such a sudden start that it caused me to stumble into deep water and I sank up to the waist. I got out as soon as I could, but I was pretty damp. However, I was going to examine that clump of rushes if I got up

to the neck in the attempt. So after wading cautiously I reached the patch of rushes, when to my delight I beheld a great nest, the size of a cart wheel and nearly two feet high. Four steps farther and my eyes rested on, what do you think? Great Scott! two handsome eggs of the Little Brown Crane, well, you can guess my heart throbbed with joy, and I felt like yelling out at the top of my voice. The eggs were warm, but on trying them with a drill I found they were only slightly incubated. The nest was a mass of rushes and aquatic plants, centre hollowed and lined with grass and feathers, and the eggs were yellowish drab, mottled and blotched with reddish brown and are larger than the eggs of the Canada Goose. Putting one in each pocket I waded to the shore and as I was very wet I directed my steps to the cabin which was a mile and a half away, and changed my clothes, I took as many eggs as I could carry with me, intending to return later for the rest.

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#### Two Birds of Western Kansas.

##### *Swainson's Hawk; Black Rail.*

Swainson's Hawk, (*Buteo swainsoni*). This Hawk appears here in large numbers in the fall, chiefly during the harvest time. During the heat of the day they are very sluggish, allowing a person to approach quite close, as they perch on a fence post, hay-stack or any exposed situation; but early in the morning and evening they are easily alarmed, taking flight on the least suspicious movement. How often, after crawling a long distance through weeds and sand-burs, in the hope of securing a specimen, have I looked up only to see my prospective game sailing high overhead out of shooting range.

In 1890, while hauling alfalfa, I observed several of these Hawks hopping clumsily around in the field catching grasshoppers, which were unusually

abundant at that time, and I do not doubt that they destroyed large numbers of smaller mammals, mice, etc.

Last spring (1891) several companions besides myself spent a week hunting and fishing in Pawnee Valley, Garfield Co., among the eggs collected by myself while there, is a fine set of three of the Swainson's Hawk. The bulky nest was composed of sticks, weeds and pieces of cow manure, and was placed about twenty feet up on a slanting ledge. The eggs were fresh and show very diverse markings. Each have a ground color of bluish white; on one the spots are confluent around the large end, forming a reddish brown blotch, splashed with spots of a darker tint; on another the spots run together forming a blotch around the smaller end; the third is unmarked with the exception of a few faint wavy lines around the large end. Several other nests were found in the same vicinity, all old ones, and very likely built by the same pair of birds in successive years.

Two or three days after finding the above nest, I found another of the same species, unfinished. It was placed on a knoll higher than the surrounding hills. Sandstone rocks, nearly a foot thick, were placed in the form of a circle about three feet in diameter, and the inside of the circle was filled with stones gradually decreasing in size to the center, thus forming a basin-like platform on which to build the main nest of sticks and weeds. A few sticks had already been placed on the structure. I regreted very much that I was not able to remain in the valley long enough to secure the eggs.

Black Rail, (*Porzana jamaicensis*). My acquaintance with the Black Rail is very limited, so limited that I hesitated long before offering to share it with the readers of the OÖLOGIST.

On June 6, 1889, while my brother and myself were hunting Blackbirds eggs in a shallow pond, my brother found a nest of this species. The pond

was partly filled with water from recent rains, and was covered with thick growth of small weeds, from one to two feet high. The nest was placed on a low ridge near the center of the pond, and contained nine fresh eggs—a sight to make a collector's eyes sparkle, and I can assure you it did ours. The nest—a neat compact structure—was composed entirely of blades of a kind of water grass.

The eggs are light cream color, thickly spotted with fine reddish dots and purple shell markings, thickest around large end.

HARRY W. MENKE,  
Garden City, Kans.

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### Ornithologists Association.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the meeting of the Association on November 3d, the following new members were elected:

Active—John M. Davis, 324 Pa. Ave. S. E. Wash. D. C.

Corresponding—Geo. H. Gray, 1326 N. Mount St., Baltimore, Md., Rolla P. Currie, 108 N. 5th St. Grand Forks, N. Dakota, S. R. Ingersoll, Ballston, Spa., N. Y., E. E. N. Murphy, 510 Jackson St. Athens, Ga., H. R. Kellogg, Alpena, Mich.

At the regular monthly meeting Dec. 1, 1891, the following persons were elected corresponding members of the Association:

Edmund Heller, Riverside, Cal., W. S. Strode, M. D., Bernadotte, Ills.

President Langille made a few remarks on the nomenclature and points of differentiation of *Ortyx virginiana*, *Lagopus albus*, and *Bonasa umbellus*.

The popular names of *Ortyx* and *Bonasa* are the same in different sections of the country, but it has been determined that *Ortyx* is not a quail but is really a Partridge.

In form it is stouter and its bill is

shorter than that of the European Quail which it approaches in size while resembling the European Partridge in structure.

In size it is much smaller than *Bonasa* or *Lagopus* and its tarsus and toes are *bare*,

*Bonasa* is not a Partridge but a Grouse is much larger than *Ortyx* and unlike *Lagopus* never turns white in winter.

Its tarsus is feathered to the toes, occasionally undeveloped feathers are found on the toes, but as a rule they may be said to be naked.

The Ptarmigan (*Lagopus albus*) turns partially or wholly white during the winter and its *tarsus* and toes are very heavily feathered.

The work of a designing creative intelligence seems to be presented very clearly in the structure and modifications of these three classes of birds, the Partridge, Grouse, and Ptarmigan.

Natural adaptation to surroundings seems to show not the endowment of mere animal matter with intelligence but the power of an All Wise Providence.

A. B. FARNHAM,  
Secretary and Treasurer

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Western New York Naturalists' Association.

NEW OFFICERS.

The following appointments were made Nov. 6th, and have been accepted for Vice-President, to fill vacancy, Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville. N. Y. Secretary, in place of B. S. Bowdish resigned E. B. Peck, Clifton Springs, N. Y. Three new active members have been admitted. One corresponding and one honorary. It is thought best to try and hold a public meeting this winter, probably in Rochester, which we will try to make both interesting and instructive.

E. H. SHORT,  
President.

NOTICE OF MEETING.

A meeting of the said society will be held in Rochester, N. Y., Feb. 3, 1892. From 10:30 to 12 a. m. will be a business meeting for active members only. From 8 to 10 p. m. will be a public meeting to which all interested in the society and the public in general are cordially invited. Papers on Natural History especially Botany and Ornithology will be read and such collections as can be procured will be exhibited. In fact all we can do will be done to make the meeting both interesting and instructive. Committees will meet trains at all stations in the city on the morning of the 3d-

E. H. SHORT, Pres.

E. B. PECK, Sec.

EX-SEC. BOWDISH'S VALEDICTORY.

In the town of Phelps, Ontario Co., N. Y., on the evening of Sept., 15, 1891, there was born, the Western New York Naturalists Association.

Brothers and sisters in the love of nature, are you interested in this birth? The answer is of vital importance to you. As well as to the newly born association.

If the love of nature is in you, be sure that it is God implanted the gift of such a taste is just as much to be fostered as any other of God's gifts. The talk to the effect that this is nonsense and-so-forth, comes from those who never having had any such taste are utterly disqualified to judge of such a matter. Now, kind reader let us take it for granted you are interested in the study of nature, if you have the love of this study at heart, do you not wish to further the advancement of the study? Can we not better work together than singly? The answer to both of these questions must be in the affirmative. Such conclusions as these led to the birth of this association, having been born it was christened, as nearly as possible, in accordance with the wishes

of all concerned. Christening gifts are now in order, and we want the gift from each one, of their aid and support. None are too young to join in this work not one inexperienced.

At its birth the association did me the honor to make me its secretary, and I have since endeavored to faithfully perform the duties of this office. Other duties have called me away, I have been obliged to resign this position but membership in the association, and deep interest in its cause, I will ever retain, in leaving you I have one last request to make, will you, each and everyone pledge your support to this association? Will you join its ranks either as active, or associate member, as your location admits, and then seek out those whose tastes are similar, and induce them to do likewise will you, as far as possible attend the meetings and assist to carry forward the work? If you are willing to do this, communicate with either the President Mr. Ernest H. Short, Chili, N. Y., or with Neil F. Posson, Medina, or the Secretary whose future appointment will be announced through these columns, and in so doing please enclose a stamp that the young and poor association may have as little expense as possible.

I think I hear you answer that you grant this request.

May God watch over and prosper our association and each of its members till I may once more have the pleasure of meeting with you all again.

Yours in the love of nature  
B. S. BOWDISH.

---

#### The Blue Grosbeak.

---

A gentleman in last OÖLOGIST wanted to hear from others on the habits of this bird. They are not at all plentiful here, but I see a pair or two every year. Last year I found a nest on June 16 containing three young birds, which

would have left the nest in a few days. I placed the young birds in a cage and hung it in a tree near the house so I could have a chance to study the habits of the old birds.

The habits of the Blue Grosbeak are nearer that of the Painted Bunting than that of the Cardinal, but like the Painted Bunting while the female is carrying on the incubation the male sits on the top of a tree and sings his little song, which is composed of a few short notes and can hardly be told from the song of the Painted Bunting, except it is a little coarser and lacks a little of the sweetness of the Painted Bunting's song. The alarm notes are nearly the same as those of the Painted Bunting, except they are louder and sharper.

The female feeds the young, she begins as soon as she can see in the morning, but does not seem to be in much hurry until after the sun is up, then comes a rush of business with her until about ten o'clock then she feeds sparingly until about four p. m., then comes another rush of work until night forces her to withdraw.

When the female goes for food the male always goes with her, when she stops to catch a grasshopper he mounts the top of a tree or bush and sings his song and he does the same thing when they get back to the nest, he never loses sight of his mate from daylight to dark.

My young birds grew very fast and looked very much like young Painted Buntings. But about July 18th a snake got in the cage and killed my birds.

The nest which contained the young birds was in a large patch of tall weeds and was suspended, being tied on three sides to weeds and 18 inches from the ground, composed of weeds known to me as pepper grass lined with fine brown rootlets, the whole outside was plaited with snake skin.

On July 21 I found another nest built by the same bird which was also in a

patch of weeds about ten steps from my door. This nest was also pensile, it was about three feet from the ground. The two nests were so much alike one could hardly tell one from the other. The last nest contained two fresh eggs, they were pale bluish white, I accidentally let them fall on the floor. So I guess you know the last so I'll tell you no more.

KIT ATKINSON,  
Dime Box, Lee Co., Texas.

---

Maryland Yellow-throat; Chewink.

In reply to Mr. A. B. Call's query in Vol. 8, No. 10 of the OÖLOGIST, would say, I have collected seven sets of the Maryland Yellowthroat and have seen some six or eight nests with eggs and young birds in which I did not take and in the whole series I did not find any placed on the ground as our good friend Davie says they are. They are placed in this locality in clumps of weeds, which are mingled with fine grasses and are placed from six inches to eighteen inches above the ground.

Robert Ridgeway in his Manual of N. A. B. says: "Nests on or near the ground supported between weeds or coarse sedge stalks, with a deep foundation of leaves." Oliver Davie in his Nest and Eggs of N. A. B. says: "Placed on the ground tucked under a tuft of grass." Eliot Coues in his Key to N. A. B. says: "Nests on or near the ground." Thus we see diversity of opinions. I believe, however, all are correct for birds of one locality use altogether different nest material from some of same species found in other localities, and are just as liable to select different nesting sites as to use different material. Hoping the note may be of interest to at least Mr. Call.

In Vol. 8, No. 11 of OÖLOGIST, Mr. W. D. F. Lummis in his article on the Chewink, Chewee, Towhee, makes one slight error of which I wish to correct. He says that they do not dwell in fields

pastures and clearings. I have observed this bird in Darke Co., Ohio, Madison Co., Iowa and Marion Co., Ills., and I find them in greater numbers in clearings, edges of woods, fence runs which are lined with briars and brush than in the dense timber, and think nothing of seeing them in this locality in the orchards and along hedge fences in and around town. I think if friend Lummis will examine the clearings of Coon River bottom near Des Moines he will find the Towhee in clearings. I have and only thirty miles west of his city.

Respectfully,  
C. BYRON VANDERCOOK,  
Odin, Ills.

---

The Bronzed Grackle.

*Quiscalus purpureus aeneas.*

This is one of our most interesting if not most gayly colored birds. It inhabits the territory enclosed in the Mississippi Valley, and those who have never had the good fortune to see this bird alive may know that it is one of the most energetic business-like birds in category of North America *avi fauna*. They are extremely gregarious, very large flocks migrating together and nesting in the same vicinity. They usually make their appearance from the South about the middle of March and leave for warmer climes about the middle of September.

I had always supposed that our Grackle was the "Purple Grackle," I suppose because it was "purple," until I received a skin of the Bronzed species from a Kansas friend. It then dawned upon me that our Grackle was the Bronzed and not the Purple at all. Then followed the task of changing in my note books all references to the "Purple Grackle" and making a note in the margin as to the identity.

The call of the Bronzed Grackle is by far the most rasping, scraping sound

that ever came from *avian* tongue, but, nevertheless, it is pleasant to hear on some clear, frosty morning in March, coming from the top of a tall tree.

How well I remember the first one I heard in 1890. The wind was blowing quite a gale, when I heard the call of "*quiscalus*" coming on the wind. I rushed out of doors and there on the topmost branch of a mammoth cottonwood tree sat *quiscalus*, scraping away like the fiddler at a backwoods hoe-down, although he could hardly retain his equilibrium on the branch when an especially hard gust would come dashing down from the North.

The Bronzed Grackle builds a large and bulky nest, usually in the upper part of a tree. They seem to have a special fondness for cedar trees, and as they are gregarious in their nesting habits, a grove of these trees is usually selected as their nesting site.

During the breeding season "Bedlam reigns" in these tenanted groves, and I have walked through it when the ground was literally covered with the excrement, and every branch was white with it.

In the nest the female deposits 4 to 6 eggs of an olivaceous green shade, thickly blotched with very dark brown. In size the eggs average 1.23x.90.

The eggs of this bird I find to be highly variable in size as well as coloration. They are often almost without spots or blotches of any kind, and I have also seen some in which the blotches almost entirely covered the original back ground.

But this bird has one strong opponent to contend against, and that is the bad name given it by a certain class of uneducated farmers who can look on but one side of the question, and can not be made to believe that the Grackle repays him tenfold for the comparative mite of grain that he consumes. Consequently they are often driven away and their homes despoiled by the farm-

ers who thinks it is "a good riddance ff bad rubbish."

In conclusion I desire to urge all of our young ornithologists to write their experiences with their feathered friends or on the habits of birds that come under their special observation, as such articles are always read and enjoyed by all, old or young, who are interested in the study of ornithology and the advancement of this most interesting branch of natural science.

AIX SPONSA,  
Nebraska City, Neb.

---

Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh  
Wren.

---

I noticed in the November OÖLOGIST about the finding of albino eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren. On June 12th '91, while out collecting in the marshes on the Detroit River with J. Claire Wood, we found four sets of Albino Marsh Wren eggs. One set of five were pure white, and very round for the bird. Another set of six was just the opposite being like the normal eggs of this species. These eggs were all identified properly. Several other sets had only a few faint markings on the larger end of the eggs. I thought these Albino eggs were rather unusual, but as I never have seen anything about them in ornithological papers I thought that I would let you know about them.

B. A. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

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\*On Nov. 1, '91 a friend of mine handed me a pair of American Crossbills, male and female which he had managed to kill with a sling shot while they were feeding on sun flower seed. There was a large flock tame and easily approached. These are the first I have ever seen in this State.

W. W. SEARLES,  
Lime Springs, Ia.

# THE OÖLOGIST

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

\*\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

Complete Index of Vol VIII will be printed in Feb. OÖLOGIST.

February OÖLOGIST. promises to be the most valuable number ever published.

The Xmas presents as promised in December OÖLOGIST were mailed to nearly two hundred of our patrons on Jan. 11th.

## Prizes for Best Articles.

During the past our readers have gratuitously supplied us with more MSS. than we could possibly use. For this we feel very grateful and would gladly have given them pecuniary compensation were it not willed that publishers of Natural History papers must do otherwise in order to amass an enormous fortune, or we might add (jokingly of course) to meet our printer's bills.

Publishers of defunct publications, who are now, in their retirement squandering a few of these "amassed fortunes" can appreciate the tenderness of which we speak of "printer's bills."

Well, to resume—we have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in flex. cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th and 5th—Each a set with data of the Noddy.

For the February competition we will give the same set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 15th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given, for example your decision for this months competition must be mailed us not later than Feb. 15th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have

decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

While we can hardly afford to compensate our Judges, we have thought it advisable to give three prizes one to each of the three whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the January competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. Second a set of Noddy. Third, a copy of "Natural History Plays." In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Send in your MSS. also your decisions. Address all to

The Publisher of the OÖLOGIST,  
Albion, N. Y.

one, so I think that although Sparrow Hawks, Flickers and possibly other varieties of large woodpeckers occupy old holes, Chickadees and Red-headed Woodpeckers almost invariably excavate new ones.

Now although it hardly comes under the head of this article, I will say that I think organization would be beneficial to ornithologists, and would like to hear through the columns of the OÖLOGIST what qualifications would be decided upon for membership.

W. E. AIKEN.  
Benson, Vt.

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### Old Recollections.

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#### Are Nesting Cavities Occupied More Than Once?

During the last season I have noticed a large number of cavities occupied by different birds and while many were newly excavated I think that the majority were not. It is well known that Sparrow Hawks if undisturbed will occupy the same cavity for years in succession. One pair of the above occupied a cavity excavated by a pair of Flickers in an elm tree by the roadside for three years. One summer I took two sets from them on which they left and occupied a tree nearly half a mile away. This year I took a set from them on which they left and occupied the old nest in the elm stub. I also know of a Flicker that has occupied the same tree for several years.

A Red-headed Woodpecker built in a walnut tree near here four years ago, the next year they returned but excavated a new hole although the old one was not out of repair. The next year she repeated the performance but last year she began again and left on striking an old hole.

I have noticed several Chickadee's nests but never found eggs in an old

In June 1877, my friend Frank Harris and the writer started on a collecting trip to Target Lake. To reach the lake it was necessary to go by boat through sloughs and swamps about two miles. Sometimes the water was too shallow for our light skiff and we were obliged to get out in the mud and water and pull the boat after us. The sloughs were fairly alive with Coots, Grebes and Rails. And Yellow-head and Red-wing Blackbird's nests could be seen, supported by the reeds, in large numbers. The floating nests of the Pied-billed Grebe could be seen on every side. We pulled our boat along side of the nests, and made exchanges with the Grebes. We found the Coots nests near the shore in the rushes and got some fine sets. Here we found our first nest of the King Rail, built in the reeds a few inches above the water, with a covering over it to protect it from the hot sun. We remember how carefully we parted the reeds at the top to see what it contained. We count the eggs twice, no mistake, there is fourteen creamy colored eggs, spotted with light reddish brown. We have some of them yet in our collection. Most of the Blackbird's nests contained fresh eggs. We remember when we

reached the lake. The Coots and Grebes were to be seen in countless numbers. We went along the east shore and found Wood Ducks and Tree Swallows nesting in the elms and willow stubs. In some instances the swallows had to be taken from the nest by hand. We secured several nice sets. On the west side of the lake we found several nests of the Virginia and Sora Rails, most of them contained eggs. On our way home several Least Bittern were seen in the tall wild rice. But we failed to locate their nests. But we were well satisfied with our trip.

W. HARRISON,  
Houston Co., Minn.

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### Summer Tanager.

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Six or seven years ago the Summer Red Bird or Summer Tanager was rarely seen in this vicinity, and, if it nested at all, bred in the thick scrub oaks far from any human habitation.

Five years ago I shot a fine male in full plumage, that was the first Summer Tanager taken here. It was not until a year or two ago, however, that they become anyways common, and now it can be seen almost any summer day. Its peculiar metallic note easily leads to its identification and also to the discovery of its nest. I have collected many nests that I never would have discovered had not the male bird uttered its cry of alarm at my proximity.

The male and female bird differ much in plumage, the former being a dull vermilion red and the latter olive.

The nest of the Summer Redbird here is one of the prettiest and neatest we have, it is composed outwardly of fine weed stems and internally of fine grasses, these grasses are green when procured by the bird, and as they retain their color for weeks, give the nest a very pretty appearance.

The nests are invariably built on a

horizontal branch or limb usually of oak, here.

Davie states in his last edition of the "Nests and Eggs of North American Birds" that the nest of this species are frail and the bottom unusually thin, in fact in some cases the "eggs could be seen from the ground," this, while it may apply to the nests of the Summer Redbird in some localities, will not apply to the nest of *Pirango rubra* in Aiken county, which are compactly and handsomely built.

The average number of eggs of this species is three, sometimes four. In color they are a bright emerald green when first taken but this bright clear green fades in a month or two after the egg is blown, it is spotted dotted and blotched with various shades of lilac, brownish purple and dark brown. Davie also states the eggs are not distinguishable from those of *P. erythomelas*. Now all the eggs of that species that have come under my observation can be easily distinguished from the former, differing from it both in shape and markings. The eggs of the Summer Tanager, however, much resemble the eggs of *M. polyglottos*—mockingbird—when first taken. A series of 14 eggs in my cabinet average .88 by .67.

S. A. TAFT.  
Aiken, S. C.

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### "The Way of the Transgressor is Hard."

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To the truth of the above saying one Wm. Purdy with his numerous aliases, whom we published in December OÖLOGIST, can ere long most painfully testify, in one of his victims he made a poor choice in selecting the Publisher of a leading daily paper in one of the largest cities of the U. S. This Publisher with ample means, proof and counsel intends if possible to place Purdy where honest collectors are—unknown.

This month we sorrowfully add to our roll of dishonor the names of Letson Balliet alias Dean Schooler, of Des Moines, Iowa, and that of J. W. P. Smithwick, of Sans Souci, N. C. The necessity of publishing these names we

much regret as both are young men of the best home reputations and their families are of high rank.

Balliet claims that his sending out very common eggs for rareties was through his ignorance, which is undoubtedly the truth, for no one but an excessively ignorant collector would have sent out Mourning Dove eggs for those of the Saw-whet Owl, but Mr. B. made a bad mess of it when he attempted to replace them under an alias with woodpecker eggs. He promises to "never do so any more" and to replace any spurious eggs he may have sent out with genuine ones or cash.

Smithwick pleads "ignorance" and that owing to his tender years he "didn't know any better," we are inclined to differ with him, however, for at the age of 21 the average oölogist is out of swaddling garments and, in the North at least, knows much more, in his own estimation, than ever after.

Smithwick has doubtless palmed off more spurious eggs during the past two years on innocent and unsuspecting collectors—and older ones too, who had the utmost confidence in his statements and integrity—than any single oölogist that has come to our notice. We have long suspected that his Florida Burrowing Owls were spurious and last season returned them to him without explanation, he was still persistent and among others sent us a set of "Saw-whets" "we had him" there sure and by a little maneuvering elicited from him *three different* "original" datas for this single set of rareties but the datas fail to agree.

Data No. 1 reads: Collector, Franklin Benner. Locality, Leech Lake, Minn.

Data No. 2, "N. E. H" or J. W. P. Smithwick. Locality, near Leech Lake, Minn. Date, April 13, 1890.

Data No. 3, "Miners" from C. A. Wiley. Locality, "Copper Regions," Mich. Date, April 19, 1890. Identification was "A No. 1," "female caught on nest" &c.

We know that many of our advanced oölogical friends will fairly turn green with envy after reading of our bouanza, now as these three datas (we didn't try to obtain any more) for a single set were secured on July 24th, Aug. 3d and August 13th respectively, how many could we have secured up to date? It is our candid opinion that we would have found our "stool pigeon" as prolific as that renowned Massachusetts Flicker.

In companionship with our Owl datas we have an equally wonderful array accompanying some Broad-tailed (?) Hummers, to-wit: No. 1 Collector, Wm. G. Smith; Locality, Loveland, Col. No. 2 "S. E. D" for J. W. P. Smithwick; Pueblo Co., Col. No. 3 "Surveying party," Yalencia Co., New Mexico. We have failed to locate the "Co." yet, but then we have the "original" data.

We, however, were not alone in acquiring desirable sets of Smithwick, only last week a friend in a neighboring city sent us for inspection a set of Cooper's Hawk which S. sent him for Swallow-tailed Kites from Starr Co., Texas—poor Fool—and a set of Redstarts, which S. *personally* collected and *saw* the bird and sent them to our friend as Yellow-throated Warblers.

Every set of eggs that has passed through Smithwick's hands, if its identity cannot be positively determined by the specimens themselves we consider *valueless* and the data, from our own experience, and from what we might have secured by following up our own "No. 3's," can almost as truthfully be filled out:—Collector, "Adam"; Locality, "Oblivion."

F. M. Kinne, formerly of Knoxville, Iowa, but now of 419 Sixth Av., Des Moines has for several years had a reputation of being *very slow* especially in making returns to exchangers, he has apparently been prompt in offering desirable specimens, but after receiving your specimens it has required from one to three months of patient waiting, continuous spurring and in many cases serious threatening to elicit returns. He usually gave plausible reasons for delay and as far as our knowledge goes eventually made matters straight, we have had dealings with him for years and have never yet found him dishonest, and most sincerely trust that he can now give a satisfactory explanation for his long silence.

In a personal letter to us Mr. Kinne writes that he is now back on only 12 exchanges and that these were delayed on account of sickness, moving, &c. He says that these matters will be straightened up as early as possible, and that he will make everything to his patrons entire satisfaction. We have confidence that Mr. K. will do exactly as he has agreed.

Mr. John V. Crone of Marathon, Iowa, writes:

'H. E. Berry, formerly of Damariscotta, Me., now of Boston, Mass., is a fraud. Some 17 months ago I sent him eggs for rubber stamps and other eggs. In the course of some six months, after repeated "duns" I received part of the eggs, the remaining balance of our account amounting to \$8.65. I have not been able to get though I have written many times and have received many promises a typical one being: "*I will settle with you with good interest inside of five days.*" received some months ago. I am not the only one he has fleeced as the following extracts will show."

Lack of space prevents our printing the "extracts" from the letters of several collectors.

Mr. Berry we believe to be honest, intentionally at least, but by dealing in "futures" fell by the way—with us his fault has always been in promising specimens that he was "agoing to obtain or collect" and during the past season he has apparently bitten off more he could masticate. Mr. Berry's home friends and business men all speak well of him.

P. B. Peabody, of Minnesota writes:—"Careful collectors should be on the watch for Iowa, Kansas and Mississippi parties who are sending out eggs of Flicker and Mourning Dove for those of Poor-will."

In conclusion we advise, collectors to make purchases and exchanges of *reliable* and *known* dealers and collectors only. Their prices may seem higher or their terms less advantageous but the results will prove far more satisfactory.

Advanced collector's should not entertain the idea of exchanging with "boys" and the latter must for the time being be content to exchange among themselves.

We do not knowingly publish advertisements or exchanges of any but reliable parties, any of our readers finding them otherwise should promptly advise us stating full particulars.

We will investigate the matter, and if found as reported will give them a gratuitous editorial puff and if circumstances demand will place their cases in the hands of proper Government officials.

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#### Hermit Thrush.

The Hermit Thrush is very rare in

this vicinity, ranking next to Olive-backed which is our rarest Thrush. They are invariably found in dense undergrowth on the borders of low thick woods. Never more than one pair in a place as I have observed here.

It is a very shy bird, generally preferring to skulk off on the ground rather than fly. They do not sing any such song as the Wood and Wilson's Thrushes do, at least when I have been within hearing. Their usual note is a low mournful whistle. The nest is generally placed in the midst of a small thick bush and close to the ground. I have not found any placed more than 10 in. from the ground and most of my finds were much closer. In this vicinity they are made entirely of dead leaves, inside and out. I found a nest on June 9th containing four eggs nearly fresh. They were slightly smaller than the Wilson's and darker colored, but in some cases they resemble each other closely. Nest as described.

ERNEST H. SHORT,  
Chili, Monroe Co., N. Y.

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#### The Horned Grebe at St. Clair Flats.

In the December OÖLOGIST an article on the Horned Grebe as an abundant resident in this locality which I think must be a mistake as during three seasons nesting in the marshes of Detroit River I have never seen but the Thick-billed Grebe, which is very common during the breeding season, and from the description of nest in this article I will add that it is identical with the nest of the Thick-billed Grebe as far as my observations are concerned. I will say, however, that Horned Grebes have been shot at the "flats" during the late fall, and I am quite confident that they nest to the north of here.

W. A. DAVIDSON,  
Detroit, Mich.

[A few years since Prof. H. P. Attwater sent us several sets of the Horned Grebe, collected on Mitchell Bay, St. Clair Flats, Canada side. Ed.]

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#### "Our Birds in Their Haunts."

Our Friend, the Rev. J. H. Langille, of Box 63, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C., under date of Dec. 21st, writes as follows:

"The subscriptions to my new edition of "Our Birds in Their Haunts" are coming in very hopefully; but the number

needed is large. Please extend the time to March 1, 1892.

I enclose a few out of the many commendations I have received from all over the country, as to my book. If you could give place to a few of them it might help my present edition. Make your selection. Do not fail to call attention to the extension of time, and that the price of the work afterward will be \$2.50."

Our readers should remember that according to offer made in November OÖLOGIST advance subscriptions will secure a copy of the new edition for \$1.60—no money required until the work is published, and from the above you will note that our Friend Langille has deemed it advisable to extend this time to March 1st. These advance subscriptions are required not for profit, but as a guarantee of the actual cost of publication, his profits on these advance subscriptions will consist chiefly of a commodity without monetary value, viz:—"glory."

We became personally acquainted with Mr. Langille over ten years ago, when a resident of our county, he was then and always has been a firm friend of every young naturalist, and seems to delight in their companionship, undoubtedly this trait in his character in no small measure accounts for the popularity of his work, and will give the readers of the OÖLOGIST a special impetus in order that the new edition will not be unnecessarily delayed for want of the required number of advance subscribers.

Through Mr. Langille's valued articles which have appeared from time to time in the OÖLOGIST, our readers can form a slight opinion as to the value of his book.

Below we give a few quotations selected from the many commendations received from the first edition.

"More than two years ago I first saw your work, "Our Birds in their Haunts," at the Pratt Library, Baltimore; and was delighted to find a book which answered the purpose of the young beginner so admirably, and determined to own a copy as soon as possible, which desire was gratified soon after. Since then I have read it straight through any number of times, each time with equal or increased interest, and have also used it constantly as a reference. Not only do I find it invaluable as a guide, especially to the habits, for which I think it is the best general work short of Audubon's; but boundless is the pleasure I have received from it as a literary work. I read it, and find such sympathy with my own feelings toward nature, that I have ever been drawn toward its author as a personal friend."

GEO. H. GRAY,  
Baltimore, Md.

"I have your excellent work, "Our Birds in Their Haunts," and value it greatly. It is one of the few works of its kind of my acquaintance that one not a student of birds could read with interest and pleasure. I have often taken it and re-read page after page with renewed interest, and wished from the bottom of my heart that I might know the author personally, and might go with him to some of the localities so well described, to study the birds under his direction and inspiration.

F. W. MCCORMACK,  
Editor of the Leighton News.

"If I had a child old enough to read, "Our Birds in Their Haunts," would be the first book I should place in his hands."

E. B. WEBSTER,  
Publisher of the Cresco Republican, Cresco, Ia.

"The copy of "Our Birds in Their Haunts" you sent me some days since, was duly received and has been examined with pleasure and deep interest. Considered as a popular work its plan seems to have been happily conceived while each page bears evidence of the writer's intense love of nature and his ability not only observe intelligently, but to express felicitously the aspects of nature and the varied traits of bird-life that under review. It is evidently the work of not only an enthusiastic bird-lover and field naturalist, but of a writer who is fully competent for the pleasant task he has undertaken. As a popular exposition of the life-histories of the birds of Eastern North America, "Our Birds in Their Haunts" will doubtless meet with the cordial welcome it so well deserves; while its freshness and originality make the work a valuable contribution to the literature of North American ornithology."

J. A. ALLEN,  
President of the Ornithologist Union, and  
Editor of the Auk.

### A Correction.

Please correct a slight mistake in November OÖLOGIST in my list of birds No. 305 Prairie Hen reads "not so abundant as *Bonasa umbellus*," but it should be "not so abundant as *Colinus virginianus*."

W. E. LOUCKS,  
Peoria, Ills.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OÖLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

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We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

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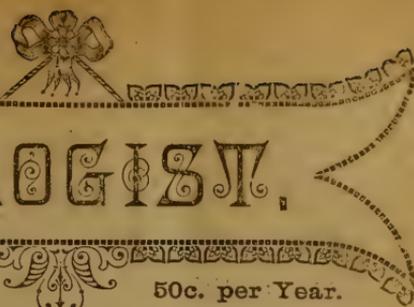
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THE



OOLOGIST.

Monthly.

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VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1892.

NO.

### Exchanges and Wants.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" inserted in this department for 25c per 25 words. Notices over 25 words, charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. No notice inserted for less than 25c. Notices which are merely indirect methods of soliciting cash purchasers cannot be admitted to these columns under any circumstances. Terms, cash with order.

WILL COLLECT first-class eggs and skins and exchange for same. Reliable parties. A. V. THOMSON, 321 College St., Iowa City, Iowa.

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TO EXCHANGE.—Western eggs for Eastern eggs or other eggs I haven't in my collection. Write for particulars. J. KELLEY, Box 142 Leavenworth, Kans.

WANTED.—Skins of GL Horned Owl and furbearing mammalia for eggs A. O. U. 686, 671-463, 371, 274, etc. TABER D. BAILEY, Mont, gomery St., Bangor, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—A hard-wood cabinet six drawers, 2 in deep, for the best offer in eggs singles and sets. Write to me, no *postals*. E. E. HAMMETT, Jr., The Trenton, Cleveland, Ohio.

TO EXCHANGE.—Five first-class skins of the Mountain Partridge and three of California Partridge for Coues' Key, fourth edition. Address TOM STANLEY, Cuyamaca, California.

WANTED.—Glass eyes. Have to exchange, stamps, two Eagle Stamping outfits and eggs in singles and sets. FRED S. HAGGART, Chagrin Falls, Ohio.

Several parties desire to purchase Fancy Pigeons, Live Squirrels and other pet stock, if you have any for sale, why do you not advertise in the OOLOGIST?

I desire at once a good skin of *Pseudogryphus californicus* (California Vulture). Write at once stating condition, sex, and lowest cash price. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of one hundred eggs, eighty different kinds, mostly second class. Many rare ones, all in good condition, for a Smith & Wesson revolver in fine condition. All letters answered. G. F. STROTHER, Culpoper, Virginia.

WANTED.—First-class eggs of following: Gray-cheeked Thrush, Dwarf Thrush, Audubon's Hermit Thrush, St. Lucas Robin, Varied Thrush, Leconte's Thrasher. Will pay cash for some. Address E. B. SCHRAGE, Pontiac, Mich.

LOOK! LOOK! Lot of Golden Days, magic lantern, mineral collection (40 specimens), stamps, books, good fishing tackle, etc., what offers in fossils, curiosities, minerals and ores? L. E. SEABER, Lititz, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Cabinet photos, of leading Sioux Indians, battle scene taken at Wounded Knee, Sioux Indian relics and a pair of all-clip ice-skates. Will exchange for eggs, minerals, insects or any cabinet specimen. Send descriptive list and receive mine. All letters answered. FRANK BENECKE, Chardon, Neb.

I have \$10 worth of Phonographic publications, *new, your* selection from publishers catalogue. Will exchange for good 2d hand standard works on Natural History, Ornithology or Oology preferred, or for desirable Indian Relics. What offers? FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—I have a few fine sets of Chachalacas also others to exchange, can use many common and rare sets also back numbers of the "Auk" for which I will exchange good sets, or pay cash or part cash. Few goodsets Whip-poor-will and Chuck-wills-widow especially desired. Please send list and receive mine, also quote lowest terms cash for "Auk" and sets Nos. 416 and 417 A. O. U. C. W. CRAN DALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OOLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—Maynard Flobert rifle in good condition, Will give Gulliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen, cloth bound (new), 1<sup>st</sup> vol, St. Nicholas and receipt for embalming birds for same. WALTER JOHNSON, 132 W, Brook St., Galesburgh, Ill.

## THE OÖLOOIST.

### EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

THE ORNITHOLOGIST and Botanist from March to December, 1891, for thirty cents worth of Hawk's or Water Bird's eggs. Only a few volumes left. WILLARD N. CLUTE, Binghamton, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Stamp album stamps, books, back Nos. of Youths' Companion 1883-8 for eggs in sets with data. ERNEST IRONS, 310 N. 2d St., Council Bluffs, Iowa.

WANTED.—Good strong pair of Climbing Irons. Will give in exchange Scribner's Magazine for 1891, value three dollars. HAROLD G. MOLLER, 16 Farragut Place, Morristown, New Jersey.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Many desirable sets for singers. RELIABLE COLLECTORS send list of eggs you have priced below 15c. that you desire to exchange. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—100 envelopes, size 6 with any address, for every 70 cts. worth of stamps or first class birds eggs sent me valued at 2cts. or more. GEO. A. FREEMAN, Box 71 Auburn-d e Mass.

WILL EXCHANGE Woods Illustrated History, good condition, eighteenth edition, value \$3, for Langille's Our Birds in their Haunts. T. PATTON, Hamilton, Canada.

TO EXCHANGE.—Tennis racket, stylographic pen, books, coins, stamps, electrical goods, mounted birds and other things, for oologists or taxidermists instruments; climbers; eggs, etc. D. B. BARTLETT, 1054 Elm St., Manchester, N. H.

TO EXCHANGE.—One "Odell" double-case Typewriter cost \$20, used but little. Will exchange for first-class Bird Skins. Send lists of what you have. THADDEUS SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

ERWIN G. WARD, Palmer, Mass. has Indian relics, coins, odd numbers of Harper's Magazine, etc., to exchange for "The Exchangers Monthly" Vol. I, No. 9; Canadian coins and Indian relics, etc.

FIRST CLASS original sets with complete data to exchange for others. Have 428 and nest, 737 1-7, 728 $\frac{1}{4}$ , etc. J. WARREN JACOBS Waynesburgh, Pa.

WANTED.—A good Camera, will give in exchange sets of Colorado Birds Eggs. A bargain to the right person. G. F. BRENINGER, Table Rock, El Paso Co., Colo.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A fine Mexican Parrot, worth \$50, Parrot and Bird cage (new), one pair of Australian paroquets, for shells, corals minerals (crystals), or other specimens, write at once. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

EXCHANGE.—Youth's Companions, Cross stylographic pen, Davie's Key, paper, new, and alligator teeth, for books or papers on taxidermy or ornithology or taxidermist instruments. CHESTER M. WHITNEY, Westminster, Mass.

VOLS. IV and V Golden Days for best offer of first class eggs in sets. A. O. U. Nos. 5, 75, 79, 76, 92, 115, 120c, 128, 197, 320a, 311, 314, 431 and 602 in full original sets for exchange. W. L. MORSE, 6 Onondaga Co. Saving Bank B'ldg, Syracuse, N. Y.

WANTED.—Old U. S. stamped envelopes. Will pay cash for same. Write at once to VICTOR L. WHITE, Box 136, Mt. Morris, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—A \$20 banjo and \$20 worth of eggs, for a D. B. L. gun, or other offers. JOHN OLDFIELD, Norton, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. Nos. 339a $\frac{1}{2}$ , 387a $\frac{1}{2}$ , 406 $\frac{1}{2}$ -5, 1-6, 420a $\frac{1}{2}$ , 453 1-6, 622a $\frac{1}{2}$  1.5-1-6, 767 1.5, 719b1-5. All the above eggs are first-class in complete sets with data and will be given in exchange for "Coues' Key" in first-class condition, 4th edition. H. SAYLES, Jr., Abilene, Texas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—One insect collecting box 6x3 $\frac{1}{2}$ x9, one egg collecting box 11x4x8—17 compartments capable of holding 75 eggs and can be carried in the field with perfect safety to eggs, good silver watch, Davie's "Key" 4th edition (cloth and gilt) new, Manton's Taxidermy new, will exchange all for first class bird skins. All letters answered. Address PETER LOWTHER, Mammoth, Westmoreland Co., Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Telescope, nearly new, strong, clear lenses, adapted for collectors, cost \$3.50; stem winding watch, nickle 3 oz. case, good time piece, entirely new, worth \$8.00; scientific books; skins; eggs; mounted plants, for good offer in specimens or especially Coues' Key for which I will give good bargains, make offer. W. T. SHAW, Deer Lodge, Montana.

STAMPS.—A collection of about 1000 varieties (val. \$30) to exchange, whole or part, for eggs in sets with data. Send your lists. W. H. OSGOOD, San Jose, Cal.

SEA SHELLS, Corals and Curiosities to exchange for eggs not in my collection. Send list and receive mine. ED VAN WINKLE, Vans Harbor, Mich. (Upper Penn.)

EXCHANGE.—A World Type-writer, valued at \$15, pair of climbers, lot of reading matter, total value \$20, for first-class sets with data. Correspondence solicited. D. FRANK KELLER, Reading, Penna.

TO EXCHANGE.—400 First-class Eggs, 25 species, sets and singles, value \$120. Wanted: Collecting gun, Davie's Key (latest edition), Coues' Key, Taxidermist instruments. OTTO L. BULLIS, Winnebago City, Minnesota.

WANTED.—Single barreled breech loading shot gun. Must be in good condition. Will give in exchange, mounted birds, skins or eggs in sets with data. WHIT HARRISON, La Crescent, Minn.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

A COLLECTION OF A 1 SKINS, valued at over ten dollars, and a set of 1-5 Gambels Sparrow gratis, all with complete data, for Coues' Key (4th Ed.) or Ridgway's Manual in good condition. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Ex. Block, Salem, Oregon.

A FINE VIOLIN and outfit worth \$10, a canvas canoe and paddle worth \$5, some fine war relics, some good books, a pair of nickle-plated skates and a good flute, for a double or single barreled breech loading shot-gun (12 or 16 ga) in good condition. Give accurate description. W. TALLEY, 612 Edwin Street, Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

## THE OÖLOGIST.

### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Feb) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in flex. cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th and 5th—Each a set with data of the Noddy.

For the March competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

**THE JUDGES:** You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Mar. 10th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the February competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a set of Noddy. 4th and 5th each a set of Sooty Tern.

In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

### The Oologist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

### For Only 50 Cents.

Every subscriber received for '92, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed, to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OÖLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OÖLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25 cents providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25 This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

Remember *every* subscriber received for the OÖLOGIST will receive FOR ONLY 50 CENTS the following:

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| The OÖLOGIST for '92.....          | \$ .50 |
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| "    "    25c on \$1.25 order..... | .25    |
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## PATENTS

For INVENTORS. 40-page BOOK FREE. Address  
W. T. Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law, Washington D. C.

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## PENSIONS

THE DISABILITY BILL IS A LAW.

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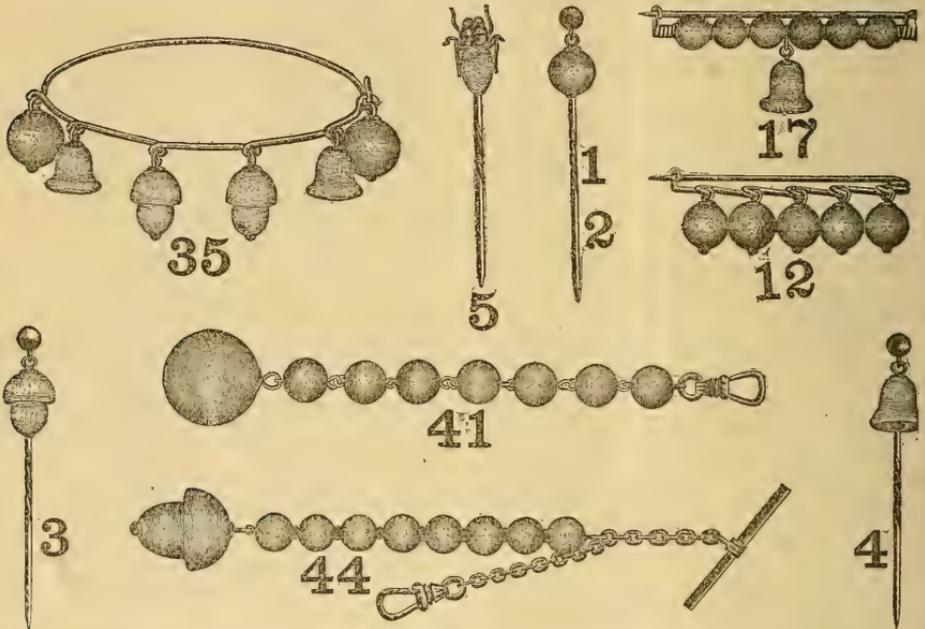
# —OUR NEW PRICE LIST OF— SATIN SPAR JEWELRY.

The material from which this Jewelry is manufactured is a very beautiful, fibrous, white, almost translucent mineral having a pearl or satin-like lustre, from England. We will mail a fine sample in the rough for 5c.

The Jewelry is all made from choice selected specimens of only the finest quality of Spar, and is cut and polished by experienced workmen. Nothing has been sold during the past few years, in the jewelry line, that has created the "craze" that can be credited Satin Spar. At Niagara Falls, enterprising dealers sell it to the credulous tourists as coming from that immediate vicinity (Table Rock in particular.)

It is sold under various names, such as "Niagara Falls Spar" "Moonstone" "Mineral Pearls" "Congealed Spray" (whew!) etc.

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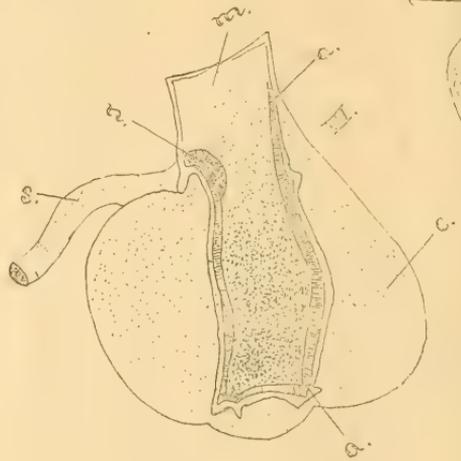
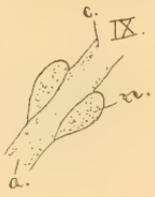
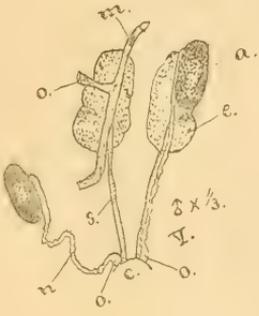
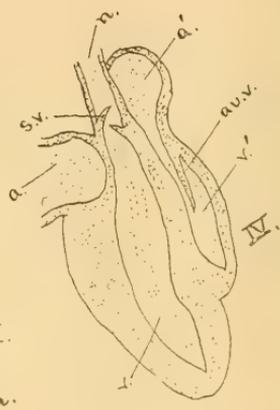
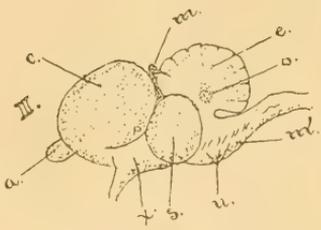
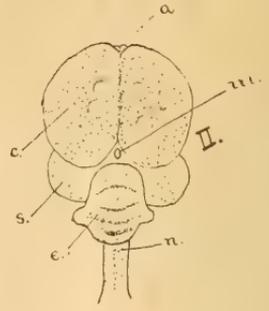
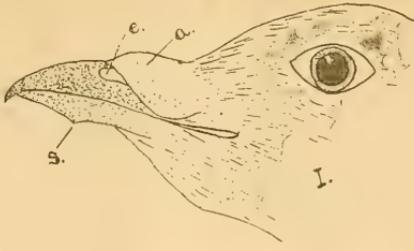


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| 1                      | Scarf Pin, small Ball.....  | \$ 25 | 41 Queen Chains, linked.....  | 1 00 |
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**FRANK H. LATTIN, ALBION, N. Y.**





Jno. O. Snyder.  
1931

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., FEB., 1892.

NO. 2

## ZOÖTOMY.

### THE DOMESTIC PIGEON.

In the following notes, the writer does not pretend to put forth anything new, and but little, if anything original. The material has been collected from standard works on the subject and from his own notes taken under competent instructors, and dissections made during the last year. He only hopes to give a few, or perhaps many young students an introduction to one of the most interesting of studies. These notes can be of no interest to the student who does not perform the work as indicated. A mere reading of them would be as fruitless and uninteresting as the reading of Dr. Jordan's "Manual of the Vertebrates" without seeing a specimen. A bird has been chosen as the subject, as it is supposed that most readers of the OÖLOGIST are interested in birds. While these notes will apply in a general way to the class, yet the student must not lose sight of the fact that comparisons are very important and should be made whenever opportunity is presented. Many interesting peculiarities will be noted in the comparative anatomy, "internal" as well as "external," of the Simicolæ, Galinæ, Raptores, Passeres and others. The Pigeon is selected on account of the comparative ease of obtaining specimens as well as the convenient size of the bird.

The implements absolutely needed to make a successful dissection are few and simple. A scalpel, a pair of fine pointed scissors, small forceps, blow-pipe, a hand lens and several dissecting needles made by forcing the eye-end of a large needle into a soft stick of convenient size. Probes made by dipping the ends of large bristles into hot sealing wax. The small drop of wax, on cooling will make a little ball which will prevent the probe "going wrong."\* Pen, pencil, ink, dividers and a good quality of drawing paper together with the note book must never be wanting. Not only should the student verify all notes in this article, but careful drawings of all dissections should be made. First, lightly drawn with a hard lead pencil and then traced with ink, remembering that exactness is more important than ornament.

With the aid of dividers all drawings should be made on an exact scale; natural size when convenient. Do not attempt a drawing until the dissection has been put in the best possible shape, and all the characteristics have been made out. Make your dissections on a table facing a window so that no shadows will bother. Although we have not space to pay much attention to external peculiarities of the pigeon, we can

\* A pair of bone-crushing forceps, heavy scissors, cartilage-knife, an injecting syringe, &c., may be used to great advantage.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE. DOMESTIC PIGEON *Columbia livia*. (Pen-drawing from dissections.) Fig. I. Head showing cere, &c. Fig. II. Brain, from above. a. olfactory lobes. c. cerebral hemispheres. m. pineal body. s. optic lobes. e. cerebellum. n. medulla oblongata. Fig. III. c. cerebral hemispheres. m. pineal body. a. olfactory lobe. e. cerebellum. s. optic lobes. m. medulla oblongata. n. roots of nerves. x. optic tracts. o. flocculus. Fig. IV. Half of heart. v. left ventricle. n. aorta. s. v. semi-lunar valves. v'. right ventricle. a. u. v. right auriculo-ventricular valve. a. left auricle. (The section was so made that the connection between this and ventricle is not shown.) a'. right auricle. Fig. V. Male sexual and urinary organs. x½. a. testis in place. e. kidney. s. ureter. n. vas deferens. o. vesicula seminalis. c. cloaca. m. iliac vein. o. femoral vein. Fig. VI. Half of gizzard. c. thick muscular walls of same a. horny epithelial lining. m. entrance of digestive canal. the proventriculus. s. duodenum. n. pylorus (opening into duodrum). Fig. VII. Cross section of brain showing (a) folds of cerebrum and (e) arbor vitæ. [This last (VII) from fresh brain.] Fig. VIII. Lower part of tracheæ and bronchial tubes. Fig. IX. n. coeca. a. rectum. c. small intestine.

not help glancing at the head. (see cut I). Notice the *eye*, position, size, &c.; compare with other birds; notice upper and lower eyelid; find the third lid; notice live bird wink; the *beak*; shape, size, color; *nostrils*; open mouth and probe to find their opening into mouth; nostrils open beneath a soft tumid cere; compare with bills of other birds; find the auditory aperture; compare with other birds; has size and shape anything to do with acuteness of hearing? make a careful drawing of head. \**The specimen should be killed with chloroform or ether*. If put in a large glass jar with chloroformed sponge, note which way it falls when being overcome by the drug. Laying specimen on board, draw outline of bird; dip in hot water and pluck; draw another outline of body; compare with first; notice feather trass, &c., &c.; thrust blow-pipe (one without enlargement of end) in the mouth: loop a string around the beak behind sere, tightening it enough to prevent air escaping while the crop and *air sacs* are inflated; withdraw the blow-pipe, at the same instant tightening the loop to prevent escape of air; tie securely; make an incision through skin along keel of sternum back to vent and forward to throat. Skin the whole ventral surface of the body; (being careful not to cut the crop) the *oesophagus*, trace it from mouth to crop; lobes of crop; fine lines, *muscle fibres* in walls of crop; *jugular veins* on each side of neck; *trachea*; rings of same; are they complete rings? do not forget drawing paper; large muscle of breast; muscles of abdomen; make an abdominal incision from sternum to vent; be careful not to cut the *abdominal air-sacs*; part the abdominal walls and note the *air-sacs*; find another pair of air-sacs anterior to these; remove the ligature around mandibles; break the humerus bone of one wing, after clearing it of flesh; insert

the broken body-end of bone in water; inflate air-sacs as before; what does this show? What are you doing with your note-book? the membrane which covered the contents of abdomen is the great *omentum*; make incisions on each side of keel of breast-bone; dissect away breast muscles, noting their structure, &c., with strong scissors make an incision through the sternum parallel to the keel; inflate the air-sacs at first; part the pieces of breast-bone; can any more air-sacs be seen? make another incision of sternum similar to first on other side; remove keel of sternum; note the position &c. of the following organs, viz.—*Liver*, *gizzard*, heart, lungs, intestines, &c., trace the digestive canal from crop to gizzard; backward from gizzard, the part of intestine nearest it is the *duodenum*—its loop shape; *pancreas* in loop; trace intestine backward; the *mesentery*, the thin membrane holding intestine; trace the intestine to the two bulb-like protuberances, the *caeca*; (cut IX-n.) back of these the digestive canal is known as the *large intestine*; the widening of the large intestine near the vent is the *cloaca*. The *liver*; lobes; the *bile ducts* leaving the right lobe; where do they empty? notice ducts leading from pancreas. The part of the canal for a short distance in front of gizzard in the *proventriculus*.

[To be continued in the March number.]

#### Bro' Partridge.

Hudson is a town of about 800 inhabitants. In September 1889, I saw a Ruffed Grouse in the garden upon an apple tree over run by a Concord grape vine. Every day or two for a month I saw him there. He staid in town all winter, in April he disappeared. In fall of 1890. he was on hand again, and during that winter spent three weeks of the severest weather in a large Norway spruce within twenty-five feet of my

\*The bird should have fasted a day or two before being killed.

window. He went out upon an apple tree three times per day, eating buds industriously, once he was within ten feet of me, as I stood upon the walk. Last spring he left as usual, and this fall in October he returned. Last Sunday he alighted upon the window sill within two feet of where I sat reading. He was not after me, but after the woodbine berries.

I have Kodaked him three times at 20, 12 and 12 feet. Pictures not yet developed. He spends considerable time under the front sitting-room window. After young clover, grasses, woodbine berries and gravel. If anyone comes by he leisurely walks down under the arbor vitae hedge, ten feet away.

But soon he returned. He has a good many families who know him well and would not have him hurt for the world.

My setter dog "Tom Dollar" has pointed him several times. When with me I have called him off. But how many times he has started him in his morning runs, I know not.

F. HODGE,  
Hudson, O.

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#### Yellow Warbler.

There is a swampy stretch of land within easy access from my house which is a favorite breeding place of the Yellow Warbler.

The bird is about five inches long. The principle color is yellow with some variation. The breast and back are streaked with orange brown (often indistinctly). There are no blotches on the tail-feathers as in all other *Dendroica*

Their flight is never long. If you were to approach this meadow about the middle of May, you would see them flying about from twig to twig either obtaining food or gathering material for their nests.

The nest of the Golden Warbler, as it is sometimes called, is one of the neat-

est and most well built specimens of bird architecture I ever saw. It is usually placed in a bush not far from the ground. Yet sometimes it is fastened close to the trunk of a small tree quite high up. Minot describes the nest as being composed outwardly of very fine grasses, interwoven with woolly or cotton materials which form a substantial wall. "This," he says "often covered with caterpillar's silk and is lined with wool, down from plants (particularly a dun-colored kind,) horse hairs rarely feathers."

The eggs are characteristic of the birds themselves. They vary to some extent. I have two before me which I will describe:—1. White with yellowish-brown markings, chiefly about the crown. 2. White with obscured lilac markings.

As soon as you come in the immediate vicinity of their nests they will leave them, and hover very near, at the time uttering in a beseeching tone a melancholy chirp which becomes more intense as you advance nearer the nest. In this way I have often found nests, where, otherwise I would not have noticed them.

Its notes are quite variable. You may often hear its soft chirp while they are at work among the bushes.

They are rather shy at the approach of man, except when their nests are disturbed. They are of great benefit in destroying insects, caterpillars' and canker worms which they like exceedingly.

A. B. DUNNING,  
Jamaica Plains, Mass.

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#### Black-throated Bunting.

A cheerier, happier feathered vocalist can scarcely be found, than the Black-throated Bunting or Dickcissel as he is locally called, and sometimes termed the Lady Lark, (*Spiza americana*) is about four inches in length, and wing

spread three inches, the color is brown above, drabish light beneath, with a yellow band beneath the throat.

In the heat of the hot June and July sun, it will swing to and fro in some tree or on a swaying weed and chant its few, unmusical notes, when all other songsters are silenced.

Its notes can be heard coming from all directions in a locality where *Spiza* is numerous as in this. A favorite place is some top-most twig of a tree near the nest, on which the female is setting upon which the male sways back and forth during the entire day uttering his song. There is scarcely ever more than a pair in company. The food consists of seeds largely and many insects. When the nest is approached both birds remain near uttering their cry in which scarcely indifference can be detected from that uttered in happiness, unless, perchance, the nest should contain young, then the scene is different, the parents remain near uttering cries of distress and flying near the intruder.

The nest of the Black-throated Bunting may be found in a variety of places, often upon the ground in meadows or attached between several large stalks, sometimes in bushes or hedges generally near the ground when placed in bushes or small shrubs. The nest is often composed of coarse tongue grass on the exterior and lined with hair or some equally soft or downy substance. The nest is usually composed of fine material and a well made structure, but some probably from hurried building or by an inexperienced pair are made of husks of corn, coarse rootlets, etc., but usually lined with some comforting element, but the average nest is an architectural affair of merit to the feathered builders.

The eggs deposited from May to July are of a blueish green, three to five eggs constitute a complement, and I think two broods are often reared in a

season, they are exceedingly shy and if molested will often vacate their parental abode.

The eggs measure from .75x.60 to .80 x.62 as an average.

JAMES HILL,  
Edinburg, Ills.

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#### Mountain Bluebird.

768. *Sialia arctica*, (SWAINS)

Hab. Rocky Mountains and higher ranges west of them.

This is our common and only Bluebird, in higher elevations of the Cascade Mt. range.

It is by no means abundant; in the vicinity where I made my observations, (Sweet Home, Oregon,) and I only saw 6 pairs within a radius of 5 or 6 miles. Its nesting sites are similar to those of *Sialia sialis*, but is more often found in barns and out buildings, than *S. sialis*.

I have found it nesting in the Post Office front, in under the eaves of the hotel, and deserted Woodpecker holes, generally not a great distance from the habitations of man.

The nests are composed mostly of fine dry grass, but in some locations coarser material is used to strengthen the nest in an unsecure position.

The eggs are generally 6 in number of a pale blue color, with a slight greenish tinge. They are a little more pale than the eggs of *Sialia sialis*, and will average about .84x.64.

Nesting season begins about May 15th and fresh eggs can be secured by June 5th.

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#### Western Blue bird.

No. 767. *Sialia mexicana*, (SWAINS)

Hab. Western U. S., from Rocky Mountains to Pacific.

This bird is chiefly found in the valleys and low foothills of the mountains.

Its habits are similar to those of the eastern bird, it nesting in holes of dead trees, and bird. boxes, &c. The nest is composed of dry grass, leaves and some times a few feathers.

The eggs are from 4 to 6 in number of a pale blue color, and somewhat darker than *Sialia artica*, also somewhat smaller averaging about .80x.61.

DR. A. G. PRILL,

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#### Oregon Chickadee.

No. 735b. *Parus atricapillus occidentalis*. (Baird.)

Hab. Pacific coast from California northward.

This is a common specie in Linn Co., Oregon. It is not found as abundant in the leys as in the hills and mountains, probably on account of the better facility for nesting afforded in the many dead trees in the mountain or wooded districts.

It feeds upon insects and their larvae, and at the close of the nesting season, gather in flocks (if the term may apply) and traverses the woods, going from bush to bush, in search of their food. The fruit orchards are also visited, and in this small bird the farmer has one of his best friends.

The nesting season begins in April, and fresh eggs may be obtained as late as June. I found one nest on June 28 which contained five young and one egg.

It nests in deserted woodpecker holes rotten stumps, and the complement of eggs is usually six although seven to nine have been found. Its nest is composed of moss and dry grass thickly lined with feathers and down. The eggs are of a white color, thickly speckled, mostly at the larger ends, with shades of brown.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

#### Western Yellow-throat.

No. 681a. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*. Brewst.

Hab. Western U. S., west of the Mississippi. (Davie.)

This species is common in the low swampy districts which are over-grown with wild rose bushes and tall marsh grass, in the vicinity of Sweet Home, Oregon. Although on entering such a locality you are greeted by several of the birds, it is no easy matter to find their nest. The bushes generally are very thick and grass perhaps a foot high. The nest being safely tucked away in some tussock of grass in the midst of these briars. The general habits of the bird resemble those of *G. trichas*.

The nest is made of fine dry grass, some times partly roofed over like the Meadow Lark.

The eggs are four or five in number of a creamy white, spotted at the larger end with shades of brown and black.

It's nesting season is in May. I have secured fresh eggs as late as June 6. Their average size is .66x.48.

DR. A. G. PRILL.

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#### My Trays.

As trays are an important factor of the cabinet, I will try to describe mine.

Although the majority of collectors will use nothing but paste-board trays, I hope a few will give the tray, I am about to describe, a trial.

Having had no satisfaction out of paste-board trays, I have at last a tray that suits me in every respect. Taking a block of poplar, 3x3x $\frac{7}{8}$  inches, I had a circular hole cut in it by means of a lathe, 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  inches deep. This made a square tray with a circular cavity within a sixteenth of the sides of the block and with an eighth of an inch bottom,

After sand papering it, I finished it off with a coat of black enamel.

Another tray was finished off with cherry stain and another was cut out of cedar and left with the natural finish.

These trays have a few advantages over the paste-board variety. They do not warp and can be had of any size or shape. They can be made to fit the cabinet drawer very snugly and produce a beautiful effect. Imagine, reader, a tray finished off in black enamel, filled with red cedar sawdust, and a set of four beautiful, blue eggs of the Wood Thrush reposing therein.

The trays can be made very cheaply. Poplar wood is the best and perhaps the cheapest. For a small amount, an inch board can be bought that will make a great many. After dressing the board, a sixteenth of an inch on each side, it may be cut into the blocks of the size desired. Then they are ready for the lathe.

I had my trays cut out very cheaply at the rate of one dollar per hundred at a cabinet shop. These I finished off according to my taste and time.

Next month, I may say a few words concerning the data I use, providing the editor does not consign this to the waste basket.

W. E. Loucks.  
Peoria, Ills.

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#### Pileated Woodpecker.

I read the article on the Pileated Woodpecker in the last number of the OÖLOGIST, and would like to make known to the readers of this paper some of my notes on this bird.

I had read considerable about how shy and retiring it was and how it disappeared from its haunts as civilization advanced. The first time I came across this King of Northern Woodpeckers was Oct. 5, 1888. I was at Trout Brook about twenty-five miles from Minneapolis, hunting gray squirrels. I was in

a small grove of trees, near a traveled road and within three hundred yards of a farm house. I had just shot a large grey squirrel, when I saw a large black bird fly from a neighboring tree and alight on a fence close by, which upon being shot proved to be a Pileated Woodpecker. Upon showing my bird to a farmer, he said one of his boys had shot one two weeks before in the same place.

The next time was June 5, 1891 at Buffalo, Wright Co., Minn. I was at Buffalo Lake after some of those five pound bass, which inhabit its waters. One night after a hard days work with the rod, we were taking it easy and telling a few "that reminds me" yarns. One of the party told of a Heron roost, that he had visited a short time back, and a colony of Woodpeckers, that he had found down near Pelican Lake.

As I was very desirous of securing another specimen I started for Pelican Lake the next morning at daylight. After an hour's drive I put up at a farmhouse, and went across the fields to the woods. At the edge of the woods from an old cotton-wood stub, about forty feet high I saw a Pileated Woodpecker fly. I had found my birds and now to get one. I followed in chase but could not get a shot so I returned to the nest, sat down and waited for the Woodpecker to come back. It was a long wait, but at about noon back he came and flew upon the top of a tall cotton-wood; it was an easy shot: he is now No. 213 in my cabinet.

Now the cottonwood stub in which this Woodpecker had its nest is within three hundred feet of a farm house, with a path running directly under the tree.

In these two cases which have come under my notice, it will be seen that these Woodpeckers do not always shun civilization; or has my experience been entirely different.

W. F. DEALING,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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Notes, Queries, short items and black-list will occur in March OÖLOGIST

The writers of articles appearing in January and February OÖLOGISTS knew nothing about the prize article contest at the time of sending in their Mss.

Judges in the prize article contest

must name the 1st, 2d, 3d, 4th and 5th articles as they may deem most valuable, if they do not name the whole series there is very little, if any, possibility of their being awarded one of the Judges' prizess.

The fine geological collection made by the late Prof. Worthen, State Geologist of Illinois, will form a part of the Illinois exhibit at the Exposition. The State World's Fair Board has purchased it for \$8,000.

## Notes on Albinos.

I read with interest, Mr. R. G. Goss's article in November issue on Albino Birds and his account recalls to mind the only freak in the bird line I ever saw alive in a wild state. This was a pure white House Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) feeding on a road in the city. He was very tame and I approached within five feet of him. He flew to a brick building and hopped onto the gravelly roof out of sight.

In the museum of the Detroit Scientific Association, however, there are several Albinos, of which I recollect the following: Green-winged Teal (adult male), Musk Rat, Red Squirrel and Belted Kingfisher; also a black and white American Coot, Rusty Black-bird and Gray Squirrel. I will look these specimens up and give a more definite description in the near future. Have also seen two live Albino Racoons, a mounted Crow, pure white with the exception of the tail which was dull black, and a snow white Florida Gallinule.

White eggs of the Long-billed Marsh Wren are not uncommon here, and the fact that such eminent ornithologists as Prof. Ridgeway and Capt. Bendire

should pronounce them "a great freak of nature" is a surprise to me. I must have taken at least seven sets of this species last June which contained white eggs. The average number in these sets were five and six and ranged in color about as follows: two natural, three white or light dirty yellow, spotted or blotched at the larger end, and the remainder pure white. I succeeded in washing the spots off many of the lightly marked eggs. My brother and Mr. Bradshaw Swales of this city have both taken a few pure white eggs of this species. I recollect Mr. Swales finding a set of six, all of which were white and another containing five white and one of the typical color and markings. Would be pleased to hear from him on the subject through your paper. All the white eggs are very rough and rather thick shelled.

J. CLAIRE WOOD.

#### A Day's Trip for Bald Eagle Nests in Florida.

What oölogist has not wished to find an eagle's nest, and dreamed of climbing some huge tree or scaling a steep cliff in quest of one. As I am no exception to the rule and thinking my brother collectors would be interested, I will relate how my wildest dreams were more than realized by finding three nests in one day.

On Dec. 14, '91 Mr. R. C. Stuart and myself started with horse and buggy at 8:30 a. m. for Gadsen Point on Tampa Bay, eleven miles from home, in quest of Bald Eagle's nests. After a pleasant ride of two hours and a half we came out on the Point and began to search the tree tops for nests and in a few minutes had spied a huge nest in a large pine about seventy feet from the ground; as it was the first nest that I had ever seen you can imagine my feelings.

As we approached the nest one of the birds flew off and began circling around

the tree screaming with alarm which soon brought its mate, and the two sailing around in their graceful flight made a beautiful picture.

Losing no time I strapped on my climbers and started up, but finding the tree too large to reach around I had to use a strap until the first limb was reached, and leaving it there soon reached the bottom of the nest, but here came the difficult part for the nest was so flaring that it was hard to gain access to the top, but after a little planning soon swung over into the nest, but the sight that met my gaze sent a shade of disappointment over my face for there sat two young eagles, scattered all around the nest were parts of ducks and fish some nearly fresh.

The nest was about six feet in depth and eight feet across the top, perfectly flat on top except a small hollow in the center about a foot in diameter and six inches deep lined with fine grass and weeds. The bulk of the nest was composed of pine branches about an inch in diameter but some were much larger, three feet long and two inches thick.

The nest was placed in the fork of the large main limbs and was so solid that I stood up and *walked around* on the nest.

This nest is typical of about a dozen nests which I have examined in the past three weeks. Taking the young eagles for mounting I soon descended and we started on. In about two hours we had found two more nests, and obtained two fine sets of eggs. As it was now getting late we packed the eggs safely in our dinner basket (an indispensable article on eggin' trips) and started homeward. To say that we were happy would not express it, I had found what I had been looking for for several years and my joy kept bubbling over at times. Well we reached home about dark and so ended a trip long to be remembered.

WILLARD ELIOT,  
Tampa, Florida

### Partridges and Their Relatives.

As there has been a great deal of confusion in our country as to Partridges, quails, grouse, and ptarmigans it may be well to make a diagnosis of the differentiating points in these kinds of gallinaceous birds. As a group or order, they are strongly marked; and may be associated with our common Domestic fowl. In other words, they are the wild hens.

Quails and Partridges on the one hand, and the grouse and the ptarmigan on the other, are well differentiated from each other; for the naked legs and feet and naked scab-covered nostrils of the former, always mark them as distinct from the feathered legs or feathered legs and feet and finely feathered nostrils of the latter.

Quails and Partridges, then, do not have feathers on the feet and legs; and no bird having such appendages should be called a Partridge or Quail. But to distinguish between the Quail and Partridge is not so easy. In this country it is the more difficult, from the fact that in the strictest typical sense, we have neither Partridges nor Quails, but birds of such structural characters, as place them between these two heading points of classification. Ornithologists, however, are coming to decide, that the short, thick, vaulted bills of our so called Quails in America, place them rather with the Partridges. The Quails proper of the Old World, have a longer, straighter, and more alternated bill, a longer and more pointed wing, and a more slender leg than our so called Quails. They are more particularly birds of flight and of passage, and far less of a scratching and running bird. Our common Quail so-called, therefore, and the elegant so-called Quails of western North America, are Partridges rather than Quails; and should be designated accordingly.

As to the Grouse and the Ptarmigan,

the differentiation is easier, and we have genuine representatives of the two families in this country. The Ptarmigan, *genus lagopus* or *hare-foot*, has the toes feathered out to the claws, strikingly like the foot of a hare; while the Grouse has only the leg feathered, and the claws pectinated with a sort of scales. Generally, too, the Ptarmigan, as it is a bird of the snowy mountain regions, for which its foot, fitted with a sort of snow-shoe, is so well adapted, turns white in winter; while the Grouse retains its color, and is not so boreal in its habitat.

Our Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), therefore, is not a Partridge, nor yet a Pheasant, but a genuine Grouse; and one of the most beautiful and interesting of its kind.

This is the substance of a discussion before the Ornithologist Association at Washington, D. C., Dec. 1, 1891.

J. H. LANGILLE.

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### Notes on some Peculiar Eggs.

Peculiarities occur so frequently in the coloration of eggs as to be scarcely worth recording as a rule, but the four sets mentioned below differ so greatly from the normal types as to merit a brief description.

Set a. Laughing Gull (*Larus atricilla*).

Two eggs. Ground color, now a clear pale blue, much like Bluebird's, but were originally somewhat darker, over this a few light brown dots are scattered, so small as to be scarcely noticeable.

Set b. Black Skimmer (*Rhynchops nigra*).

Two eggs. Color dull white, *unspotted*.

Set c. American Oystercatcher (*Hæmatopus palliatus*).

Two eggs. No. 1 normal in all respects. No. 2, ground color darker than usual, while the superficial color

is massed in one spot measuring  $1\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$  in. and some half dozen minute dots, the whole effect being very peculiar.

Set d. Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*).

Two eggs. No. 1, ground color pale greenish-blue, resembling the Least Bittern's, Pigment all confined to one spot, nearly round, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter. The color is black and very thick like a drop of oil paint. No. 2 resembles No. 1, but spot is larger, being nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter, its edges sharply defined.

There is a noticeable deficiency in the amount of pigment in sets a and b and this I think admits of a ready explanation. The eggs of Gulls and Skimmers are commonly taken for food and the colonies from which the above mentioned sets were obtained had previously been systematically harried for several weeks, until the reproductive powers of the birds were well nigh exhausted.

In case of sets c and d the peculiarities are not accounted for so easily. Here the color is normal in quantity but abnormal in its distribution, probably owing to some slight malformation in the oviduct of the female, and if so it would be interesting to know whether the same cause would produce similar effects in a series of sets from the same parents.

THEODORE W. RICHARDS,  
Washington, D. C.

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#### Collecting on the Farallone Islands.

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About noon on June 2d, my friend, Mr. Chamberlain, and I reached San Francisco and spent the afternoon in making arrangements for our trip, having previously obtained permission to collect on the Farallones through the kindness of Lieut. Perry, U.S. Lighthouse Inspector.

Next morning at two o'clock we repaired to the wharf and embarked on a "tug" which was getting up steam, pre-

paratory to going to the Island in search of incoming vessels.

We had passed the bar, which is at the entrance of San Francisco Bay, and were very much excited at catching a glimpse of the Islands, when suddenly, by some strange means, the excitement all left us and the remainder of the voyage was passed in excruciating agony.

On the near approach to our destination, we became aware of an incessant glamor of voices coming from the different birds, which produced a very weird sound, and, at times, was, so loud, that one's voice could not be heard for any distance.

At seven o'clock we disembarked and rested a few hours.

The main island known as the South Farallone lies about twenty eight miles west of San Francisco. It is about one mile long and one-third as wide. The light-house is situated on the highest point which is 340 feet.

The Island contains numerous caves washed out by the surf thousands of holes made between the rocks, by the rabbits and some of the birds, and presents the appearance of a large barren rock with many crags and points, without a sign of vegetation, and has no inhabitants except the light-house keepers and families, sea lions, a great many rabbits and countless numbers of sea birds.

The life of the light-house keeper is a very monotonous one. The sounds that he hears by day and night are always the same—the ceaseless ocean's roar, the wild screaming of the sea-birds, and the occasional howl of a sea-lion.

In the early spring the islands are covered with a plant called the "Farallone weed," but in a few months it dies on account of the drought and is used by most of the birds to construct their rude nests.

Some years ago, a Frenchman brought a pair of rabbits to the islands,

with the intention of supplying the San Francisco market, and in the winter, when the weed is green, the island is over run with rabbits, but, when the weed dies, most of the rabbits, "follow suit."

The first set of eggs that we found was one of the Western Gull. The nest was placed on the ground near the east end.

It was a mere platform of Farallone weed, about eighteen inches in diameter, with a very slight depression in the center containing two eggs. Measuring 2.80 x 1.95. It is very interesting to watch this species trying to catch a young rabbit. They will watch patiently at the rabbit's burrow until the victim comes out when the gull pounces upon it and slowly devours it.

I have watched a gull trying to catch a rabbit by slowly walking up behind the intended meal, but the rabbit would invariably hop-out of reach at the critical moment.

This gull is the only one of its family that nests on the Farallones, and it nests indiscriminately over the entire Island. An average set is three.

The next nest found was that of the Rock Wren and to me this is one of the most interesting species found. The bird reminds somewhat of the Dwarf Hermit Thrush.

The nest is built in a hole generally under a boulder, or in a rift of rocks. The five nests that I examined were made of cocoanut fibres and lined with hair, (from the "Island Mule,") or feathers, but the interesting feature is that inside of the hole and all around the entrance is paved with flat chips of rock, and in one instance, with shell and small bones. The chips of the rock varied from one-half to an inch in length about one-half an inch in breadth and quite thin.

They nest all over the island, more frequently on the lower portions. This is the only land-bird that nests on the Farallones.

Out of the five nests, two contained seven eggs each, two contained five eggs and two young one's each, and the last one, three eggs. They are pure white with light brown spots, principally around the larger end.

Average size is a .73 x .57.

The Tufted Puffin, called "Sea-Parrot," was found to be very abundant principally near the west end, it slightly resembles a Cockatoo. Their single egg is laid in a horizontal burrow (often made by themselves) from two to five feet deep. Occasionally a few pieces of weed are used for a nest.

These Puffins keep up a growling noise almost constantly,—in their burrows, or out.

A typical egg in my collection measures 2.75x1.95 inches. It is of a dull whitish color with indistinct purplish and light brownish blotches, principally in a wreath around the larger end. In some the marks are not discernable.

One day was spent in hunting Cormorant's eggs with great success, although we only found Baird's and Brandt's—no Farallones. They are called "Shags," and were most plentiful about the center of the island, above 150 feet elevation.

About forty nests of Baird's Cormorant were examined, most of them containing three eggs. The nests are composed of Farallone weed and placed on ledges of rock. The eggs are of a light blue and covered with a chalky substance. Average size of Baird's is 2.20x1.45 inches. Brandt's and Farallone's are larger.

Only a few sets of two eggs each of the Pigeon Guillemot were found, although the birds were very plentiful. They are called "Sea-Pigeon" and nest in any suitable hole among the rocks. The eggs are beautiful, being of a light greenish-blue, blotched, principally at the larger end with dark-brown and indistinct blotches of lilac. Measurements are 2.43x1.62.

The last sets found were those of Cassin's Auklet. One egg is deposited in a crevice under some rocks and the old bird is generally on the eggs.

They all seem to keep concealed during the day, but appear in large numbers about dusk.

A typical egg is white with a very slight greenish tinge, and measures, 1.95x1.31.

All the bird inhabitants have their peculiar notes and at dusk the Auks can be distinguished by their, *chee-rie kee—chee-rie-kee*.

The Guillemot's plaintive note somewhat resembles the sound made by a young pigeon.

Beside the "eggers" it is said the California Murre has a formidable enemy in the gull, on account of the large quantities of eggs that he steals, when the Murre leaves their nest: and I do not doubt that he eats eggs, on account of a little lesson that he taught us.

When "C" had laid down a hatful of eggs for a minute a Gull swooped down and picked out the only Auklet's egg and ate about ten Cormorant's eggs before discovered.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,  
College Park, Cal.

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#### Our Winter Visitors.

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Who does not hail with delight, the coming of those feathered friends which cheer us with their bright presence and merry chatter, when nature has donned her somber robes of grays and browns? What stout hearted little fellows those must be who can face the bleak winds and bitter cold and snow of the North!

Think of such a tiny bit of life as a Kinglet braving the severest weathers, all ruffled up in a ball, flitting among the branches of trees and picking frozen insects from the cracks and crevices of the bark, when the thermometer registers thirty degrees below zero; the

while chirping merrily and now and then singing their sweet little song. 'Tis a wise provision of Nature, that these little midgets can keep warm, even in the coldest of weather, when the larger species are compelled to migrate to warmer lands.

As long ago as I can remember, I took pity on the poor little bare-foot birds, and longed to bring them in and warm them by the fire. My childish mind could not solve the mystery of how the little Snow birds could stay out in the snow all day without freezing, while I was so much larger and could stay out but a few minutes. Mother used to tell me to knit stockings for them, but I was too young to do that, though I would try and bother her to start them for me.

Another dusky little bit of bird life, that makes itself welcome here, during the winter season, ever reminding us of its presence with its "*git, git, git git, git, git,*" as it teeters among the bush and fences, under logs and over the house, is the Winter Wren. It asks no odds, but will climb up the door or creep in at the window and tell one "git git" with as much independence as if it owned the whole world.

It awakens at the earliest dawn and we are often called to listen, by its faint, but clear musical song, long before the sun has risen, as it rustles among the fodder leaves in the shed. They are not afraid of even the cats, and will go within two feet of puss while lying in wait, but is dancing in yon brush pile before kit has time to move.

The "little upside down birds," (Nuthatches), are a source of constant torment to the cats. They have learned to come in the yard for crumbs, and are so tame and teasing as to keep just out of reach of those sharp claws that would like so well to toss and play with them awhile.

The "little downy" has taken up his

winter quarters in the garden, and has carved a neat hole down in the old stump, and will peck your hand if you place it over the opening.

The Persimmons and Black Gums are still full of fruit, down by the springs, where Woodpeckers of all kind flock in to get their breakfast, and Robins, Blue-birds and Waxwings feast throughout the day. The Purple Finches, too, make them an occasional call with their yeaping cries, like a flock of young chickens.

We are greeted all the year by the clear toned whittle of the Black-cap, as he hangs from some swaying limb, or is merrily singing his chick-a-dee-dee-dee.

Our night music from the Chat, is replaced by the screaming, ridiculous laughing and Whoh hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo-hoo, hoo, hoo-hooah of the Great Horned Owl. An occasional note is heard from the Motted Owl, in the morning or evening, as he sit lazily in the door of his palace in the Chinquapin tree.

The only Barred Owl we have met with came to stay. He stole the bait from our Wild-cat trap, one night, and the next night was unlucky for him. He now ornaments our book-case top.

This winter the Red-heads are all flown away; Tawney Thrushes and Snow-birds are very plentiful; Titmice are scattering; White-throated Sparrows are abundant; Fox Sparrows very rare, and since Thanksgiving, the Turkey has not been seen at all.

MRS. LILLIE PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

#### Nesting of the Golden-winged Warbler.

While out collecting May 25, 1891, in a small piece of swampy land on the borders of Voight's Woods, I was startled by a small bird that darted from some small bushes near my feet. I recognized it as the Golden-winged Warbler. After searching for a few moments

I found the nest which contained four eggs. The nest was composed of grasses, roots and leaves, and lined with fine dried grass with a little thistle down. The eggs measured .60x.47, .62x.48, .65x.50, .66x.52 and were of a creamy white color speckled with umber, lilac and chestnut with the greatest number of spots at the larger end. This bird can generally be found in the vicinity of low swampy woods and is a beautiful little creature. Its song is a pleasing lisping warble, and its habits are like those of the Titmice.

B. H. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

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#### Michigan Notes, 1891.

May 25th—Prairie Warbler—set of two fresh eggs from a nest situated in a small thorn bush. The nest was a beautiful little structure composed of fibres and grass and lined with hair and down.

May 27th—Hermit Thrush—took a set of three fresh eggs from a nest in a small bush. It also contained a Cowbird's egg.

May 28th—Took sets of 8 and 7 Red-headed Woodpecker eggs from nests in an old poplar tree. These are the largest sets that I ever took as the number is usually five.

Savanna Sparrow—set of four from nest in a hole made by a cow.

May 29th—Wilson's Thrush—set of four eggs from nest in a small bush. It also contained one Cowbird's egg. This is quite a common breeder here.

June 1st—Myrtle Warbler—found a set of four fresh eggs in a nest in a hemlock tree in Highland Park. The nest was firm and compact, about ten feet from the ground.

June 4th—Bobolink—set of five fresh eggs from nest situated in a meadow. Their nests are extremely hard to find.

June 12th—American Redstart—set

of four fresh eggs from nest in small maple.

June 13th—Ruby-throated Humming-bird—set of two from nest in oak tree twenty-five feet from the ground.

June 18th—Lark Sparrow—four fresh eggs from nest in pasture. This is the only nest of this species I ever found here.

June 21st—Orchard Oriole—three fresh eggs, nest in a small maple.

B. H. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

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### A Golden Nugget.

A strange novelty is this golden table corn, with its beautiful rich cream color. It is claimed by those who know it that it is very sweet, early and tender and a superior corn. We notice Vick recommends it very highly. The Floral Guide, which comes to us, bringing a bouquet of Carnations on the front cover, with a splendid bunch of Brilliant Poppies on the back, gives full description of this new corn, which is only 15 cents a packet. Vick's Floral Guide is worthy a place in the home of anyone who expects to make a garden the coming spring: By all means send ten cents to JAMES VICK'S SONS, Rochester, N. Y., for the Guide, and you can deduct this amount from your first order. It will pay you well.

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Marvelously rich in illustrations and text is the fiftieth anniversary number of the *American Agriculturist*, published at 52 & 54 Lafayette place, New York, for January. It contains no less than 143 illustrations engraved especially for it. Most of the leading authorities in American and foreign agriculture are among its contributors. It gives a remarkable statistical epitome of the present situation of American agriculture and the figures to show its apparently brilliant future. A comprehensive statistical review of the cotton trade and crop for fifty years and of our live stock and principal cereal crops is also given. The list is given of all the live stock breeders' associations of the world that preserve a registry for recording pedigrees, which is as complete for Europe as for the United States, and is alone

worth many times the fifteen cents charged for a single copy, or \$1.50 per year.

A QUARTER OF A CENTURY has elapsed since Lippincott's Magazine was first presented to the reading public. By adding new and original features it has kept in advance of the times, and now occupies a unique position among magazines. It was the first to abandon the use of serial stories, and by publishing a complete novel in each number, the Magazine has wonderfully increased in popularity. The January number ('92) contains a remarkable novel, dealing with newspaper life, entitled "THE PASSING OF MAJOR KILGORE," by Young E. Allison, late Managing editor of the Louisville *Courier-Journal*. A series of articles on Athletics also commenced in the January number. The initial article on "Boxing" by Daniel L. Dawson, illustrated. The articles will be prepared by experts in such sports and exercises as Rowing, Fencing, Base Ball, Cricket, Walking, Swimming, Archery, Tennis, Foot-Ball, Riding, Sailing, Golf, La Crosse, Polo, Wheeling, Curling, etc., as well as articles on Physical Training and In-Door Exercises. New Talent will be heartily encouraged as heretofore, and writers from every section of the country will be represented in the pages of Lippincott's during 1892. A series of articles dealing with reminiscences of men famous in our political history, and giving hitherto unpublished correspondence, will form a feature. A Department entitled "As it seems, treating of topics of timely interest, will form a valuable feature during the year. It would be impossible to mention in detail the wealth of material that has been secured for the ensuing year in the shape of Short Stories, Essays, Poems, etc. 25 cents, single number. \$3.00 per year.

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### "La Grippe."

Persons suffering from "La Grippe" are speedily and permanently cured by HUMPHREY'S SPECIFICS, NOS. ONE and SEVEN. NUMBER ONE allays the fever, pain and inflammation, while NO. SEVEN cures the Cough, Hoarseness and Sore Throat.

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## CONTENTS.

The following table of contents enumerates some of the principal articles in each issue. The "short articles" mentioned are one column or less in length and are all of great value to the student.

Not mentioned in the list of contents, each issue contains one or two pages of "items" or "brief notes", one column to two pages of exchange notices, and from three to eight pages of advertisements, besides a "query column" which occurs in many, although not all issues.

### THE YOUNG OOLOGIST.

- VOLUME I. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 12 each contain 16 pages. Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 each contain 20 pages. No. 11 contains 38 pages.
- No. 1.—Instructions for Collecting Birds' Eggs, (3 pages); Coues' Key; Twenty-four short articles. May, '84.
- No. 2.—Instructions for Collecting Birds' Eggs, concluded, (2 pages); Painted Buntings; Cala. Mottled Owl; List of Birds Found at Montreal; 24 short articles. June, '84.
- No. 3.—Maine Items; Yellow-headed Blackbird; Orchard Oriole; The Slip System; Wilson's Thrush; Hand-book of Agassiz Association; 23 short articles. July, '84.
- No. 4.—Screech Owl; Importance of Identification; A La. Heronry; Cardinal Crossbeak; Eagle's Nest; How to Make and Use Bird Lime; 14 short articles. Aug., '84.
- No. 5.—Bird-nesting—To Collect Scientifically, (3 pages); Cala. Birds; From Wyoming; 22 short articles. Sept., '84.
- No. 6.—Bobolink, (2½ pages); Sea Birds of Maine; Egging in Cala. Swamp; Old "Put" and the Bird's Nest; List of Wisconsin Birds; 12 short articles. Oct., '84.
- No. 7.—Bronzed Grackle; Singular Duel; Fish Hawk; Spurred Towhee and Least Tit; Old "Put" and the Bird's Nest; Bird Island; 14 short articles. Nov., '84.
- No. 8.—The Alligator; Collecting in Marshes; Woodcock; "Our Birds in Their Haunts;" Iowa Notes; Redstart; Summer Redbird; 18 short articles. Dec., '84.
- No. 9.—Baltimore Oriole; Texas Jottings; Sapsuckers; Barn Owl; American Ornithologists' Union, (3 pages); How to Handle a Gun; Black-capped Titmouse; Egg of the Moa. Jan.
- No. 10.—Winter Wren; Cala. Duck Hunting; Screech Owl; Davie's Egg Check List; Peacock with Queer Tastes; White-bellied Nuthatch; Blue Jays; Spotted Robin Eggs; 8 short articles. Feb., '85.
- No. 11.—Bank Swallow; English Sparrows; Study of Birds; Gt. Horned Owl; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Gambel's Quail; Conn. Notes; Intelligence of the Oriole; Yellow-breast Chat; Maryland Yellow-throat; White-rumped Shrike; List of Pacific Coast Birds; Knights of Audubon; Sample Data Blanks, (4 pages); 32 short articles. March, '85.
- No. 12.—Completes Vol. I. Title pages for binding, with complete and exhaustive index, (8 pages.) April, '85.

VOLUME II. consists of but two numbers. Each contains 32 pages.

- No. 13.—Bartram's Gardens; South Carolina Observations, (6 pages); Scientific Names; Gt. Horned Owl; Bank Swallows; Knights of Audubon; Hummingbird; R. I. Notes; Texas Jottings; 30 short articles. May, '85.
- No. 14.—American Crossbill; Audubon's Birds of America; Illinois Notes; Destruction of Birds; Cuckoos; Cala. Notes; Wrens on the Warpath; Golden-winged Warbler; Fox Sparrow; Our Winter Birds; Snipe Creek; Red-head; Wisconsin Jottings; Burrowing Owl, etc.; A Florida Trip; Horned Lark; Queer Homes and Nesting sites; Brave Bird; Ferruginous Rough Leg; Sparrows; Pigmy Nuthatch; 26 short articles. June, '85.

### THE OOLOGIST.

Volumes III. and IV. are Bi-Monthly. The remaining volumes are Monthly.

- VOLUME III. each issue averages 12 pages.
- No. 15.—Full page Frontispiece.—*American Water Owls and Nest*; Chester Island and the Marsh Wrens; Birds of Cortland Co., N. Y., (4½ pages); A Cheap Cabinet; Nest of the Black-and-white Creeper; Summer Birds about Washington, D. C.; Davie's Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds; Water Blowpipe; 5 Short Articles. Jan. & Feb., '86.
- No. 16.—Vagary of a Collector (Great Horned Owl, Climbing Strap); A Hunt for Tern Eggs; Birds of Cortland Co., N. Y.; Notes from North Carolina; Whip-Poor-Will; Nest of the Brown Creeper; Black-billed Cuckoo Depositing Eggs in a Yellow-billed Cuckoo's Nest; Cannibalism of the Red-headed Woodpecker; 23 short articles. March & April, '86.
- No. 17.—History of a Bird-Box; Tree Sparrow; Nests of the Green Heron; Bird Notes from Iowa; A Difficult Climb after a Red-tailed Hawk's Nest; Review of the Check-Lists of N. A. Birds, with special Reference to the new A. O. U. List (3 pages); The State of Maine as a Field for the Ornithologist; 16 short articles. May & June, '86.
- No. 18.—My first White Crane's Nest; Spring Notes; Notes from Chester County, Pa.; Turkey Buzzards; How to Make a Cabinet; Chewink Nests in a Tree; A Cabinet for a large Collection; 13 short articles. Jy. & Aug., '86.
- No. 19.—Collecting on Long Island; Chimney Swift; A Day with the Loons; Illinois Bird-Notes; Marsh Wrens; A Plucky Wood Pewee;

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- Minnesota Notes; Yates County (N. Y.) Notes; 8 short articles. Sept. to Nov., '86.
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- VOLUME IV. Each issue averages 12 pages.
- No. 21.—Birds of Chester County, Penn. (10 pages); Chestnut-sided Warbler; Massachusetts Letter; Bills of Birds; 3 short articles.
- No. 22.—Notes from Spoon River Region, Illinois; Peculiarities of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird; Purple Gallinule; How to Collect; Bird Surgery; Rufous-vented and Bendire's Thrashers and Canon Towhee; Newsy Items; Notes from College Hill, Ohio; Nesting of our Swallows; Notes from Sullivan Co., N. Y.; Blue-Gray Gnatcatcher; Notes from Connecticut; Fidelity of the Song Sparrow; 13 short articles. March to May, '87.
- Nos. 23-24. Combined number.—Tour in the Woods at Fort Washington, Pa.; National Museum (Department of Birds, Nest and Eggs); Beaver County, Pa. Notes; Black-capped Chickadee; Hawking; Agassiz Association and its Work; Crow Roosts of New Jersey; Swainson's, Warbler; Destroy the Cowbird; Traill's and Acadian Flycatchers; 7 short articles. June to Sept., '87.
- Nos. 25-26. Combined number.—Gannet; White Pelican; Black-capped Chickadee; Mockingbird; Late Collecting; Yellow-breasted Flycatcher; 5 short articles. Oct. to Dec., '87.
- VOLUME V. 16 pages each issue.
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- No. 28.—Title pages for binding, with complete and exhaustive Index of Volume IV.; Egg of *Epyornis Maximus*, the Colossal Bird of Madagascar (6½ pages); Fish Crow. Feb., '88.
- No. 29.—*Icterus spurius*; Water Blowpipe; Cardinal Grosbeak; Kansas Notes; A Moonlight Trip; Among the Coots on St. Clair Flats; Brown Thrush in Confinement; 9 short articles. March, '88.
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- No. 45.—Michigan Notes (4½ pages); Arkansas Notes; Goldfinch in Confinement; Burrowing Owl; Our Reply; Gleanings from Correspondents; 5 short articles. July, '89.
- No. 46.—Notes from Hillsborough Co., Florida (2 pages); Shore Lark in Canada; Can Quails be Domesticated?; Red-tailed Hawk; Untimely End of a Set of Brown-headed Nuthatch Eggs; Broad-winged Hawk and Black-capped Chickadee; Gleanings from Correspondents; Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association; 4 short articles. Aug., '89.
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- No. 48.—Winter Birds of Kalamazoo County, Mich. (2½ pages); American Long-eared Owl; Wood Ibis in Illinois; Birds of Bertie Co., N. C.; Collecting in Western Florida; A White Sparrow; Nests and Eggs of North American Birds; Black Tern; 8 short articles.
- No. 49.—Thick-billed Grebe; Birds' Nests; Yellow-billed Cuckoo; Mechanical Egg Drill; Birds Moving their eggs; Cardinal Grosbeak; To Pack Eggs for Transportation; Disposal of Duplicate Specimens; Complete List of the Birds of North America arranged according to the A. O. U. Check-List (6 pages); 5 short articles. Nov., '89.
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- No. 62.—The Rusty Blackbird; Notes from Ohio; Evening Grosbeak in New Hampshire; The Cala. Partridge or Valley Quail; Nothing at All—a Poem; Case for Instruments; Notes from Island Lake, Florida; 3 short articles. Dec., '90.
- VOLUME VIII. No. 63 contains 24 pages. No. 64, 32 pages. No. 66-67, 36 pages including cover. The balance, 20 pages, including covers No. 74 also contains an additional 4 page inset.
- No. 63.—A Day Among the Fish Hawks; The Marsh Wrens of Hudson Co., N. J.; Now.—The Time to Wage War on the English Sparrow; Nesting of the Downy Woodpecker in Kalamazoo Co., Mich.; American Sparrow Hawk; Anna's Hummingbird; Was it a Cow-Bird's nest; Florida Red-shouldered Hawk; On Owl's Tenacity to Life; Western Horned Owl; Albino Eggs; An Afternoon with the Birds: A "Good Enough" Way to Blow Egg; Meeting of the A. O. U.; Expert Taxidermy; 5 short articles. Jan. '91.
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No. 74.—The Sharp-shinned Hawk; A White Crow; The Pileated Woodpecker; Russet-backed Thrush; How Dr. M. Keeps His Oological Treasures; Thanksgiving Notes from the Far West; The Blue-gray Gnat-catcher in Arkansas; Shall We Organize; Bird Nesting in November; Frauds; A Further Contribution to the Chewink Controversy; One Day's Tramp; The Nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler; The Gulls; The Carolina Parrot; Bartram's Sandpiper; The Horned Grebe; World's Fair Notes. This number also contains a 4-page inset of Nuttall's Ornithology. Dec. '91.

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No. 75.—Bird Nesting in North-west Canada; Two Birds of Western Kansas; Ornithologists Association; Western New York Naturalists Association; The Blue Grosbeak; Maryland Yellow-throat; Chewink; The Bronzed Grackle; Prizes for Best Articles; Are Nesting Cavities Occupied More than Once; Old Recollections; Summer Tanager; "The Way of the Transgressor is Hard"; "Our Birds in Their Haunts." 5 short articles, this No. also contains a plate in two colors of Long Lake and Nests of Canvas-back and Yellow-headed Blackbird. Jan. '92.

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The announcement that Mr. Howells will leave Harper's Magazine, to take editorial charge of the *Cosmopolitan*, on March 1st, calls attention to the process of building up the staff of a great magazine. Probably in no monthly has the evolution been so distinctly under the eyes of the public as in the case of the *Cosmopolitan*. The first step after its editorial control was assumed by Mr. John Brisben Walker, was to add to it Edward Everett Hale, who took charge of a department called "Social Problems," subjects concerning which the greatest number of people are thinking to-day. Mr. Hale, who is a student, a fair minded man, a thorough American and a man of broad sympathies, has filled this position on a way to attract the attention not only if this country, but of leading European journals. Some months later, a department was established called "The Review of Current Events." To take charge of this, a man was needed who should be familiar not only with the great events of the past thirty years, but who knew personally the leading men of both the United States and Europe who could interpret motives and policies. Murat Halstead accepted this position with the distinct understanding that his monthly review should be philosophical and never partisan. The next step in the history of the *Cosmopolitan*, was the placing of the review of the intellectual movement of the month in the hands of Mr. Brander Matthews, who for some time has been recognized as one of the two or three ablest critics in the United States.

Finally came the acceptance of the editorship conjointly with Mr. Walker, by Mr. Wm. Dean Howells. Mr. Howells, who is recognized universally as the foremost American of letters, upon the expiration of his contract with Harper Brothers, on the first of March will take in hand the destinies of a magazine which promises to exercise a share of influence with the reading classes of the United States. His entire services will be given to the *Cosmopolitan*, and everything he writes will appear in that magazine during the continuance of his editorship.

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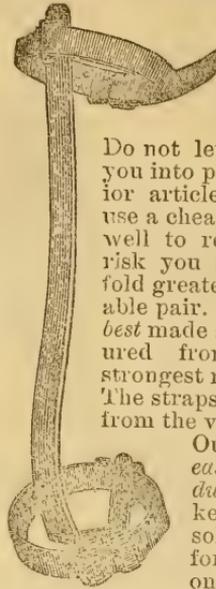
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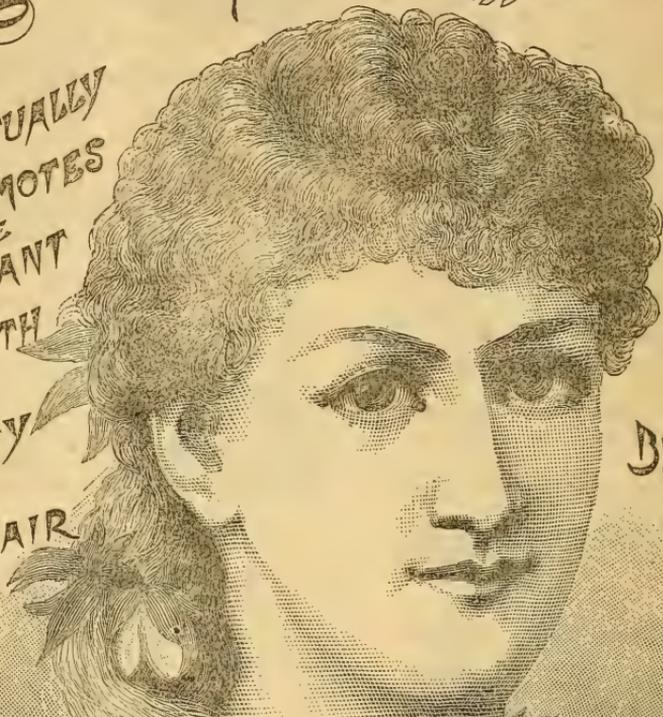
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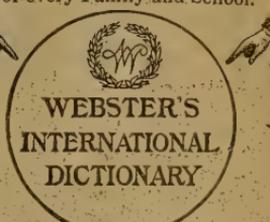
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VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1892.

NO. 3

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TO EXCHANGE.—Violin and outfit worth \$15 for best offer of cash, field glasses, botanical or oological instruments, &c. GEO. L. PERRY, Wilmington, Mass.

WOODS, 35 varieties, to exchange for best offer of eggs, skins, relics, etc. What have you? For particulars address E. DWIGHT SANDERSON, 1142 Fourth Ave. Detroit, Mich.

I WILL GIVE 100 mixed foreign stamps for every perfect arrow-head with locality or set of birds eggs with data, sent me. I also have vols xi and xii of Golden Days to exchange for first-class skins and eggs. GUS. RAPP, 465 Ninth St. Milwaukee, Wis.

25 DOLLARS WORTH of Stamps and a camera worth \$20, for books on American Moths and Insects, colored plates preferred, or an insect cabinet, also cocoons etc. for others. R. FROELICH, 1437 Lexington Avenue, New York.

"R. W. BENDER, Carson, Nev., wishes to exchange a good lathe and scroll saw in good condition, for a \$12½ set of choice birds eggs in good condition."

FOR STAMPS:—Eggs, U. S. Military Dictionary and Gazetteer, Records of living U. S. Army Officers, 2 volumes; Naval Encyclopedia Government Survey; Live Questions of the Day, Indian Sign Language. All official books. Also a \$35 open-faced, gold-filled Elgin Watch, in running order and excellent timer. O. W. BRIGGS, Paw Paw, Ill.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

WANTED.—Old copper cents and ½ cents and old United States silver coins, have eggs in sets, mounted birds and skins. Books and Indian relics for same. H. W. FLINT, Care Yale National Bank, New Haven, Conn.

TO EXCHANGE.—New York Ledger for 1891, complete, and Youth's Companion, complete for 1890 and 91, for best offers of 1st class eggs in sets. CARLETON R. BALL, Little Rock, Iowa.

WANTED.—A printing press, Small newspaper press preferred. Will exchange for bird skins, banjo, or purchase. All letters answered. PAUL VANDER EIKE, Lake Mills, Wis.

TO EXCHANGE.—A few hundred more of my lined trays in exchange for first-class eggs in sets with data. The last to be had without cash. E. J. SHAEFER, 338 Second St. New Orleans, La.

WANTED.—The address of collectors who can collect animal skins. Send stamp for list of prices paid, and directions how to prepare. JAMES P. BABBITT, 10 Hodges Ave. Taunton Mass.

WANTED.—Coues' Key, for which I will give either "Coues' Bird Life of New England," or "Samuel's Northern and Eastern Birds," and \$4.00 worth of desirable eggs in sets with data. F. L. FARLEY, St. Thomas, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE.—American Supplement to Encyclopedia Britannica, 9th edition, vols. 1 and 2 bound in leather, perfectly new, will exchange for best offer of books on Ornithology and Botany, or microscope, also printing press size 4x6 with type, write for particulars to D. T. KISSAM, 54 Sterling Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.

WILL EXCHANGE these first-class single eggs with data, A. O. U., Nos. 5-70-77-120-211-291b-261-300-360-423-443-501b-507-531-598-631-637-713-725-731 for first-class eggs in full sets with data. Correspondence desired with Southern and Western collectors to exchange sets the coming season. Send lists. All letters answered. WALTON MITCHELL, 534 Summit Avenue, St. Paul, Minn.

2,000 varieties of rare postage stamps to exchange, in any quantity, for first-class eggs in sets with data complete. Scott's catalogue and Lattin's prices as a basis. Send list of eggs stating about what is wanted in stamps and I will send list in return. H. C. HIGGINS, Cincinnati, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly cash for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF OBSTETRIE containing one hundred and thirty-three illustrations, with eighty-four colored plates, representing difficult operations etc. Value \$25. Will exchange for best offer of medical books. Gray's Anatomy, Park's Hygiene, Martin's Human Body, good books on Materia Medica, Practice of Medicine, Surgery or Gynecology, preferred. F. D. SNYDER, 33 Ann St. Ann Arbor, Mich.

Several parties desire to purchase Fancy Pigeons, Live Squirrels and other pet stock, if you have any for sale, why do you not advertise in the OÖLOGIST?

EXCHANGE.—I will give 8 Dukes cigarette albums for the best offer of first-class birds eggs with data. All letters answered. W. ELBERT FARRIOR, Charlotte, N. C.

TWO GOOD revolvers to exchange for best offer of first-class collecting gun, Coues' Key or Ridgeway's Manual. EDWARD WALL, Box 473, San Bernardino, California.

NOTICE.—I have a large collection of eggs, mostly in sets, that I will exchange for guns revolvers, musical instruments and anything desirable. N. P. BRADT, Hindsburgh, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sixty numbers of "Once a Week," thirty Once a Week Library Books, Sixty numbers of Scientific American, Buffalo Horns, Fragments Indian Pottery and singles of eggs, for eggs in sets, Minerals and fossils. All letters answered. H. A. SHAW, Grand Forks, N. D.

TO EXCHANGE.—Revolver, telescope, Indian clubs and dumb bells, for first-class mounted birds. EVERETT E. JOHNSON, No. 55 College St., Lewiston, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—Small printing press type and magic lantern, both worth \$3 for best offer of eggs. CLARENCE E. SIMPSON, Sherman, Chautauqua Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class rare sets for a first-class revolver. H. C. CAMPBELL, Lansingburgh, N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Grandfather's clock, stuffed birds and Chicago Air Rifle, for Books on Ornithology, Oology, Geology or Safety Bicycle. S. O. BRUSH, Milton, Vt.

One Mounted specimen of the Whistling Swan for the best offers of first-class single eggs. D. J. BULLOCK, Marshaltown, Iowa.

EGGS WANTED!—In exchange for 1 pair \$4 Speed Skates, brand new, a 1 condition; 14m. Youth's Companion '85 to '87; 133 No. Golden Days '87 to '90. GLENN LEVINGS, Potsdam, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs, sets or singles, for first-class bird skins, egg or taxidermist's tools. All letters answered. FRANK C. SHEPHERD, Hastings, Minn.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A nice flobert rifle. 32 cal., nearly new; and single eggs A. O. U. No. 4, 221, 413, 475, 497, 605, 768.; also a few sets for 1st class sets. ALMON E KIBBE, Mayville, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets or singles for back Nos. of the OÖLOGIST also eggs in sets with data. HAWLEY HALL, Lewisville, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Rare single eggs, for common in sets. Also a Vol. of Golden Days (vol. XII), for eggs and skins. And a Winchester repeating rifle (32 cal. short), for a collecting gun and outfit. Send for list and description of my articles. E. W. MERGLER, 136 Mulberry St., Buffalo, N. Y.

EXCHANGE NOTICE.—I have 1st class birds eggs in sets and singles, with data, to exchange for same. ERNEST MARCEAN, 38 Jones St. Dubuque, Iowa.

# AN EASTER OFFER

We quote the following Liberal Offers until May 1st,

ON EGGS OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIES.

Orders of 50c or over sent prepaid, under that amount 5c must be added for postage and packing.

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| For \$1.00 you can select Eggs to the amount of | \$1.50 |
| " 2.00  | 3.50   |
| " 3.00  | 6.00   |
| " 5.00  | 11.25  |
| " 10.00   | 25.00  |
| " 25.00   | 75.00  |

This offer will hold good until May 1st and is positively the only chance to obtain eggs at so low a rate of us during 1892.

All specimens will be carefully packed in strong tin or wooden boxes and sent at purchaser's risk by mail, or at our risk and purchaser's expense by express.

SECOND-CLASS SPECIMENS can be furnished of most of the species at one-half the price of a first-class one. Parties ordering second-class Eggs must name a list of extra Eggs to be used as substitutes.

SETS. We can furnish sets of species preceeded by \* or †.

A POINTER.—Collectors well know how readily they can exchange some cheap egg, not found in their locality with local collectors for specimens worth many times as much. Many wide-awake collectors will doubtless lay in a large supply for this purpose.

I might also add that if your collections are in need of any species included in offer, an opportunity to purchase at so low a rate may never occur again.

|                                |      |                                 |      |   |       |
|--------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|------|---|-------|
| Holboell's Grebe.....          | 50   | Widgeon.....                    | 32   | Bob-white.....                          | 10    |
| Horned Grebe.....              | 35   | Baldpate.....                   | 75   | *Florida Bob-white.....                 | 15    |
| American Eared Grebe.....      | 25   | European Teal.....              | 20   | *Texan Bob-white.....                   | 10    |
| Pied-billed Grebe.....         | 10   | *Blue-winged Teal.....          | 25   | *Chestnut-bellied Scaled Partridge..... | 50    |
| Tufted Puffin.....             | 1 00 | Shoveller.....                  | 40   | California Partridge.....               | 10    |
| *Puffin.....                   | 20   | Pintail.....                    | 40   | Valley Partridge.....                   | 20    |
| *Cassin's Auklet.....          | 3 00 | Barrow's Golden-eye.....        | 1 00 | *Gambel's Partridge.....                | 25    |
| *Murre.....                    | 20   | Harlequin Duck.....             | 1 25 | *Ruffed Grouse.....                     | 15    |
| *California Murre.....         | 25   | American Eider.....             | 20   | Willow Ptarmigan.....                   | 1 00  |
| *Razor-billed Auk.....         | 20   | American Scoter.....            | 2 00 | Rock Ptarmigan.....                     | 1 00  |
| Parasitic Jaeger.....          | 60   | Ruddy Duck.....                 | 50   | Prairie Hen.....                        | 20    |
| Long-tailed Jaeger.....        | 1 25 | Whooping Swan.....              | 1 50 | Sharp-tailed Grouse.....                | 75    |
| Glaucous Gull.....             | 83   | Whistling Swan.....             | 2 50 | Sage Grouse.....                        | 50    |
| Iceland Gull.....              | 1 50 | American Flamingo.....          | 1 00 | Wild Turkey.....                        | 75    |
| *Herring Gull.....             | 20   | *American Bittern.....          | 1 25 | *Chachalaca.....                        | 1 50  |
| *American Herring Gull.....    | 20   | *Least Bittern.....             | 20   | *Red-billed Pigeon.....                 | 2 00  |
| Ring-billed Gull.....          | 30   | *Great Blue Heron.....          | 25   | *Mourning Dove.....                     | 08    |
| *Laughing Gull.....            | 20   | Snowy Heron.....                | 15   | *White-winged Dove.....                 | 30    |
| *Franklin's Gull.....          | 75   | Reddish Egret.....              | 40   | Ground Dove.....                        | 25    |
| Caspian Tern.....              | 50   | Louisiana Heron.....            | 10   | Inca Dove.....                          | 75    |
| Royal Tern.....                | 40   | Little Blue Heron.....          | 10   | Turkey Vulture.....                     | 75    |
| Cabot's Tern.....              | 40   | *Green Heron.....               | 10   | *Black Vulture.....                     | 75    |
| Forster's Tern.....            | 15   | *Black-crowned Night Heron..... | 10   | *Mississippi Kite.....                  | 10 00 |
| Common Tern.....               | 15   | Yellow-crowned Night Heron..... | 25   | Marsh Hawk.....                         | 40    |
| *Aretic Tern.....              | 15   | on.....                         | 25   | Sharp-shinned Hawk.....                 | 1 00  |
| Roseate Tern.....              | 10   | *Limpkin.....                   | 1 25 | *Cooper's Hawk.....                     | 30    |
| *Sooty Tern.....               | 35   | King Rail.....                  | 20   | *Harris' Hawk.....                      | 75    |
| *Bridled Tern.....             | 2 00 | Virginia Rail.....              | 20   | *Red-tailed Hawk.....                   | 50    |
| *Black Tern.....               | 12   | *Sora.....                      | 10   | *Western Red-tail.....                  | 75    |
| *Noddy.....                    | 75   | *Florida Gallinule.....         | 12   | *Red-shouldered Hawk.....               | 50    |
| *Black Skimmer.....            | 12   | *American Coot.....             | 10   | Red-bellied Hawk.....                   | 1 00  |
| Fulmar.....                    | 75   | Red Phalarope.....              | 1 00 | Swainson's Hawk.....                    | 75    |
| Manx Shearwater.....           | 1 00 | *Northern Phalarope.....        | 50   | *Broad-winged Hawk.....                 | 1 25  |
| *Audubon's Shearwater.....     | 2 00 | American Avocet.....            | 75   | Duck Hawk.....                          | 3 00  |
| Cormorant.....                 | 50   | European Woodcock.....          | 1 75 | Merlin.....                             | 50    |
| *Double-crested Cormorant..... | 35   | American Woodcock.....          | 1 25 | *American Sparrow Hawk.....             | 25    |
| Florida Cormorant.....         | 25   | Dunlin.....                     | 35   | *American Osprey.....                   | 50    |
| *Brandt's Cormorant.....       | 50   | Black-tailed Godwit.....        | 50   | *American Barn Owl.....                 | 30    |
| Baird's Cormorant.....         | 50   | *Barttramian Sandpiper.....     | 40   | *American Long-eared Owl.....           | 25    |
| American White Pelican.....    | 50   | *Spotted Sandpiper.....         | 15   | Short-eared Owl.....                    | 1 25  |
| *Brown Pelican.....            | 25   | Curlew.....                     | 75   | Barred Owl.....                         | 1 00  |
| Merganser.....                 | 1 00 | Whimbrel.....                   | 40   | Florida Barred Owl.....                 | 1 00  |
| Mallard.....                   | 20   | *Golden Plover.....             | 40   | *Screech Owl.....                       | 40    |
| Black Duck.....                | 40   | *Killdeer.....                  | 20   | *Florida Screech Owl.....               | 50    |
| Gadwall.....                   | 40   | American Oyster catcher.....    | 60   |   |       |

|                             |      |                           |      |                           |      |
|-----------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|---------------------------|------|
| *Texan Screech Owl.....     | 50   | *American Goldfinch.....  | 08   | *Brown Thrasher .....     | 03   |
| California Screech Owl..... | 50   | *Arkansas Goldfinch ..... | 20   | *Texas Thrasher .....     | 30   |
| *Great Horned Owl.....      | 1 25 | *Lawrence's Goldfinch...  | 25   | *Curved-billed Thrasher.. | 25   |
| Western Horned Owl .....    | 1 25 | Snowflake .....           | 50   | *Cactus Wren .....        | 12   |
| Hawk Owl.....               | 1 00 | *Grass Finch .....        | 05   | *Carolina Wren .....      | 15   |
| *Burrowing Owl.....         | 25   | Western Vesper Sparrow..  | 15   | *Bewick's Wren.....       | 50   |
| Groove-billed Ani.....      | 1 00 | Savanna Sparrow.....      | 12   | Vigor's Wren.....         | 25   |
| *Road-runner .....          | 25   | Yellow-winged Sparrow..   | 20   | Baird's Wren.....         | 25   |
| *Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....  | 25   | Western Yellow-winged     |      | *House Wren .....         | 06   |
| California Cuckoo.....      | 10   | Sparrow .....             | 20   | Western House Wren.....   | 06   |
| *Black-billed Cuckoo.....   | 12   | Sharp-tailed Sparrow ..   | 35   | *Long-billed Marsh Wren   | 06   |
| *Belted Kingfisher.....     | 20   | Seaside Sparrow.....      | 25   | Tule Wren .....           | 15   |
| Hairy Woodpecker.....       | 50   | Lark Sparrow.....         | 04   | *White-breasted Nuthatch  | 30   |
| *Downy Woodpecker.....      | 20   | Western Lark Sparrow...   | 05   | *Brown-headed Nuthatch..  | 35   |
| *Red-cockaded Woodpeck-     |      | *Gambel's Sparrow.....    | 25   | Tufted Titmouse .....     | 35   |
| er.....                     | 1 25 | White-throated Sparrow..  | 35   | Plain Titmouse.....       | 50   |
| Pileated Woodpecker.....    | 1 00 | Chipping Sparrow.....     | 02   | ‡Chickadee .....          | 12   |
| *Red-headed Woodpecker..    | 08   | Western Chipping Spar-    |      | *Carolina Chickadee.....  | 15   |
| Lewis' Woodpecker.....      | 40   | row .....                 | 10   | ‡California Bush-tit....  | 15   |
| *Red-bellied Woodpecker..   | 30   | Field Sparrow.....        | 04   | ‡Verdin .....             | 50   |
| *Golden-fronted Wood-       |      | *Slate-colored Junco..... | 20   | Blue-gray Gnatcatcher..   | 20   |
| pecker.....                 | 75   | Black-throated Sparrow..  | 50   | Western Gnatcatcher ..    | 50   |
| *Flicker.....               | 03   | *Song Sparrow.....        | 02   | Wood Thrush.....          | 06   |
| Red-shafted Flicker.....    | 10   | *Desert Song Sparrow....  | 50   | ‡Wilson's Thrush .....    | 15   |
| Chuck-will's-widow.....     | 1 50 | *Heerman's Song Spar-     |      | ‡Russet-backed Thrush..   | 15   |
| Whip-poor-will.....         | 1 50 | row.....                  | 12   | ‡Olive-backed Thrush....  | 40   |
| *Nighthawk.....             | 40   | Samuel's Song Sparrow..   | 08   | ‡Hermit Thrush .....      | 40   |
| *Western Nighthawk.....     | 50   | Swamp Sparrow.....        | 15   | ‡American Robin.....      | 02   |
| *Chimney Swift.....         | 15   | *Towhee .....             | 10   | ‡Western Robin.....       | 15   |
| *Ruby-throated Humming-     |      | *Spurred Towhee .....     | 25   | Red-spotted Blue-throat.. | 60   |
| bird.....                   | 60   | Oregon Towhee.....        | 40   | Bluebird.....             | 02   |
| *Costa's Hummingbird.....   | 1 00 | *Californian Towhee.....  | 08   | Western Bluebird.....     | 15   |
| *Anna's Hummingbird.....    | 50   | Cardinal.....             | 05   | Mountain Bluebird.....    | 15   |
| Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.. | 10   | *Texan Cardinal.....      | 15   | English Sparrow.....      | 01   |
| Kingbird.....               | 03   | *Rose-breasted Grosbeak.. | 50   | European Tree Sparrow..   | 15   |
| Gray Kingbird .....         | 40   | *Black-headed Grosbeak..  | 20   | ‡Yellow-billed Tropic     | 2 00 |
| Arkansas Kingbird.....      | 08   | *Blue Grosbeak.....       | 25   | ‡Man-'o-war Bird.....     | 2 00 |
| Cassin's Kingbird.....      | 25   | *Indigo Bunting.....      | 08   | Canvas-back .....         | 1 25 |
| Ash-throated Flycatcher..   | 25   | Lazuli Bunting.....       | 20   | ‡Wilson's Phalarope.....  | 1 25 |
| *Crested Flycatcher.....    | 12   | *Painted Bunting.....     | 10   | Mountain Plover.....      | 1 25 |
| Phoebe.....                 | 05   | Grassquit.....            | 75   | Canadian Ruffed Grouse..  | 50   |
| *Say's Phoebe.....          | 20   | *Black-throated Bunting.. | 05   | White-crowned Pigeon....  | 2 00 |
| Black Phoebe.....           | 20   | *Lark Bunting.....        | 50   | Fla. Red-shouldered Hawk  | 1 50 |
| *Wood Pewee.....            | 15   | *Scarlet Tanager.....     | 25   | Western Bobolink.....     | 50   |
| *Western Wood Pewee....     | 20   | *Summer Tanager.....      | 25   | Bronzed Cowbird.....      | 60   |
| Western Flycatcher.....     | 25   | *Purple Martin.....       | 15   | ‡Chestnut-collared Long-  |      |
| Acadian Flycatcher.....     | 20   | Cliff Swallow.....        | 04   | spur.....                 | 75   |
| Little Flycatcher.....      | 40   | Barn Swallow.....         | 05   | ‡McCown's Longspur.....   | 1 25 |
| Trail's Flycatcher.....     | 20   | *Tree Swallow.....        | 15   |                           |      |
| Least Flycatcher.....       | 10   | Bank Swallow.....         | 04   |                           |      |
| *Prairie Horned Lark.....   | 30   | Rough-winged Swallow..    | 20   |                           |      |
| Desert Horned Lark.....     | 25   | Cedar Waxwing.....        | 10   |                           |      |
| Quddy Horned Lark.....      | 35   | *Phainopepla.....         | 50   |                           |      |
| *American Magpie.....       | 25   | *Loggerhead Shrike.....   | 15   |                           |      |
| *Yellow-billed Magpie.....  | 75   | White-rumped Shrike.....  | 08   |                           |      |
| Blue Jay.....               | 05   | California Shrike.....    | 08   |                           |      |
| Florida Blue Jay.....       | 50   | *Red-eyed Vireo.....      | 10   |                           |      |
| Florida Jay.....            | 1 50 | *Warbling Vireo.....      | 20   |                           |      |
| *California Jay.....        | 25   | *Yellow-throated Vireo..  | 25   |                           |      |
| Northern Raven.....         | 1 50 | *White-eyed Vireo.....    | 20   |                           |      |
| *American Crow.....         | 05   | *Bell's Vireo.....        | 15   |                           |      |
| Florida Crow.....           | 50   | *Prothonotary Warbler..   | 20   |                           |      |
| Northwest Crow.....         | 50   | Golden-winged Warbler..   | 75   |                           |      |
| Fish Crow.....              | 25   | Nashville Warbler.....    | 75   |                           |      |
| Starling.....               | 10   | Parula Warbler.....       | 25   |                           |      |
| Bobolink.....               | 20   | Yellow Warbler.....       | 05   |                           |      |
| Cowbird.....                | 03   | Black-throated Blue War-  |      |                           |      |
| Dwarf Cowbird.....          | 20   | bler.....                 | 75   |                           |      |
| *Yellow-headed Blackbird..  | 05   | Magnolia Warbler.....     | 50   |                           |      |
| *Red-winged Blackbird...    | 02   | *Chestnut-sided Warbler.. | 20   |                           |      |
| Bi-colored Blackbird.....   | 10   | Black-poll Warbler.....   | 75   |                           |      |
| Tri-colored Blackbird.....  | 20   | Black-throated Green      |      |                           |      |
| Meadowlark.....             | 12   | Warbler .....             | 75   |                           |      |
| *Western Meadowlark.....    | 12   | *Prairie Warbler.....     | 50   |                           |      |
| *Hooded Oriole.....         | 50   | Oven-bird.....            | 15   |                           |      |
| *Orchard Oriole.....        | 10   | Louisiana Water-thrush..  | 50   |                           |      |
| Baltimore Oriole.....       | 10   | *Maryland Yellow-throat.. | 15   |                           |      |
| *Bullock's Oriole.....      | 15   | Western Yellow-throat..   | 25   |                           |      |
| *Brewer's Blackbird.....    | 05   | *Yellow-breasted Chat ..  | 10   |                           |      |
| Purple Grackle.....         | 04   | Long-tailed Chat.....     | 15   |                           |      |
| *Bronzed Grackle.....       | 01   | American Redstart.....    | 15   |                           |      |
| Purple Finch.....           | 15   | American Dipper.....      | 1 00 |                           |      |
| *House Finch.....           | 06   | Mockingbird.....          | 05   |                           |      |
| Redpoll.....                | 50   | *Catbird.....             | 02   |                           |      |

## FOREIGN EGGS.

|                                |      |
|--------------------------------|------|
| Ostrich (25c extra if prep'd.) | 2 00 |
| Barbary Partridge.....         | 25   |
| Chuckar Partridge.....         | 25   |
| Black-headed Gull.....         | 25   |
| Ruddy Sheldrake.....           | 35   |
| Ring dove .....                | 15   |
| Song Thrush .....              | 10   |
| Blackbird.....                 | 10   |
| Egyptian Goose.....            | 1 00 |
| Egyptian Vulture.....          | 3 00 |
| Bul-bul.....                   | 50   |
| Black-headed Weaverbird..      | 50   |
| Sun Bird.....                  | 1 00 |

## MISCELLANEOUS.

|                            |      |
|----------------------------|------|
| ‡Gopher.....               | 35   |
| Python.....                | 2 00 |
| Skate.....                 | 05   |
| Shark.....                 | 15   |
| Hammerhead Shark.....      | 20   |
| Fossil Fish Eggs, per doz. | 10   |
| Egg Case of Periwinkle ..  | 25   |
| Hummingbird Nests each     |      |
| 15, 25, 35 and 50c ac-     |      |
| ording to condition        |      |
| and beauty.                |      |





A Pair of Screech Owls (*Megascops asio*) at Home.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAR., 1892.

NO. 3

## ZOÖTOMY.

### THE DOMESTIC PIGEON.

[Continued from February Number.]

Cut open the proventriculus, on inner side, with the aid of lens make out openings of gastric gland bisect the gizzard as shown in cut VI,\* notice thick muscular walls; why so? its horny epithelial lining; use lens; notice contents of gizzard; the tube leading to, much larger than tube leading from: is this difference in size of any use to birds? Cut out small section of duodenum, open out by a longitudinal slit, and after very carefully cleaning under water examine with lens before removing from clean water; notice villi; examine different parts of intestine; now look for the *spleen*, an oval body near the proventriculus; can you find a duct leading from it? when you have opportunity, examine the digestive apparatus of worm and insect-eating birds; fish-eating birds and same in small mammals; now turn your attention to the *heart*; its surrounding membrane, the *pericardium*; (should a blood vessel be cut its ends must be at once ligatured to prevent escape of blood, as blood tubes are more easily traced when gorged with blood.) Distinguish between the arteries and veins by the difference in their walls; trace the arteries to head and the return veins; the large veins from kidneys; the large tubes to and from lungs; why so much blood to lungs and kidneys? notice the peculiar "joining" of jugular veins at anterior parts (anastomosis); tie the large tubes some distance from heart, cut one (or more if necessary) of the

large veins insert blow-pipe and inflate the heart; the lower pointed part contains the *ventricles*; the upper part the auricles remove the heart not cutting the vessels too close to it, carefully dissect away any fat that may adhere to heart; bisect the heart; wash out the blood the *left ventricle* constituting the greater part of heart and extending into the apex; the *right ventricle* much smaller; the *right-auricle*; *left auricle*; which division of the heart has the heaviest walls; why? Your note book and drawing-paper; notice the *auriculo-ventricular valves* between auricles and ventricles; any difference between right and left? The left is the *mitral valve*; find valves in tubes proceeding from ventricles, the *semi-lunar valves*; see cut IV, and explanations of same; make out how these valves act; the *lungs*; inflate; let air out again; note the branching of *trachea* before entering lungs: are the rings of this part like those before examined! (Cut VIII)\*

Trace the bronchial tubes as far into lungs as possible; of what use are the cartilage rings? Look for vocal cords (membranes) at upper end of trachea.

Carefully remove an eye by cutting off the muscles and optic nerve.†

\*Can you find any connections between lungs and airsacs?

†The head should be removed and put into strong alcohol soon after death, to harden the brain. This will require some time, perhaps 2 or 3 weeks.

‡Many dissections are best carried on under water. This is done by means of a "dissecting pan," which may be made in the following manner. In the bottom of a tin pan (about 10 x 5 inches, and 2 or 3 inches deep), pour ½ inch of hot bee's wax. This should be cooled slowly by putting the pan in hot water and letting it cool as the water does. It is a good idea to have drops of solder on the bottom of the pan, or to have the tinner make a "ring" around the sides, near bottom, to hold the wax in place. The specimen may be pinned out on the wax, and it will be found that the parts will show much more distinctly under clear water. Whole animals, such as earth-worms, insects, frogs, &c., may be put in, while parts of the larger ones can be studied in this way.

\*For cuts referred to, see plate in February OÖLOGIST.

Note shape; optic nerve entering at back part. The eye must be dissected and examined under clear water.

With small scissors, divide the eye into an outer and inner hemisphere, by carefully cutting through the coats; separate the coats, leaving the humors, &c., in the outer hemisphere; notice the interior of the cup-shaped part of the inner hemisphere, the place of entrance of the optic nerve and the blood vessels. Now make out the three layers of membrane of eye; the *sclerotic* outside, the *choroid* and the *retina*, the delicate membrane on inside of back part of eye; how far does the sclerotic coat extend? Its character in different parts; how far does the retina extend? The jelly-like substances in the eye are known as *humors*. The one exposed is the *vitreous humor*; looking from behind into the outer hemisphere, note the *celiary processes*, the dark "plaited" part of the choroid coat; remove this and notice the *crystalline lens*; turn the hemisphere over and look from in front; notice the transparent continuation of the sclerotic coat, the *cornea*; back of this the *iris*, the membrane giving color to the eye; in centre of this, the circular aperture, the *pupil*; the fluid just back of the cornea is the aqueous humor remove the crystalline lens; note shape; what is the effect when placed over a small object? Put the lens in alcohol for a few days, then see whether its humor is arranged in layers like an onion; compare the size of optic nerve with some others of body,

The opening of ear; the *external auditory meatus*; the *tympanic membrane* stretched across its inner part; remove this; probe for the opening of the *enstacian tube* in mouth; the bony framework of ear will be studied in the prepared skull.

The male urinogenital organs. (see cut). The *testis* two white oval bodies of variable size in the upper, posterior part of body; the *vos deferens*, a tube

leading from them downward to the cloaca; the *kidneys*, large dark red organs above the testes; notice irregular shape, lobed. fitting into cavities in bone; the *ureter*, going from each kidney to the cloaca, the large blood tubes connected with kidneys. The female urinogenital organs. The *ovary*, a number of capsules, each containing an egg; these vary in size; the *oviduct* going from ovary to cloaca; can you find a rudimentary right oviduct?

The reproductive organs are most conspicuous in old birds near breeding time. The brain is best studied after hardening in strong alcohol. After removing skin and flesh from skull as cleanly as possible; beginning at the posterior part, with bone forceps or knife, remove the skull from brain by little particles; (great care must be taken in doing this, as a neat dissection of the brain is most desirable.) The large *cerebral lobes* separated by deep fissure; back of these the *cerebellum*; notice its ridges,—*gyri*; on each side of cerebellum, the *flocculus*; the *pineal body* on the dorsal side of brain, in the triangular opening between cerebral lobe and cerebellum; (read up on "pineal body" from some good author,) the lobes on each side, between cerebrum and cerebellum are the *optic lobes*; note the under side, the peculiar way in which the optic nerves leaves the lobes; the *olfactory lobes* connected with the under, anterior part of cerebrum. Compare this with other brains, as a rabbit or cat, fish, frog, snake, or that of man. Now notice the *cranial nerves* leaving the brains. Some parts of the brain contain cavities.

These are known as "*ventricles*." How many are in the cerebral lobes? Are there any in the optic lobes? Find these. Several other points will be noticed when making dissections as shown in the plate accompanying this article.

JNO. SNYDER,  
Waterloo, Ind.

## Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song.

The Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*) arrives in these parts on the first day of May, or perhaps a day or two earlier or later. The first notice we have of his arrival, is his sprightly little song which immediately attracts our attention, and from this time on, whether from the willows by the brook, from the depths of the forest, from the thickets adjacent, from the bushes by the roadside, or from the trees of the dooryard, this song is one of the commonest sounds of nature throughout the summer months.

No bird we have is such an untiring, persistent, all-the-while singer, as the Yellow Warbler.

Most birds confine their song principally to the morning and evening hours, and if they do not do this entirely, they surely quiet down at midday, when scarcely a sound is to be heard, but not so the Yellow Warbler,—morning, noon and night, he keeps it up, and the incessancy of his singing has become to be a matter of remark. Maynard in his "Birds of Eastern North America" speaks particularly of the persistency of the Yellow Warbler's song, especially during the breeding period.

But unceasing as is *aestiva's* song, we wouldn't think much about it until we began to notice it more closely. They say that "Facts are stubborn things and figures don't lie." Now I have compiled some figures in regard to *D. aestiva's* singing that may prove interesting. [I presume that I should have compiled this article in more scientific shape and sent it to the "*Auk*" under some such title as this: "Computation of the Relative Incessancy of the Song of *Dendroica aestiva*."] But those figures. Last summer a pair of these birds took up their abode in my garden, and there reared their young. During all this time, the male was constantly gleaning food among the shrubbery about the

house and garden, and his song was continually in my ears. All day long, or nearly so, it would keep up its pleasing tune at the rate of six vocal performances every minute. With the use of my watch, I found that every ten seconds, on an average, he would give utterance to his song, and that just before the close of every minute, his sixth song would come, and so six utterances a minute is his usual rate. Now let us figure on this. Six songs a minute, are 360 an hour. Let us say that he begins to sing at 6 a. m. and sings until 7 p. m. This is certainly generous, for of a summer morning, he begins to sing as early as 4:30. But granting him from 6 a. m. to 7 p. m., we will next allow him one hour's silence for breakfast and the same time for dinner and supper, and we will also give him a generous allowance of an hour's resting spell in the middle of the afternoon (But it is a fact that he sings at all his meals, and doesn't take any rest at all.) But with these generous allowances, what is the result? Why, during the lapse of one short day he has sung us 3,240 little songs. They are all the same to be sure, but none the less pleasing for all that. 3,240. A wonder he didn't wear his throat out before night, or at least, sing himself hoarse.

And what does this represent? 3,240 little outbursts of happiness. 3,240 expressions of self-content and satisfaction with everything around him, and 3,240 bits of cheer and encouragement to all who listen.

O, what a lesson for us of the genus *homo* to learn. If we would only look on the bright side of things, and do a little more singing, and the world would be 3,240 times brighter and happier.

But I am drifting. Do you care to figure *aestiva's* singing by the week, with the same charitable allowances? Then you have 22,680 of his ditties, and at the same average rate, he would

sing us during the month of May (his happiest time) no less than 100,440 solos.

If we should undertake to pay him for these poetical productions, even though we gave him no better pay than is rendered for poor spring poetry, viz. a "penny-a-line," even then we would have a bill on our hands at the end of one short month of \$1,004.40.

Had you looked at it in this way before? Had you really considered what a happy, contented little fellow, *Dendroica aestiva* is? Let us, the next time we meet him, take off our hat, and render obeisance to one who is always so contented and happy, and with the remembrance of him in our minds let us try, in the words of Pope, to "look through Nature up to Nature's God."

NEIL FRANKLIN POSSON,  
Medina, N. Y.

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#### Some of Our Thrushes.

The various members of this interesting family of birds, comprising as it does many of our sweetest singers, are, most of them, liable to escape the notice of most casual observers. To the naturalist they prove one of the most interesting families to study. Commencing with the Wood Thrush, we find him in this vicinity from about May 1st to Sept. 1st, when he moves southward for the winter.

As you wander through some small woods or close to the outskirts, or clearings of larger ones, you see a bird, but little smaller than the robin, risen from the leaves where he has been feeding, perch on the limb of a bush or tree and salute you with a clear ringing whistle, the warning note to his mate. You are struck first by the sharp contrast between his nearly pure white breast and the dark brown, almost black, stripes running in nearly parallel lines the whole length of it. If you continue to advance he will flit along before you and soon disappear when

he thinks he has taken you away from his nest. If he chooses to drop on the ground among the dead leaves, none but the sharpest observer will spy him as the tawney brown of his back harmonizes well with the dead leaves, in fact. I believe the color of the thrush is given him as a protection, as is the case with many other birds. If you look sharp around where you find him, about June 1st, you may see what appears at first to be a robin's nest, but which on closer inspection, you find to contain the mother bird. Now if you think, that like the robin, she will fly off as soon as you approach, and "raise the wind," as the small boy, and sometimes larger one, says, why you are greatly mistaken. She will let you approach until you look down on her in many cases, and sometimes even let you place your hand on her. When she does leave the nest she utters a note so mournful and low, you instinctively look for some bird at a distance, but on looking again you see her perched close by, her eye sparkling and alert, but uttering again that plaintive note which seems to entreat you to leave her treasures; but not so with her lord. At the first note he comes, crest erect, eyes flashing, and uttering a loud but bell-like whistle. as he flits around you, now dashing at you now inspecting his nest, he is the picture of anger, and as you leave him to his mate, you still hear his scolding voice behind you. I could write much more about this bird but must hasten on.

As we advance deeper into some large wood, we come to a place where it is wet the greater part of the year, the ground is covered with rank weeds and small bushes, the soil moist and in some places muddy, the leaves are mostly rotten and mosquitoes abound. But listen, just ahead we hear a low plaintive whistle, where did it come from? Where is the songster? Soon we hear it again, this time followed by a low

but sweet and full song, coming seemingly from the bosom of the earth. Advancing cautiously we see a slight rustle ahead, and looking closely we see a bird hop up on some small bush or root, which by his coloring we instantly recognize as a near relative of our late scold, the Wood Thrush, but look, he is much smaller, his breast is not streaked but spotted and he keeps close to the ground, we have found the haunts of Wilson's Thrush, and he is at home. The song of Wilson's Thrush is, to my mind, the sweetest of all the true Thrushes, and one of the best, short songs I have been fortunate to hear. It cannot compare in strength and variability with the songs of the Mockingbird and Brown Thrasher, nor in sweetness and length with the Canary and other warblers, but ranks well with the Purple Finch and the Grosbeaks. It is much more subdued than that of the Wood Thrush, which like the Robin is too harsh. The nest of Wilson's Thrush is usually on or very near the ground, and hard to find. The female is apt to leave the nest and skulk off on the ground leaving it to the tender (or otherwise) mercies of the intruder, when both birds will be heard calling to each other in a mournful voice. But the male makes no such demonstrations as the Wood Thrush. Leaving them and their nests which is usually so water-soaked you wonder how the young birds ever live the first day, even. We arrive again on higher ground and find an old clearing on the edge of the woods once all cut off, but, now grown up to small trees, briars and weeds. Under these small trees it is always dark in the summer, and here we find our third Thrush very rare as far south as this, never seen in summer below New York and New England states, becoming common from Maine, northward. It is the Hermit Thrush, the shyest and stillest of them all. He looks much like Wilson's Thrush, but his tail is redder, showing

different from rest of back at a glance. He is rarely seen far from the ground, being continually skulking under the brush and weeds, hunting the worms and insects it feeds on. Its song is short and low and resembles the song of Wilson's in tone, its warning note being almost exactly alike. The bird is so extremely shy it is very seldom seen except in the breeding season.

The nest is a ball of dry, dead, leaves, with a hole in the upper side, placed, usually close to the ground against an old stump or in the sprouts growing around the bottom of some tree. The bird sits closer than Wilson's but when she gets off the nest she disappears remarkably quick no matter how close you watch her, but go a little to one side and keep perfectly still and you will soon hear her plaintive note as she flits along toward the nest, keeping close watch for you, and if you move behold where is your bird? Suddenly disappeared, but if you keep perfectly still she will be seen to go to the nest and settle down again, if the nest is not molested, otherwise she will leave and you will see her no more in that spot. The male shows very rarely and then it is usually only a glimpse.

I could tell you more much about these and other species of this family but must give some of my colleagues a chance. Thanking you for your kind attention I will close, hoping what I have said was interesting to a few at least.

*Read by President E. H. Short before the W. N. Y. Naturalist Association at the meeting held February 3d at Rochester, N. Y.*

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#### The Specimens I Didn't Get.

The fisherman tells us regretfully of the biggest trout of all, which refused to take the hook, and the hunter insists that it was when he aimed at the finest deer of the herd that the cartridge missed fire; and it is in a similar vein that I write to-day.

It is late in July, 1877, and I am among the New Hampshire hills, about 25 miles north of Mt. Washington; there are still some nests to be found, for along the river banks the Cedarbirds are nesting in little colonies among the alders and the Goldfinches are at home in the small growth of the pastures and roadsides. A certain hill-side pasture is of interest, for two or three pairs of Winter Wrens live there, and to find their abode is my ambition, but in vain; for when by their excited movements in some pile of stumps and logs I am led to believe that their nest is "just around the corner" and commence to explore, they flit to the next pile and go through the same performance, and at last we leave in despair. A few days after, I received word from my friend that he had found the wished-for nest with five eggs, which were left for me to take myself. The next day we went to the place, but before we got there the Wrens met us, protesting most forcibly against our intrusion.

It is related that a young lady from Vassar, after witnessing the efforts of a steam fire engine to drown out a fire, turned to her escort and remarked, "who would have thought that so diminutive an apparatus could have contained so much water?" And any one who has met an excited Wren must have wondered that so diminutive a bird could contain so much indignation.

However, we ventured to the nest and peeped in, and to our disgust saw a most promising family of five young Wrens. But it was something to be able to say we had seen a Winter Wren's nest. The location was on the edge of a meadow, where it began to relapse into its original state of spruce swamp, and the nest was built in a hole in an old stump, entered from the top, and so entirely open to the sky. No attempt was made to cover the nest, as the opening was just large enough for the birds to pass in.

One evening my uncle asked, "do you know any bird that nests in the winter?" and then explained by saying that early in the preceding March a party of wood-choppers from the village were at work in a birch forest on a range of hills just west of the Connecticut river, when to their surprise they found in one of the trees a nest containing eggs, and on examination they found several others in the vicinity. They brought the eggs to the village and exhibited them, but no one took sufficient interest in them to preserve them. At last I found a boy who had blown one and kept it, so I made a bargain with him and he went home for it, only to return with the pleasing information that his mother had broken it and thrown it away, and so I lost the Crossbill's egg. He described it as colored something like a "Teeter's," (Spotted Sandpiper's) egg. I have never seen it mentioned before that this bird was social in its breeding habits.

The scene now changes to a Minnesota swamp, some 12 miles west of Minneapolis, where in making a survey a Hawk's nest was found in a maple tree, about twenty feet from the ground. The bird startled from the nest flew but fifty or sixty feet, and lighting on a dead limb, faced us with quiet curiosity, displaying the beautifully and uniquely marked breast of the Goshawk; but the tree was large and slippery and all our efforts to reach the nest failed, and that set of eggs never reached my cabinet. The next spring I visited the tree with climbers, hoping the bird to have returned, but was disappointed.

But I will not pursue this subject of "It might have been," much further, but to show that such ill luck still pursues me, will say that a friend in "the pineries" shot for me about a month ago, a large specimen of the Great Gray Owl, but when he came out his pack was so large that he had to leave it for the wolves. This specimen was shot in

about latitude 45° 45', quite a distance south of its usual range.

FRANK H. NUTTER,  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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Notes From Southwestern Ohio.

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In the course of my ornithological studies, I have been particularly interested in observing the difference of the abundance and varieties of birds caused by different locations in the same neighborhood.

In Clermont Co. the land on each side of the watershed between the Ohio river and the East Fork creek, is well drained, and the woodland is comparatively dry; while on the water-shed the land is quite wet, and has, in consequence, been left uncleared, to a great extent. In the dry woods on the hills, are found commonly, the Yellow-breasted Chat, the Chewink, and the Brown Thrasher and Black and Yellow-billed Cuckoos. In other woods not over a mile distant, these species are rarely seen and Wood Thrushes, Oven-birds, Acadian Fly-catchers and Tanagers make up the most of the feathered population.

In these wet woods, which, during fall, winter and spring, are covered with a few inches of water, the Wood Thrush is, in summer, by far the most abundant species. Early in May, when the woods are in new leaf, the woods fairly ring with the bell-like notes of these birds, the combined efforts making a grand concert, in which the Oven-birds and Acadian Fly-catchers took a part.

From the first of May, fresh eggs may be found, but they are most abundant during the second and third weeks. The nest is commonly placed eight or ten feet upon a horizontal limb, sometimes in a fork of a sapling, and have an internal wall of mud, lined with shiny, jet black rootlets, and covered outside with bleached lace like dead leaves, which contrast beautifully with the jet

black interior, especially when the latter contains the usual number of three or four blue eggs. Two is sometimes the complement, and I have seen five, but the latter number is unusual. One nest found on May 7th, was placed in an upright sapling in a narrow fork, so that the nest was built up to a height of 10 inches before it had room enough for the sitting bird.

The Ovenbird is next in abundance. Its clearly accented notes are heard in great abundance early in May and its eggs are laid at any time during that month. The nest, placed under a bushy dead limb on the ground, resembles greatly the nest of the meadow mouse, *Arvicola pennsylvanicus*, but is thatched outside with broad dry leaves of the white beech.

This bird is more imposed on by the Cow-bird, than any others that have fallen under my observation, as the following record shows:

May 6, 1 egg of Ovenbird, 5 of Cowbird.

May 7, 3 eggs of Ovenbird 3 of Cowbird.

May 23, 3 eggs of Ovenbird, 3 of Cowbird.

May 23, no eggs of Ovenbird, 3 of Cowbird.

The female was sitting, in each nest, excepting the first, when all eggs were fresh.

Another abundant resident of these woodland shades is the Acadian Fly-catcher. I cannot say when it arrives, but it is quite common by the 1st of May. It is difficult to see, as its plain colors corresponds well with the dead lower limbs of trees, on which it loves to perch. You may be guided to it by its shrill, "queedle-a-ree, ree," queedle-a-ree, ree, ree, which is almost constantly uttered; but the bird, as you approach moves on out of sight.

Its nest, always as I have found, is placed on a pendent limb of a white beech, usually about seven feet from the ground. One nest was made of yellow "tickle-grass," loosely woven,

the loose ends left sticking out for eight inches on each side. There was no other material used in the nest, which, on May 29, contained 3 eggs. Other nests are made more like the Wood Pewee's but deeper and with a softer lining. It may be well to mention here that, although no Least Flycatchers are seen here in the breeding season, they are abundant in August, moving through the leafy branches, quite unlike the rest of their brethren who sit and wait for a job.

All this time they utter a pair of sharp notes, *swick! swick!* lingering a little on the first letter. I have heard the Great Crested Flycatcher frequently in the spring but have found no nests.

The Maryland Yellow-throat is found abundantly in the sunny thickets surrounding the woods, loudly singing its leisurely "*yipp-o-whittie,*" "*yipowhattie*" in the top of a tree, or in lower notes in the thicket, where its nest may be found on the ground, or rather on a platform of leaves built up six inches high, from the wet soil and built of fine weeds and coarse grass. It is a rough nest for so trim a bird.

That the Woodcock breeds in these dark and gloomy woods, I do not doubt; but I have never found a nest there. Last spring while crossing a deserted wood, then grown up in swamp grass, I flushed a female who flew into the thicket, carrying a young one in her toes as she went off. This is a sight one does not see every day. She lit near by behind a log. I looked down and at my feet I saw another bunch of gray down squatted in a hole. I picked him up and examined him, and then, setting him down, he spread his long blue-quilled wings, and standing very high on his legs, he wandered away after his mamma, uttering a shrill whistle. As I moved, I noticed I had been standing upon another, also squatted in a hole, which saved his life probably.

Other species found in these woods

during the breeding season, are, the Summer Tanager, the Scarlet Tanager, Mourning Dove, and the Blue-winged Yellow Warbler. The latter is quite common in the thickets near patches of swamp grass; and many a time have I searched the grass tufts for a nest without success. Its only song is a lively *ra-a-y, chee*, the first syllable in the rising, and the second in the falling inflection.

The owls are represented by the Great Horned, Screech, and Barred Owls, named in the order of their abundance. The Screech Owl take the lead, however, the county over. A nest of the Barred Owl, containing a downy youth a little shorter and broader than a Screech Owl, was found on May 9th. This owl afterwards got into numerous scrapes.

Birds abundant in migration are Cerulean Warbler, Redstart, Black-throated Blue and numerous other Warblers not yet identified.

The tract of woodland this article describes contains eighty acres.

FALCO.

Montgomery, O.

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#### A Day with the Ducks.

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I think it was about March 10, 1887 that I had an invitation from an uncle to spend a day down at his ducking shore with him. I accepted, of course, and will try to give you a short account of our trip.

Leaving Baltimore at 7 p. m. by the Philadelphia, Milwaukee & Baltimore railroad, in about 40 minutes we arrived at Chase Station where the wagon met us. After a drive of nearly three miles we reached the shore, which is on the Gunpowder River a few miles above Maryland's celebrated ducking resort, and club place, Carroll's Island.

After a hot supper we set by the fire smoking and talking until bedtime.

It seemed to me that I had only been

asleep half an hour, when some one knocked on the door and said "four o'clock, breakfast almost ready." I jumped up, and donned my flannel suit and taking my long rubber boots in my hand went down to the dining room.

After eating our breakfast we drove down to the blinds, which were on the Gunpowder side about half a mile below the house.

In the morning we occupied two boxes, two men in each box. We remained in them until 12 o'clock, only killing 20 ducks, all of which were Redheads. We saw one flock of Geese but they passed up the river just out of range. By-the-way, did you ever notice how accurately a bird can gauge the range of a gun?

We found it very cold about this time and the ducks having ceased flying, at 12:30 we went up to the house for dinner.

Whilst we were eating, one of the men came up and said the ice had broken and was passing out of Saltpetre River, where we also had some blinds. Telling him to put out some decoys, my uncle and I soon followed him.

We took our places in the blind about 2:30 and 6 o'clock we had 98 Ducks, 97 Redheads and one Baldpate. I don't know how many we lost, as the wind and tide carried some away before the man or dogs had a chance to get at them.

The cause of such fine shooting was that the ducks having been kept from their feeding ground by ice, crowded in behind it as soon as it broke loose, and as they had to pass our decoys on their way up the river, a great many stopped with us.

I well remember one Redhead which came straight in over the decoys and blind, close enough to have struck him with a fishing rod. When he saw us below him, he used his wings, feet and tail in his efforts to climb out of our reach. I think he stopped with us.

By this time it was too dark to shoot, so shouldering our guns we walked up to the house and sent a horse and cart down for the game, which made a pretty good load. I ate duck for about two weeks after that.

Last year we had very little duck shooting in the Gunpowder, and still less so far this year. For some reason or other the grass which the ducks feed on, seems to have died out, or been washed out of our rivers.

WM. H. FISHER,  
Baltimore, Md.

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#### A Trip Through "Wa-hoo-Hammock."

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It has probably fallen to the lot of few persons interested in Natures products to visit the spot in which it was my good luck to spend three or four days in March 1889. "Wa-hoo Hammock" ("Wa-hoo" is very likely an abbreviation for War-Whoop and Hammock is the name given in the south to any growth of hard wood trees) is the place, and is situated in the interior of Florida.

For miles we traveled through forests of gigantic hickory, oak, and magnolia trees, many of them ten to fifteen feet in diameter and one hundred and fifty to two hundred feet high. These, I am aware do not rival the great redwoods, but I think, are the the largest to be found anywhere but in the far west. There is almost no underbrush and the great trees grow at distances of twenty to forty feet apart, and the place is almost as dark as night, as the trees hold their foliage the year around and it is so thick as to shut out the light. Combining this with the long festoons of Spanish moss and huge loops and swings of wild grape vines recalled to my mind the stories of my childhood of "The Giants that Lived in the Great Forest."

It is, of course the favorite abode of owls of all sizes and kinds, and it

makes no difference to them whether it be day or night. It is the hunters paradise. Bears are few, although several have been killed there in the last few years. Deer are more common, while wild-cats, raccoons, foxes, opossums and squirrels abound in numbers.

The specimens which I value most, however, are the skins of three fine Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. I saw eight of the birds and also saw one of them leave a hole, high up in a hickory tree—How I wanted to get up there! But it was utterly impossible.

As we traveled on, during the third day the trees became smaller—underbrush began to appear, and we were through the hammock, but that day we came upon a sour orange grove and it was a beautiful sight, as the trees were full of the white, wax-like flowers with the previous crop of golden fruit, which does not fall still upon the branches.

Leaving this we came to the open country and at once obtained quantities of smaller game—rabbits, quail etc., and soon came upon a large plantation the owner of which entertained us with stories of adventures with wild animals and with the Seminole Indians who once inhabited those parts. These we took with a grain of salt and next morning started for home, this time preferring to go around the hammock instead of through.

If any of the readers of this ever have the chance, by all means make the trip.

R. B. WHITEHEAD,  
Westfield, N. J.

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#### A True Naturalist.

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There are Oölogists of many descriptions, some collect for the money there is in it, some to outdo their friends and again there is the true lover of nature, who is prying into the secret lockers of Dame Nature in search of new truths,

and in their pursuit he finds the study of Oölogy a great assistance.

I have a very poor opinion of a man's morals who will collect birds eggs for the money there is in it.

Such a man cannot give us true descriptions of the birds, their habits and surroundings. His aims are selfish and sordid. His preceptions are blunted and the beauties of nature effect him only in regard to their market value. Not so with the enthusiast, the true lover of nature, Ask him what he sees in taking long tramps through the country in rain and snow in the winter and in the torrid heat of summer, often returning empty-handed. Ask him why he does this, and he will say I know not, a voice seems to be calling me away to the forests, I have no choice but to go. I seem to enter into a new life. The forests are no longer lonely, but the birds are singing hymns of praise, the old oaks are whispering their secrets to the south wind, and all nature animate and inanimate seem to be uniting in praise to its Maker.

Oh! that all naturalists had that finer preception that they might see into the secrets of nature. We would be nobler, truer men, what a bond of brotherhood there is between naturalists, what confidence they place one in another. I have often been asked when making an exchange. What do you know about that fellow? Why do you send him those valuable specimens? What guarantee have you that he will return value for value? I smile and say, that man is a naturalist, he and I belong to the same brotherhood. He will not cheat me, how do I know this? I know that a man who can read the pages of the book Nature has laid before him, gains good habits and good thoughts, and I know a true naturalist is a true man.

I have corresponded with a number of naturalists for several years. I do not

know them personally and have exchanged only very formal business letters with them, yet I instinctively trust them and would risk almost anything in their hands.

There are no exceptions to this rule, a true naturalist is a true man.

But there are some so-called naturalists who are not as honest as they might be. I know this to my sorrow. Any losses I meet with from such people as these, I have charged to the account of experience and come up again with a smiling face determined not to condemn all my brethren because there is one black sheep in the fold. I have an old colored friend who says, "You jes temptin Providen's to trust all them fellers, you gwine to get lef bad some of des days." I think differently and only hope that the day may come when all naturalists are honest men.

J., M. F., O.

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The Crow Around Omaha.  
*Corvus americanus.*

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There is probably no city in the United States where *corvus americanus* is so plentiful and tame as they are in Omaha.

Here they are almost as common as the English Sparrow or the tame Pigeon and show no more fear of man than the latter two birds.

All through the winter months and especially when the ground is covered with snow this handsome and intelligent but very mischievous bird is a common sight on our side streets and alleys and very often they may be seen in our dooryards picking up the refuse from the table. They seem almost absolutely without fear of man, and when busily engaged in enjoyment of a meal they can be approached within a very few yards before they take wing.

This will seem strange to people who live in eastern states; where the crow is considered the shyest of wild birds.

The farmer's boy who succeeds in crawling within gunshot of a crow in some parts of Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania accomplishes a feat, that he may well be proud of, but here any boy with a nigger-shooter or flobert rifle can pop away at them as if they were so many barn-yard fowls. This domesticity of of the Crow in this particular region is a hard nut for Ornithologists to crack.

We do know, however, that they congregate here in countless numbers and frequent the streets and byways of the city with the impunity of the Buzzard in Charleston or Savannah or the common tame Pigeon of any of the northern cities. They are good scavengers and deserve rigid protection. In olden days the Crow was supposed to be granivorous and was the least beloved of all our native birds, but in these days of scientific research and investigation the Crow like many others is known not to be nearly as black as he is painted, and almost everywhere something like a just sentiment prevails toward our Crows.

This was brought about by a thorough study of the habits and diet of the bird and instead of being wholly or largely granivorous, they are almost insectivorous and the amount of insect larvæ they destroy more than counterbalances their destruction in the grain fields.

This fact alone is sufficient to warrant their protection instead of the old time persecution. Strictly speaking, the Crow while being an extremely clean bird is omnivorous; he will eat or attempt to eat a door knob or railroad spike with the same avidity that would mark his attack on a sponge cake or veal cutlet. He is a splendid scavenger as I said before and picks up and does away with many a scrap of noxious offal which otherwise would be left to taint the air and breed disease.

The Crow is an interesting study at any or all times, and will repay anyone who takes the trouble to watch and

study them. A bird of marvelous intelligence and barring his mania for petty larceny makes a most entertaining and interesting pet; some authorities even go so far as to say that he may be taught to talk, but my experience with them does not carry that idea out to any greater extent than to say *Ah! Ah!*

Crows are very tenacious of life and there is said to be an old male in the London Zoo now about 100 years old.

Just now they are at their thickest around Omaha and every morning and evening great flocks can be seen flying over the city.

In the evening their flight is from the south or southwest towards Cut-off Lake where they pass the night and scattering out again at day-break towards the south and southwest. For years and years the birds have roosted on the low willows east and north of Omaha and when the sable host have congregated in the evening, the uproar from the numerous tongues is so loud you can not hear yourself think and the spectacle is a sight of a lifetime.

I could go on like this for a day, but our Friend Lattin has not the room nor I the time for it.

ISADOR A. TROSTLER,  
Omaha, Neb.

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#### A Peculiar Bird.

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On February second I went hunting on the Blue River for Birds. One of the students went along with me as I was unacquainted with the region. For two or three miles we scarcely saw anything but Snowbirds and Tree Sparrows. We then came to a bend in the river which was well grown up with timber, and here we found birds, plenty of specimens if not species. A number of specimens were secured among which was a *Spinus tristis* with a crossed bill. Another was secured which had a normal bill. The winter plumages being the same. I de-

termined the sex by dissection. The first was a female the other a male. The bird is normal in all respects except the bill. The normal bill has the commissure almost straight, curving downward toward the tip; in the cross-billed specimens, both mandibles are curved, the upper a little the more. The upper mandible is crossed to the right, which is true of the three or four Crossbills (*Loxia curvirostris*) that I have. I wonder if the same bird can cross them either way? Looked at from above, it seems that the upper mandible were merely bent to one side as the culmen lies in a straight line; but viewed from the side, the mandibles coincide past the ramus, but from there on they cross and curve till the tip of the upper is .15 of an inch lower than that of the lower. Has any one else found a similar bird?

CLOUD RUTTER,  
Doane College, Crete, Neb.

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#### Early Nesting of the Great Horned Owl.

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Thinking that it might be of some interest to the readers of the OÖLOGIST to learn of some early finds, Walter Truitt and myself have decided to give a short sketch of our January's collecting Great Horned Owls eggs.

The twenty-third of January we went to the woods to seek locations in which we might expect soon to find nests. Hawks of various species were noted, and numerous nests were located.

The sight of an occasional Great Horned Owl, as it silently left its roost on some neighboring tree and hurriedly fled to some hidden retreat, urged us on. Finally we noticed one of these birds fly away from an elm in a manner which attracted particular attention. Investigation revealed some feathers around a cavity in the elm. Curiosity impelled us to climb up the tree to gain a closer view. Truitt, who was first to put on his climbers, began to ascend,

but had scarcely started up when an owl flew from the cavity. What was my surprise when the presence of two eggs was announced. We took them and continued our tramp.

On our return a second surprise awaited us, for the eggs were so badly incubated that we succeeded, only with great difficulty even after a liberal application of caustic potash, in blowing them. They must have been deposited before the seventh of the month.

The twenty-seventh we again took the field and were rewarded with a set of two eggs, these were perfectly fresh. The thirtieth, we took two other sets of two eggs each, one set slightly, the other badly incubated, one of these sets was taken from an old Hawk's nest at an elevation of sixty-seven feet.

We thus closed one month's collecting, well satisfied and convinced that February would furnish still richer finds.

O. K. WILLIAMSON,  
Lawrence, Kas.

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#### A Trait of the Carolina Wren.

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I have seen a good deal written lately in the OÖLOGIST about the Carolina Wren, but have never seen anything about what is a distinct characteristic around here.

I mean their fondness for building in artificial places such as I will describe.

Two or three years ago I saw a pair of Wrens carrying building material into a thick evergreen bush, in the yard of an unoccupied house near where I live. I could not imagine what kind of a nest they were building as there was no hollow in the bush. At last my curiosity got the better of my discretion and I went to the bush and parted the leaves. One of the birds hurriedly flew out and I saw the nest about half done inside of an old watering pot.

The birds quit the nest but I had found out something. I put an old

paint bucket in a hedge near by and they started to build in it. But a child meddled with it and they quit that one too. Then a friend and myself commenced to put up tin cans, old coffee pots, etc., for Wrens, My friend got about five sets and I got one.

This was the spring and summer of 1890. In 1891 I was more lucky with my cans. April 11, I got a set of five from a can stuck between the boards of a fence by myself. The next three sets, all of five were in a stump, post and bank of earth, respectively. On June 17th I got a set of five from a can that I had put in a thicket. On June 25th I got a set of four from an old coffee pot I stuck up in the woods. And on July 5th I got a set of three from a can that a non-collecting friend had put up for me.

I have a very pretty specimen of a nest that a boy gave me. It is in a small round gourd with a hole in one side, such as are hung up for Martins. He put it in a hedge in his yard and the Wrens built in it.

All of the nests are made of pretty much the same materials. Leaves, grass, roots, pine, straw, moss, lined with horse hair and roots generally constitute a nest here.

The nest in the post was the deserted nest of a Blue Bird, prettily arched over with green moss.

ALBERT R. HEYWARD, JR.,  
Columbia, S. C.

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#### Visiting a Bald Eagle's Nest in Virginia.

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I see in OÖLOGIST of January, '92, the experience and adventures, of some of our collectors, and thought some of mine might be of interest to others.

Our Editor warns us not to meddle with Sparrows, So I will try to keep as far out of their way as possible, and will take up the abode of the Bald Eagle.

After repeated inquiry I found the lo-

cation of five nests of this grand bird. On March 2nd I went to the first and struck the tree, off jumped the bird, and flew screaming and whistling around us. By past experience we knew this meant eggs. So with what delight I buckled on my climbing apparatus only an experienced collector can tell up I went. The pine was very large, when about 80 feet and past the third limb, I struck my right climber rather high to get the next limb, when to my not very pleasant surprise, my climber broke square off.

So here stood our collector 80 feet from the ground, with only one climber and about 30 feet more to the nest. But after a moments deliberation, I decided as there were limbs up to the nest I would get the eggs, reaching that point in a few moments. I stood with my face just above the nest, which was so large that I could not reach the middle, nor could I see any eggs, and began to fear I would have my climb and adventure for my reward. But taking up a crooked stick I pushed around the center and to my delight brought out two beautiful eggs,

The nest was about 6 feet across, flat on top, and about 5 feet thick. The cavity in the center was about 12 inches across, and about 5 deep, lined with wire grass and corn husk.

After packing our eggs, I started on the downward course. At the last limb, 70 feet from the ground, came the tug of war, but I was in for it and had to go. With some very close hugging I got down 10 feet, to a dead strip of the tree which went to the ground; lightning had struck and killed this part many years ago. In this dead place were several Pileated Wood-pecker holes, into these I put one foot, and so reached terra firma in safety, and did not forget to feel thankful to the lightning and Woodpeckers for valuable assistance rendered.

F. THEO. MILLER,  
Kilmarnock, Va.

### The Vireos of Connecticut.

These charming little birds take a prominent place in the summer woodland attractions of Southern Connecticut.

The more common is the Red eyed Vireo, and is so well known to require much description. Being sober colored and shy they would not be much noticed were it not for their sweet warbling song, which may be heard at any time of the day in the shade trees of the town or the quiet woodland. The pretty little pensile nest is generally hung from bushes in quiet woods. I once found a nest eight feet from the ground directly over a much traveled road. In this locality four eggs are more common than three.

White-eyed Vireo: Of later years this little-eyed bird seems to be growing more common. They are the first of their family to arrive in the spring. Their queer little song can always be identified, it is sharp, decisive and to the point. They commence building early, and the nest is a work of art. It is larger and deeper than the Red-eyed; although the bird is smaller. When the nest is disturbed they express their displeasure by scolding in a most ferocious manner. The birds seem to prefer bush and scrub lots, and the nest is seldom over four feet from the ground. Three eggs are the average.

The Yellow-throated Vireo is the handsomest and most striking one of the family. His yellow breast and large size bringing him more into view. It is not a common bird here. For two seasons a pair of these birds have reared a brood in a small orchard at the rear of a house. They grew very bold, and when any body approached their tree the female resented it by flying down and snapping her bill and some times even striking the heads of the intruders. Last season the nest was so well concealed, that the young were

hatched before it was discovered. The eggs are slightly larger and more heavily marked than the Red-eyed.

The Warbling Vireo is not common. They much resemble the Red-eyed and the eggs are scarcely distinguishable. They are a bird of the tree tops and the nest is placed from 15 to 40 feet from the ground.

The Blue-headed Vireo occurs as a migrant.

WILLIAM I. COMSTOCK,  
Norwalk, Conn.

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### The Crossbill in Iowa.

I noticed a short article by W. W. Searles, on the America Crossbill, in the January OÖLOGIST, and thought a few notes on that bird might be of interest to your readers.

My acquaintance with the Crossbill began in the fall and winter of '84, I was then living in DeWitt, in the eastern part of this state. In our yard there were several large evergreen trees, and in these the Crossbills would spend a goodly part of each day, as long as the flock stayed in the vicinity.

The fall of '84 is as early as I remember seeing the birds, but each fall and winter after that, up to '88, when we moved from the place, the Crossbills were regular winter visitors. Some times they would stay in the vicinity as long as two weeks, so I managed to see a good deal of them. Our house was so situated that a balcony extended to within a few feet of the branches of two large evergreens, and from this place I have watched the birds for hours at a time. Cones were very numerous on these two trees, which made it a favorite resort.

While feeding the Crossbill is very intent upon its work, and does not seem to care "which end up" it is. They cling to the cones in all manner of positions, and a person may approach quite close to a flock without

startling the birds. The lower branches of these trees were not over five feet from the ground, and I have often approached to within easy reach of the Crossbills, but on the least suspicious movement, the whole flock rises, uttering a sharp, peculiar cry of one syllable. Ordinarily, when so startled, the flock settles in the near neighborhood, after making several circles overhead.

The largest flock I ever saw numbered about fifty, the usual number being twenty-five or thirty, and in all the flocks I have seen, I notice that generally about two-thirds of the birds are females.

Formerly I thought these birds must be kept on rather short rations, as the seeds are so hard to extract from the cones, but upon examining the stomachs of several specimens, I found that I was much mistaken. They were literally stuffed with seeds. Their peculiar shaped bill is adapted to this particular purpose, and when the Crossbill gets to work in earnest, it makes the chips fly.

After leaving DeWitt, I did not see the Crossbill until the fall of '90, when we moved to Hampton. Here I again renewed my acquaintance with the bird. I saw a small flock in November, 1890, and flocks of about twenty on Nov. 15th and Dec. 5th, 1891. This year ('92) a flock of about twenty-five has been in the vicinity, and I have seen the birds almost every day during the last week of January and first of February.

One thing I noticed in the Crossbill this month, which is new to me. I saw a flock feeding on ash seeds, -picking them from the ground under a tree. I had supposed their food to consist entirely of cone seeds.

To conclude with, I will say, the Crossbill is, in my estimation, a very model of industry, and one which I much admire.

FRANK H SHOEMAKER,  
Hampton, Iowa.

## Notes From the Virginia Coast.

The following observations on some of the more characteristic birds of the Virginia coast are from notes taken by Mr. Elliott B. Coues and myself during three trips to that locality in the seasons of 1883-89-90, and are simply the result of our personal experience which was, perhaps, somewhat limited.

SEASIDE FINCH, (*Ammodramus maritimus*.)

This species we found breeding abundantly on all the larger islands and along the shore, inhabiting the beach grass and the dryer portion of the marshes. Their nests varied considerably in construction some being open while others were round and domed like a Marsh Wren's, all built in the grass close to, but never touching, the ground. In all the eggs which I have examined the ground color is white or gray and has no greenish tint.

BOAT-TAILED GRAKLE, (*Quiscalus major*.)

Of all the land birds the "Jackdaw" was perhaps the most conspicuous, their peculiar cry being constantly heard. They are exceedingly shy, particularly the old males and we had considerable difficulty in shooting specimens even at the nests. They breed in colonies, the largest we observed being on Manckhom Island, in a grove of scrub pines, the nests being placed near the tops of the trees and built much like those of the Purple Grakle but larger. By the middle of May many of these nests held young of good size while others contained fresh sets of 2, 3, or 4 eggs.

FISH CROW, *Corvus ossifragus*.

Abundant, much more so than *C. americanus*. They breed about a month later than the latter species, nidification being at its height during the third week in May. They build only in the taller pines, generally selecting one close to the water. On one small islet

nourishing a half dozen low oaks and a lone scrawny pine, dwelt three pairs of Jackdaws (from which we took three sets of 4 eggs,) a number of White-bellied Swallows' with a pair of rash and misguided Fish Crows who had located a nest most conspicuously in the top of aforesaid pine. But their corvine confidence was badly misplaced for their eggs paid the penalty of reckless impudence. We found sets of four and five the latter being the most common.

CLAPPER RAIL, (*Rallus longirostris crepitans*.)

Exceedingly abundant on all the marshes, but the seclusive birds we seldom observed. The nests were neatly built, as a rule placed on the ground with the tall green marsh grass prettily twined and plaited into a bower above the eggs. Many others were built in the thick beach grass by which they are completely concealed, some again being placed on the piles of broken reeds thrown on the edge of the marsh by high winter storms. These latter nests were entirely open and exposed, being visible from a considerable distance.

Eggs commonly 10, many sets with less, and one which consisted of 12.

THE TERNS.

Five or six species occurred as follows, named in order of their abundance: Common, Forste's, Least, Gull-billed and an occasional glimpse of a Royal or Caspian. Though formerly abundant neither of the last two species now breed regularly in Northampton Co. The Common Terns breed on all the open beaches making little or no nest, unlike the Forster's which built a compact nest back in the marshes. Doubtless exceptions to this rule occasionally occur, but it is of importance on account of the impossibility of otherwise identifying eggs of these species.

The only colony of Gull-bills which we investigated was on Hog Island, where the birds were breeding abun-

dantly The nests were on the beach and not nearly so substantial as we had expected. Two eggs the usual number and no nest held more than three.

The beautiful Least Terns are now comparatively rare and we found only a few scattered pairs breeding on the shelly beaches where once they swarmed by hundreds.

LAUGHING GULL, (*Larus atricilla*.)

Abundant on all the marshes. They collect an immense amount of rubbish and build in the wettest portion of the marsh, many nests being actually afloat. Eggs not laid till June when we took sets of 2, 3, 4, and once 5 eggs, three being the common number.

BLACK SKIMMER, (*Rhychops nigra*.)

Breed in immense colonies on the bare sand bars, laying through the month of June. Where the birds are not molested 4 eggs are laid at least as often as three.

\* \* \* \* \*

While we collected to some extent on the mainland, most of our time was spent with the sea birds, for there is an exhilaration aroused by a tramp on the beach and marshes among their screaming, shrieking hosts which is never afforded by the quiet haunts of the rarer but much too microscopic Warbler.

THEODORE W. RICHARDS,  
Washington, D. C.

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An Hour with the Water Birds.

We stood on the brow of a steep hill overlooking the beautiful Humber River. About the journey there, with all its little incidents, adventures; and oölogical finds, little need be said. At any rate here we stood, gazing on the beautiful picture which lay spread out before us. About a quarter of a mile in front of us, was a corresponding bank; and between the river flowed, bordered on each side by extensive lily ponds. Farther south, we could see, a steep cliff overhanging the river, with

its frowning front mirrored in the glassy waters. Directly opposite, was a most beautiful spot jutting out into the river, shaded by several large willows. The back was protected by a thick growth of elders. What a delightful spot it would be for a quiet afternoon with birds and books!

A dull thundering roar now attracted our attention, and looking further down the stream, we saw, suspended between water and sky, a railway train crossing the steel bridge. Farther out, the deep blue of Lake Ontario, set with here and there a glinting white sail, formed a picturesque and striking background. This reminded us of our experience as sailors; moonlight excursions; an, oh dear! of seasickness. Thus our minds wandered to regions far over the lake, picnics; excursions, and all the general pleasures of holiday life. But here we were, standing in the hot June sun, with still a large part of our journey before us.

Down the steep hill we rushed, regardless of the mercilessly hot sun; regardless of the general shaking we received, nor did we halt until we were safely esconced behind the upturned roots of an old pine stump. From behind this we shortly afterward appeared in gaily striped bathing suits. Did ever anybody experience so delightfully rested a feeling, as we oölogists did; as thirsty, tired, and hot, we plunged into the delightfully cool and refreshing waters of the river. The occupants of some passing row-boats, stopped to look curiously at the amphibious creatures, which rolled and tumbled in mid-stream; and no doubt wished that they themselves were in the same position of ease and comfort.

In the delight of our swim we had for a moment forgotten the enthusiasm we had for our favorite pursuit; but only for a moment. Soon we reached the other side, and dove into the rushes amid the ceaseless clatter of Marsh

Wrens. If they made a fuss when we entered the reeds, the noise they made when we attacked their nests was indescribable. We were however rather early for eggs, and only two sets were secured, Round and round among those rushes we waded, waist deep in mud and water, and with only wet clothes on our backs; but that did not dampen our enthusiasm, much as it did our skin. Suddenly from in front of me there arose a little apparition in yellow, and with dangling legs and stooped head, a Least Bittern skimmed over the tops of the rushes for a few yards, and dropped. It however immediately returned, not by the overland route, but through the rushes, to find out the fate of its nest and eggs.

So sudden was the rise that I stood motionless staring at the bird; but a moment after I was stooping over my first set of *Botaurus exilis*. Five dirty bluish-white beauties formed the set, and with my treasures I hastened back to the landing where a boat manned by a friend was awaiting me. As it was now nearly five o'clock it was deemed advisable to start home; and in a few minutes our staunch craft was gaily riding the billows of Lake Ontario. A stiff breeze had sprung up and rendered our voyage back rather exciting but we were fresh and jolly because of our good fortune, and our treasures packed in our respective collecting boxes.

During our short stay a large percentage of the birds were Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*) and next in numbers were the Red-winged Blackbirds, (*Agelaius phoeniceus*), who were feeding their clamorous young who sat with flapping wings on the edges of the nest or on the reeds. Coot's (*Fulica americana*), were tolerably common but it was past breeding time and all we saw of eggs were a few broken egg shells. Lastly Least Bitterns (*Botaurus exilis*) were seen in small numbers, and Song Sparrows, (*Melospiza fasciata*) as

usual haunted the grassy edges of the pond.

W. H. MCNAIRN,  
Toronto, Ont.

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#### A Curious Battle.

One sunny morning in the early part of May, 1887, I witnessed a curious battle between a Baltimore Oriole and a Least Pewee. The Pewee was building its nest, which was partly finished, when the Oriole came and tried to steal the Pewee's building material to build its own. The Pewee resisted and there was a royal battle for a few minutes, in which the feathers flew from the bodies of both combatants. The Pewee drove Sir Lord Baltimore back, only to have him return to the attack, after a few minutes rest. In the third attack the battle raged hot and heavy for about five minutes and at the termination Lord Baltimore was glad to retreat, leaving the Pewee the victor.

MORAL—It is not always the stronger party that wins. Pluck tells every time.

BUBO VIRGINIANUS,  
Schuyler's Lake, N. Y.

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#### A Set of Krider's Hawk.

On March 24th, 1891, I and my friend L. L. Knox, started out for a days' collecting. On arriving at our favorite collecting ground, an elm flat we saw a large Krider's Hawk silently leave the nest, which was situated in a large elm tree, 75 feet or more tall. My friend strapped on his climbers but I took the tree without them. We got within six feet of the nest when my friend slipped and had to give up the race. I got to the nest after some hard climbing and found two eggs, one slightly blotched on the larger end and the other more so. We came down, highly elated with our success for we were the only collectors who had taken any Krider's that year.

G. W. ERWIN,  
Giddings, Tex.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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\*\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

E. E. H., of Cleveland, O., writes: "In the summer of 1889 I spent a few months in Vermont and had a very peculiar find. I was setting by a small creek reading and was startled by a bird flying up right by the side of me and looking in the hole in the ground I spied a nest containing four eggs exactly like the Wood Thrush in color but not quite so large. I am sorry I could not see the bird but my eggs are still unidentified."

R. J. B., of Minneapolis, writes of taking "albino" eggs of Cliff Swallows. They can more appropriately be termed "abnormal" and are not uncommon.

W. L. B., of Bay City, Mich., sends an interesting account of a day with the Hawks and Crows, but as almost every reader of the Oölogist has had a like experience, the lack of space forbids our printing it.

In a letter of recent date our friend, Rev. J. H. Langille, says, "The Smithsonian Institution has lately purchased, ready mounted, twelve magnificent species of Birds of Paradise, from New Guinea. They are a show in themselves."

G. N., West Quincy, Mass., writes that Flickers, Chewinks, Song Sparrows and Robins have been quite common with them this winter, also that 43 eggs of *Passer domesticus* were taken from a single electric lamp in that town last season.

H. B. A., Manchester, Ia., writes that large numbers of American Crossbills have been feeding on sunflower seeds in his garden this winter.

It gives us pleasure to announce that arrangements have been perfected whereby each issue of the Oölogist for the year will contain a full page frontis piece, engraved expressly for that purpose; also that small illustrations will be made to illustrate any MSS. requiring the same, providing the drawings accompany the article and we deem them worthy or of sufficient importance to admit the additional expense.

The following taken from the Manchester, N. H. *Union* records habits of a very common bird, entirely new to the ornithological world. Had this egotistical writer consulted some wide-awake ten-year-old boy he might have been saved the pain of having his extreme ignorance exposed in making such an almost unpardonable blundering statement:

□ "Are you sure? A writer on animal oddities says:

"The British Cuckoo and the American Cow Blackbird never build nests of their own, but content themselves with

depositing their eggs in the nests of other and smaller representatives of the feathered tribe.

This yarn has been going about the Cuckoo for many years and some people have supposed that it applied to the American bird; and such cases may have happened on either side of the Atlantic, but it is not the custom with either bird in this country.

The female of the Cow Blackbird, Red-winged Blackbird and Bobolink differ so much from the male in appearance that many people have wondered when they found nests of these birds with the female on the eggs. The writer has seen scores of nests of the Cow Blackbird, sometimes three or four on one willow overhanging the Mississippi river, where the birds were so numerous and tame that they would often ride on the same log with a man and pick off insects that were exposed by the log being rolled over."

#### January Prize Article Contest.

One hundred and seven (107) Judges sent in their decisions as to the merits of the articles in January OÖLOGIST. In determining the results of these 107 decisions we allowed the articles named by each judge, credits as follows: The articles named as deserving the 1st prize we allowed five credits; 2d prize, four credits; 3d prize, three credits; 4th prize, two credits; and the 5th prize, one credit.

Upon this system of credits, the articles winning the prizes and the number of credits received by each were as follows:

1. Bird Nesting in North-west Canada. 475.
2. Two Birds of Western Kansas. 280.
3. The Bronzed Grackle. 253.
4. The Blue Grosbeak. 244.
5. Summer Tanager. 155.

Seven other articles received credits ranging from 7 to 67 each.

All future awards will be made on the same credit system.

The decisions of the 107 Judges were numbered from 1 to 107, consecutively, as received. Three of these lists or decisions were exactly as the awards were made and to these three were awarded the Judges prizes. The earliest list taking 1st prize; second, 2d prize; third, 3d prize.

The successful Judges and the number of their decisions as received by us were as follows:

1. Geo. H. Gray, Baltimore, Md. No. 16.
2. R. M. Miller, New Chester, Pa. No. 38.
3. Frank H. Shoemaker, Hampton, Iowa. No. 101.

All prizes were mailed the successful winners on March 7th.



"No-o Ma'am I-I d-d-on't w-want any b-b-irds."

The above is a reduced fac simile of one of "Lattin's" valentines; it most faithfully portrays his prowlers as a sportsman.

The following from W. Raine is self-explanatory: "In answer to numerous enquiries as to when "Bird-Nesting in North-west Canada" will be out I wish to inform subscribers that the book is now being printed as rapidly as possible, and that this delay cannot be avoided. The twenty plates of Birds' Nests, Prairie, Swamp Scenes, Indian Camps, etc., have taken considerable time to execute, and it has been decided to color the plates of Birds' Eggs by hand, which is a slow and expensive process."

#### "Our Birds in Their Haunts."

A letter from our Friend Langille advises us to again extend the time for receiving subscriptions at *only* \$1.60 to the new edition of this valuable work, till April 1st, after which date the price will *positively* be \$2.50.

A sufficient number of subscribers has been received to guarantee the publication of the work and he expects to have it out by May 1st.

## Self Explanatory.

*My Dear Friend Lattin:*

Please notice in your next issue, that the Ornithologists Association will adopt as a study for this season the Crow family and also their near relatives the *Quiscalidae*. We hereby invite the co-operation of all corresponding members, and ask them to adopt their own methods of investigation and reports; those which are the most perfect in respect to matter and method, shall have a special recognition. We would call special attention to the geographical distribution and the food of the different species of the two families above mentioned. *Possibly* we may be able to offer some reward at the end of the year for best papers.

J. H. LANGILLE,

Box 63, Smithsonian Institution,  
Feb. 24, '92. Washington, D. C.

## Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Mar) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th and 5th—Each a set with data of the Noddy.

For the April competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your

decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Apr. 10th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the February competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a set of Noddy. 4th and 5th each a set of Sooty Tern. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

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## BIRD CUTS.

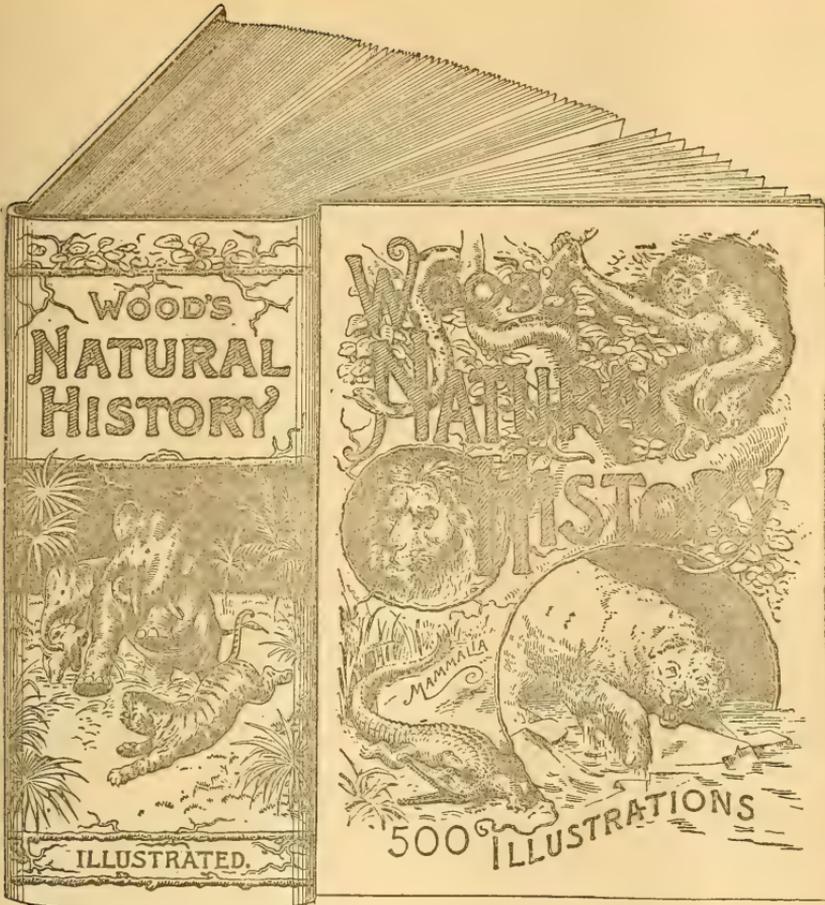
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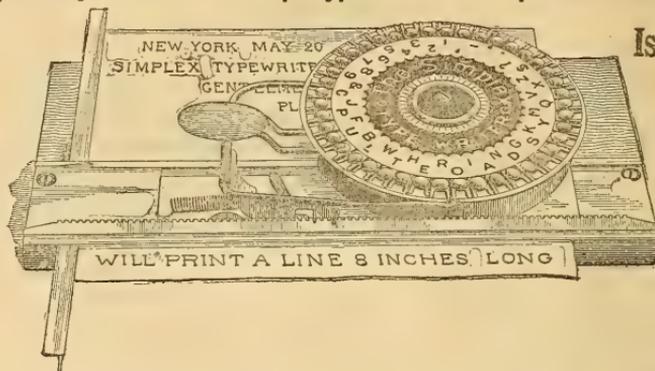
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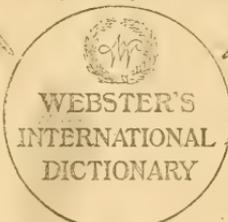
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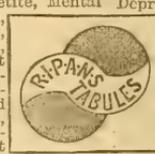


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# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1892.

NO. 4

## NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

### Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

**EXCHANGE.**—Sets 51a $\frac{3}{4}$ , 71 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 339 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 387 $\frac{1}{4}$ , 1-5 for other sets. D. W. RAYMOND, Norwalk, Conn.

A fine telescope for sale or will exchange for climbers. Value \$4. Correspondence solicited. H. CUDLIP, 620 B. St., N. E. Washington, D. C.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Two pairs climbing irons. 2 vols. Golden Days, Flobert rifle. Wanted eggs in singles. Write for particulars. CHAS. MCGEE, Leavenworth, Kansas.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Dumb bells, all sizes from 6 to 50 lbs. per pair. Dumb bell exercises are the healthiest thing in the world, every boy should have a pair, will exchange same for first class eggs with data. ERNEST MARCEAN, 88 Jones St., Dubuque, Ia.

**WANTED.**—Minerals, Fossils, Sea Curios. Fresh water and land Shells. Have for exchange Fine Fossils, Pet. Moss. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Iowa.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Fine sets of following (A. O. U.) species: 59, 207, 293a, 289b, 311, 319, 313, 335, 339a, 424, 410, 477a, 602, 586, 573, 718a, 705, 707. THOS. H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa.

I have a fine collection of 50 first-class eggs, value \$3.50, which I will exchange for a 22 cal rifle in good condition. L. N. KIBBE, Princeton, Franklin Co., Kansas.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—BIRD SKINS with all collectors. Send list and receive mine with terms. J. CLAIRE WOOD, 104 Abbott St., Detroit, Michigan.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Light Brahma Cockerel and eggs for hatching of Light Brahmas and Black Minorcas for sets not in my collection. ROBT WARWICK, Fleming, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—1st class eggs for books. Must be in good condition. Also eggs, many rare ones, blown through two holes in one side for common 1st class eggs. A. E. PRICE, Grant Park, Ills.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—32 cal. revolver. 52 Youth's Companions, Violin, climbers, live squirrels, for birds eggs, oologist's or taxidermists instruments. A. C. BLACK, DeGraff, Ohio.

**LOOK.** I have a first-class receipt for embalming birds and for every dollar's worth of Indian relics sent I will send it to them. J. M. KILVINGTON, Mason City, Iowa.

**FINE SETS** of Great Horned Owls eggs, also many other sets, 30 species of mussels, 30 species of univalves, all in exchange for scientific literature. Spencer's works especially desired. Send for list and state what you have. DR. W. L. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ills.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—A pair of Roller Skates for Bird's Eggs or Skins, also 1st class sets, A. O. U., 481-C, 540 $\frac{3}{4}$ , 481 $\frac{1}{4}$ . NATHAN L. DAVIS, Box 224, Brockport, N. Y.

**BIRD'S EGGS.**—FREDERICK A. HUNT, Care O. C. M. A., Syracuse, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Pair of deer antlers, skin on head, two feet wide, six prongs on each antler, worth \$10, for first-class eggs in sets. BURTON H. JOHNSON, Box 693, Orange, Mass.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—A Cornet in good condition, value \$12, will exchange for bird's eggs in sets or singles, mounted birds or skins. E. L. HALEY, Phillips, Maine.

**MOUNTED BIRDS.**—Thirty specimens, for exchange for Relics, Books, Curio, or articles useful to a naturalist. Send your list and receive mine. W. W. SHELLEY, Hesston, Harvey Co., Kas.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Compound microscope (cost 5.00) for first-class climbers, also 3 vols. of the Argosy, for eggs in sets. GUY A. MOORE, 1436 Wab ash Ave., Chicago.

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## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

**BIRD SKINS.**—If you want strictly first-class, southern skins, such as Kites, Warblers, Sea-birds, etc., address, GEO. P. BUTLER, 946 Jones St., Augusta, Ga.

**WANTED.**—Singles listed at under \$1, especially the commonest ones and several of each variety. Will exchange good original sets or singles for same. FRED A. SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cal.

**WANTED.**—Eggs, minerals, insects and Natural History specimens of all kinds. Can offer fossils, minerals, stamps, insects, curios, etc., also 1st class military life with instruction book. C. WILL BEEBE, 73 Ashland Ave., East Orange, N. J.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Two handsome white tumbled Jacobins and one bald-headed tumbler pigeons, for best offer of eggs in singles and sets. BURTON H. JOHNSON, Box 693, Orange, Mass.

**CAN OFFER** living, mounted, or skins of Am. Porcupine, groundhog, squirrels, etc., also Am. and British bird skins and later eggs of both. Wanted, Jordan's Manual of Vertebrates, and other Natural History works. Also good skins of birds and eggs in sets. What offers. JOHN A. MORDON, Sherman City, Mich.

I would like to hear from all collectors who wish to exchange Coleoptera (Beetles) from their section for same from Wisconsin, during the coming season. W. E. SNYDER, Beaver Dam, Wis.

**I WILL GIVE** 100 mixed foreign stamps for every perfect arrow head with locality or set of eggs with data sent me. I have Vols XI and XII Golden Days to exchange for first-class eggs with data. GUS. RAPP, 465 9th St. Milwaukee, Wis.

**REVOLVER,** papers and 1st class eggs, sets or singles, for 1st class eggs in sets. All letters answered. CHAS. E. HUSK, Shabbona, Ill.

**ALL OÖLOGISTS** west of the Rocky Mountains who are in favor of forming an association of oölogists for our mutual benefit please send me their names and any suggestions they may think of. N. R. CHRISTIE, Box 15, Mountain Home, Idaho.

**FLEAS and LICE.**—During the coming season will give liberal exchanges in Colorado bird skins and insects, for fleas and lice from all kinds of birds and small animals. Can be easily obtained while taking skins. Send address for particulars. Correspondence solicited. C. F. BAKER, Fort Collins, Colorado.

**WANTED.**—Collectors in each state and territory to collect butterflies and moths. Will pay cash or give in exchange insects, corals, shells, echnoderms &c, from all parts of the world. If you want to collect write for particulars. WERUM BROS., Toledo, Ohio.

**WANTED** to exchange, stamps with collectors. Those who have them to exchange send them and we will send a like amount, also we will give 12 cts. worth of Foreign Stamps for every 10 cts. worth of first-class bird's eggs in sets with data or we will give 15 cts. worth of first-class birds eggs for every 10 cts worth of foreign or U. S. stamps catalogued at 5 cts. or over. MIDDLESEX STAMP COMPANY, 13 Oakland St. Natick, Mass.

**JOB PRINTING** to exchange for eggs, sets, and singles to ex. for others. Natural History Books to ex. H. VAN TRUMP, Rochester, Ind.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—A fine \$17 guitar, new, for best offer of original sets with data, amounting to \$23 or over. Also a banjo self instructor for sets. Write and make offer. ERWIN KEITH Ottawa, Kans.

**WANTED.**—Books on Ornithology, and complete volumes of Auk and "Ornithologist and Oölogist" of Boston. Fine offers in sets or singles Birds eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

**FOREIGN STAMPS** and coins, minerals, a few shells and Nichelson's Zoology, for standard works on Entomology. Write first to W. A. RILEY, Box 728, Greencastle, Ind.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—With collectors desiring some fine sets of St. Domingo, Grebe, Booby Gannet, Bridled Tern, Audubons Shearwater, Man O'War Bird, White-crowned Pigeon, Noddy and Sooty Tern, etc., etc. Send full lists at once, WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

**EXCHANGE NOTICE.**—To exchange, eggs in sets and singles, Maynard's "Birds of Eastern North America" incomplete copy, for eggs, and skins. B. H. SWALES, 1220 Woodward Ave., Detroit, Mich.

**OLD VIOLINS** wanted in good or bad condition also new ones if they are fine. Have to exchange musical instruments, Fire arms, Birds Eggs, etc. P. P. NORRIS, Lock Box 99, North Topeka, Kans.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Botany, contains 832 large pages and flora of N. A. bound in leather and cloth. In good condition. For climbing-irons, strapped and sent pre paid. Correspondence desired. H. T. GREENE, 100 Valley Rd., Montclair, N. J.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Cabinet sets of 30 species Spoon river unionidae. 20 species univalves. Fine Helices. Birds eggs in sets. Wanted, anything interesting or curious. DR. W. L. STRODE, Bernadotte, Ill.

**WANTED.**—To exchange a few very desirable sets for single eggs. Collectors please send list of rare single, with price attached. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Fine cabinet minerals of New England and Nova Scotia, for Birds Eggs, Thompsonite Natoliite, Stilbite, Heulandite, Analeite, Laumontite, Howlite, Selenite, Pyrohisite, Lilac Wernerite, Boltonite, Actinolite, Sterlingite, Annite Cheistolite Xtals and many others. Correspondence desired. G. L. BRIGHAM, Bolton, Mass.

**First-class BIRD SKINS.** Mounted birds and Deer heads, 4x5 Detective Camera, "O. and O." Vols. 8, 9, 10 and 16 complete. Vol. 15 three Nos. missing, "Young Oölogist" Vol. 1 and 6 complete, Vols. 7 and 8 three Nos. missing; "Random Notes" Vol. 1 complete, Vols. 2 and 3 two Nos. missing; Davie's Egg Check list, first edition (new); and 80 numbers of Natural History papers some nearly complete Vols. will exchange for good revolver, telescope, type writer, books on photography, photo. supplies, banjo, sheet music, fishing tackle or other desirable articles. HOWARD H. MCADAM, Oak Bay, Charlotte Co., N. B.

**WANTED:**—Twenty-five (25) Pairs of common Doves, will give cash or Job Printing for same. Write, stating Price. Address WILL R. CURTIS, Lock Box 6, East Carlton, N. Y.

EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

FLORIDA EGGS.—Wholesale lot, 27 singles, species Mockingbird, Boat-tailed Grackle, Black Skimmer, Louisiana Heron, Great Blue Heron, 11 sets comprising Black Skimmer, Anhinga, Louisiana Heron, Logger-headed Shrike, Boat-tailed Grackle and Laughing Gull. First-class, complete data, to exchange for watch, chain, fountain pen, type or offers. CHAS. S. MCPHERSON, St. Petersburg, Florida.

A BANJO, black walnut neck, inlaid fingering, French head, nickled with 24 brass clamps. A fine Artist Solo b flat cornet, guaranteed perfect in tone. It is just 4 months old the 1st of April, '92 and on account of ill health has hardly been touched. It is a Caurtois' Model and cost \$35.00, is brass elaborately engraved. I will send with it a fine leather covered case, plush lined, worth \$4.50, a music rack, stand, mute, a shank, b shank, "rifle bored mouth-piece, silver plated," 2 bits, mouthpiece holder, a cleaner. Wanted Indian relics or most anything. This offer is good for a month. ALBERT PAYNE, Box 218, Greenport, Suffolk Co., L. I.

I have the following first-class eggs in complete sets with full data (A. O. U. No's.) for exchange. Black Tern 7-2, 10-3; Barred Owl 1-1; Coot 1-9, 1-8; Caracara Eagle 1-2; Grebe 1-5; Meadow Lark 1-3, 2-4, 2-5, 2-6; Artic Tern 1-3; Bobolink 1-5; Long-billed Marsh Wren 2-3, 3-4, 5-5, 7-6; Noddy Tern 1-1; Great Blue Heron 1-3; Lesches' Petrel 6-1; Florida Gallinule 7-6, 1-5, 8-7, 2-8; Sparrow Hawk 1-3; Least Bittern 2-3, 5-4, 5-6, 3-6; Cactus Wren 1-5; Yellow-headed Blackbird 7-4, 8-5, 15-6; Sora Rail 1-7, 1-8; Cliff Swallow 7-4, 8-5, 8-6, and many other sets. None but first-class sets wanted. CHARLES M. ELDRIDGE, 314 Chamber of Commerce, Chicago.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

SINGLES, many with data, to exchange for desirable first-class singles. H. M. GUILFORD, 139 N. Aldrich Ave., Minneapolis, Minn.

NOTE.—Raven (*Corvus corax*) alive, to exchange for best offer in birds + eggs, shells or curio. ED. VAN WINKLE, Van's Harbor, Upper Penn., Mich.

INDIAN WAR views from the battlefield of "Wounded Knee." Modern SIOUX relics. Send for list. C. L. FREEMAN, Ft. Chadron, Neb.

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## FOR SALE.

A new Stevens 22 cal. rifle, high finish, cost \$12.00 will sell for \$8.50.

My entire private collection of Birds, Eggs, Skins, Mounted Specimens and Shells. All specimens are A1, with full data.

List of Skins: Am, Bittern, Am. Coot, Hooded Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Cala. Quail, Bob White, Mt. Quail, Yel. bell. Sapsucker, R. sh. Hawk, Short-eared Owl, Wilson Snipe, Brew. Blackbird, Cooper Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Pileated Woodpecker, Yel. bill, Magpie, Evening Grosbeak, Art. 3 Toed Woodpecker, Cala. Jay, Steller's Jay, Purple Grackle, Green Heron, Yel. Hammer, Least Yellow Legs, Gt. Yel. Legs, Cala. Pigmy Owl, Sparrow Hawk, (Cala. Screech Owl, *Mastio satratus* (New Species Owl), Purple Martin, Wilson Phalarope, Fox Sparrow, Gt. Crested Flycatcher, Maryland Yell. Throat, Yell. Warbler, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finch, Orchard Oriole, Bobolink, Br. Thrasher, Cedarbird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Am. Redpoll, Myrtle Warbler, Bl. and Yell. Warbler, Bl. Th. Green Warbler, Golden-cr. Kinglet, Ruby-cr. Kinglet, Bl. Poll Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Bl. Th. Blue Warbler, Pine Warbler, Bryant's Savannah Sparrow, Horned Lark, 4, Am. Redstart, Arz. Hooded Oriole, White Bres. Nuthatch, Sanderling, Arz. Bl. Crested Flycatcher, Lapland Longspur, Bank Swallow.

Nearly all skins are in pairs, i. e., male and female of each.

All are fully and correctly labelled.

### MOUNTED SPECIMENS.

Am. Herring Gull, Gt. Horned Owl, Willow Ptarmigan, Barred Owl, Green Heron.

### SHELLS.

Sixty Specimens univalves and bivalves, all nicely labeled and cleaned.

### LIST OF EGGS IN SETS.

Parula Warbler 1-1, Yell. Warbler 1-3, 2-3, 3-3; Yell. Billed Cuckoo 1-2; Song Sparrow 9 4; Field Sparrow 1-3, 1-2; Wilson's Tern 2-3, 1-3; Fish Hawk 1-2; Br. Wing Hawk 1-3, 1-2; Red-Wing, Bl. Bird 13-4; Chewink 3-4; Catbird 3-4; Blue Jay 6-4; Mockingbird 3-3; West. Meadow Lark 2-4; Phoebe 5-4; Vega Gull 1-3; Meadow Lark 2-4; Kingbird 1-4; Yell. Billed Cuckoo 1-2; Yell. Warbler 1-2; Red-tailed Hawk 3-3; Am. Gold Finch 3-4; Balt. Oriole 1-4; Audubon's Hermit Thrush 1-4; Prothonotary Warbler 1-6; House Wren 1-5; Catbird 2-4; Common Crow 1-5; Richardson's Owl 1-4; St. Lucas Robin 1-3; Poor-will 1-2; Cooper's Hawk 3-4 Am. Eared Grebe 1-5; Cala. Blue Gray Gnatcatcher 1-4; Chickadee 1-5; Am. Robin 6-4; Barred Owl 1-2; Flicker 2-5; Wood Thrush 2-4; Laughing Gull 1-3; Anna's Hummingbird 1-2; West. Bluebird 2-4; Mt. Bluebird 1-2; Bl-colored Bl. Bird 1-3; Oregon Ruffed Grouse 1-7; West. Chippy Sparrow 1-4; Brew. Bl. Bird 8-4; Oregon Song Sparrow 1-4; Bank Swallow 1-3; Meadow Lark 2-4; White-rumped Strike 6-5; West. Meadow Lark; Sooty Grouse 1-8; Green Heron 1-4; Gt. Horned Owl 1-3; Cala. Murre; Bluebird 1-6; Br. Thrasher 5-3; Scarlet Tanager 1-2; Snowy Heron 1 2; Am. Herring Gull 1-3; Bank Swallow 1-3; Fla. Screech Owl 1-3; Prairie Hen 1-15; Cardinal 1-2; Mt. Quail 1-2; Oregon Towhee 1-4; Red-shafted Flicker 1-4; Magnolia Warbler 1-4; Bronzed Grackle 1-5; Oregon Junco 1 2; Night Hawk 1-2; Long-eared Owl 1-4; Marsh Hawk 1-3; Traill's Flycatcher 1-4; Slate-colored Junco 2-3; White Th. Sparrow 1-3; Gt. Blue Heron 1-4; Am. Woodcock 1-2; Am. Flamingo 1-2; Louisiana Tanager 1-3; West. House Wren 7-5; West. Robin 7-3; Indigo Bunting 1-4; Red-wing-Bl. Bird 1-5; Yell. Headed Bl. Bird 1-4; Murre 2 1; Wood Pewee 1-3; Warbling Vireo 1-3; Least Bittern 2-4; Tree Swallow 1-4; Purple Martin 1-4; Am. Coot, 1-3; Purple

Grackle 1-4; Am. Gold Finch 1-6; Ruby Th. Hummingbird 3-2; Wilson's Thrush 1-3; Long-billed Marsh Wren 1-6; Bl. Tern 2-4; Red-shouldered Hawk 1-4; Fla. Gallinule 1-9; Summer Redbird 4-4; Bl. Cr. Night Heron 1-3; Franklin's Gull 2-3; Pied-billed Grebe 1-6; Chestnut-sided Warbler 1-3; Blue grey Gnatcatcher 2-4; Red-bellied Woodpecker 1-3; Carolina Wren 1-4; Bell's Vireo 1-4 and nest; Arctic Tern 1-3; Carolina Rail 1-3; Summer Redbird 1-3; Prairie Horned Lark 1-3; Gt. Crest. Flycatcher 1-4; Bobwhite 1-16; Horned Lark 1-2; King Rail 1-3; Road Runner 1-4; Least Tit 1-6; Raz. Bill. Auk 1; Com. Guillemot 1; Burrowing Owl 1-8; Br. Head Nuthatch 1-6; Cactus Wren 1-4; Little Blue Heron 1-4; Sh. Bill. Marsh Wren 1-7 and nest; Bl. Skimmer 1-4; Hermit Thrush 1-3.

Total No. Sets 200, all with full data and first class.

The entire outfit is offered for sale for only \$65.00.

Or separate as follows:

Rifle \$8.50.

The entire lot of skins only \$20.00.

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The whole collection of eggs \$32.00.

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This includes packing and delivery to express office, charges must be paid by receiver. Cash with order. Write at once for they will be sold by May first.

**DR. A. G. PRILL,**  
Springville, Erie Co. N. Y.

I WILL SELL first-class eggs as long as they last at ½ lowest list price. Please mention duplicates. Letters answered. R. B. WHITE-HEAD, Westfield, N. J.

WANTED:—Old Postage Stamps. Send 10c. for price list giving highest cash price paid for every U. S. stamp. V. L. WHITE, Mt. Morris, N. Y.

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FOR SALE BY





ENGRAVED BY H. A. CARHART, SYRACUSE, N. Y.

**SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, *Accipiter velox*, (female.)**

From Photo of specimen mounted by A. B. Covert, Ann Arbor, Mich.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., APRIL, 1892.

NO. 4

## The Oriole's Nest.

A pair of Orioles built their nest,  
On the spreading limb of the old elm  
tree,  
So near my bed-room window that I,  
The process of building could plainly  
see.  
Skillful architects were they,  
Working both as of one mind,  
In the strength of unity,  
Fit examples for mankind.  
First they hung long strings of twine  
From a slender crotched limb  
For the framework of the house;  
In artful manner weaving in  
Fibrous rootlets, grass and strings,  
And what all I cannot tell;  
Went to make their pretty home  
In a style to them known well.  
Soon 'twas done, that pending nest  
In the breeze so gently swinging,  
And the builders perched near by  
Their songs of joy and pride were  
singing,  
One by one five eggs were laid,  
Handsome speckled gems were they,  
Lined and blotched as though a child  
With pen and ink had been at play.  
Ere long these eggs were turned to birds,  
Their parents' pride and care were  
they,  
Till in the joy of new found strength  
They spread their wings and flew  
away,  
Now they're all gone to a warmer clime  
Where in winter months they go,  
And the nest now swings on the leafless  
limb,  
All filled with ice and snow.

M. D. COOPER.

## Lanius Borealis on Deck.

That is to say, *Lanius borealis* is one of those characters that may be depended upon. He has a set time for appearing every winter, and when that set time comes around, he is generally "on deck." Most of our *winter visitants*

(notice, I distinguish between *winter visitants* and *permanent residents*) are erratic and irregular, but the Northern Shrike is as sure as the calendar, and that worthy piece of literature cannot cover the time between January 25th and February 5th, without bringing us the Shrike.

This is his particular time, but he is frequently seen at other times during the winter also. For example, in 1887, a pair of these birds remained in the outskirts of the village all through January and well along into February, when I lost track of them. Their beloved locality seemed to be along the main street leading into the country toward the west, and the English Sparrows which took up their abode about the farm houses just out of town, had occasion to keep even more vigilant watch of them, than I myself. I have also noted these Shrikes on November 11th and December 16th, showing that they are here in the early part of the winter as well. But as to their spending the entire winter here, that depends I think, on the kind of winter it is. In severe weather, they must go considerably further south than this. One thing is certain, however, their occurrence previous to January 25th, is not nearly so common as their occurrence after that date, for they may be depended upon about the time that January lapses into February.

This year, the first Shrike was seen Jan. 31st. They seem to be coincident with those bright, sunshiny winter days we always get about that time.

The notes of the Northern Shrike are I think, worthy of more consideration than they generally receive. They approach more nearly to a song, in my opinion, than the notes of the White-rumped species which spends the sum-

mer with us. Most ornithological writers say but little about the notes of the Shrike, passing over them as unattractive and unimportant; but to me, as I hear them from some tall tree-top of a winter's morning, they constitute a warble, which is, indeed, sweet, pleasing and somewhat continued.

Perched on the very topmost twig (as he always does) of some tall tree by the roadside, giving vent to his peculiarly entertaining warble, on some bright, crisp, February morning; he is, indeed a pleasant feature of our winter landscape.

But the most interesting of his performances, is to watch him as he pursues some unlucky sparrow, diving madly at him and generally catching him and pecking out his brains,—apparently from pure spite.

Be that as it may,—I know of no bird brains that we can better spare than those of *Passer domesticus*, and so I say “Long live the Shrike from the North.”

NEIL F. POSSON,  
Medina, N. Y.

#### Horned Grebe on St. Clair Flats.

In the December 2<sup>d</sup> OÖLOGIST, Mr. Davidson of this city criticises my article on the Horned Grebe and says that they do not occur in this locality. In a recent letter, Mr. J. Claire Wood, of this city, says “I have often watched these Grebes through a strong opera glass, and noticed that they frequent deeper water, are more expert divers, and faster swimmers than the Pied-billed species. Their nests are nearly similar, but the eggs average larger.” Mr. Wood is well acquainted with the ornithology of this region, and I cannot do better than refer Mr. Davidson to him. Nearly all authorities give the St. Clair Flats as a breeding place for this Grebe. Rev. Langille in “Our Birds in Their Haunts” speaks about

them there, and T. McIlwraith in the “Birds of Ontario,” found them there. The coming season, I hope to take a few more sets of their eggs from this vicinity.

B. H. SWALES,  
Detroit, Mich.

#### Report of the Secretary of the W. N. Y. Naturalists Association.

On February 3, 1892 was held a meeting of the aforesaid society in the Court House at Rochester, N. Y. At the business meeting the following was disposed of.

T. R. Taylor, of 90 William St., Rochester was elected secretary and treasurer in the place of E. B. Peck resigned.

N. F. Posson, Medina; G. F. Guelf, Brockport and T. R. Taylor, Rochester were appointed a committee to draft objects of the Association for publication.

Moved that for one year members will be admitted on the recommendation of any active member. Passed.

In the evening papers from B. S. Bowdish, Talapoosa, Ga., Dr. A. G. Prill, Springville, N. Y. and E. H. Short, Chili, N. Y. were read. Exhibits were made by T. R. Taylor, Rochester, N. F. Posson, Medina and E. H. Short, Chili. Altogether we had a good meeting and hope to have a better one at Brockport, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1892.

T. R. TAYLOR,  
Secretary.

#### World's Fair Notes.

The Province of Ontario, Canada, will make an extensive mineral exhibit.

Mr. S. J. Hunter, of Nevada, Mo., has a collection of over 11,000 varieties of woods, petrifications, etc., which he purposes exhibiting at the Fair.

A herd of live elk will be taken from Idaho to the Exposition. In the Montana exhibit will be shown about 100 specimens of wild animals and birds, native to that State, and set up by a skilled taxidermist.

### A Vacation with the Birds.

For the past three or four years I have been studying the ways of our birds. My summer vacations and the spare hours I chanced to have in spring and fall were spent in tramping over the country surrounding the village in which I lived.

With spy-glass and note book, I have enjoyed many a day in some secluded spot studying the habits of rare species; for this reason I have always looked forward with pleasure to the time when books could be laid aside and I would be free thus to enjoy myself.

The past summer, however, being tied down to my books, most of my time was spent in study in a rustic seat, which was placed under an arbor formed by a few fruit trees in the rear of our village lot. Here I whiled away most of the pleasant days, keeping an eye open, meanwhile, for any birds that might chance to visit me.

The very first day I was greeted by that mimic, the Catbird. There were two of them and as they made themselves very conspicuous I was led to believe a nest must be near the place. Near a fence, which ran close by, was an elder bush, in it I found a nest, rudely constructed of shreds of bark, weed-stalks, and dried leaves, which contained four young Catbirds. I could seldom make a move while sitting in my seat without the old birds seeing me; on such occasions they would utter their loudest cries, thinking perhaps, I might in some way harm their brood. The old, and I think the young, subsisted at first on insectivorous food, but as the young were getting ready to leave the nest, and for a period after they had left it, small fruits formed their principal food. The young left the nest one day in June, and what a commotion the mother bird kept up the while! It seemed as if she did all she could to tell the old cat some dainty morsels of food were to be had, for, sad

to say, one youngster paid the price of his mother's foolishness before I could interfere. The other three birds remained in the apple tree. They often staid in one tree for hours, and were fed continually by the old birds. They grew strong fast and in a short time could move around from limb to limb with comparative ease, but every now and then my eyes would be drawn from my book by a queer fluttering and chirping in the branches overhead, telling plainly that a young bird had aimed too high and missed its perch.

As the young grew larger, it was hard, sometimes, in the subdued light, to distinguish the old from the young, but, I do not think the young remained long after the cherries were gone which was about the 19th day of July. I saw them occasionally, though, until the fifth of August.

A pair of Wrens had a nest in a tin can which had been fastened to one of the largest limbs of a crab apple tree. During the first week of my stay a fight ensued between them and a pair of English Sparrows, the latter coming off victorious.

The sparrows tore out part of the old nest, as it nearly filled the can, and built a new one, but just as the young were hatched they were killed by some Bronzed Grackles. The Wrens, upon being driven out, built a new nest in a shed near by. They often visited me under the trees, and at such times would perch on the fence or a limb and with tail drooping and head raised they would pour out the most melodious music I have ever heard. When singing the male would almost "bubble over," it is a wonderful song for a bird of its size.

Once in a while the cat would spend an hour or two under the trees, but as soon as the Wrens became aware of her presence their music would be turned into loud scolding, which would last until I removed the cause.

A pair of Robins had a nest in an evergreen tree a few rods from my seat and the young, which were leaving the nest when I discovered them, gave me a great deal of amusement for a few weeks. Like the Catbirds, they were awkward when learning to fly: and often tumbled nearly from the top to the bottom of a tree before they could gain a perch, only being saved from injury by the dense foliage. They, the same as the Catbirds, had trouble with the house cat, but none, as far as I know, were caught by her.

The young were fed with worms from the garden, soon taking to cherries, however. Early in the morning and at sunset the old birds would sing me their finest strains, but after the first week or two it was only in snatches as it was getting very warm, they were ragged in appearance, and the young took a good deal of their time. I often heard the young at four o'clock in the morning and as late as eight o'clock in the evening, but as their wings grew in strength I would see less and less of them.

After the middle of July, I seldom saw them, but I thing on the 8th of August the entire brood paid me a visit, though I am not certain whether it was the same one or not.

The second day under the trees I noticed, while looking up dreamingly from my book, a nest placed in a crotch in the very top-most branch of one of the apple trees. On investigation, it proved to be a nest of that little beauty the Yellow Warbler.

It was a gem of bird architecture being composed almost entirely of gray hempen fibres, with a soft lining of willow and thistle down. It contained a full complement of eggs, but they had been incubated for a time, because a week later young birds were heard in the nest. The old birds were generally quiet, only uttering at times short whistle-like notes. Most of their food

was obtained near by and they were always conspicuous when moving about in the branches on account of the color of their plumage. When being fed, the young drew my attention by their chirping.

Not hearing them one day, I took a peep into the nest and saw the sole occupant of the nest was a Cowbird. My suspicion was aroused and on looking under the tree I found the dead birds. I was tempted to throw the Cowbird out at the time, but a day or two later he had justice meted out to him, when he furnished a meal for a flock of Bronzed Grackles. The Grackles tried to take the young Robins and Catbirds away before this, but the old birds fought so bravely they were forced to beat a hasty retreat each time. The Grackles, in their noisy manner, molested the birds in the arbor not a little visiting it often in flocks of ten or twelve. After the 4th of July I seldom saw them, probably because the young birds had flown.

So far, most all of the events I have recorded happened during the months of June and July; by August, all of the birds, young and old, had left for parts unknown, most likely for cooler retreats in the country and I only received occasional visits from them.

On the 3d of August, however, I received a visit from two Black-billed Cuckoos. It was only by chance that I saw them at all. Their coat is a brown color, and as they were very still while in the trees it was almost impossible to catch sight of them from where I sat. Only once in the four days they staid among the trees did I hear their low notes.

At first I was at a loss to know what should attract these birds to my arbor, but on the last day I solved the riddle. A nest of canker worms had been playing havoc with one of our cherry trees and these birds had been having a feast on them.

Although these are not all the birds, that visited me under the trees, they are the ones, with the exception of the Cuckoos, which shared the little retreat with me for a month and a half.

The Scarlet Tanager, the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, the Baltimore Oriole, and many of the common birds, as Phœbe, Brown Thrasher, Blue-bird, and Wood Pewee, visited me occasionally but only staid a short time in each case.

To be sure during my entire vacation which ended on the 15th of August, I saw no species new to me, or even a rare one, yet it was one of the pleasantest outings I have ever had.

I saw more of bird life to the square foot than I have ever seen in all my trampings, and this all in a cluster of a dozen trees, situated within thirty feet of one of our principle village streets.

EDWARD P. CARLTON,  
Wauwatosa, Wis.

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#### The Ibises of Ledworth Lake.

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Lying about fifteen miles south of the growing and prosperous city of Gainesville, the county seat of Alachua Co. Florida, is a body of water two miles long and about as wide.

Like many other Florida lakes this one has neither inlet nor outlet, except in the late summer when, being swollen by the numerous rains of the rainy-season the water of Levey Lake lying one half mile to the north overflows its marshy bank and the water finds its way through a slough into Ledworth Lake.

The lake is surrounded on three sides by a thick growth of hammock trees, among which are oak, hickory, magnolia, a few pines, and occasionally a cabbage palmett. The woods on the south side however are much more open as the pine forest here comes down almost to the water. On all sides the trees are hung with tassels and long festoons of Spanish moss, which hanging gracefull-

ly from the huge live-oak limbs, gives to the collector who views them for the first time, that sensation of pleasant expectancy which always accompanies one upon approaching a "new field."

The water of the lake as a rule is shallow and around the borders is a thick growth of bushes and tall grass, while out in the deeper water patches of bonnets and lily pads are everywhere in sight. Long stretches of prairie are found in places along the shore. On the south-west side in a gigantic pine is the domicile of a Bald Eagle which for years has there annually hatched its young and fed them with fish captured from a neighboring Osprey or victims from the ever present flocks of Coot or Gallinule.

Around this lake is the feeding grounds of thousands of herons and other water birds. Here it is that in July the Wood Ibis after having raised its young in the cypress swamps beyond the Suwannee, accumulate in vast flocks to spend the summer.

Here it is also that the White Ibis, leaving their breeding grounds among the dark cypress trees come to make merry with others of their tribe. While both varieties are usually met with in considerable flocks, the Wood Ibis by far outnumber their little cousins. In a single flock may oftimes be seen as many as two or three hundred. Once in July while camping near Ledworth Lake a flock of Wood Ibis startled from some cause, probably from the firing of a gun, suddenly took wing from a little island perhaps half way across the lake and the sound of their wings borne across the water was like the rumbling of thunder or the distant roar of cannon.

There must have been at least a thousand individuals in this one flock. Later in the day as a small detachment of the main body flew over me, I succeeded in bringing down one of the noble birds, but it fell in a marshy place and I was unable to procure it. They do

not to my knowledge nest anywhere within the limits of our County.

A nest found by a friend of mine in the latter part of March was placed on the horizontal limb of a cypress tree in a swamp in Levey County, about seventeen miles south-west of Archer. The nest was twenty feet from the ground and contained two young birds. He reported finding no other nests though a number of birds were seen in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

I was told by a "plume hunter" that in a cypress swamp about twenty miles from New Troy he had found hundreds of Ibis breeding in company with a colony of Egrets which he and some "brothers-in-murder" had almost annihilated for their plumes.

The Wood Ibis is known in many places of Florida by the name of "Iron-heads" and "Gannets."

The White Ibis when appearing in the summer for the first time is not that beautiful white bird with bronze tipped wings which we are so accustomed to see. In fact the young birds present quite a different appearance than the old birds. Instead of being white they are a dull brown color above, with a conspicuous white rump and white under parts, bill long and yellowish.

Sometimes the young will be found in company with the old birds but oftener perhaps they may be seen in small flocks by themselves. I have never found a nest of the White Ibis but they undoubtedly breed in immense numbers in the dark recesses of some of our cypress swamps. It is a pleasure to watch each summer for the appearance of the Ibis on Ledworth Lake, and not uncommon is it for them to bring in their company a Roseate Spoonbill. By watching a flock in this way it was that I was enabled to obtain my first specimen of this rare and beautiful bird.

T. G. PEARSON.  
Archer, Fla.

#### Notes on the Whip-poor-will.

This very interesting bird is quite common in this locality. From the first of May to the middle of June the evening air resounds with the notes of this bird; after this they are less frequently heard. During this time they come into our yards and they will even alight on the roof of the house, utter a few notes and fly quickly and noiselessly away.

They seem to frequent river valleys rather than districts of high altitude. In a mountain town adjoining its notes are hardly if ever heard. A man that was a resident of that town for sixty years never heard the Whip-poor-will but once while he lived there.

One evening I thought I would count the number of times it uttered its call, *whip-poor-will*, without stopping. I accordingly crept up to a bird and prepared to listen. I was surprised at the result. It would frequently utter it eighty or a hundred times and once I counted nearly two hundred times the bird uttered it without a break. The bird kept flying from place to place but it did not get out of my sight.

On the 24th day of May, 1891, while walking in a small grove of pine trees along the bank of a river, a Whip-poor-will started from under my feet, flew a short distance, alighted on a limb and looked at me. I thought probably there was a nest near by, and began to hunt for it in earnest. There was a small pile of brush at my feet, and I thought it would be as likely to be there as anywhere.

I walked around it, stepping carefully so to be sure not to break the eggs.

I did not find them there, and made my circle larger, and so on until I came to the conclusion that there were no eggs there and started off. I had taken but a few steps when I happened to look down and there I saw an egg lying in front of me. Now the question

came to my mind whether I should take the egg or wait until the bird laid another and run the risk of finding nothing when I came back. I thought I had rather have one egg than none and I had rather have two eggs than one. I marked the spot and concluded to run the risk of losing the egg.

Two days later my twin brother and I returned to the spot and found the bird on the nest. We walked up within less than a rod of her before she flew; she alighted on a limb about a rod off and watched us, chipping, twitching her tail and moving her head back and forth. The eggs were creamy white, spotted, mostly at one end, with different shades of brown. Their dimensions were very nearly alike being about 1.25 by .87 inches. They laid on a bed of pine needles, with which the ground was covered, without an apology for a nest and in a little cleared place between two saplings.

May 31st two village boys accidentally found another nest while roaming in the woods and brought the eggs to me to have me tell them what they were and to blow them. I managed to trade for one of them; the other I could not get.

When I found my Whip-poor-will's nest I was not thinking of the directions which M. C. White gave for finding them, given in the April and May Oölogist, but I shall try that way next season, and I hope with success

CLINTON D. HOWE,  
Newfane, Vt.

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#### The Black Rail in Franklin Co. Kan.

As comparatively little is said in our natural history papers concerning the nesting habits and eggs of this very rare and interesting little bird, perhaps my limited observations might be of some interest to the readers of the *Collectors's Friend*—THE OÖLOGIST. On the 20th of June 1890 while collecting

different varieties of eggs in a swamp, my attention was attracted by a hissing noise near my feet, not unlike the noise made by a Brown Thrasher when startled from her nest, and immediately a little black bird, almost exactly resembling a "Mud Hen" only a great deal smaller, flew up out of the high slough grass and lit a short distance away. I knew by her action that she must have a nest close by, and I immediately commenced trying to find it. After searching about ten minutes I found the nest and it was the prettiest oölogical sight I have ever seen before or since. There firmly attached to the grass about eight inches above the water was the nest, about the size and shape of a large cocoon; and resembling the nest of the Meadowlark, except that the entrance instead of being in the side was about midway between the side and top. The nest contained ten eggs, very slightly incubated, cream colored, speckled chiefly about the larger end with bright reddish brown specks, some being as large as a pinhead and averaged 1.06x .89. My second and last nest was found on the 27th of the same month, in a swamp, distant about three miles from the first one, and contained six fresh eggs like those of the first, except that the spots were a trifle larger. The nest was deserted, having been washed over by high water, and some of the eggs were probably washed away.

I hunted for more eggs in the same and other marshes last season, but was not successful because of continued wet weather which kept the swamps constantly flooded.

I hope to be more successful this season as the birds are quite numerous in this particular locality.

I would like to hear more through the columns of the OÖLOGIST concerning this bird.

MIL0 W. KIBBE,  
Princeton, Kansas.

Albino Eggs of the Long-billed Marsh-  
Wren.

I wish to correct an unintentional error in the Secretary's report of the Ornithologists Association in which he quotes Professor Ridgway and Captain Bendire as pronouncing the white set of Long-billed Marsh Wren eggs which I took last spring as "a great freak of nature."

What they did say was "it was an abnormal set, and unusual," since the above was printed; several collectors have notified me that similar sets have been taken in this vicinity, a number of which are in the Smithsonian Collection. In writing this I wish to correct the wrong impression given Mr. J. C. Wood in notes in the OÖLOGIST for February he is evidently unaware that the coloring matter in freshly laid eggs can to a great extent be removed by washing and that nearly any divergence from the type egg may be produced by soap and water.

Variations in coloring and markings are found occasionally in all eggs and it would be incorrect to pronounce any such occurrences as "a great freak of nature" when they are found to occur so commonly.

E. J. BROWN,  
Washington, D. C.

[In '90 we obtained a series of about one hundred specimens of the Long-billed Marsh Wren from one of the Professors of the University of Michigan, in this series there was at least half-a-dozen specimens that were either white or creamy, or dirty white, about one-half of which were very sparingly marked with a dark color. Most of these specimens, especially the unmarked ones were decidedly "abnormal" the shell being rough. Perhaps I might say undoubtedly these "abnormal" or "albino" sets were produced by birds whose first, and possibly second and third sets were taken or destroyed; some

enterprising oologist will no doubt solve this problem for us by a series of experiments during the ensuing season.

Our Friend Brown's remarks relating to the washing of eggs are not applicable to an oologist with the experience of Mr. Wood and this paragraph would have been stricked from the MSS. had we not considered it of value to our younger readers. Mr. W's washing the spots off these lightly marked specimens was simply experimental.—ED.]

The Chewink in St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

I have been interested in the Chewink question of late in the OÖLOGIST. The bird is very rare here. In the spring of '87 I found the nest of the first birds of this species that I had ever seen. Later in the season I found another pair, evidently with young, in the same locality of the previous find. I have seen none of these birds since. In both of these cases the birds seemed to choose rough, scrubby uplands that had been only recently chopped over. They were within easy distance of low lands threaded by a small trout stream fringed with tag alders. When I found the nest of the first pair the female's alarm note brought the male in a bustle of excitement from among the alders some distance off. That was the only time that I noticed them frequenting the lower ground. Doubtless they did so, though for I was able to study their ways much less than I desired because of the distance they were from my home.

MARK MANLEY,  
St. Lawrence Co., N. Y.

Notes from Nova Scotia.

E. A. Samuels says that "the Semipalmated Plover breeds generally in the most northern parts of the continent." I have been so fortunate, though,

as to find two nests with full complement of eggs in each. The first one I found about five years ago, before I had commenced collecting. It was simply a slight depression in the sand, in a long sand beach which had been thrown up by the waves.

The second nest, found this last summer, was better placed, being situated in a small clump of trailing evergreens, which would completely have hidden it, had I not been searching on my hands and knees. In both cases the birds showed the greatest distress. In the last case the birds followed me fully a mile along the beach trying to lead us still farther from the nest though the eggs were safe in my box. I have not the eggs with me at present, but I think they are almost identical to those of the Spotted Sandpiper. On the day of finding, July 1st, eggs were far advanced.

July 21st was also a lucky day for me. While walking along an old road, I saw a small stump in which was a hole where it looked as if a knot had been pulled out. Walking up and peering in I was astonished by the flying out of a small bird. On looking, there were five eggs. Not knowing bird, I left them promising myself a return the following day. Though rainy, I found the place and creeping up placed my cap over the hole. After some difficulty I caught the bird, which I recognized as the Hudsonian Tit. I secured the eggs and have them home at present.

I have also been fortunate in finding three nests of what I suppose is the Red-breasted Merganser. I do not know very much about the markings of the bird, except that it has a red or chestnut colored head. The eggs were laid on the ground, in one case under a small spruce, in other two cases among weeds near fallen trees. The eggs are about two inches long, and are of a yellowish color. Perhaps you could tell me what they are for I cannot find out, not being able to shoot the birds.

A. C. JOST,  
Wolfville, N. S.

### Scientific Names, Their Use and Beauty.

When one has the charming self-confidence to give, deliberately, the wrong definition for a scientific term, he becomes amusing. In the November '91 OÖLOGIST I find the following:—

“He (the Towhee) gets his name, *Erythrophthalma*; *Erythropros*, Red, and *thalma*, eyes, the Greek for “red eyes” etc.”

Now this is so palpably wrong that it is no petty criticism if one ventures to say, that *Erythrophthalma* is from *Erythropros*, Red, and *Ophthalmos* eye, a derivative from the simple root *Ops*, which primarily means, face.

This charming little blunder calls to remembrance the beautiful force and accuracy of the scientific terms used in Ornithology. The writer has never ceased to admire that union of learning with poetic insight which guided the venerable fathers of our dear science in the christenings of the birds; whom they studied not for fame, but for love.

It requires no learning and little effort to quote, in brackets, the scientific name of every bird that may be casually mentioned in a single article treating of bird life, but to give that name, at first, was a work of genius.

The trinominal system of nomenclature, is an admirable invention, and nice in its resources for classification. The Generic name gives the group of forms that are joined by a few striking and constant likenesses, the specific name marks the forms that are still more closely allied to one another, within this group, while the sub-specific title characterizes those that are separated, in their relationships by very few and often subtle points of difference.

There was a “reunion” of the “Smith clan,” the other day. Numerous among these were the “Smythes,” of Gargantua county, while among these, none showed a more striking uniformity of family likeness than the blonde “de

Smythes" of the town of Alba. Generic, "Smith," specific, "Smythe," sub-specific, "de Smythe."

Let us go back to the birds: No scientific name was more beautiful—despite its cumbersomeness, which latter account, perhaps, for the labored flight of the bird, than that of the Black Tern, which name originated, I think, with Gmelin, "*Hydrochelidon*," gives us a picturesque, poetical name for the whole genus of "Sea-Swallows," "*Lariformis*" denotes the species that is "gull-shaped in structure; "*Surinamensis*" limits the sub-species connected by it. I fancy,—to the particular locality where it was first observed. One regrets that the present imperious demand for terseness should have stricken out the specific *Lariformis*—which is both poetical and precise, and substituted for it the plain prosaic '*nigra*' for, does not everybody know that this Tern is "Black?" . . . . . I take up my A. O. U. check list and refresh my mind concerning some of the more beautiful "onomato poetic" names,—The Loon, "*Urinator imber*" the "Storm beaten Diver." What finer name for a bird which, when not in air, is always on or under the water!

Large-billed Puffin, "*Fraterecula arctica glacialis*," what a sociable fellow this 'Little Brother' must be in his "icy arctic regions."

"Crested Auklet," "*Simorhynchus cristatellus*"—a "snub-nosed" bird with a "little crest." (But *how* good Dr. C. would have railed, has he only thought of it, at the bare latinity of "*Cristatellus*," as he actually did at the execrable Græcism of "*Chondrestes*" (Lark Finch) which he would have told us, had not his book been already big enough, should have been "*Chondredrestes*," or eater of grass seeds.)

Parasitic Jaeger, "*Stercorarius parasiticus*" a "noisy flatterer," the full meaning of the graphic name can be known only to those that are so fortunate as to be able to study this bird in his haunts.

Dr. Coues, who gives us a whole page descriptive of the Jaeger's manner of dress, would have conferred a favor had he given us a paragraph on the fellow's convivial and social habits.

Least Petrel, "*Hal-oku-ptena microsoma*," a "sea (dwelling) swift-winged, little body"—little, yet big enough to be the only one of the Petrel tribe to receive this Generic name, for the privilege of bearing which, who would not be a Petrel?

One thing, will the Doctor tell us about the Great Auk—We *know* that he was "wingless"—"*Impennis*," but why was he "*plautus*?"

Now, like the Auk, I must lay aside my quill. If the above thoughts have seemed neither pedantic nor obtrusive, perhaps the readers of the OÖLOGIST may hear again from

BETA.

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#### Pointers on Making Bird Skins.

The exchange notice you inserted for me in January OÖLOGIST brought a great many letters and offers of exchanges, I have completed trades with some, and with others, am still negotiating. One trouble I much lament is the poor make-up of skins by most collectors.

The fountain head of trouble I believe to be in the books and papers giving instructions on collecting. I don't believe any man in this age of discovery and improvement, can safely claim to have such a perfect knowledge of practical bird skin collecting and taxidermy, that improvement in some detail is not possible. If there is such a person I would like to be informed of the fact. Being honest in the above statements. I don't feel presumptuous in attempting to point out what I believe to be faults in preparing skins, and will humbly describe as well as possible how I believe improvements can be made, which will render collections of skins far more valuable, instruc-

tive and especially so much more beautiful.

All books on taxidermy which I have seen give a few fixed rules to be applied to all kinds of birds, to that I take exception as well as many other points which I shall consider later. A person may skin a bird while it lies on a table, or suspended as best suits the operator, but don't cut away the leg bones below the knees, nor the wing bones or loosen the wing quills on any bird great or small,

Where it is necessary to remove flesh from wings, a gash may be made from outside and under the wing from where flesh may be easily removed. Leave all the skull possible. If you read books written by so-called high authorities (?) advising you to cut or break off half the leg bones, skin the wings to the outer joints and remove all bone at next joint, and cut the skull just back of the eyes, I would say don't do it. You might gain time, but what you saved in time would be deducted from the value of your specimens and large interest to boot. If you are ever tempted in that way, I would imploringly say don't. Next, How do you stuff skins? Why, fill them with cotton, be sure and stuff well the breast and throat so as to form a beautiful curve from bill to breast, then the skin is placed in a paper cone or on cotton with its bill straight out pointing in a perfectly opposite direction to its tail. Short-necked birds get their necks lengthened and long-necked species get theirs shortened. Birds having long wings have them pushed up among the feathers each side of their neck. All is lovely and harmony reigns why intelligent people will attempt to improve upon the living forms of birds I cannot understand. It can only end in attempt for we are not wiser than our Creator.

Specimens having their heads doubled back and throats distended with cotton always make me feel painful

and distressed and remind me of a scared toad or a bloated sheep I once saw which was lying dead with its back in a plow furrow. I will advance the claim for the art of taxidermy that its greatest triumph, is to perfectly imitate nature and acting upon this belief I have devised several methods and plans which possibly are not practiced by other collectors and whereby I am enabled to make perfect skins of owls and other species which are difficult to prepare.

Small birds I find most easily and nicely stuffed by taking a little excelsior, tow or jute and make a small roll of it between my hands, double one end over where it is small and cut it so as to leave in length; a roll nearly as long as neck and body of bird to be stuffed, take doubled end between forceps and insert up birds neck and place doubled end of tow in the birds mouth, but not far enough to prevent mandibles from closing naturally, now with needle and thread, pass thread through nostrils and tie bill closed, thus the roll is held firmly in the birds mouth and the length of neck can be easily adjusted. Stuff the skin out to natural size, arrange wings and other feathers properly, and place in paper cone or any other convenient drying form where the skin will be kept in proper form until dry. If the bird is a crested species, turn the head to one side and erect the crest as in life. For long-necked birds such as ducks, waders, etc. I make an artificial body upon a wire, strong enough to make the neck stiff and prevent breakage in shipment. The body should be nearly as long as the natural, and as thick as the bird's back is wide. The artificial neck is next made, first fasten the end of a small wire in the body and wind it in about half inch coils around the neck wire until it is brought out as far as it is necessary to make the neck in length, and then wind back again to the body and cut off

the surplus. Cotton or tow may now be wound on this wire until there is sufficient to wind with thread, and have an artificial neck same size as the natural. Give the neck wire a three-cornered point, wind a little cotton on it to prevent its piercing the skin until it reaches the skull, then remove the cotton, and run the wire out through the top of the head. Next stuff skin natural and sew up. The neck can be bent to any natural curve. The mouth properly stuffed and tied shut. Wings, legs, etc., arranged properly and slick, label and place in dryer.

For ducks, etc., I prefer a bed of cotton as a drying form. For hawks and owls, I usually wind with strips of cotton or thread or place in paper cone, then bend the protruding neck wire into a hook and suspend from the ceiling. By this plan, very natural looking skins can be made of hawks and owls because the feathers of neck and head can be kept in proper position very readily. The foregoing is just an outline of some of my original plans and contrivances in skin preparing, and if requested, shall be pleased to go into further details and answer inquiries. I shall be pleased to draw out criticisms and discussions upon the subject of collecting, for I feel convinced that there is great room for much good to be done. I have had sixteen years experience as a taxidermist and can show several first premium tickets awarded me at different Provincial Exhibitions in Ontario. Can also refer doubting parties to the Blind Institute at Brantford, Ont, and also the Can. Geo. and Nat. History Survey at Ottawa, Canada. In both of which institutions rests, bird's and mammals purchased from me. I mention the above facts to show that I know something at least about the subject in question. My aim is to arouse collectors to endeavor to increase the value of collections not entirely by increasing the number of specimens, but to aim at

preparing their specimens in a superior manner.

Some may be more easily satisfied with the quality and condition of skins than I am, but I am willing to leave my opinions and plans to the verdict of the most eminent professionals.

Though rough or smooth

Let come what will,

May progress and improvement,

Be our motto still.

JOHN A. MORDEN,  
Brent Creek, Mich.

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#### Collecting on an European Islet.

There is a peculiar crispness in the air at sunrise in northern latitude; at least so I thought the 8th of June, 1889, as I came on deck. The first rays of day were lighting up the east, and the air was quite chilly.

We were making for a small triangular island laying some 50 miles from the French coast, now about seven miles away, hardly a puff of wind was coming from the west, and it seemed as if we would never get there, so we had some breakfast and got out a pair of sweeps, and soon had our light yawl bowling along. We anchored about 200 yards from shore, the noise we made started up hundreds of Guillemots and Herring Gulls, and while the Guillemots was around us, the Gulls circled and uttered their harsh cry. We were much amused by the Common Guillemots or Murres, on rapping on the gunwale of the boat hundreds would sail off their rocky perches, land in the water and there swim around many quite near the boat, on saying "bang" they would disappear like a shot coming up some 30 or 40 yards off. The only diver I saw was a Red-throated Loon.

We were soon pulling for shore, there was no place to beach our boat, as the shore was one pile of rocks from the size of a marble to that of a house

that had fallen from the 500 foot chalk-cliff; many were worn quite round by the waves: so we had to land by having Charlie rowing on a wave while we stood on the gunwale and jumped. We started up cliff with baskets, I made for a green patch about 100 feet up while my friend Fred made for a higher place I found no nests, but Fred yelled to come to him, when I got up to him he had his basket full, on top was a set of the finest Gull's eggs I have ever seen, the three was very round and almost olive-green, the spots were chocolate and the size of a dollar, he also had a set, 4 eggs and nest of the rare Rock Pipit which he gave me, he found them by accident he was climbing and slipped and put his hand in a hole to hold himself, out flew the bird and he looked in and saw the nest.

We got the basket to the shore by passing from one to the other. I had Charlie row into a little cove and gave the basket to him, he placed it in the stern and tried to push off on the next wave, but in stepping back to do so he stepped on a loose plank in the flooring which flew up and hit the end of the basket upsetting it, only one of the eggs escaped, one of the fine set of Gulls. I was so mad about it I did not know what to do.

We went up again and took about 4 dozen more we only took fine sets as I had plenty at home.

All the nests were simply a pile of rank grasses. 18x8x4 inches.

The eggs varied greatly from a light pea-green to drab and dark chestnut, with markings of drabs, purplish drabs lilac and browns almost to black.

High up on the ledges we found many Common Cormorants nests mostly containing 6 dirty white eggs, nests were same as Gulls only lighter and more compact, some had young in, Fred saw a hole and started in but came out quickly saying it was the most awful smelling hole he ever smelt.

I took one whiff and believed him, it was a Cormorant's nest and the smell was only equalled by a good stale skunk.

We turned our attention to the Common Gullimots, Puffins and Razor-bills. No Puffins eggs were taken, they were in deep holes and crannies and were not worth the trouble. We had to use ropes from the top for the Gullimots and Razor-bills, the eggs were laid of course on the bare rock and ran through the usual shades of green to creamy pink, some with many marks of red to black and others hardly any. While suspended like Mahomet's coffin between earth or perhaps sea and heaven, I could not help watching the graceful flight of the Red-footed Falcon their young are much sought after, and fetch about \$25 a piece for falconry.

Two Ravens attracted our attention we found their nest in a cave half way up the cliff, it was built on the floor and was quite a large thing nearly three foot high and about the same width at base it had evidently been used for many years, as a new layer and patches had been often added. It was made of sticks and grasses.

It was late now so we packed up and started for the yacht, we had quite a load of eggs but did not shoot any birds as many had young.

Twenty minutes later we were beating down channel, I had only two hours sleep the night before so Charlie took his turn, and I was soon dreaming of the eggs I expected to collect the next two weeks.

HARRY B. SARGENT,

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### The Great Gray Owl.

This is the largest and perhaps rarest of all the American Strigidæ, and is seldom found within the boundary of the United States, except in Washington and Oregon. I was fortunate to secure two specimens which were killed near

here in the winter of 1889, one of them I now have in my collection.

This Owl is found in great numbers in the northern and central parts of British America. It is a shy retiring bird living in the densest forests only and is seldom seen in the open. It is about 30 inches in length with eyes and feet greatly out of proportion to its size, it is a day bird like the Hawk Owl. Its principal food is small birds and animals, and when it lives near water; it subsists on fish and shell fish. It is called by the Indians of the Northwest "*Nuhl tuhl*" meaning heavy walker. It nests in high trees, the nest being composed of sticks and lined with down and moss. The eggs are two to four in number, and dirty white in color, they measure 2.25x1.78 hundredths of an inch.

S. O. BRUSH,  
Milton, Vt.

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#### Collecting and Collectors.

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Many times my mind has been called to the fact that many eggs and birds are uselessly destroyed. I have on several occasions been in the field with collectors who persisted in collecting every egg they came across. I have also seen collectors who had hundreds of eggs of our common House Finch. How they ever prepared the data or how they will ever dispose of the eggs I do not know: but I do know that many birds have been uselessly destroyed by them. If one is collecting sets, what is the use of taking the only egg from a newly made nest, which has caused the parent bird much work and trouble? Or why do some collectors take eggs that are so far advanced in incubation that they can never be preserved? I would say to all young collectors never take an egg unless you intend to make good use of it; especially of the rarer species.

When a set is collected from a small

nest, the nest should be preserved with the set, as it is the very best kind of data and better than any book for reference.

Much care should be exercised in preparing the data. Always give good descriptions of the surroundings, also of the nest, if not preserved with the set. Every collector should carry some kind of a field note book, in which to write the data, when the set is collected. The data blank can then be neatly filled out at leisure. I offer this suggestion for I have known of collectors who would not write the data for several days after collecting the eggs, when they would write them simply by guess.

Every egg should be blown through as smooth and small a hole as possible, after which it should be thoroughly rinsed with clean water. This can be done by using a little patience and good instruments, and there is now little reason why anyone should not possess these requisites, if he be a true oölogist.

Now a word as to forming private collections and I will close. Let no set or sets creep into your collection unless they are indentified beyond a doubt by reliable collectors. Also be sure that every egg is strictly first-class. In order to do this don't try to obtain first-class eggs from a collector whom you know prepares only second-class ones; but drop him at once and look for a collector or dealer who can furnish you with specimens which you can study with at least some degree of pleasure.

Now the collecting season is close at hand. Let us all strive to do better and more thorough work in the field, thus beautifying our collections and promoting the cause of our beloved science.

H. M. HALL,  
Riverside, Cal.

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#### A Collecting Trip.

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On the 15th of May last year, my

chum R., and myself, started out on a collecting trip, at nine o'clock A. M. We tramped about a mile with no luck but a few nests of the Song Sparrow, until we came to a rotten Cottonwood tree, from which we saw a Downy Woodpecker fly. Upon investigating, we saw a hole about ten feet from the ground, and upon climbing up, I could not get my hand in, so I used my knife vigorously for a half hour, when I had the hole enlarged enough to get my hand in. I drew out five clear, glossy, white eggs, which were slightly incubated. We then started for a group of Cottonwood trees, about a mile away. Upon arriving there, we found a nest of the Baltimore Oriole, which contained five fresh eggs. In a vacant house near, we obtained a nice set of five eggs of the Chimney Swift. I let down our collecting-box, just below the nest and then fastened my knife to a long stick, and separated the nest from the chimney, when the nest fell into the box, which was filled with cotton. None of the eggs were broken. The nest was put on so tightly that part of the brick stuck to the nest. We then went to a crab-apple orchard, where we had found a number of nests the week before; and upon arriving there, we found a Red-eyed Vireo's nest, suspended from a small branch, at the top of an apple tree, R. climbed up and found four fresh eggs. In a tree near by, we found a nest of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which contained four eggs, slightly incubated. Last season the Grosbeak nests were very common; and I could have collected at least thirty sets. On a limb of an oak tree, fifteen feet up, I saw a Scarlet Tanager's nest, which contained three fresh eggs. The nest was made of small twigs and lined with small rootlets. About a block away, R. saw a nest of the Red-headed Woodpecker, from which we obtained five fresh eggs. Two years ago I found a Red-headed Woodpecker's nest, con-

taining two eggs. Taking one, I went back the next day; and found two eggs. I kept this up, taking one and leaving one until she had laid 23 eggs in 25 days. After leaving our Woodpecker's nest we sat down on the bank of the Mississippi River, and ate our lunch. While we were eating, I saw a Belted Kingfisher flying back and forth uneasily. After lunch we investigated and found its nest about fifteen feet from where we had been sitting. We dug for over an hour and a half, with the perspiration pouring down our faces, until we reached the nest, which contained seven fresh eggs. We then measured the hole and found it to be 7 feet 8 inches long. The nest was a mass of fish-bones, which smelled horribly. As it was then nearly 5 o'clock we wended our way homeward, and arrived there supper time, well pleased with our trip

WALTON MITCHELL,

St. Paul, Minn.

#### The Ruffed Grouse Burrowing in the Snow.

We have all heard of the curious habit which the Ruffed Grouse indulges in during the winter months; that of burrowing in the snow for warmth. It was my good fortune to see this habit for myself while out rabbit hunting on Feb. 13. While going through a patch of woods I noticed about a dozen holes in the snow and seeing the marks of partridge wings at the entrances came to the conclusion that they were the burrows I had read about. Farther on in the woods about fifteen partridge flew from the snow in front of me, while I stood open mouthed, watching them depart, and wishing it was the open season. I suppose they had all gone, so walked on a little farther and stopped. I heard a great commotion and looking down saw a partridge endeavoring to get from under my snow-shoe, and had I not been so surprised I could easily have caught him.

GILBERT B. FURNESS,  
Ogdensburg N. Y.

## ZOÖTOMY.

## The Domestic Pigeon.

(Concluded from March number.)

Want of space will not permit us to outline any study of the skeleton, except merely to notice the skull. For specimens, you should have one of an adult, prepared by boiling for some time, and then carefully removing the brain and flesh; and one or two of nestlings of different ages, prepared without boiling, leaving the bones and cartilages articulated. The second will show the different bones or cartilages representing them, the location of sutures that are almost obliterated in the adult skull, and other points of interest which we leave the student to notice for himself. A few skulls of other birds and small mammals should be at hand for comparison. Notice how light the skull and other parts of skeleton are. The skull appears to be designed to protect a number of delicate organs; what are they and how is each protected? Note shape of brain-case and cavities for eyes; compare with other birds as woodcock, owl, heron, etc. The large bones back of, and between the orbits are the *frontals*. (When sutures separating bones cannot be seen in the adult skull refer to that of the nestling.) Back of the frontals are the *parietals*. Below the frontal and parietal is the *squamosal*; the opening for the spinal cord is the *foramen magnum*; find some other openings through which nerves leave the brain; below, ventral to, the foramen magnum is the *basioccipital*; above, dorsal to, it, the *supraoccipital*, and on each side the *exoccipitals*; above the supraoccipital, is a suture in the young skull and a ridge in that of the adult. Just anterior to the frontal are the *nasal* bones: anterior to the nasals on the upper part of the upper mandible are the *premaxilla*; these are ankylosed with each other in the adult skull. On

the anterior edge of the foramen magnum is a small rounded elevation the *occipital condyle*; notice how this fits into the cavity of the first vertebra, the *atlas*; the slender bones anterior to and below the orbits are the *jugal* bones; these are ankylosed with the maxillae in the adult. At the posterior end of the jugal is the *quadrate*; In the lower jaw-bone, forming the anterior part is the *dentary*; the ones articulating with the skull are the *articulars*; note the differences between these parts of the adult and nestling. The *auditory capsule* is an enlargement of the skull near the foramen magnum. By carefully removing the shell covering them, the *semicircular canals* may be seen; the anterior is the largest, the posterior is at right angles to the anterior; the other is known as the horizontal; in the nestling skull several "*-otic*" bones are to be found in connection with the auditory capsule; these are fused with other bones in the adult skull. You will find it very interesting to note how many bones in the nestling's skull have become fused with others in that of the adult and also how they vary in size and shape in the other skulls. The above named are, perhaps, the most conspicuous bones of the head. Of course the student will not stop here, but will with the aid of some good author, notice the peculiarities and locate, not only the other bones of the head, but of the entire skeleton. He will find the pigeon full of interest from the point of the bill to the tips of the toes, and a neverending amount of profitable study may be had by comparing parts of its anatomy with corresponding parts of other birds, and these with others, noticing how they are variously modified and adapted to their particular mode of life.

JOHN O. SNYDER,  
Waterloo, Ind..

## Notes from St. Thomas, Ontario.

A few days previous to the 23d February this year being very mild and spring like, I thought a trip down creek, would not be amiss, to see if any of the early birds had been tempted by the weather.

On the above mentioned date, as agreed, my friend, Mr. Orville Foster, called for me about 6:30 a.m., and we started off for the day. The first sign of bird life we observed, was a flock of five Red headed Ducks, from which my friend shot one, and wounded another, which he was unable to obtain, on account of the creek being full of ice. A Winchester being my only weapon, the ducks passed safely by me.

I append a list below of the birds seen during the day. There is one bird, however, that deserves particular notice, and that is a specimen of the Greater Yellowlegs, which was shot by a boy, who was some distance ahead of us. As a rule this bird never appears until about the 15th of April. Another bird ahead of time, was the Bronzed Grackle, two of them being observed.

Bald Eagle, 1; Red-tail Hawk, 1; Wood Duck, 1; Red-headed Duck, 5; Am. Merganser, 2; Pied-billed Grebe, 1; Kingfisher, 1; Greater Yellowlegs, 1; Quail, 20; Meadow Lark, 3; Robin, 1; Crow, 2; Blue Jay, 20; Bronzed Grackle, 2; Snow Flake, 50; Flicker, 5; Red-headed Woodpecker, 1; Downy Woodpecker, 1; Redpoll, 20; Brown Creeper, 1; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 1; Black-capped Chickadee, 10; Red-breasted Nuthatch, 1; White-breasted Nuthatch, 10; Song Sparrow 3; Junco, 20.

F. L. FARLEY.

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 Prepare Your Specimens Well
 

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Many young collectors when beginning to collect eggs, especially if the eggs are of a common variety, blow them hurriedly, making a large hole in the

side, and sometimes chipping the eggs, —these are good enough to exchange, they think, but they expect good specimens in return. Other collectors will send out incubated eggs as "first-class." They can be incubated and first-class— if they are blown properly, but the majority of collectors don't take the time to empty the contents out of a small hole. If your time should be so occupied that you cannot bother with blowing them in this way, don't send them away as first-class specimens but describe them as they are and, should the party care for them, it's not so bad—he knows what to expect and is not disappointed.

Not long ago two local collectors were looking through my collection and made a remark that the specimens were neatly prepared. I then showed them a few sets that I keep in a separate case, that were received from a few well-known collectors. One set came from a 'would be dealer'. I asked them what they thought of that set—one said "the holes are larger than the eggs," the other remarked "the birds in them must have been old enough to fly." If the eggs are very much advanced in incubation, I would advise the young oölogist to let them hatch. They will do the birds more good than you—

I agree with Rev. Peabody as to his rule adopted (see November OÖLOGIST) when collectors send you eggs, not first class, they should pay for the return postage for a second-class set in a nice collection of eggs, spoils the effect of the whole thing to my eye.

In bird skins it is also well to take enough time and make a nice job. Better have a few fine specimens than many poor ones, so wake up during season of '92 and prepare your specimens correctly, then, when you send them out as "first-class" you will have a clear conscience, for as the Dutchman says, "A clear conscience was more as worthy as a barrel of succeed."

CLYDE L. KELLAR,  
Salem, Oregon.

## February Prize Article Contest.

The articles in February OÖLOGIST were all very meritorious and we agree with the *eighty-three* (83) judges, who sent in their decisions, that it was indeed a difficult task to select and group five articles from so many excellent ones.

The articles winning the prizes and the credits received by each were as follows:—

1. Collecting on the Farallone Islands.—333.
2. Zoöotomy.—188.
3. A Day's Trip for Bald Eagle Nests in Florida.—166.
4. Partridge's and Their Relatives—158.
5. Our Winter Vistors.—108.

Nine other articles received credits ranging from 2 to 83 each, as one of these nine articles received as many credits as there were judges—83 we deemed it proper to award a 6th prize to the "Black-throated Bunting."

None of our judges gave their decisions *exactly* as the prizes were awarded—*four* of them, however, named the prize winning articles and to these four we awarded the first four judges prizes—awarding the first prize to the list nearest correct, and the others in like manner. In cases of doubt the earliest list receiving the benefit of the same.

Several judges named four of the winning articles, and the fifth judges prize was awarded to the one whose non-winning article received the greatest number of credits.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named the articles in their decisions were as follows:—

- 1st. No. 45.—C. C. Bacon, Nashville, Tenn., 1, 3, 2, 4, 5.
- 2nd. No. 5.—W. C. Mcrow, Columbus, O., 1, 2, 5, 4, 3.
- 3d. No. 19.—T. D. Witherspoon, Jr. Richmond, Ky., 2, 4, 3, 1, 5.
- 4th. No. 72.—Briscoe W. Peyton, Natural Bridge, Va., 2, 3, 1, 5, 4.
- 5th. No. 78.—F. W. Hyde, Solon, N. Y., 1, 2, 3, 6, 4.

All the prizes were mailed the winners on April 1st.

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 Chewinks in January.
 

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January 6, 1892. While out hunting I startled a Chewink out of a brush-beap

in the edge of a large piece of woods, I shot the bird for purposes of identification and preserved the skin.

Two wood cutters in an adjoining piece of woods, told me that they had seen two more Chewinks a few days before. As the weather was quite cold and the ground covered with snow, I was much surprised to find this bird.

I would like to know if others have found the Chewink wintering as far north as this.

B. O. LONGYEAR,  
Mason, Mich.

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 Ornithologists Association.
 

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## SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the January meeting, V. W. Cady, Muskegon, Mich., and Thos. W. Smithwick, Walke, Bertie Co., N. C., were elected Corresponding Members.

At the February meeting the following Corresponding members were elected: James A. Booth, Kalispell, Mont; W. F. Dealing, 1211 N. Aldrich, Ave. Minneapolis, Minn.; D. Frank Kellar, Reading, Pa.

The Secretary has mailed membership cards to all paid up members and they will please notice that at the date following the word "Expires," another payment of dues should be made.

It was agreed to take up the special study of the families *Corvidae* and *Icteridae* for some time to come.

Migration, food, nidification and especially economic value will be investigated and a partial report at least is hoped for from each member.

Our widely scattered membership can we think be made a valuable corps of observation.

Further conclusions &c. on this project will be given next month.

ALBERT B. FARNHAM,  
Secretary and Treasurer.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Apr) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the April competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15 00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and, in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than May 10th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a copy of "Recent Indian Wars," elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

## World's Fair Notes.

It is the present expectation that every species of fish and other aquatic animal large enough to be seen, which is native to inland waters and to the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, except perhaps a live whale, will be exhibited in the Fisheries Department of the Exposition.

Instead of a reproduction of an Aztec temple Mexico will construct a typical hacienda, or residence of a wealthy landed proprietor. This will be decorated in a lavish manner with Mexican fruit and flowers and archaeological and ethnological specimens. The Mexican exhibit will illustrate the present condition and resources and products of the country rather than its past history.

In the Washington State exhibit will be included a representation of the methods used by the Makah Indians in catching salmon and other fish. The exhibit will include boats, lines, hooks, seines, harpoons, etc.

In Colorado's exhibit will appear a very complete showing of the flora of the state. Miss Alida P. Lansing, who has been in charge of the matter, gathered more than 1,000 varieties last summer, including fifteen or more which had never been classified.

The British Royal Commission for the Chicago Exposition is endeavoring to form a typical collection, illustrating British metallurgy for the British Section, and it is now applying to owners and managers of metallurgical works, asking for specimens of each of their principal metallurgical products, and also for specimens illustrating various processes. Dr. E. J. Ball, the instructor in assaying at the Royal College of Science, South Kensington has undertaken to classify and arrange the collection which when complete, will doubtless be fully illustrative of the condition of metallurgy in the kingdom. At the close of the exhibition the collection will be presented to an American museum.

## The World's Columbian Exposition.

Send 50 cents to Bond & Co., 576 Rookery, Chicago, and you will receive, postpaid, a four hundred page advance Guide to the Exposition, with elegant engravings of the ground and buildings portraits of its leading spirits, and a map of the city of Chicago; all of the rules governing the exposition and exhibitors, and all information which can be given out in advance of its opening. Also, other engravings and printed information will be sent you as published. It will be a very valuable book and every person should secure a copy.

## To The World's Fair.

Join the club that is being organized to attend the World's Fair at Chicago. You can pay for your ticket in weekly or monthly payments; the ticket covers railway fares, board, room and Exposition tickets. The United World's Exposition Company is the strongest in United States, apply to local agent or write the United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass

## The Oölogist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oölogist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

## For Only 50 Cents.

Every subscriber received for '92, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed, to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OÖLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OÖLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25 cents providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25. This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

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'78' is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST and it was mailed to subscribers on April 15th.

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Orders of 50c or over sent prepaid, under that amount 5c must be added for postage and packing

|   |        |
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| For \$1.00 you can select Eggs to the amount of | \$1.50 |
| " 2.00  | 3.50   |
| " 3.00  | 6.00   |
| " 5.00  | 11.25  |
| " 10.00   | 25.00  |
| " 25.00   | 75.00  |

This offer will hold good until May 15th and is positively the only chance to obtain eggs at so low a rate of us during 1892.

All specimens will be carefully packed in strong tin or wooden boxes and sent at purchaser's risk by mail, or at our risk and purchaser's expense by express.

SECOND-CLASS SPECIMENS can be furnished of most of the species at one-half the price of a first-class one. Parties ordering second-class Eggs must name a list of extra Eggs to be used as substitutes.

SETS. We can furnish sets of species preceded by \* or †.

A POINTER.—Collectors well know how readily they can exchange some cheap egg, not found in their locality with local collectors for specimens worth many times as much. Many wide-awake collectors will doubtless lay in a large supply for this purpose.

I might also add that if your collections are in need of any species included in offer, an opportunity to purchase at so low a rate may never occur again.

|                            |      |                           |       |                             |      |
|----------------------------|------|---------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|------|
| Horned Grebe.....          | 35   | *American Coot.....       | 10    | Texan Screech Owl.....      | 50   |
| American Eared Grebe...    | 25   | American Avocet.....      | 75    | California Screech Owl..... | 50   |
| Pied-billed Grebe.....     | 10   | European Woodcock.....    | 1 75  | *Great Horned Owl.....      | 1 25 |
| Tufted Puffin.....         | 1 00 | American Woodcock.....    | 1 25  | Western Horned Owl.....     | 1 25 |
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| *Herring Gull.....         | 20   | *Spotted Sandpiper.....   | 15    | Groove-billed Ani.....      | 1 00 |
| *American Herring Gull...  | 20   | Gull.....                 | 75    | *Road-runner.....           | 25   |
| *Laughing Gull.....        | 20   | Whimbrel.....             | 40    | *Yellow-billed Cuckoo.....  | 10   |
| *Franklin's Gull.....      | 75   | *Golden Plover.....       | 40    | *Black-billed Cuckoo.....   | 12   |
| Caspian Tern.....          | 50   | *S. Illdeer.....          | 20    | *Belted Kingfisher.....     | 20   |
| Foster's Tern.....         | 10   | Bob white.....            | 10    | Hairy Woodpecker.....       | 50   |
| Common Tern.....           | 10   | *Florida Bob-white.....   | 15    | *Downy Woodpecker.....      | 20   |
| *Arctic Tern.....          | 15   | *Texan Bob-white.....     | 10    | *Red-cockaded Wdpker...     | 1 25 |
| *Sooty Tern.....           | 35   | *Chestnut-bellied Scaled  |       | Pileated Woodpecker.....    | 1 00 |
| *Bridled Tern.....         | 2 00 | Partridge.....            | 50    | *Red-headed Woodpecker.     | 08   |
| *Black Tern.....           | 12   | California Partridge..... | 10    | Lewis' Woodpecker.....      | 40   |
| *Noddy.....                | 75   | Valley Partridge.....     | 20    | *Red-bellied Woodpecker.    | 30   |
| *Black Skimmer.....        | 12   | *Gambel's Partridge.....  | 25    | *Golden-fronted Wdpker...   | 75   |
| Fulmar.....                | 75   | Ruffed Grouse.....        | 15    | *Flicker.....               | 03   |
| Cormorant.....             | 50   | Willow Ptarmigan.....     | 1 00  | Red-shafted Flicker.....    | 10   |
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| Barrow's Golden-eye.....   | 1 00 | Ground Dove.....          | 25    | bird.....                   | 1 00 |
| Harlequin Duck.....        | 1 25 | *Mississippi Kite.....    | 10 00 | Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.  | 10   |
| American Scoter.....       | 2 00 | Marsh Hawk.....           | 40    | Kingbird.....               | 03   |
| Ruddy Duck.....            | 50   | *Cooper's Hawk.....       | 30    | Gray Kingbird.....          | 40   |
| Whooping Swan.....         | 1 50 | *Harris' Hawk.....        | 75    | Arkansas Kingbird.....      | 08   |
| Whistling Swan.....        | 2 50 | *Red-tailed Hawk.....     | 50    | Cassin's Kingbird.....      | 25   |
| American Bittern.....      | 1 25 | *Western Red-tail.....    | 75    | Ash-throated Flycatcher...  | 25   |
| *Least Bittern.....        | 20   | *Red-shouldered Hawk..... | 50    | *Crested Flycatcher.....    | 12   |
| *Great Blue Heron.....     | 25   | Red-bellied Hawk.....     | 1 00  | Phoebe.....                 | 05   |
| Reddish Egret.....         | 40   | Swainson's Hawk.....      | 75    | *Say's Phoebe.....          | 1 0  |
| Little Blue Heron.....     | 15   | *Broad-winged Hawk.....   | 1 25  | Black Phoebe.....           | 20   |
| *Green Heron.....          | 10   | Duck Hawk.....            | 3 00  | *Wood Pewee.....            | 15   |
| *Black-crnd Night Heron... | 10   | *American Sparrow Hawk    | 25    | *Western Wood Pewee...      | 20   |
| Yellow-crndNight Heron..   | 25   | *American Osprey.....     | 50    | Acadian Flycatcher.....     | 20   |
| *Limpkin.....              | 1 25 | *American Barn Owl.....   | 30    | Little Flycatcher.....      | 40   |
| King Rail.....             | 20   | Barred Owl.....           | 1 00  | Trail's Flycatcher.....     | 20   |
| Virginia Rail.....         | 20   | Florida Barred Owl.....   | 1 00  | Least Flycatcher.....       | 10   |
| *Sora.....                 | 10   | Screech Owl.....          | 40    | *Prairie Horned Lark.....   | 20   |
| *Florida Gallinule.....    | 12   | *Florida Screech Owl..... | 50    | Desert Horned Lark.....     | 25   |





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| Kolib Gem,   | Christinas,     | Etc., etc.        |

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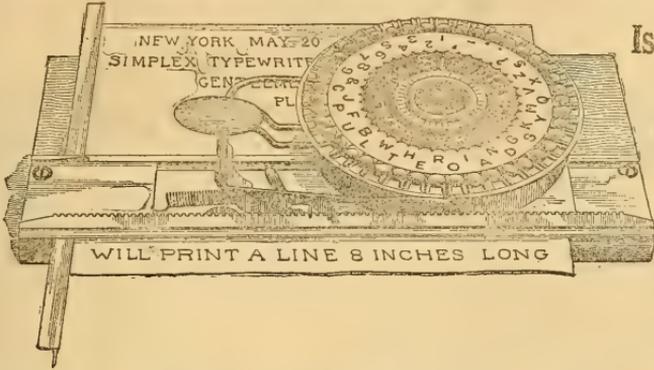
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THE OOLOGIST.

Monthly. 50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1892.

NO. 5

NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 25 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only*.

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Back numbers of Youth's Companion for common or fancy pigeons. FRANK E. SWEETSER, Danvers, Mass.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—First-class bird skins and eggs for good rifle, collecting gun, telescope, or books on Ornithology, Oology or Taxidermy. JNO. L. HOOPER, Lake Mills, Wis.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—About 50 first-class bird's eggs in sets and singles and a copy of Wood's Natural History for works on Ornithology. H. B. ASHBURN, Gibbon, Neb.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Five years Youth's Companion, '87-'91 inclusive, one Star safety razor, new, and minerals, for minerals, fossils, etc. Letters answered; address D. A. WHEELER, Ashburnham Center, Mass.

I HAVE about a thousand stamps, many rare ones, to exchange for a pair of climbing irons or works on Ornithology or Oology. L. P. WILLIAMS, Redlands, Cal.

**FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.**—One Howard camera with sea beans and shells from Florida. Periwinkles. Lake Erie correspondence desired LAWRENCE RYCKMAN, Brocton, N. Y.

**FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.**—A single barreled, breech-loading shot gun. Bargain. R. W. PATTERSON, Box 247, Parkersburg, W. Va.

**SILK COCOONS:**—I will give 3 silk cocoons (white, yellow and green) for each and every Indian arrowhead or stone implement sent me. W. W. SHELLEY, Hesston, Harvey Co., Kans.

**STAMPS:**—I want collections or lots; which I will exchange eggs in sets or singles. All answered. JESSE MILLER, 184 Dallas St., Houston, Texas.

**ALLIGATOR EGGS** wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred turtle and snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE**—with reliable collectors, Eggs in sets or singles with data. GEO. L. CALDERWOOD, Santa Rosa, Sonoma Co., California.

**WANTED.**—Grade connection in first class eggs from other parts of country. Have three live Great Horned Owls for first class sets. JOHN LARSEN, 3 Elm St., Ann Arbor, Mich.

**WANTED.**—To exchange birds eggs, in sets, with collectors throughout the United States. L. W. NICHOLS, Somonauk, Ill.

**CALIFORNIA EGGS**—in sets with data and singles to exchange for sets with data. Also wish to exchange eggs for tennis racket. HARRY R. PAINTON, College Park, Cal.

**WANTED.**—Rough Skeletons of mammals, (six badgers) birds, and reptiles. I pay cash or exchange specimens of all kinds. CHARLES E. HITE, Osteologist, Burlington, New Jersey.

**OOLOGISTS ATTENTION.**—Your correspondence is solicited for this season in regard to exchanging of bird's eggs between our localities. Address GEORGE N. UPHAM, Coffeyville, Kansas.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Fine sets of following (A. O. U.) species: 59, 207, 293a, 299b, 311, 319, 313, 335, 339a, 424, 410, 477a, 602, 586, 573, 718a, 706, 707. THOS. H. JACKSON, West Chester, Pa.

**TO EXCHANGE:**—A revolving shot-gun, 38 Cal. 5 shot, value \$4.50 will exchange for bird's eggs, skius, or mounted birds. What offers. S. L. HALEY, Phillips, Maine.

I HAVE quite a number of different articles to exchange for birds' eggs or climbing irons. Send list and receive mine. All letters answered. SIGMUND H. HILL, New Milford, Conn.

**WANTED.**—Plants of Soleaconcolor, Viola rotundifolia, lanceolata, primulaefolia, blanda, palustris, Selkirkii, villosa, rostrata, Unblenbergii, striata, canadensis, and Violetis except cucullata, saggettata, delphimfolia, jedata, tricolor, and odorata. Will give other wild plants herbarium specimens, carboniferous fossils, or entomological specimens. JNO. BRIDWELL, Baldwin, Kan.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—A \$10 magic lantern for an Oologist's outfit or eggs in sets. H. A. HESS, 152 E. New York St., Indianapolis, Ind.

WANTED.—*Fine* bird skins only, for which I will exchange for 60 days, handsome geodes for such as I can use. Send full lists at once to C. K. WORTHEN, Naturalist and Taxidermist, Warsaw, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fossils and minerals for eggs, Indian relics, Davie's 'nests and eggs', or pair of Lattin's climbers, etc. MORTON CULVER, La Salle, Ill.

WE WISH to exchange eggs, skins, and mounted birds for eggs, skins, minerals, coins, fossils, and curios. All correspondence answered. W. A. & W. E. BRYAN, New Sharon, Ia.

A 22 CALIBRE revolver, 70 numbers of The Youth's Companion, books, novels, etc., to exchange for a self-ejecting revolver or other things. S. KLINTBERG, Box 340, Plattsmouth, Neb.

\$25 WORTH of birds' eggs to exchange for mandolin, banjo, or other musical instruments or will sell to the highest bidder. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

NOTICE.—I make a specialty of collecting first-class original sets with full data for 2-5 list price, cash. Parties desiring to purchase fine sets for their collections please write and get my lists. W. E. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

TELESCOPE!—4 joints, brass; value \$3. Will exchange for best offer of first-class eggs in sets with data. Also have sets of California Shrike to trade. Make an offer. All letters answered. C. BARLOW, Santa Clara, Cal.

BARGAIN.—My collection of 125 varieties, including 20 sets with full data, and nice cherry and glass case, for sale for \$15.00! Less than ½ catalogue. Begun in Nebraska, closed in Virginia; eastern and western varieties, hawks, gulls, terns. Carefully packed and sent at purchaser's expense. A. C. TOWNSEND, No. 1620 15th St., Washington, D. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—Youth's Companion, 1891, unbound, for small telescope, minerals, or book on Entomology, Polyphemus and Cecropia. Moths for minerals. HARRY E. ORR, Xenia, Ohio.

SOME FINE microscope slides, rare, specimens, Human and animal sections, hydroids, Diatoms, Globigerena, etc., for skins, eggs, books, optical instruments. JNO. O. SNYDER, Waterloo, Ind.

22LB. BULL TERRIER—90 months old, white, with black eyes, handsome and gamey; Pit games and eggs for hatching (Col. Grist strain), pair duckwing game bantams, 2 blue ck'd Antwerp cocks, 1 blue fantail cock, 1 blue owl hen, 1 moorehead, 70 No's. Scientific American, pair climbers, or pearl-handled, double action 32-5 shot revolver, for eggs, showy named shells or curious, live, 1st or 2d class mounted, pictures of or works on birds, or animals, or anything interesting or ornamental. MILO E. BILLS, 66 Lansing St., Auburn, N. Y.

WANTED.—A good 16-gauge collecting gun. Will give 3½ times its value in 1st class birds' skins. H. W. MENKE, Garden City, Kan.

WANTED.—Copies of Davies' Eggs and Nests, (cloth); Ridgways Manual, and Coues' Key, latest editions. State lowest cash price, condition, and number of copies. I wish to correspond with experienced collectors in this vicinity. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Florida Burrowing Owl 1-5, and two singles for common eggs. Nothing wanted that is listed over 35 cents. Terms of exchange, value for value. H. H. care of W. B. CAULK, Terre Haute, Ind.

COMMON EGGS WANTED AT ONCE.—I want in quantities of not less than 50c. worth the following *first class* common eggs; Robin; Mockingbird; Bluebird; Crow; Bronzed and Purple Grackles; Pheobe; Bank, Cliff and Barn Swallows; Song, Field, English and Chipping Sparrows; White-rumped Shrike; Cowbird; Black-throated Bunting; Yellow Warbler; Mourning Dove; and California Towhee. For any of the above species I will allow *full rates* in exchange for sets of Noddy 1-1 at 75 c., Eggs or Sets of Limpkin at \$1.25, Forster's Tern 15c., Blue-winged Teal 30c., Am. Magpie 2c., Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," paper \$2.00 or cloth at \$3.00. This offer holds good until *June 10 only*. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, *edition*, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—Collectors in each state and territory to collect butterflies and moths. Will pay cash or give in exchange insects, corals, shells, echinoderms &c, from all parts of the world. If you want to collect write for particulars. WERUM BROS., Toledo, Ohio.

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We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest convenience, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

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# THE "IDEAL" POTATO.

Mr. Crawford of Ohio, the veteran strawberry and potato grower, who annually tests over thirty new varieties of potatoes and on whose farm the Ohio Experiment Station has established branches for testing potatoes says:

"This variety originated with a neighbor who is a very successful potato grower and who has tested a large number of varieties. It is a seedling of the Jersey Peachblow, possessing the best characteristics of that variety, with some improvement upon it. Has been tested five years and has been grown alongside of many of the best sorts. It is a luxuriant grower, and its foliage remains green and healthy until after most sorts are killed with the blight, which has been very injurious for a few years. A rotten tuber of the Ideal has never been found until last year, and then only a few. It is an immense yielder, having surpassed all others, so far, in this respect. This is the most prominent characteristic. It is of large size and produces but few small ones. Several who have seen the crop pronounce it the finest looking lot of potatoes they ever saw. The shape is rather long oval and slightly flattened. The eyes are few, well defined, and usually even with the surface. Some are slightly sunken but none raised. It is quite uniform in shape and size, and never hollow. The skin is usually russeted, though not always. Color, light, creamy brown, often approaching red at the seed end, and with a tinge of pink in the eye. Although it is not claimed to be an early variety, it is of good quality and fit for the table before it is full grown, and as soon as most early sorts. It is a good keeper and one of the last to sprout in the spring. The quality is very good being dry and of excellent flavor. Productiveness and quality are its

## MOST PROMINENT CHARACTERISTICS.

'It is just as good as any ever sent out.' 'The best I ever tasted.' 'Better than the old Peachblow in its best days,' and other such expressions have been used."

The undersigned has a limited quantity of "Ideals" for sale at the following prices by mail, express or freight, at purchaser's expense: 3lb. 25c. Peck 15lb. 75c. Half bushel 30lb. \$1.25. Bushel 60lb. \$2.00.

By mail prepaid, 1lb. 25c. 3lb. 50c.

Sixty named varieties of Potatoes were grown on our grounds last season. Should you desire to plant a number of varieties for Fair or experimental purposes, I will send you by freight or Express two tubers each of 50 desirable named varieties for only \$2.00, or 1lb of each for \$3.00.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

EXPLANATORY:—"Lattin" has a small Fruit Farm, upon which he has grown, for "fun", *pleasure*, profit (?), and experimental purposes, about sixty varieties of each: Grapes and strawberries,  $\frac{1}{2}$  acre Asparagus, 1 acre Raspberries, other "stuff", and fruits of all kinds in abundance.

**The Oologist for 1892.**

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their *subscriptions*. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

**For Only 50 Cents.**

Every subscriber received for '92, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed, to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OÖLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OÖLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25 cents providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25 This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

Remember *every* subscriber received for the OÖLOGIST will receive FOR ONLY 50 CENTS the following:

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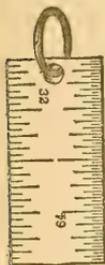


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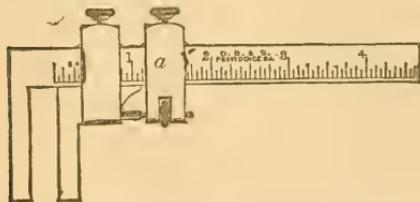
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| 1 Sample Sheet Datas.....    | .02   |

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For 50c additional we will put in a cloth bound Davie's in place of the paper covered one. As this is a work of nearly 500 pages, it is always advisable to purchase the cloth bound edition.

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| 1 Best Blowpipe.....                              | .35   |
| 1 Best Scissors.....                              | 1.50  |
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| 1 Embryo Hook.....                                | .30   |
| 1 Russia Leather Pocket Case for Instruments..... | 1.25  |

Outfit No. 4 is the \$5.00 outfit of other dealers, except we put in a better embryo hook and blowpipe.

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| 2x1 $\frac{1}{2}$ x $\frac{3}{4}$ , per doz..... | \$.10 | per 100..... | \$.65 |
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Fifty or more of one size at one hundred rate. Trays covered with paper of any color in lots of 50 or more. We keep in stock trays covered with white, black, dark red and green colored paper.

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| Sample set of Trays..... | .04 |
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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., MAY, 1892.

NO. 5

## *Acanthes Linaria.*

This little specimen of avian life is not confined to America but is also a native of the Eastern Hemisphere.

In this country it is a common but erratic winter visitant in the northern tiers of States, though Dr. Cooper records seeing it but once in Washington Territory. I think without doubt that in regards to numbers of birds that frequent this locality—central Minnesota during the winter months the Lesser Red-poll (*Acanthis linaria*)—(LINN.) stands pre-eminent. Though not so large and conspicuous a bird as the Evening Grosbeak, which I hope to be able to say something of in a future article, it is very noticeable, because so highly gregarious and by its apparent lack of timidity in the presence of man. Hundreds often congregate in a single flock and they manifest so little fear of human habitation that frequently they will come even to the door step for crumbs.

Taken individually and at a little distance the Red-poll is not a bird of prepossessing appearance, and if you were not and ardent lover of ornithology or failed to hear its faint, sweet song it would undoubtedly be passed by without special thought. But at nearer sight you find that this apparently plain little bird is given, though sparingly perhaps, of one of the most brilliant and beautiful colors in nature. The corona or crown is a bright metallic carmine or red. The adult male is quite brightly marked in the breast with rose or crimson, but of a somewhat more subdued tint than that of the vertex, this color being diffused in softer and lessening degrees as it advances upward over jugulum and gula and is finally lost in the cheeks which, gener-

ally preserve a few faint traces, as do, also, the sides where the rose merges downward and is gradually blended into the marking of the underparts. Obsolete traces of roseate may some time be found elsewhere over the plumage, but nowhere is it so constant as on the breast, excepting of course, the crown which, alike in young and old, is always red.

Many a time I have watched them in the garden when, alighting on a weed top. I am afraid that is not saying much for my gardening accomplishments, just appearing above the snow, they would peck away at the seeds for a moment, then flit to another and another, and in their constantly changing positions the sun-light would glance upon their red forms and be reflected therefrom almost as brilliantly as from the gorget of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird.

Whether on the ground or among the the shrubbery, they seem always bustling and busy, and will teach the observer the lesson that Solomon saw in the ants.

Audubon says they occasionally nest in Maine. But their favorite breeding grounds are much farther north in that belt known as the Fur Countries, when in a low tree or bush, they construct a rough, bulky nest and lining it with feathers make a warm, cosy abiding place for their future hopes. The eggs of this species are described as having a ground color of light blue with a slight tinge of greenishness, spotted and speckled, chiefly at the larger end, around which the markings sometimes form a confluent ring, with various shades of brown.

Sprites of the North, and but transient visitors, they leave us and return to their northern fastnesses before spring has much advanced.

L. DART.

**Black-Throated Gray Warbler.***Dendroica nigrescens.* (TOWNS.) 665.

Hab., Pacific Coast Region.

This Warbler is a summer resident of Linn County, Oregon, and is by no means abundant. It inhabits the dense fir thickets, near the openings in the forests.

It requires care to even approach the birds, as it is very shy, and will slip out and away from its nest, while you are still some distance away, without even uttering a note. Then if you carefully conceal yourself, in the course of 15 or 20 minutes, the bird will return, in the same sly and stealthy movements.

It prefers the smaller growth of firs and dense thickets of willow. The nest is placed in some small fir, generally not over five or six feet high, and is made of fine grass, profusely lined with feathers. The eggs are four in number of a greenish, pinkish white, spotted at the larger end, with shades of cinnamon, and lilac-gray. Average size, 68 x 53.

**Myrtle Warbler.***Dendroica coronata,* (LINN.) No. 655.

Common on the Pacific coast of Oregon. Known as Yellow-crowned, or Yellow-rumped Warbler. This bird arrives at Sweet Home on, or about, April 20, generally in flocks of six or twelve, which feed in the openings and roads until breeding season, when they pair and each look for a suitable location, which is generally in some fir bush, not over 12 feet high. The nest is composed of fibres, fine grass, and occasionally a few feathers.

I have often seen the birds feeding in the single fir tree in my yard during migration season, but during the building season are not as conspicuous.

The eggs are from 3 to 5 in number

of a creamy white color, spotted and blotched, forming a wreath at the larger end, with shades of brown and lilac. Average size 65 x 50

DR. A. G. PRILL.

**Bird Notes From Oregon.****AN EARLY SPRING.**

Although Oregon has the name of being a rainy State, the weather bureau at Washington, D. C., will show that average rainfall is not so great as many suppose.

The weather for the past Winter has been very mild with no snow, (except a few flakes) and with this in view I have prophesied and early collecting season and am now more certain of it.

While some of you in the East have been having snow and blizzards, Oregon—or rather the Willamette Valley has had on one of her sweetest smiles of sunshine.

Wild flowers have been in bloom for several days as have also Wild Strawberry blossoms.

Migrants are beginning to return to their summer homes. The Violet-green Swallow arrived earlier this year than for several seasons. The Cedar Waxwing was ahead of its usual time also.

Rusty Song Sparrows, Western Robin and Bluebirds are choosing their mates, and I will not be surprised to see them carrying straws, etc. at any time.

Oregon Chickadees begin nesting in April, but I will look for them to begin this year, the latter part of this month. Collectors in Oregon should begin to get their collecting "traps" together and keep an eye open for the early breeders.

I look for a good season, and if my time is not too much occupied, I shall spend many pleasant days among the birds.

CLYDE S. KELLAR,  
Salem, Oregon.

March 12, '92.

### The Woodpeckers.

In this family are some of the most beneficial as well as the most interesting of our birds. Few birds are better known, for they not only attract attention by their peculiar notes, but when nearly all other birds are silent they make their presence known by tapping almost incessantly upon the limbs and trunks of trees.

When doing this they are not always in quest of food, but seem to delight in drumming upon dead trees.

This drumming is probably done for the purpose of attracting the attention of others of their kind, as well as for amusement.

It is most frequently heard just before a rain or thaw in the early spring.

Although the notes of the Woodpeckers are comparatively few in number, yet they cannot all be said to be destitute of the power of song.

The Flicker probably has command of the greatest number of notes.

Many families of our birds are adapted to catching insects in the air and upon the foliage of trees and plants, but the Woodpeckers alone are adapted to capturing those insects and larvæ that lurk beneath the bark and in the wood of trees, and which if left unchecked in their ravages would do untold injury.

In construction, few birds are better adapted to their habits of life. The shape of the body, the formation of the feet, the stiff pointed shafts of the tail feathers, the chisel-shaped bill, and the long dagger-like tongue with its peculiar arrangement of muscles all adapt them to their manner of living.

Although the greater number of species are confined to the woods and forest, many of them visit our orchards and yards, and undoubtedly save many valuable trees by ridding them of destructive insects.

When they become aware of the presence of an insect, they find its exact

location by means of their acute sense of hearing, and by tapping upon the outside of the tree with the bill. When thus located, it takes but a few strokes of the powerful bill to expose it to view, when it is easily secured by means of the long extensile tongue.

From their habit of puncturing the bark of living trees, a number of species have erroneously acquired the name of Sapsuckers. For what purpose they do this, I am unable to say; but it is not for the purpose of securing the sap as many suppose. Their object may be to attract insects to feed upon the sap that they may be more easily captured, or to induce them to deposit their eggs in the crevices left by the healing of the bark, they may return and devour them or the young insects.

A few of our Woodpeckers are not unfrequently seen in towns and cities, sometimes even nesting there.

The smaller species often accompany the Chickadees, Nuthatches, Kinglets, etc.

Taken altogether they form a very efficient army for the destruction of insects. The Woodpeckers are not all strictly insectivorous.

A few species, among which may be mentioned the Red-head, seem to prefer fruit and grain when it can be had.

The nest is usually an excavation made by the bird in a dead limb or the dead trunk of a tree, but sometimes a natural cavity is used.

The eggs are thus secured from the depredations of the Crows and many other enemies, but are sometimes destroyed by the squirrels. I have frequently seen it stated that the Woodpeckers remove the chips to a distance from the excavation to avoid discovery but by frequent observations I have found that statement untrue of the species resident here. In the winter time they pass the night in excavations. The eggs are pure white in all species, and are from three to nine in number.

They sometimes become so stained

by the habits of the birds as to appear almost black.

The Woodpeckers do not put forth much effort for the protection of their eggs and young.

It is true the Flicker, perched in the top of some neighboring tree asserts very emphatically that he will "kill you" if you do not let his nest alone, and the little Downy frequently reproaches an intruder upon his domestic affairs for their "cheek," and other species make their objections to one being too close to their nest known by various well-known notes, but they seldom or never attack one with their bill and wings as many other birds do.

Six species are resident here, and two or three are known as migrants.

The Hairy Woodpecker is quite common resident. This species is one of the most beneficial of the family. They search for insects almost continually from morning until night, and do not seem to have any special feeding time as many other birds do.

I have known one of them to almost completely divest a large dead hemlock tree of its outer bark in less than a week's time.

In such cases I cannot say that the work was all done by one bird, but never observed more than one to be present at a time. Their food consists almost entirely of insects with now and then a berry thrown in by way of change.

As soon as the young are fully fledged they accompany the old birds nearly everywhere they go and are fed by them until fall.

The young never seem to be satisfied, and no matter how well fed, are constantly pleading for more.

They commence nesting about the middle of April. The nesting cavity is frequently excavated in a beech tree, which seems to be a favorite with many species. The eggs are usually five or six in number.

The Downy is a common resident. It has very much the appearance of being a small edition of the Hairy, but upon close examination will be found to differ in plumage as well as size.

The habits of the two are almost identical, only the Downy is a little the more familiar of the two. They are by no means uncommon visitors in our towns and cities, where they may be seen searching diligently for insects upon the shade trees. Their delight is to nest in dead limbs of apple trees in orchards. They sometimes nest in dead limbs of shade trees, along the side of village streets.

When nesting in the woods, beech and ash trees are most frequently selected.

The entrance to the excavation of this species is as round as if cut by the aid of a mathematical instrument and no larger than will barely admit the bird. The eggs are from four to six in number and usually become much stained as incubation advances. When more than four in number, one or more are frequently undersized.

The Hairy and Downy are the Sapsuckers with us.

The Pileated Woodpecker is the rarest of the species, resident here. They are said to have been common here at one time, but as the timber was cleared off they became rare, and now are only to be found in small numbers in those pieces of timber farthest removed from habitations.

They are very shy retiring birds, very difficult to approach, it being almost impossible to secure a specimen if once aware of your presence. From their habit of searching among fallen logs for food they have acquired the name of Logcock. They are also called Woodcock. They feed on those insects and their larva found in dead and decaying timber, and berries, such as those of the gum, dogwood, etc. This species can readily be distinguished from all

others found in the Northern States by their large size, being about seventeen inches in length.

They prefer dead hickory trees for nesting purposes, and the nest is usually situated at a considerable distance from the ground. They commence nesting early in April, and from what information I have been able to obtain I think the usual number of eggs is three or four.

The Red-head is a common summer resident, but is rather rare in winter.

Several years ago this specie was abundant, but they have decreased greatly in number the last few years. I cannot give any satisfactory reason for this.

It is true that they receive considerable attention from the small boy with a gun, but that is not the only reason for their decrease.

The Red-head is one of the best known species of the family, for it is he who claims the privilege of sampling our choicest fruit and grain. The finest ears of corn, the juiciest cherries and the mellowest apples, he seems to regard as his by right, and never neglects to secure his share of them.

Unlike most of the family he is a little inclined toward laziness, and prefers a meal of nice fruit, followed by a nap in the sunshine, to digging for a living. When so disposed they are as expert at catching insects upon the wing as the true Flycatchers. I have observed them to sit for hours in some elevated situation, ever ready to capture any insects that chance to cross their field of vision.

When other food is scarce they not unfrequently visit the corn-crib for corn. They often carry away more than they can consume, and secret it in various nooks and crevices for future use.

Nevertheless, their bad qualities are more than balanced by the good, and the small quantity of fruit and grain that they consume is amply paid for by

their presence and the number of noxious insects that they destroy. They commence nesting about the middle of May.

Trees that stand in open fields bordering on woods are preferred for nesting purposes. The eggs are almost invariably five in number.

The Red-bellied Woodpecker is rather rare and is mostly seen in winter.

They usually confine themselves to the woodlands, and feed on the various insects to be found there together with dogwood berries, etc. The nest of this species is rarely found here.

A nest found by the writer a few years ago, contained four nearly fresh eggs about the middle of May. The nest was an excavation in a dead limb of a beech, and was situated at a height of about thirty feet from the ground.

The Flicker is the commonest of our Woodpeckers. Only a few remain through the winter.

At the commencement of the breeding season, their call is to be heard in all directions. Unlike the rest of the family they feed much upon the ground. When obtainable ants seem to be their favorite food. They are also very fond of wild cherries and green corn. In winter they subsist upon berries and such insects as are to be found at that season.

The bill is not as well adapted to excavating in wood, as in other species and they prefer to obtain their food by other methods. The nesting cavity does not show the fine quality of workmanship that that of the little Downy does. They commence nesting about May 1st and sometimes consume from ten days to two weeks or more in completing the excavation. They are not very discriminating in the selection of a nesting site, and I have found them nesting in stumps at a height of not more than three feet from the ground. They sometimes nest in natural cavities of trees.

A pair have nested in a natural cavity of a butternut tree near this place for six years at least.

The flesh of this species is sometimes used for food, but it is rather highly flavored with ants.

The usual number of eggs is seven, but nests containing nine, and even eleven are sometimes found. When a set contains more than seven they frequently show a great variation in size.

W. H. OLNEY,  
Poland, Ohio.

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Phainopepla, or Black-crested Flycatcher.  
(*Phainopepla nieus.*)

Hab.—Mountainous regions of the southwestern provinces of the United States and northern Mexico; south to Orizaba, Cape St. Lucas, plateau of Mexico.

Description. Male—Entirely glossy bluish-black; the inner webs of all the primary quills with a large white patch, the outer margins slightly edged with ashy as also are lateral tail feathers externally.

Female.—Brownish-ash above, lighter below; the white of inner web of quills obsolete, the greater coverts and quills edged externally with whitish, the anal and crissal feathers edged and tipped with the same. The lateral tail feathers with narrow edge of white externally toward end.

Both sexes with a lengthened, pointed, narrow occipital crest. Tail almost fan-shaped and rounded. Length, 7.60; wing, 3.80; tail, 4.35.

This interesting bird, the only known species of the genus *phainopepla*, partakes both in appearance and habits of the characteristics of the Wax-wings and Fly-catchers. It was first observed in the United States in 1852, when Col' McCall secured a specimen in California. It loves the secluded retreats of wooded mountain sides or the timbered borders of mountain streams. In habits it is somewhat gregarious. It subsists upon insects and berries which grow upon a species of mistletoe.

Near Santa Barbara, Cal., this species occurs in small numbers. Last year these were materially increased by migrants, which had found their way through the rocky defiles of the coast range mountains, from a more southern but perhaps less salubrious clime. In my rambles last spring I stumbled up-

on a spot frequented by these birds.

Back of the city of Santa Barbara flows a small stream that finds its source high up in the neighboring mountains. Its course, is one of remarkable beauty and grandeur, such as only rugged mountains can afford, is marked by falls, rapids and pools in ever changing variety. Surging through narrow clefts, dashing among boulders and over precipices, and resting here and there in dark, quiet some nooks, the crystal waters wend their wild but brief career to the deep. This rugged, untamed district is clothed in dense vegetation. Grasses and sedges, vines and shrubs, with their interlacing tendrils, render progress slow and difficult. A host of mighty trees, whose sturdy trunks towering beside the granite walls often furnished the only means of decent to the waters murmuring in the gorge far below, skirt the stream, and throw the tangled growth beneath into a shade that is not penetrated by the mid-day sun. As the stream nears the city it enters a valley, which, notwithstanding a few human habitations, seems to linger in its pristine wildness. This valley is the favorite resort of birds of many species. Save when the discordant shrieks of a hawk silences momentarily the festive choristers, or night induces a quiet rest which is broken by the occasional strains of a Thrasher's mid-night song, this pleasant dell echoes and re-echoes with the many melodies of the sylvan choirs.

I spent many an hour in this valley last spring in company with the birds, studying their habits or listening enrapturedly to their joyous songs. As I was slipping away a few hours in this favorite spot on the 15th of last May some boys brought me for identification a set of eggs which they had just taken. I could not identify them. The boys then guided me to a tree not far away and picked from the grounds a small mass of weeds. It was a flat, mis-shaped, loosely fabricated affair. This was

the nest. It had been situated upon a horizontal branch of the tree about ten feet from the ground. Meanwhile the birds made their appearance. Both possessed crests; the male, a dashing, restless fellow, was of a bluish-black color, and as he flew I noticed a white patch under each wing. The female was of a duller hue but quite as restless as her mate. I supposed they were *phainopepla nitens* and subsequently found my conjecture correct. I resolved to visit the place on the following day.

Early morning found me again in this retreat. By the stream several species of Humming-birds, whose resplendent plumage flashed in the gleam of day, darted hither and thither among the blossoming plants culling their nectarean food while poised on murmuring wringlets before the varied-hued flowers. In numbers the Anna's probably excelled, yet the Allen's was numerous, a few Alexander's, or Black-chinned were noticed and an occasional Costa's, which had wandered into this retired nook, was recognized by its violet gorget. From a neighboring upland came the cheery whistle of the Meadowlark while in the vale there surged a flood of melodious song, the rippling accents breaking high up the sides of the adjacent mountains. Warblers and Wrens in well tuned lays, Thrashers and Mocking-birds in extravagant medleys, and Finches in joyous songs joined in this happy orchestra of the woods, while the tentative warblings of the Towhee, the querulous notes of the Pewee and the mournful coo of the Dove broke occasionally upon the ear.

Hopeful of making the desired discoveries, with eyes alert, I proceeded slowly along the valley. My way led through a patch of cacti; while in the midst of these a startled Mourning Dove fluttered noiselessly from a cactus at my side; upon one of the thorny leaves I found her nest and eggs. A moment later a House Finch betrayed

her nest by a precipitous dash therefrom after a scramble among the spiny leaves, I found her nest and five eggs. A second set of the latter species together with a set of the California Towhee were taken from oak trees in the vicinity.

A male Phainopepla next attracted my attention by his strange antics. He fluttered about a tree that was set somewhat apart from the others uttering all the while a sweet bell-like note. As there was evidently something of interest to him upon one of the lower branches of the tree. I immediately constituted myself a committee on investigation. When I drew near I saw its nest upon a horizontal branch about twelve feet from the ground and to my joy found in it two fresh eggs. While I was after the nest the male flew from tree to tree uttering its peculiar note. The female appeared upon the scene just in time to witness the destruction of her home and immediately joined her mate in his mournful demonstrations. During my subsequent search I noticed about a dozen of the birds but secured no more specimens.

About ten days later a fellow oologist and myself visited this avian haunt. Nature was exultant under the genial semi-tropic sun, the air rang with the melodies of the merry choristers of this wooded dell; now and then a Turkey-Buzzard on sable wings swept silently over the little valley, or a Western Red-tail, reconnoitering for its prey, rose in expansive circles higher and higher in the unclouded firmament. Among the gay-liveried inhabitants of the valley that rendered themselves conspicuous in their sportive flights were a number of this species.

The Phainopepla is of a restless, irresolute, suspicious disposition. When perched it glances fretfully about uttering all the while its sweet, bell-like note and now and then giving its ample tail a nervous jerk. In form it is slender and active, the long tail and crest are

prominent features. On the wing it is light and graceful, and in these evolution, the white spots on the wings, visible only when the wings are spread, are very noticeable. At times it dashes, in an irregular course, high into the air in pursuit of some insect; or pretending to enter upon a protracted flight, it mounts to a considerable elevation where in fluttering along in the ethereal blue it forms a pretty sight, but suddenly its course is checked and with a few downward sweeps and extravagant flutters it disappears in the foliage of a distant tree.

During the few hours we spent in this delightful place we secured four sets, two of two eggs and two of three eggs each; several other nests were found but either on account of the inaccessibility of the nests or the advanced stage of incubation, no eggs were obtained. The nests were located either in crotches or on horizontal limbs at an elevation varying from eight to twenty feet. The first nest was found in a willow; the others were placed in oaks.

The nest of the *Phainopepla* is a curious structure composed of soft, light-colored vegetable fibres into which are woven a few grasses and stems. It is flat—the depression being very slight and measures about four inches in diameter.

The eggs are oddities. The ground color is creamy white or grayish, speckled over the entire surface with dark brown and blackish. The coloration varies sometimes. In a set collected by the writer, was an egg on which the spots were congregated about the larger end, while in the same set the other egg (the set numbering two) was heavily spotted all over and had a long black dash down the side. The complement of eggs is two or three; their average dimensions are about 90.x.69.

In conclusion, I may say that the *Phainopepla* is one of the most interest-

ing birds that has passed under my observation. Its attractive appearance, eccentric habits and odd nests and eggs render it, to me at least, a most interesting bird.

H. C. LILLIE,  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

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#### After Golden Eagles.

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On the 29th of February last my friend F.A. Schneider and myself started out in quest of Golden Eagles or rather their eggs. Equipped with a good pair of climbers, and a strong suit of old clothes, we started on our ride of ten miles into the mountains. We had gone about six miles and were passing a large live oak tree when my friend cried out:—"Hold on there! wait a minute."

I pulled up and he jumped out and proceeded to climb the oak. I didn't know what he was after, but as he is not in the habit of climbing trees for nothing, I waited expectantly and in a few minutes I was pleased and surprised to see him descend bearing the dainty nest and eggs of an Anna's Hummingbird. He had seen the bird fly from the tree and rightly supposed a nest to be there. We continued on into the mountains and were soon scouring their sides.

After walking but a few miles we discovered our first eagle's nest situated near the top of an immense pine about seventy-five feet high. The tree was situated near the top of a mountain so that the nest overlooked a rocky gulch. Deciding that the nest contained eggs I strapped on my climbers and commenced the ascent while my friend sat down comfortable at the foot of the tree and gave advice. The first limbs were about forty feet up and they were rotten but I was aided much in climbing by a slight incline of the tree toward the canon billow.

As I reached a point about half way

cup out popped Mrs. Eagle, giving me a full view of her coal-black under parts, and gracefully soared out over the canyon enabling me to see the sheeny copper color of her back and wings.

Now fully assured that the nest contained eggs. I pushed on with new vigor and soon reached the top. There I was doubly thrilled—first at sight of two beautiful eggs reposing so innocently in the nest and second at the yawning abyss which now lay directly below me.

Thinking it the safest way I lowered the eggs in a small cloth bag which I had brought for the purpose.

They were cream colored, blotched with light brown and measured 2.69 x 2.18 and 2.68x2.12 which is rather small I think.

The nest was about five feet in diameter made of oak sticks and lined with long dry grass. After blowing the eggs that they might be more safely carried, we hunted around for some time and managed to find another nest but sad to relate it was empty. I was consoled however, by finding several empty, but fresh nests of the Western Red-tailed Hawk which we remembered and put down for our next trip.

While returning to our conveyance we noticed a number of the pretty little Californian Bush Tits and searched a few moments for nests but failed to find any, and so concluded it to be too early for them. We returned home well satisfied in a tired but most jubilant mood.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD,  
San Jose, Cal.

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Among the "Blue-jays."

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Of all the birds that frequent the woods, the streams and the meadows of this dear old state, at least of this part of it. I do not know of a single species that I like better than this diminutive specimen of bird life.

Although a number of birds begin

building before the "Blue-grays" come (which is about March 20th). I never feel that the collecting season has really begun until I hear their well-known notes coming from the top of some tall gum or pine, as they are rather timid about coming down in low trees until later in the season.

At this time they have a rather discontented note, but a little later, when Mr. Bluegray begins courting his best girl, his notes, though subdued, are very sweet and musical and much more contented.

By the by, dear reader, are all the birds mated off in mating season? Or, are there some who can find no mate? Did you ever see an old maid or an old bachelor among the feathered tribes? I am quite sure I never did.

But I am wandering from my subject. If you listen very attentively you will hear him singing. He don't seem to be singing to anybody but himself, as he hops around among the branches of that oak, engaged in hunting insects. I expect the secret of his happiness is that he is engaged in another way, or perhaps is already married.

But the busiest time of his life is when he is preparing a home for his family. We will watch that one over there in that gum tree. See how he is tugging at that stubborn piece of lichen but he perseveres until he pulls it off, and then away he flies to his nest on yonder oak limb.

He jumps on the nest, re-arranges what his mate has just put there, changes his own piece several times 'til he gets it just right and then down he darts to the ground to gather some fine grass within two yards of where we stand watching him, then back to the nest again.

The next minute we lose sight of him in a clump of briars, but soon see him return to his nest, with his bill full of spider-webs, which he proceeds to stick on the nest here and there.

Then perhaps, we will see him fly

down to that swampy spot and return laden with fern-down which he gathered from the stalks of ferns. This material he puts on the inside for a lining but there is very little difference between the lining and any other part of the nest.

And all this time he has not eaten a mouthful, that we can see, nor have I ever seen him eat in building time, though I suppose of course he must eat on the sly.

The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher has some curious ideas about building, as the facts from my note book will show.

On April 5, 1890, my brother and myself were out in the woods looking for nests. I found my first Blue-gray nest of that season in a black gum tree, and a little while afterwards he found another nest in the same tree within three feet of mine, which was being built by the same pair of birds.

I had never heard of such a case before and was naturally very much astonished, but there can't possibly be any mistake about it, as I would watch one bird put material on one nest, then get more material and put it on the other nest, and its mate would do the same thing.

They kept this up until the nests were about half done when they quit the nest I found completed the other.

When I went to collect the nest, something must have fallen into it, as I found two broken eggs and one good one, which I have now.

Another peculiarity about them is that they will start a nest in one place and then tear it up and build another nest of the same material.

I found a Blue-gray building a nest in a small pine on April 18, '91. Seven days afterwards I went back to see how she was getting along and caught her tearing up her old nest and carrying it to build a new nest about 100 yards distant, in a much larger pine. I also know of two other instances.

The Blue-grays quit a great many nests before they finish them. It has been my experience that finding three nests when building, I get one set of eggs.

They build at all altitudes, from six to sixty feet above the ground. They don't seem to care much for their surroundings either, as I have found nests in the depths of the woods and in a peach tree in a front yard out in the country; in lonely swamps and almost directly over a public road.

I don't suppose there is any use describing the eggs of the Blue-gray, for I expect a majority of my readers (if I have any) have one or more specimens in their cabinets, but some may not know how many eggs generally make up a set.

In this locality the average number is five, often four and very seldom six. I have never found a set of six myself, but they have been found in this locality by friends of mine.

Blue-grays are pretty common about here, and their nests are very easily found, owing to the fact that they build and do nothing else for a certain time, so that if you find a Blue-gray during that time you are pretty apt to find a nest also.

But methinks I see this article retreating to Mr. Lattin's waste basket in ignominious flight, so I waste no more time on it.

ALBERT R. HAYWARD, JR.,  
Columbia, S. C.

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#### Treatment of Cases of Ivy Poison.

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Seeing in a back number of the OÖLOGIST an article in reference to the poison sumach, I thought it might be of interest to some of the readers to hear my experience with the poison Ivy.

Poison ivy is a plant which gives the oölogist no end of annoyance; no matter how guarded he may be during his visits into the country, he is sure if his

excursions are frequent to have poison continually on some part of his face or arms.

Of course there are exceptions: there are those who will not take it only in cases of great exposure; while there others who can hardly go near the vine without receiving ill effects from it.

There are diverse remedies coming from different sources, but most efficient cure which has come to my knowledge is a solution of 1 part of baking soda in four parts of strong ammonia, diluted with four parts of water. The ammonia or soda would each independently effect a cure but the ammonia would cause the parts effected to fester, while the soda would have the opposite effect but with less dispatch.

The effect of the combination, however, is such that, if the poison is taken when it first appears, will kill it in two or three applications. It is best during treatment not to become over-heated more than is necessary as this is a condition very favorable to the progress of the rash.

Sugar of lead is a remedy which is highly recommended by some persons, but it does not possess the strength required in severe cases. A cure may be effected by cleansing frequently and thoroughly with warm water and strong laundry soap.

The most difficult organs to treat for this disorder are the eyes. The solution mentioned would be very injurious to the sight; the only resort therefore is salt and water. This should be made weak at first, until the eyes become used to it. They should be bathed frequently, and never rubbed.

Often when they are very much swelled a poultice of bread and buttermilk will be found to have a very soothing effect.

This poison vine grows over a very large expanse of the United States, but if collectors would make it a point to destroy every plant they meet with, it

would soon become appreciably scarcer.

GEO. T. HERRINGTON,  
Lawrence, Kan.

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#### A Trip After Beach Birds.

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My cousin and I had long been talking of taking a trip to Ipswich Beach, in order to obtain some specimens of the Beach-birds. It was on a Saturday before Labor Day; cloudy dark, and the wind was north-east, when we boarded the train for Ipswich. On reaching the station, we started to walk to the beach which is a long five miles from the town. We had proceeded about two miles toward our destination, when in turning a bend in the road, we came in sight of a large bird perched on an oak tree. By careful managing my cousin secured him just as he flew. He proved to be a fine specimen of a Red-tailed Hawk, (*Buteo borealis*).

We reached Lakeman's Beach, as it is called, at about nine o'clock a. m., and immediately dug a pit and set our decoys.

It was a fine sight to see the coasters go by, and watch the waves dash against the hard white sand, with a noise like a peal of thunder. This place is on the open sea, with no land nearer in the east than Europe. Back of this beach, which by the way is about five miles long, is about half a mile of sand hills, in the hollows of which are pools of water and cranberry beds, and where the Black Ducks are numerous in spring. This is also the place where a specimen of Baird's Sparrow was first taken in the east. Back of these sand hills are miles and miles of marsh land, intersected by numerous rivers and creeks, and dotted here and there with wooded islands.

But to go on with the trip; we killed fifteen Least and Semipalmated Sandpipers on the beach, and then went over to the marshes. We obtained a

boat, and rowing among the creeks, soon started a flock of Pectoral Sandpipers, from which we obtained six. After rowing about for some time and seeing nothing, and as it had begun to rain, we decided to start for home, which we did after mooring our boat and shooting a Spotted Sandpiper. We reached home about dark, thoroughly soaked, but having had a good time, and adding some specimens to our collection.

F. A. BROWN,  
Beverly, Mass.

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Not Unusual.

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*Editor of Oologist:*

I had a little experience yesterday which I expect nearly all oologists have had, but as I have never seen any of them in your paper I thought I would write you mine. Yesterday my partner came to me and said he knew where there was a Hawk's nest and as he couldn't get off from his business, he would like for me to go and climb to it.

About four o'clock I started out on horse-back with a couple of companions, and we found the tree without much trouble for he had described the position very accurately. We all got down and hitched our horse and then the fun began. The tree was a white oak about four-foot through and it was about twenty feet to the first limbs. I did not carry my irons for I didn't think I would need them, but I did. After about fifteen minutes of pushing and punching with a rail or two I finally succeeded in reaching the first limb. From the first limb to the second was about ten feet and I had to throw a rope over it and pull myself up and while I was straining and pulling and the dust and bark was falling in my eyes and shirt bosom, the boys on the ground were encouraging me with such remarks as this, "It is nice and cool down here."

"That don't make me tired a bit."

"What must I tell your mother," and such as that. The last was when I had got pretty well up. Then they began to speculate as to how many bones I would break if I were to fall, and how they would break the news. I expect I made some remarks to them that had more strength than brotherly love in them. but they didn't have any effect on them. But I was fully repaid for all my work when I found three fine eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk in the nest. I let them down, and arrived safely on the ground, after being nearly an hour and thirty minutes climbing the tree.

Will some of the other friends please give their experiences?

W. W. B.,  
Mayfield, Kentucky.

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Some of Our Louisiana Birds.

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One of the distinctive Southern birds is the gaily colored Painted Bunting, (*Passerina ciris*). He generally makes his appearance in this section of the country somewhat late, in the latter part of March or April; but he is a business bird and begins the work of nest building shortly after his arrival.

With the assistance of the female he puts together a rather pretty structure, generally in the upright forks of a bush or on the limbs of a small tree. The nest is composed of grass, rootlets, small twigs, and paper when it is handy. Then the female deposits her eggs while the proud father sits on adjoining twig and sings with all his little might. In due time the younglings are hatched but they resemble in no wise the gaudy colors of their father, but instead are of the olive type of coloring of the female. The nest is very often placed in orange trees, and I have seen them, though rarely, in very tall trees. The eggs of the Painted Bunting are generally four or five in number and are of a grayish

white, specked and spotted with reddish brown. They run in long diameter from .73 to .81 and in short diameter from .56 to .62.

The male bird does not obtain his full plumage until the third year, when he is certainly the handsomest plumaged small bird we have. They are much sought for here as cage birds, especially by the French element of the population who call them "papes" or as it is Americanized "paps." They are generally trapped through the pugnacious disposition of the male, by placing a stuffed Painted Bunting inside of the trap-cage, in a defiant attitude. The male sees him, and accepts the challenge and alighting on the outspread wing of the cage, is immediately trapped by its closing on him. They are kept in confinement just like canaries, and in fact are often crossed with them. They are soon tamed after being caught and readily become use . to cage life.

The family of warblers in summer is somewhat limited with us, but to watch that beautiful little bird the Blue Yellow-backed, or Parula Warbler is an amply recompenses the lost. This handsome, active little fellow arrives here about the middle of March, and spends his time during March and part of April, by wandering through the brush and briar, and among the flags and rushes, like the Maryland Yellow-throat. But as soon as the warmer weather of the latter part of April arrives, he taketh unto himself a wife, and flies away to the woods in search of a suitable nesting place.

Here long festoons of the gray Spanish moss hang from every limb. Ah, there is just the one, and the newly wedded pair soon weave and twist it into a desirable form, with a small hole at the side for an entrance. The eggs are duly deposited, some four or five in number white and ground color, with spots of various shades of brown, ranging in size from .62 x .42 to .70 x .48.

The Parula Warbler probably lays two sets of eggs in this southern latitude as there are instances of eggs having been taken in July.

The Bartramian Sandpiper is in some parts a rather common migrant, but of late years has become somewhat scarce. It is highly esteemed for the table here, and generally commands a high price. The flesh is certainly delicious and any one who has tasted a "Papabote," for such is the name give them here by the French, will affirm my statement. The The Bartramian only occurs as a spring and fall migrant, never remaining here as it breeds much farther north.

Davie gives the eggs as "pale clay or buff-spotted with umber and brown.... four in number, sizes 1.70 to 1.90 by 1.28.

The Yellow-crowned Night Heron, in some parts of this state especially the southern, is a very common bird. Its flesh is highly esteemed by the Creoles, but they eat anything that has wings. A rookery of these herons which I visited (not a thousand miles away from the city, by the way) consisted of about an acre of cleared ground in the midst of a cypress swamp. This place had been thickly grown up with willows and here the Yellow-crowned, Little Blue, and Louisiana Herons held forth in company with the Anhinga or "Nigger Goose" as it is locally called. And such a chorus of squawks, and screams and squeals arose from that place that you couldn't hear yourself talk.

Every willow had two or three nests in it, and there must have been severaal thousand birds in the rookery. And now in conclusion let us speak of the egg of the Yellow-crowned Night Heron, as space is limited, and we must not impose on the editor. There are generally from three to six eggs in each nest, and they are of that blue tint peculiar to all herons. They vary greatly in sizes, ranging from as small as 1.60x1.14 to as large as 1.77x1.22, but it is next to

impossible to get a correct average on this account.

“QUISCALUS” (A. B. B.,)  
New Orleans, La.

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“A Step in the Right Direction.”

True to its principle, the OÖLOGIST has instituted another grand step in the right direction; namely: the publishing of frauds, and the debarring them from advertising in or *contributing* for that paper. Any one who could come into the sacred circle of science and covering himself with the holy cloak of “love of nature,” perpetrate dishonesty on others, proves himself guilty of the vilest of hypocrisy, and despite all protestations of penitance and reform we are bound to regard him with distrust, until by a long period of faithful, earnest study and labor, he has proved that his reform is genuine. This may seem severe, but he has been guilty of a heinous crime and it is but right that he should do penance accordingly.

It is as might be expected; one who will thus cheat his neighbor does not hesitate to steal material for those cheap literary (?) productions wherewith he hopes to win a false fame.

Witness that one who has recently been so thoroughly exposed that it is superfluous to further mention his name in a recent issue of a paper which is far too good to be thus corrupted, publishes an article of which all the meritorious parts, are taken; without one word of credit being given, direct from a publication of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Another culprit says “I am sorry, I will do so no more if you will not punish me” and then comes out and ranks in the foolish style of a spoilt child who has been punished just enough to be made angry without correcting its naughty spirit. It is time that such as these were entirely expelled from the ranks of honest collectors. We can

stand it to be duped and defrauded, but it is a disgrace to us if we permit our noble science to be dragged in the dust. “My house shall be called the house of prayer but ye have made it a den of thieves.”

It behooves us to support well the paper that has set us the right example.  
B. S. BOWDISH.

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A Winter Acquaintance.

Although winter in the Northern States is a season of cold and snow, it is not without its charms to the ornithologist. What if the birds have fled—the birds that made milder seasons vocal with their songs—there is still left a hardier race that leads a merry life in out snowy woods, careless of the rigorous weather that sends the others southward.

The cheeriest of these winter residents are the sturdy chickadees. Who ever saw a sad or quiet chickadee? When the wind howls the loudest and the air is full of whirling snowflakes, they may seem somewhat subdued as they scud from one pine thicket to another, but a light-hearted “cheep,” now and then, betrays the fact that the depression is only apparent. Like many people it requires a few trials and buffetings to bring out all that is best in their natures.

The bird lover need never stay indoors for the want of something interesting afield. Not the least of a winter day's pleasures is to be had in watching the chickadee. How they sport and scramble about the tips of the branches! The dark pines and hemlocks—reminders of summer in a wilderness of white—are their chosen haunts. Pass that way on some bright morning and see how cheerfully they take things, even finding time to play or to investigate that curious animal, that, warmly wrapped up, comes plowing through the snow on two legs to visit them.

When the snow falls lightly and the evergreens hold so much of it that the light in the woods is dim, it is worth going miles to see the chickadees flitting about the laden branches and shaking the snow down in clouds—shoveling their paths, as it were, for truly their thoroughfares are drifted up at such times.

Yet on a mild sunny morning in winter the chickadees are seen to the best advantage. Their spirits seem to rise with the temperature. Leaving their common song they attempt a warble; and the attempt is not to be despised. It is expressive of contentment and happiness and might be represented as "*Chee-dle-wa chee-dle-we,*" delivered in a liquid tone with an occasional extra "*wa*" at the end. Sometimes the last syllable becomes "*wank*" with a distinctly nasal sound which the birds have doubtless learned from long association with their friends the Nuthatches.

The birds appear to be rather gregarious, moving through the woods in loose flocks and continually calling to each other. These flocks are probably the same family parties that we saw in autumn wending their way along some aerial path through the treetops and gleaned food as they went. By this time the young have learned to say; "*Chick-a-day-day-day*" like their elders; but then they invariably pronounced it "*cheet-a-day-da*" in a querulous voice unlike a chickadee's. It was doubtless the young, also, that were lisping "*c-r-e-e-p*" as if afraid to fly.

As the breeding season approaches, the birds call "*e-phe-be*" in a high clear whistle, much louder than one would expect from so small a bird. The whistle can be perfectly imitated and never fails to excite the birds who immediately begin searching for the author of the call. In spring they may be decoyed almost within reach by this means; but in late summer the call only sets them to vociferously repeating

"*chick-a-day*" with endless repetitions of the "*day*" as if they had forgotten how to stop.

WILLARD N. CLUTE,  
Binghamton, N. Y.

---

From Wisconsin.

Bird migration is in full blast here now, March 8th the temperature and sky springlike, the snow melting, and the streams and ditches running over, Wild Geese flying northward, and the Robins and Bluebirds tuning their throats for their songs of spring. Wednesday morning ditto. But before noon a blizzard struck, snow was whirling and whizzing before the sharp gale from the wild and woolly west, the little streams didn't trickle, the Robins and Bluebirds didn't sing, the Wild Geese acknowledged themselves geese, and not another spring bird was seen until the 24th. The blizzard in the north and northwest was terrible. March 24th Robins and Bluebirds were quite numerous and on the 25th I saw Robins, Bluebirds, Blackbirds (Bronzed Grackles) and heard Killdeers and Meadow Larks, and saw a great many pairs of Prairie Horned Larks. To-day the 26th some boys told me they saw eight Prairie Chickens going west (or bust). Geese and Ducks plenty.

GEO. W. VOSBURG,  
Columbus, Wis.

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#### Are Crows Beneficial?

Mr. Trostler's remarks on "The Crows Around Omaha" in March OÖLOGIST are interesting, but he is laboring under a delusion in believing that Crows are more beneficial than otherwise.

For the information of those Ornithologists who have not read "The Food of Crows" by Walter B. Barrows, Ass. Ornithologist, U. S. Dep. of Agriculture, I

quote from his report (Agr. Dep. Report 1888. Pp. 498—534) the following

“SUMMARY OF EVIDENCE FROM ALL SCOURCES.

It appears, therefore, from a careful consideration of all testimony, published and un-published, that—

I. Crows seriously damage the corn crop, and injure other grain crops usually to a less extent.

II. They damage other farm crops to some extent, frequently doing much mischief.

III. They are very destructive to the eggs and young of domestic fowls.

IV. They do incalculable damage to the eggs and young of native birds.

V. They do much harm by the distribution of seeds poison ivy, poison sumach, and perhaps other noxious plants.

VI. They do much harm by the destruction of beneficial insects.

On the other hand—

VII. They do much good by the destruction of injurious insects.

VIII. They are largely beneficial through their destruction of mice and other rodents.

IX. They are valuable occasionally as scavengers.

The careful examination of large numbers of stomachs, and the critical study of the insect food of the Crow may change materially the present aspect of the question; but so far as the facts at present known enable a judgment to be formed, *the harm which Crows do appears to far outweigh the good.*”

Personal experience confirms the conclusions arrived at by Mr. Barrows.

COLEOPTERIST.

W. D. R.

Fredericksburg, Va.

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Spring Openers.

It is believed by many that birds and animals are good weather prophets, and that their migrations are to an extent governed by the coldness of the

winter which is to follow, know when winter is over. To a certain extent, they do know, I think, when it is likely to rain, but that they know whether a winter will be severe or not is a mistake, in my mind, and know no more about an approaching cold wave than I, until it has become evident. I have seen splendid examples of their ignorance this Spring, and watched with much interest their movements Northward, and then returning South, in the face of a cold wave.

Robins and Bluebirds have been migrating Northward since the first of Feb., and I've seen thousands of Robins pass over in one day, only to be driven back the next. They go in strings and droves like Blackbirds, but return dashing into the trees suddenly. Bluebirds fly in smaller droves, sometimes a hundred in a flock. The deep ravines and sunny hillsides furnish splendid retreats for them during such cold spells, and here they remain for perhaps a week at a time, feeding on Dogwood and Black Gum berries.

Robins rarely sing with us here, yet on a bright clear morning, favorable for migration, these hillsides and hollows fairly ring with their metallic clatter and the Bluebirds fall in line with a “forward forward” for the North.

Even Nature herself seemed to have been caught unawares this last cold snap, and not only were birds driven back by thousands, but some were nesting, and fruit which was blooming, and the more tender plants were killed. The earlier part of March was warm and sunny, and it seemed as if spring was here, It turned cold on the 14th and by the 16th there was eight inches of snow and thermometer 12° above zero, and remaining so for nearly a week. I went to the Bluebirds' nest, in the old stump down by the spring, and found it contained four eggs, though Mrs. B. was not to be seen. When it moderated a little, a few days later I returned to the nest and to my

surprise found her setting on the eggs. Thinking it useless for her to set on frozen eggs, I decided to remove them, and tried to "shoo" her off, but she would not "shoo," and with all the pounding and jarring on the stump, and poking with sticks, I could do, I could not persuade her to come out, so I left her to her folly(?). As my wife and I happened by the other day, hunting wild flowers, we peeped in the stump, and to our great astonishment, beheld three young birds. A Mrs. Nut-hatch was caught in a like predicament, and I presume several others.

I did not learn what became of the Yellow-rumped Warblers during this cold spell, but they are here in force now, along with Black and White Creepers, Bewick's Wrens, Chippies, and to-day April 1st., a Dove cooes mournfully. Turkeys have gobbled since early in Feb. and will continue till about May 1st. Then their meat is strong and tough, and the females are busy nesting. There are few places better than this to study migration, and from now on, each day will bring some new arrivals.

C. E. PLEAS,  
Clinton, Ark.

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The Wood Ibis.

(*Tantalus oculator.*)

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Is found in considerable numbers throughout South Florida, and can be found in droves of from about a dozen to one hundred, usually in the more remote cypress swamps and extensive marsh districts, but sometimes in close proximity to settlements.

They are large and handsome birds standing about four feet high, of the purest white except wing tips which are black, the head, and about six inches of the neck is covered with a tough skin devoid of feathers.

Such is the general appearance of the

bird, but it is more especially of its nesting habits of which I wish to speak.

It was the 23d of March that I started with a friend to hunt for a rookery of which we had heard, we traveled all day with horse and buggy, and put up at a farm house for the night. We were out bright and early the next morning, and after a tiresome drive of several miles through dreary flatwoods and mazes of ponds, we came in sight of the coveted cypress as such a place is called.

The lake or pond was about  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile long and  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile wide, quite deep and clear, and was surrounded with a wide fringe of cypress trees heavily laden with Spanish moss.

Out in the center of the lake was a small island about one hundred feet in diameter, with about three feet elevation above the water. There were several large cypress trees besides a thick undergrowth of bay trees. What a sight met our gaze from the shore, the trees on the island were white with the Ibises standing close together on the limbs, besides a number of American Egrets, Florida Cormorants and Anhingas.

The Ibises were nesting and we could see a number of the birds sitting on their nests. Most of the nests were on the island, but we found two trees near the shore, one had five nests and the other seven.

After looking over the field I proceeded to climb the first tree, a large cypress, the nests were placed fifty feet from the ground and were saddled flatly on the top the top of a horizontal limb. One limb had four nests in a row and were so close together that their edges touched. A typical nest was eighteen inches across by five inches deep outside, only slightly depressed inside, made of coarse sticks lined with moss and green bay leaves. The eggs were chalky white and nearly always blood stained, the average set is three

but we found sets of two and four, size about 2.75x1.75.

We made a raft after several hours hard work and proceeded to the island where most of the nests were built. There were about twenty nests of the Ibis, besides several nests each of the American Egret, Florida Cormorant and Water Turkey or Anhinga. The Ibises and Cormorants nested in the tall cypresses while the Anhingas and Egrets were content to take the lower bay trees.

We took several sets of Ibis and Cormorant and one set of the American Egret and there sat down to rest and watch the birds.

It was a grand sight to see the great drove of Ibis high up in the air sailing around in great sweeping circles, following each other in regular procession.

It is a curious sight to see the Wood Ibises sitting on their nests with necks drawn in, and at any distance the nest can scarcely be seen, and it gives birds the appearance of sitting there asleep.

A great pest of all rookery birds is the Crow, and if an Ibis leaves the nest for an instant down comes the black d are devil with a scream of delight and grabs an egg by sticking his bill into it and flying away. The Ibis seems to be very much afraid of them and I have seen a crow almost take an egg out from under one of them and they would croak and draw back their bills as if to strike, but never did.

As we left the lake homeward bound I took a last look at the beautiful scene and rather regreted that I had been a party in breaking up precious treasures.

WILLARD ELIOT,  
Tampa, Fla.

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#### Nesting Dates.

In all works on oölogy accessible to me, there is a marked deficiency as to nesting dates. I therefore invite the

sending of data of this kind from all collectors in Mich., Wis., Ia., Minn., and the Dakota's—and covering the following species. Send all the data you have, and all you note this season. The results will be duly tabulated and published, credit being then given to whom credit is due.

All Swimmers, Waders, and Raptores Woodpeckers, Flycatchers and Nut-hatch, Gallinæ, Sparrows, and Vireos. The Chickadee, American Redstart, and Long-billed Marsh Wren.

Be accurate and circumstantial— I cannot take time for any correspondence.

P. B. PEABODY,  
Owatonna, Minn.

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#### Ornithologist Association.

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#### SECRETARY'S REPORT.

At the March meeting of the Association the following Corresponding Members were proposed and elected;

Edward W. Hensinger, 315 King William St., San Antonio, Tex.

William B. Caulk, Terre Haute, Ind.

At the April meeting C. J. Gillis, 1524 28th St., Washington, D. C., was elected an active member.

The Secretary has received a list of birds of Grand Forks Co., North Dakota, from Rolla P. Curra, No. 25. O. A.

He enumerates 102 species as occurring within the county limits to his certain knowledge.

The undersigned saw a short time since a rare bird for this locality, the Pileated Woodpecker.

They are now very seldom seen so near large towns.

A. B. FARNHAM,  
Sec'y and Treas. of O. A.

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A complete collection of Ohio birds, including every variety known to live within the boundaries of the state, will be an exhibit at the Exposition.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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\* \* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

### Careless Patrons.

Scarcely a day passes but what we receive letters from our patrons containing errors in some form, many of which we are able to rectify ourselves, but the following are too much for us. They will be attended to upon receipt of deficiency of address:

F. H. Brooke, \_\_\_\_\_ No Address  
Frank Harrington \_\_\_\_\_ " "

\_\_\_\_\_ Meadville, Pa., No Name  
\_\_\_\_\_ Mexico, Mo. " "  
\_\_\_\_\_ Barnesville, O. " "  
\_\_\_\_\_ Knoxville, Tenn. " "

Packages addressed to the following persons have been returned us during the past year, either through errors of our own or insufficient address:

A. F. Gross, 108 W. 62d St, New York.  
Albert J. Brown, Oakland, Cal.  
Edgar D. Brown, Austin, Tex.  
A. P. Gwynne, Ft. Worth, Tex.

### MARCH CONTEST.

Seventy-five (75) Judges.

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Some of Our Thrushes. 283.
2. Notes from Southwestern Ohio 147.
3. Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song. 128.
4. Notes from the Virginia Coast. 119.
5. Zoöatomy. 75.

Eleven other articles received credits ranging from 9 to 68 each.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named the articles in their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 6—O. E. Crooker, Helena, Montana; 1, 3, 4, 2, 5.
2. No. 53—Alex. D. DuBois, Springfield, Ill.; 1, 4, 2, 3, 5.
3. No. 12—m. H. Myles, Hamilton, Canada; 2, 3, 5, 4, 1.
4. No. 52—Bert H. Douglass, Burlington, Kan.; 2, 3, 5, 4, 1.
5. No. 60—J. C. A. Meeker, Bridgeport, Conn.; 3, 4, 2, 5, 1.

The above judges were the only ones naming all of the prize winning articles.

Prizes were mailed the winners on April 25th.

### The "Yellow Warbler's Song."

The article on the "Incessancy of the Yellow Warbler's Song," in the March Oölogist with its rather startling array of figures proving *Dendroica's* indomi-

table happiness and contentment, brings to my mind a rather sad little incident which came under my notice during the autumn of 1890 while I was residing in Ontario County.

I do not remember the exact date, nor have I the note book at hand which records the whole instance, but it was quite late, nearly all of the migrant birds had left us for their winter resorts, when one day, strolling in an orchard, I chanced on a Yellow Warbler with a broken wing, from all appearance freshly wounded.

With some difficulty I succeeded in capturing him, and took him to the house where I intended keeping him until he should be better. However, he refused to eat all food which I could provide for him, and fearing that he would starve I set him at liberty. For a month or more he staid around the house, unable to fly more than two or three feet, yet always cheerful and full of life.

What he lacked in wing power he made up in capabilities for hopping. A large grape vine spread over one side of the house and festooned its self about my window. One morning while sitting in my room, I heard some cheerful remarks in a rather high pitched key, nevertheless sweet, and social (what a pity I did not understand the language) and looking towards the open window from which the sound proceeded I saw little *Dendroica* perched on a sprig of the grape vine, surveying me with evident wonder and curiosity.

Without doubt the remarks he had addressed to me were questions and he probably thought me very unsociable. However, he was not discouraged with this interview for thereafter he made daily visits to my window and there he would sit and watch me with the greatest of curiosity while I wrote, dividing his attention between this and his breakfast (it must have been a slim one at that season) which he gleaned from

the leaves, and during this occupation he never failed to keep up a running fire of rather absent minded sounding remarks. He never sang, but these questioning tones were more entertaining, because they were more musical unlike anything I ever heard from a Warbler.

Gradually his visits became less and less frequent and finally ceased and I saw him no more. It is doubtful if in his crippled condition he could either migrate or stand the winters weather, but let us hope the little musician still lives.

It strikes me that Brother Posson in his enthusiasm over those "3420" songs makes one rather reckless suggestion. What is commendable in a bird may be *condemnable* in a human. He says, "O what a lesson for us of the genus homo to learn. If we would only look on the bright side of things and do a *little more singing*, etc."

In his cheerful and ever contented disposition we can not do better than to imitate our little songster, but were some of us, at least, to sing 3420 songs per day, I am afraid that instead of the world being "3420 times happier" it would be that number of times more miserable.

B. S. BOWDISH.

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Wilson's Snipe.

(*Gallinago wilsoni*.)

The sprightly little Wilson's or Jack Snipe arrives in this vicinity from about April 15 to May 10th, and are at times very abundant.

They are of a very fickle and nervous disposition in many respects, especially in the selection of feeding ground. They delight in low marshy and moist ground but at times, they will take a fresh and frequent high bushy meadow, and will even (as I, myself have observed) poke or bore into the ground in the same

manner as the American Woodcock (*Philohela minor*). Their favorite feeding grounds in this region, however are on marshy meadow land, where cattle are pastured, or in the interior about fresh water springs, environed by oozy swamps and thickets of willow, huckleberry or wild rose bush, where they feed all day and at night migrate farther northward, toward their breeding grounds.

They remain with us about six weeks and journey northward slowly, to British Columbia to breed, where they pair and, the female lays a reddish-brown or yellowish-ash colored egg, about 1.50x1 .06 inches in size. The eggs are sometimes spotted, sometimes blotched or streaked with darker brown, the nest being a slight depression in a low swampy meadow.

During a stroll across the meadows north of this city yesterday, returning from a fruitless trip after Hawks' eggs, I saw several "wisps" of Jacks feeding and piping their shrill *tweet tweet* sociably mingling with the Meadow-larks.

While passing through here, and I suppose everywhere else, thousands of the little fellows are slaughtered for the table, and are considered, by many, the most delicate of our feathered game and as to their wholesomeness, I can testify, myself, for although I preach "do not kill our birds," I have dropped a few to my gun when I was out alone and the temptation too great.

A little later in the season I will try to describe Bartram's Sandpiper (*Bart-ramia longicauda*) and their habits, as they breed here and stay here all summer.

Hoping I have not made the above tedious and uninteresting, I am yours in Oölogy and Ornithology,

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,

April 18, 1892.

Omaha, Neb.

Notes from Southern Wisconsin.

While walking across an open mea-

dow, on March 28, 1892, I suddenly flushed a Prairie Horned Lark (*O. a. praticola*), which, after flying a short distance, hopped and fluttered along before me in a very suspicious manner; on examining the place I discovered the nest, a small, round hole sunken in the ground and lined with dry grasses, which contained four eggs. They were so heavily speckled that the ground color could hardly be seen, the whole effect, however, being a greenish gray. The nest was situated on a side-hill, facing the south, in a large field. I did not take the eggs, as we now have a law, protecting the nests and eggs of nearly all species, and if there is anything I believe in, it is the whole set of "game laws." The eggs must have been laid some days then, for on returning to the place, April 2, I found that it contained four very small, young birds, which seemed to be all head, of which a large per cent was eye. The Larks were very abundant in the meadow and I have no doubt but that there were more nests.

The spring migration is well at hand, and Robins, Song Sparrows, Bluebirds, Grackles, Red-wing Blackbirds, Martins, etc., are common. The following are the dates on which some species were first observed for this spring:

Horned Lark, February 13.

Canada Goose, March 5.

Robin, March 7.

Purple Grackle, March 24.

Bluebird, March 26.

Song Sparrow, March 29.

Red-wing Blackbird, March 30.

Purple Martin, April 1.

Flicker, April 2.

Fox Sparrow, April 9.

Hermit Thrush, April 15.

The Fox Sparrow is not common here and occurs only during migrations, in greater numbers in the fall.

The Ducks did not seem to come around our way in as large numbers as usual, although many were shot, most-

ly Blue-bills. Loons are common on Delavan Lake, but not many are shot. On April 17, while walking along the shore, I noticed the foot of a bird sticking out from a hollow stump. On examination it was found to be a dead Loon which had probably been shot by gunners last fall, and being wounded, had crawled in there to die. I think the Loons bred sparingly around here as I have noted them on Delavan Lake during July in pairs, but I have never found a nest.

NED HOLLISTER,  
Delavan, Wis.

From West Virginia.

I think egg collecting has become (with many) a mere nest robbery, for what there is in it, of dollars and cents. Unskilled boys and even negroes are preying upon the nests of our lovely feathered inhabitants for pecuniary gain.

This is not what high-toned collectors for personal scientific knowledge started out to do, and which such honorable gentlemen do. They collect for a cabinet of preserved egg-shells, oölogically defining in the eggs what ornithology taught previously in the birds—viz.—I have learned, for instance, all about the class of Thrushes, so that I know them by their scientific and common names; know their habits, and their habits, their voices and their regimen. Their colors and their structural fabric: then, if I know this, I ought to know also their eggs, when I see them, and all that science teaches me, oölogically about them; but if I only take their eggs to trade on something classed more utilitarian, I am neither a worthy ornithologist or oölogist, but a mere bird's nest robber for pay, and am classed by true naturalists as a pot-hunter is among sportsmen.

If this aggregation of nest robbery does not receive the frown of true oölogists:

between the House Sparrow and nest robbers, the feathered beauties will soon be as a tale that has been told. I think when a gentleman has a set of any species in his cabinet, he should stop on that species, or at most he should be restricted to procuring one set for a feeble friend.

V. M.

#### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (May) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the June competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15.00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

**THE JUDGES:** You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than June 10th. Write on the back of a

postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

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### World's Fair Notes.

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In the Government exhibit will appear all the relics, which are obtainable, of various Arctic exploring expeditions.

Ostrich eggs artistically painted in a prize competition, are to be a feature in the exhibit made by Cape Colony, South Africa.

The directors of the celebrated Ward's Museum at Rochester, N. Y., have decided to expend \$25,000 in making at the Exposition a display of specimens from all parts of the establishment. The value of the exhibit will exceed \$100,000.

Baron de Jeune's valuable collection of prehistoric relics, it is believed, will be secured for exhibition at the Fair. It comprises many rare specimens from caves in France. DeMaret, who made the collection, spent twenty-five years in the work.

Karl Hagenbeck, famous for his ability in taming wild animals, is devoting his time in Hamburg to a group of lions, tigers, jaguars and hyenas that he expects to bring to the Fair. This group consists of 50 animals, all to be kept in one big cage. Hagenbeck has already spent a fortune on the group.

Costa Rica has one of the largest and

finest archæological collections in the world, showing many Columbian relics and historic data relating to the discovery of America. This collection goes to Madrid this year for the Spanish Exposition and will afterwards go to Chicago.

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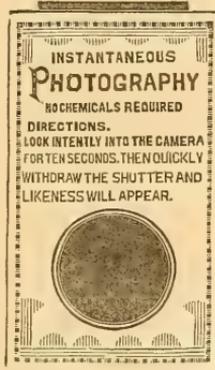
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Mexican Resurrection Plant, Instantaneous Photograph Camera (will be sold separately for 10c.) 2 Japanese Napkins, 1 Leaf from Japanese Book, 1 pkg. Scrap Pictures, 10 varieties of Foreign Stamps, Coupon good for 25c on an order of \$1.00 or over.

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It goes without saying that this is the best work in the market for the use of the Naturalist, since the author is at the head of his profession, and he has spared no time nor trouble to make the book complete.

It not only covers all the ground as a text-book for the beginner but any Taxidermist will be repaid by a perusal of its pages, and once read, it will lie on the work bench, as a companion to the scissors and skinning knife, for it is as indispensable to one who desires to be a WORKMAN, as the frame work of the specimen itself.

**PRICE, \$2.50.**

**Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.**

**2d Hand Books:**—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire *at once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. I have a few *good* slightly soiled or second-hand copies of Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds" last edition, paper, will send *prepaid* for only 75 cents per copy. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

### Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America, apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

## That "Easter Supplement."

In the neighborhood of April 1st or later, we mailed YOU an "Easter Supplement" to our regular catalogue which gave big discounts on orders, sent in by May 1st. These two special offers applied in particular to BIRD'S EGGS, GLASS EYES, INSTRUMENTS and SUPPLIES, used by collectors in the various branches of Natural History, MINERALS, SPAR JEWELRY and FISHING TACKLE

We have decided to extend the time on these offers to JUNE 15th.

*Remember that every offer and quotation made in the "Easter Supplement" holds good until, JUNE 15th; but at that date, will be cancelled.*

Faithfully, FRANK H. LATTIN.

# OUR SOUTHERN HOME

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Is the Name of a 40-page Monthly Magazine

Published at Mount Holly, North Carolina. All persons wishing to learn all about North Carolina, her unlimited resources, unrivalled climate, and unparalleled inducements offered new settlers, also a full history of her flowers, birds and natural curiosities, should send 5 one-cent postage stamps for copy of OUR SOUTHERN HOME and receive also our little book entitled "The Grape, Fruit and Trucking industry of North Carolina. Address, M. H. RIDER, Mount Holly, North Carolina.

May OöLOGIST has been delayed nearly a week for our monthly full page engraving. Our engraver, however, seems bound to disappoint us and we find it necessary at last to run our price list of Oölogist's Instruments and Supplies on the two pages reserved for the engraving. As this will prove a disappointment to our patrons as well as ourselves, we have concluded to allow *subscribers* of the OöLOGIST a discount of 25 per cent on all orders amounting to \$1 or over, for goods selected from the two pages above specified, if sent us on or before June 10, 1892, *after that date and others than subscribers* at regular rates only.

Faithfully,  
FRANK H. LATTIN.

# PATENTS

For INVENTORS. 40-page BOOK FREE. Address W. T. Fitzgerald, Attorney at Law, Washington D.C.

THE RIPPAN'S TABLETS regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, blotches on the face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Fevers, Flatulency, Female Complaints, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Mental Depression, Nausea, Pruritic Eruptions, Rheumatism, Stomach Troubles, Stomach, Throat, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tablet after each meal. A cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. I gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-7 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPPAN'S CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



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N. B.—We have branch colleges in Buffalo, N. Y., and Detroit, Mich. Scholarships good in any of the colleges belonging to the Caton system.

## Has Your Subscription for The Oologist Been Paid for '92?

If not, you no doubt received the circular-letter mailed you on or between the dates of March 21st to 24th. At the bottom of this letter, in order to obtain a prompt renewal or settlement, I made a

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I will hold this offer open to you until June 15th, and trust you will see fit to give the matter your immediate attention,

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# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1892.

NO. 6

## NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

### Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements. "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly first-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only*.

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with 'Lattin' must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

**FOR SALE.**—A collection of Birds Eggs, sets and singles. Will sell for best offer. Send for list. DANA C. GILLET, Barre Centre, Orleans Co., N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Birds eggs and tobacco tags for same, tags preferred. Send lists. All letters answered. H. W. PRENTICE, Utica, LaSalle Co., Ills.

I HAVE Birds Eggs, 333, 337, 375, 368 to exchange for books. Coues' Key and Herbert Spencer's works especially desired. JASPER BROWN, Norway, Iowa.

**BICYCLE. PRINTING OUTFIT.**—24 inch Safety Bicycle, ball bearings, fine condition, \$18. Printing outfit consisting of Model Improved Self-inking Press, 10 fonts type, etc., \$20. Eggs, Stamps, Coins, for Eggs, Climbers, Davie's Nests and Eggs. F. E. ATWOOD, Chelsea, Vt.

**EGGS, Tax. Manual, Collecting Box 18x12x5** opens like satchel imit. mah. brass handles, and ten other articles for sets with data of grouse eggs. ARTHUR G. POTTER, 405 So. 25th Ave., Omaha, Neb.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Harper's Young Peoples 1 year; Forehand and Wadsworth's 38 calibre revolver; books, etc., for birds eggs and skins. Letters answered, B. E. BABCOCK, Box 660, Westboro, Mass.

**WANTED.**—A human skull in good condition and, if possible, with full set of teeth. State cash price wanted. O. E. CROOKER, Box 1068, Helena, Mont.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—A. O. U. numbers 30a, 2-1; 32, 1-1; 58, 1-3; 80, 2-4; 125, 2-2; 202, 1-3; 211, 1-6; 219, 1-8; 286, 1-3; 337, 1-2; 375, 1-2; 378, 3-1, 1-5, 1-6; 420, 2-2; 467, 1-3; 496 no data 5-1; 501, 2-4; 529, 1-7; 552, 2-4; 587, 1-2; 595, 1-4; 598, 1-3; 608, 1-3; 622, 1-4, 1-5, 1-6. WM. H. FISHER, 14 W. North Ave., Baltimore, Md.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

**NOTICE.**—To exchange, books, telegraph instruments, eggs, postage stamps, arrow heads, axes, cigarette pictures, coins, etc., for guns, rites, shells, stamps, oologists and taxidermist tools, climbers or any of the things mentioned above, also \$30. worth of desirable eggs to exchange for 12 gauge breech loader. Parker or Scott make preferred, 100 fine arrow heads to exchange for a Giant sounder telegraphic instrument. Great bargains. Address, ARTHUR DUGAN, West Point, Miss.

I HAVE the following 1st class sets and singles to exchange for sets or mounted birds, A. O. U. 729, 1-3; 623, 1-5, 1-6; 477, 1-3, 1-4; 703, 1-3, 1-4; 575a, 1-4; 563, 1-4; 333, 1-2; 477a, 1-4. Singles, 729, 622, 703, 477, 563, 452, 390, 333, 289, 732, 584, 622a, 755, 501, 506, 445. All of my sets have data. Write at once to W. C. PICKENS, Livingston, Ala.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—An electric motor complete with connectors, ect., coils are 11-8x15-8 inches, it is made so that it can be used as an electric magnet or an induction coil, is in perfect running order, and has been used to run a fan, also about 1/2 lb. fine copper silk and cotton covered wire, for first-class eggs in sets. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

**ELECTRIC Door Bell** with outfit (battery & c) First cost \$5. Now lies at the express office in Los Angeles, Calif. Will give to any one who will pay the Express charges (\$2.40) now due on the same. If you want it remit at once and I'll order the Express company to deliver to you. If you will not pay cash, make offer in specimens or anything and I will pay the \$2.40. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—Thirty varieties of central Illinois eggs, for eggs of other sections of country. CHARLIE WELLS, Atlanta, Ills.

**WANTED.**—A first-class set of 666a. Will give in exchange first-class singles. W. H. A. HOLMES, 106 Jay St., Albany, N. Y.

EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First-class single of Whooping Crane. Will give \$5 worth of first-class sets with data for same. ERNEST H. SHORT, Chill. Monroe Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class sets or singles of Southern Birds Eggs, with collectors throughout the country. E. A. McILHENNY, Avery, La.

COLLECTORS ATTENTION.—Exchange wanted in Birds Eggs and Birds skins. Full sets and original data. Correspondence solicited. All communications answered. D. FRANK KELLER, naturalist, Reading, Pa.

A NEW \$100 International Type-writer and a \$75 Life Scholarship of the Euclid Avenue Business College, good at either Detroit, Buffalo or Cleveland. Will exchange for a high grade Safety cushion-tired Bicycle. Must be new or as good as new. FRANK H. LATTIN, Abilene, N. Y.

I HAVE a quantity of duplicate singles and sets, including several first and second class Hawk's eggs, which I wish to exchange for Seabirds eggs and others. Sample bottle of tanning liquid sent prepaid for 25 cents worth of eggs. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Box E., Aylmer, Ont.

TO EXCHANGE:—A Shattuck breech loading, single barreled, 30 inch, 12 gauge shotgun, used two seasons, nine dollars new, for eastern eggs in sets or skins, first-class with data. W. H. LAPRADE, Jr., 297 Jackson Ave., New Orleans, La.

WILL COLLECT local specimens of any kind, in exchange for desirable bird's eggs in sets. Address, FRANK H. NUTTER, Room 500 Sykes Block, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

EGGS—212, 214, 474b, 495, 497, 498, 613, 616, 539, 538, 501, 605, (A. O. U.), and others in full sets, with nests if desired, in exchange for eggs. MERLIN C. JOHNSON, Aberdeen, So. Dak.

NOTICE.—I desire as soon as possible a number of complete sets of the following, A. O. A. Nos. 7, 11, 117, 182, 183, 204, 206, 281, 294, 332, 302, 364, 416, 417, 431, 743a and 746, also others; for above I will give the best of exchange in fine desirable sets, of either American or Foreign eggs, or will purchase some for cash if terms meet my approval. Those having any or all of above numbers will do well to communicate with me. I also have eggs of the Ostrich, Rhea and Emu for sale or exchange. C. W. CRANDALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

I HAVE the following first-class eggs in complete sets with full data (A. O. U. No's) for exchange: Caracara Eagle ½, Great Blue Heron ¾, Black Tern ¼, Noddy Tern 1-1, Arctic Tern ¼, Am. Sparrow Hawk 1-5, Bobolink 1-4 1-5, Sora Rail 1-6 1-7 1-8, Virginia Rail 1-6 1-8 1-9, Am. Coot 1-5 1-6 1-7 1-8 1-9 1-12, Florida Gallinule 1-6 1-7 1-9 1-10, Long-billed Marsh Wren 1-4 1-5 1-6 1-8, Least Bittern 1-4 1-5 1-6, Yellow-headed Blackbird 1-4 1-5 1-6, Barred Owl 1-1, Black Skimmer 1-5, King Rail 1-7 1-9 1-10, Meadow Lark 1-4 1-5 1-6, Spotted Sandpiper 1-4 1-5, Bartram's Sandpiper 1-4, Leaches' Petrel 1-1, Cactus Wren 1-5. None but first-class sets wanted. CHARLES M. ELDRIDGE, 314 Chamber of Commerce, Chicago, Ills.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

EXCHANGE.—Several sets of (A. O. U.) 373, 337 and others for books on Oology, Taxidermy or eggs 151, 305, desired. Cash given for books. What offers? ORAH K. WILLIAMSON, Edwardsville, Kansas.

TO EXCHANGE. Fine sets of eggs with complete data. (A. O. U.) 49, 120c, 122, 190, 194, 293a, 311, 319, 325, 335, 341, 368, 409, 410, 419, 421, 487, 512, 573, 594, 70, 707 and many others. D. B. BURROWS, Lacon, Marshall Co., Illinois.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—Violin, case, music stand, instructor &c., worth \$15. \$10 cash or will exchange for Field or powerful Opera Glass. State size, make, cost, condition &c. No postals. All letters answered. G. L. PERRY, Wilmington, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—One pair Caracara Eagles, three months old, for best offer of first-class sets with data. Write, A. H. W. NORTON, Box 918, San Antonio, Texas.

WANTED:—Kodak or other Camera, also good collecting gun, will give first-class, clutches of Sea birds, Plovers and Hawk's eggs. W. RAINE, Hayden St., Toronto, Canada.

FOR EXCHANGE.—One thousand arrow points. I will take in exchange first-class sets of eggs, or Oregon points. Obsidian preferred. Points must be fine and perfect. JOHN MINCHIN, Fleming, Cayuga Co., N. Y.

WANTED:—Works on Taxidermy. Have for exchange 200 stamps, many rare ones, 2d hand revolver and a good spy glass. No postals. EDW. THOMPSON, Box 24, Hockessin, Delaware.

TO EXCHANGE.—A Magic Lantern for best offers in eggs. I also want to exchange eggs in singles for those of other localities. WALTER FERRIS, Effingham, Kan.

I WILL EXCHANGE the large size Patent Ink Erasing Pencil, which will erase Ink from paper in two seconds, for 75 cents worth of 1st class eggs in sets, old coins, or Indian Relics. I also have 2000 California eggs, mostly 2nd class and I will mail you three dozen assorted specimens for one dollar's worth of any of the above named articles. Address GEORGE SWING, San Bernardino, California.

FOR SALE.—Extra fine sets of eggs of the Chestnut-bellied Scaled Partridge, taken by myself on the lower Rio Grande, Texas. I will make very low prices on them. Also a few sets of other varieties from Southern Texas. Write for prices. D. B. BURROWS, Lacon, Marshall Co., Illinois.

I have to exchange for Birds Eggs in sets, with data, or works on Oology, the following: Postage Stamps in lots, Birds Eggs in singles, or will pay cash for same. Wish to correspond with collectors outside of my territory. Collectors desirous of selling their collections should send me lists and prices of the same. L. G. DURR, 99 Broad St., Nashville, Tennessee.

I have the following first-class sets with data. (A. O. U. Nos.) for exchange: 378, 385, 429, 330, 474e, 501b, 519, 529, 552a, 574, 581c, 591b, 622a, 710, 743a. I desire in exchange eggs of Hawks, Owls or Sea Birds, in first-class sets with data. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT, Care of G. W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

TO EXCHANGE:—Birds eggs of this locality for those of others, also a Belgian Flobert rifle for eggs in singles. L. L. MALONEY, Townsend, Del.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred turtle and snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED:—Eggs, Books, Polished Shells. If you mean business, send list. We can now make a better offer than can be had elsewhere. DICKINSON & DURKEE, Sharon, Wis.

Send different stamps of foreign countries, European excepted, and receive the following eggs. A. O. U. Nos., 735, 423, 357, 507. JNO. S. DURLAND, Centralia, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Several fine rare sets, for common eggs in sets. Terms value for value. Send a full list of the sets you have to offer and receive my list in return. Address, H. H., care of W. B. Caulk, Terre Haute, Ind.

A complete set of OÖLOGISTS INSTRUMENTS, including pair climbers, valued at \$8.50; one set Taxidermist's tools, valued at \$5; one Invincible Bicycle Lamp, new, cost \$6; and various other bicycle accessories to exchange for good Revolver, telegraph relay or offers. N. R. CHRISTIE, Glenn's Ferry, Idaho.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Fine Natural History in German print, 70 late Youth's Companions, Gulliver's Travels and Baron Munchausen, Conklin's Handy Manual of the Mechanical Arts and House Plans (\$1.), Zulu shotgun, Rifle, Chicago air rifle, topograph outfit. Wanted, Ornithological books, Back OÖLOGISTS, telescope, microscope. LEWIS HALDEMAN, Avoca, Iowa.

What \$1 will bring when sent to  
**C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb.**  
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.  
 1 " " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.  
 1 " " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.  
 1 " " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand  
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and  
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.  
 1 " " " Chief Sitting Bull.  
 1 " " " Three Hostile Chiefs.  
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.

Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Jest

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Cooes' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred— a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Cooes' Key" especially desired.  
 FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

\$50.00 worth of Bird Eggs and Indian relics to exchange for best offer of shot gun. CHAS. B. LUNGREN, Sutherland, Fla.

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I CAN USE at full rates in not less than \$1 or over \$10 lots, as per conditions named below, the following species: Western Grebe, Loon, Black Guillemot, Gull-billed Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Leaches, Petrel, Fla. Cormorant, Anhinga, Least Bittern, Green Heron, Clapper Rail, Prairie Hen, Black and Turkey Vultures, Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, Bald and Golden Eagles, Purple Finch, Lark Sparrow, Cardinal, Ovenbird, House and Long-billed Marsh Wrens. Other specimens will be accepted at one-half rates. The prices given in the New STANDARD CATALOGUE must be used as a basis. All eggs must be strictly first-class in every particular, and if not in such condition I will take out eggs to the amount of five times the actual cost of return postage to pay for same and trouble, and will return the balance to you.

In return for above, I will give Back Numbers at single copy price, and advertising space in the OÖLOGIST at regular rates; one year's subscription to the OÖLOGIST, including coupons at \$1.00;

- Good White Metal Nickel Blower, 35c
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- 12-100 Egg Drills, \$ .15
- Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," cloth and gilt, 4.00
- Eggs of Brown Headed Nuthatch, .35
- Sooty Tern .35
- Noddy T-rn, .60
- Tufted Titmouse, .35
- Summer Tanager, .25

We will also give anything we offer for sale at full prices quoted in our regular 48 page catalogue, on the following conditions, your order must not amount to less than \$2.00 or over \$10.00, in payment for the same we will accept eggs wanted to the full amount of your order and CASH to the amount of one-half the same—for an example we will suppose you have selected from our Catalogue \$10.00 worth of Supplies, Specimens, Publications and Instruments, according to this offer, I will send you these goods upon receipt of \$10.00 worth of the eggs wanted at full rates, and \$5.00 in Cash. This offer to you, if you need anything we handle, amounts to our paying you 1/2 rates in cash for the eggs I want, and 1/4 rates for the ones I do not want. This exchange and want offer holds good until August 1st and until that date, I do not care to purchase or exchange for eggs under any other conditions.

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
 Albion, N. Y.

Excursion Club to Attend the World's Fair.

If you have any desire to visit the World's Fair at Chicago, bear in mind that the United World's Exposition Co. is a sound organization, with ample capital to fulfil their promises. The company sells tickets on the installment plan, refunding all but first payment if you fail to go, apply to United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

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I will send you by return mail prepaid 1 white metal blowpipe, 1 12-100 drill, 1 4½ in. nicked embryo hook, 1 lead pencil, 1 6 in. rule, all packed in a neat, slide cover, compartment box.

This outfit is usually retailed in pieces at from 50 to 75cts. Our profit in handling them at this price is *nothing*. We have only 150 sets. After they are gone will refund your money. Remit at once if you desire one of the best outfits for the money ever offered.

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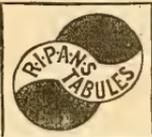
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## PATENTS

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THE RIPANS TABLETS regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Painful Digestion, Pimples, Rush of Blood to the Head, Sallow Complexion, Salt Head, Scrofula, Skin Dis-eases, Stomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tablet after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tablets is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



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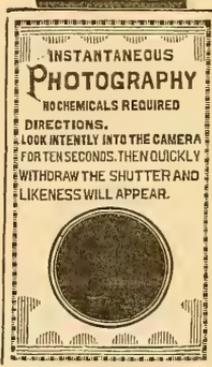
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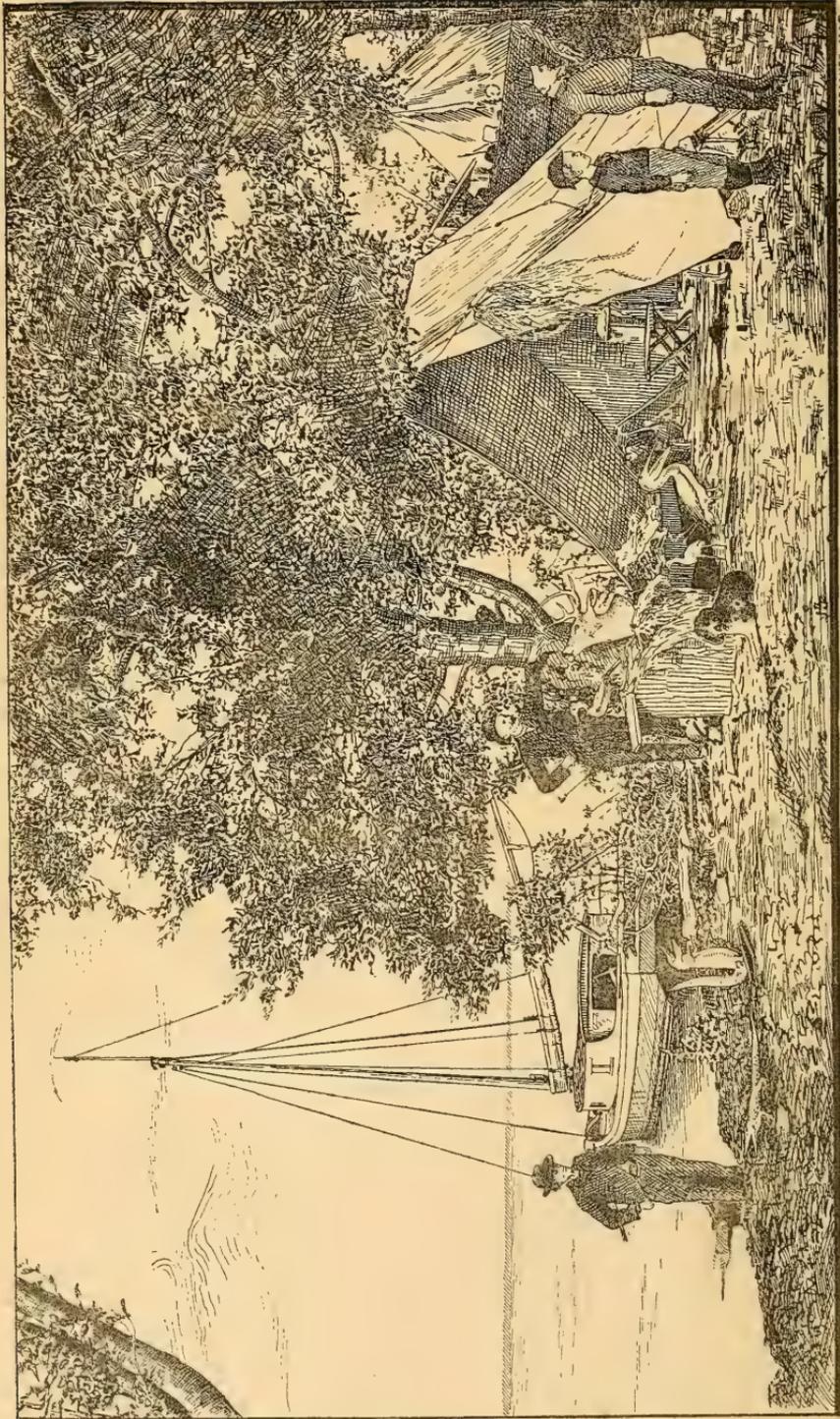


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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JUNE, 1892.

NO. 6

## The Purple Finch.

About April 25th the Purple Finch comes to us with his bright colors and fine song. He very soon makes himself heard, as, perched on the top of some tree, he pours out his lay to the morning sun. And, if he is not the most brilliant of our birds he is certainly beautiful as the sunlight strikes his plumage.

A very fine specimen which I procured this spring was colored as follows: Pileum, (i e, forehead, crown and occiput) crimson; cheeks, chin and throat, light carmine; breast and sides, gray washed with pink; belly and under tail coverts, grayish white; back, madder brown; all the feathers marked lanceolately with chestnut; rump, bright pink; wings and tail, seal brown all feathers edged with madder. These colors, however, fade as the season advances.

The female is a much plainer bird, being grayish olive, streaked with brown on the upper parts, breast gray with nearly black streaks and two light marks on the cheeks. I have heard it said that the female Finch did not sing. Now I know from personal observation that during the mating season she does sing a short, but good song, much more broken than the male's, it is true, but still it is a true song.

About the 25th of May she picks out a site for her nest, almost invariably in the top of some evergreen tree. In fact I never knew of but one nest being placed anywhere else, that being in the top of a small maple that had been cut off and grown out very thick. The nest is composed of dry roots and dead grass lined with hair and sometimes a few feathers. They will also use strings and paper sometimes.

Not far from June 1st the eggs are deposited usually four, sometimes five. They are blue or greenish in color, spotted with black and generally with dark brown lines on the larger end, averaging about .85x.65.

The bird is a very close sitter and exhibits great solicitude when her nest is disturbed.

When they first arrive in the spring they subsist almost exclusively on buds, but later in the season I think they take some insects and worms, while during the late summer they live almost exclusively on seeds.

They leave us quite early in the fall.

The number of them breeding in any one locality here depends mostly on the number of coniferous trees. I have found seven pairs in one row of Austrian pines, that being their favorite tree here, but generally you will find one or two pairs in a place where the door-yard contains pine or spruce trees, while the cemeteries will usually have three or four if unmolested.

When their eggs are taken they will almost invariably build another nest near by, in many cases in the same tree, but usually lay only three eggs this time. The young birds look very much like the female when they leave the nest, but the males are usually larger and darker colored. For fear that I will tire you I will close though I have not exhausted my subject by any means.

ERNEST H. SHORT,  
Chili, N. Y.

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### South Dakota Notes.

South Dakota has experienced one of the latest seasons on record this year, and owing to the lateness of it, collecting has been delayed, however, we have

had a greater number of migratory waders, and swimmers than ever before.

On May 15th I secured what I think is an American Avocet, but not having a Key I could not classify it positively. The bird measures twenty inches from tip of bill to end of tail, 24 inches spread of wings, and the bill is  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and curved upward.

The bird is colored as follows: Head, neck and breast, salmon buff; wings, streaked with black on the back; the wing coverts are black; the remainder of the plumage is white. It has web feet and the legs, which measure  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length are light olive green.

I have found two sets of four, of Prairie Horned Lark, one on the 6th and the other on the 12th of May. I secured both eggs and nests. "Plover" or Bart. Sandpipers are very plenty this year. I have secured the skins of several pairs. I got a Snowy Owl Apr. 12th, pure white, was not this rather late for them? The English Sparrow has appeared here this spring, and in large numbers. He is seen on every house top and occupies every *unoccupied* building in town.

Bluebirds abound, and Robins, Larks, and Sparrows are also very plentiful. Several Great Horned Owls have been seen in the timber claims near town. I should like very much to correspond with every ornithologist and taxidermist in South Dakota for purposes of mutual satisfaction. Would also like to hear from any one familiar with the bird I have tried to describe.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,  
Aberdeen, S. D.

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#### Some of our Visitors and Neighbors.

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It isn't every person who gets acquainted with the Yellow-breasted Chat, even when living near its haunts. Although a constant singer of many notes it is a shy and quiet bird, usually lurk-

ing in some low thicket, but sometimes mounting to the tree tops, singing as it goes, it drops off, beating its wings loudly, as if pounding out the curious notes it so fondly utters, settling to the bushes again. He is easy in his manners and when approached, instead of flying away he skulks through the bushes or brush pile upon which he was sitting, and as he keeps on singing you think you are getting up to him, while he is as far off as at the first. It is difficult to tell from the sound, whether he is two or six rods away. In fact, he is a sort of ventriloquist, and even when you have him located in a certain brush pile he keeps his back to you and is indeed hard to see. My first Chat slipped from a bunch of bushes to the top of a tall tree without my being able to get a glimpse of it. He is a splendid mocker, and here, is the earliest bird to signal the coming day, beginning his mimicry at 3 a. m. In the hottest noon-time he is busy in song, and I've heard it said that one could make more noise to the square inch than any other bird. It often sings at night.

It breeds throughout its range, though I have never been able to discover its nest. It arrives about April 15th.

Another bird which arrives about the same time is the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, which secludes itself in the tree tops and unless one knows its voice he is not sure to meet with it, as it keeps high up and only makes short stays. Here, it is only migratory and we never heard it sing, though it often repeats its note which much resembles the squeak of a piece of machinery.

At the same time, and almost as regular as the song of the Summer Warbler, are the chirruping, grasshopper-like notes of the Philadelphia Greenlet to be heard. Then too, the Kentucky, and Yellow-masked Warblers have kept up an incessant intermingling of song and scolding, while the Black-throated Green Warbler has for weeks been passing his song off for that of the

White-throated Sparrow. Thinking it very late for the Sparrows to be here, I determined to secure one, and on shooting the singer in the act of singing I was rewarded with a more beautiful bird.

The Purple Finches have left their dogwood and blackgum berries, to return this fall; taking with them the Robins and Snowbirds and are replaced by Chippies, Pewees and Blue-gray Gnatcatchers. The Whip-poor-wills are here in force and I've secured a fine set of eggs. These, I discovered in hunting for the nest of a Black-and-White Warbler, which was not hard to find, as I had only to sit down and watch Mrs. Creeper for about fifteen minutes, and was then possessor of a nest of five fresh eggs. Chuck-will's-widows have for the first time, in my knowledge, appeared above the river bottom.

C. E. PLEAS.  
Clinton, Ark.

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#### The Black Vulture in Orleans County.

It becomes my good pleasure to announce the occurrence in our county of the Black Vulture (*Catharista atrata*).

On Saturday last, May 28th, a farmer living near the Peat Swamp (which is located about 2½ miles southwest of Medina) caught a "large black bird" in a trap which he had set for the purpose, having seen the bird about the place several times before.

I was informed of the capture, but didn't pay much attention to it, as I thought it was probably not anything rare, but hearing more about it, and hearing it spoken of as a "Turkey Buzzard," I thought I would investigate the matter.

Accordingly I arose this morning "before breakfast" and wheeled up to Shelby on my bicycle and found the Turkey-like bird to be one of the *Cath-*

*artidæ* indeed, but a Black Vulture instead of a Turkey Buzzard.

The farmer had it in a wooden cage, and it appeared to be thriving well upon its diet of meat, which had been liberally furnished it.

The capture of this bird, together with the shooting of a Turkey Buzzard in the town of Clarendon last summer by a Mr. Snyder, makes the family of *Cathartidæ* fully represented in our county, a family which is of Southern habitat and rarely reaches 40° North, although the Black Vulture is somewhat the more northerly of the two.

To say the very least, the occurrence of these two Vultures in Orleans county is rare enough to be well worthy of note.

NEIL F. POSSON,  
Medina, N. Y.

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#### A Day's Collecting in California.

Bright and early on the morning of the 17th of April last, my oölogical friend turned up by previous arrangement, for a day's collecting.

It was a beautiful California day, not a cloud to be seen, the mountains showing clear cut against the sky, and a cool breeze from the blue Pacific tempering what might otherwise have been an uncomfortably hot sun.

Our field of operation was to be a ranch which lies upon the bluff above the ocean, extending back a mile or so, with numerous small hills and knolls, covered in part with ancient live oaks; and also a canon which runs through the ranch whose sides are covered with an almost impenetrable growth of oaks, brush, poison oak, ferns and black-berry vines.

Shortly after leaving home I discovered a nest of the California Bush Tit, which upon investigation proved to contain but two eggs and which was left undisturbed. My next find was a fine set of five of Lawrence's Goldfinch.

The nest was a beautiful structure composed almost entirely of dry blossoms of the live oak in which it was situated, with a lining of a few feathers.

While investigating a group of live oaks on a hill near by, my friend discovered a large nest in the top of a tall oak, and upon throwing up a club a Western Red-tail left with a defiant scream. After some hard "shinning" he reached the nest and announced two eggs, which were soon lowered safely down by means of a ball of twine and handkerchief.

Not long after, while gazing up into some oaks, I noticed a Red-tail hovering over the trees, and looking closely I soon located the nest and secured two fresh eggs.

A few minutes later my friend, who was industriously thumping every old tree with a mammoth stick of eucalyptus which he carried, flushed a Sparrow Hawk from a hollow limb and took five beautiful fresh eggs.

At this point it being nearly noon we lunched under the shade of an old oak, so large and thick that it was with difficulty that I found a nest of Bush Tits which I knew must be there from the actions of the birds. It contained seven fresh eggs.

After a short rest we resumed our search, we had gotten somewhat separated, and just as I was reaching terra firma after a useless climb to a Red-tail's nest which contained three young, I heard my companion give a yell, which I knew from its tone and emphasis betokened something rare, while running across a small canon I flushed a California Partridge from seventeen eggs. I found my friend up a large live oak and he excitedly explained that his ever active club had started a Western Horned Owl from a hollow limb that had broken off about twelve feet from the ground. After peering into the darkness for a few seconds he announced two eggs and speedily had them out in the light of day. This I

consider rather late nesting for these owls here, especially as they proved to be almost fresh.

Soon after we each took a set of three of the California Thrasher, the nests being placed in low brush.

While scrambling through some ferns and blackberry vines not long after, I noticed a small brown bird slip quickly away from near my feet, and I soon had its nest. It was the nest of the Wren-Tit and contained three, perfectly fresh, blue eggs. I was highly elated with this find as it was my first that had contained eggs. The nest was a neat, compact structure, deeply cupped and composed of strips of bark, rootlets, dry grass leaves and hair.

I had hardly disposed of these eggs when I noticed a freshly dug woodpecker's hole in a short stub of a live oak, and upon starting up a Gairdner's Woodpecker left the nest and flew to a neighboring tree. With my stick I had soon broken open the hole and saw four crystal white eggs lying on the chips at the bottom of the cavity, which was about seven inches deep. These too I was very much pleased to get as previously I had not a full set of of these eggs. When I joined my companion he said he had found a nest of the California Woodpecker in process of construction.

As it was now nearly sunset we started for home going by a different route. I soon found a set of four eggs of the California Jay in a thick elder bush, and my friend a newly completed nest of the California Thrasher, which was marked down for our next trip.

It was a long walk home and we were tired and hungry when we arrived, but we felt amply repaid for our aches, and as I was fortunate enough to escape getting poisoned with poison oak, I shall always consider that a successful and happily spent day.

H. H. DODGE,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

## The Turkey Vulture.

### *Cathartes aura.*

This noble bird has been the source of my study for three years, and, during all that time, I have not seen a single word about him in the OÖLOGIST except a query "Does *C. aura* occupy the same nest year after year?" This I was not then able to answer, but am

now prepared to say they do, and especially when they are not molested.

On May 9, 1889, I took a set of two creamy white eggs, 2.80x1.93 and 2.79x2, specked and bloched with lavender and two shades of brown, from an old sycamore stump that had been occupied for at least fifteen years, according to the farmer on whose land I found them and I think him truthful. The stump was broken off 13½ feet from the ground, and the cavity was 2½ feet deep, with no nest except a few dried weed stalks and the rotten wood naturally in the cavity.

In 1890 I took another set from this same nest and also a set from an old apple stump, 8 ft high, in a deserted orchard only about half a mile from the farm house, and on May 17, 1891, a set from an elm stump 32 ft high. The cavity in this stump was 18 inches deep.

This bird, vulgarly called the "Turkey Buzzard," is an inhabitant of almost the entire North American continent, south of the British Provinces, and no doubt all the readers of the OÖLOGIST have seen him as he soars around and around in search of food. They are gregarious, and often I have seen twenty or thirty of them together, circling over the town or surrounding country. Their general plumage a dull black, with a glossy bronze-green on the back; feathers on legs to the knee, and the feet slightly webbed. There are no feathers on the head and neck, except a line of down on the back of the neck, the fore part being bare to the breast feathers. The eyes are of a reddish-brown color. The young of this species are covered with a white down up to the time of leaving the nest.

GEO. W. PITMAN,  
New Castle, Indiana.

### Those Horned Grebes Again.

If Mr. Swales will read my article carefully he will find that I wrote from my own observation, and do not deny their breeding at the Flats as I am aware they are credited with so doing, but I have never seen them in the marshes of Detroit River where the Thick-billed is common, and it was directly to those marshes I referred and he stated they "were abundant." I took four sets of Loon's eggs in the Fighting Island marsh, but I would not call the bird abundant as he does on taking several sets of Horned Grebe in the same marsh *if* he is not mistaken in the identity of the bird.

W. A. DAVIDSON,  
Detroit, Mich.

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### The Purple Finch in Broome County, N. Y.

The position that the Purple Finch occupies in the *avi-fauna* of southern New York; is a rather peculiar one. Primarily he is a summer resident, but he also combines something of the migrant and winter visitant in his nature.

Seldom earlier or later than the first week in April the earliest songs of the Purple Finch are heard in this locality. In a week or more thereafter, the birds become common, and for a time the woods, orchards, dooryards and trees along our city streets ring with their cheery notes.

Yet these birds are not the first of their kind to arrive. Several weeks earlier one may sometimes see a small flock in the evergreens or catch a few tentative, warbling notes, launched on the frosty air from some perch in the treetops. It would seem from this, that if the hardier individuals do not brave the rigors of our winter, they certainly love to visit us when the weather is propitious:

After the migratory birds have spent some weeks of song with us, the majority disappear—probably going farther

north to breed. Although their food ordinary consists of various seeds, buds and berries, they show a decided preference for the stamens of fruit trees, and perhaps follow the supply northward as it decreases here. The birds left behind occasionally select a site in the orchard and build a rather bulky nest of weed stalks, grasses, horse-hair, etc. Usually, however, they choose an evergreen for a nesting place. There seems to be some occult connection between the Purple Finches and evergreen trees. Where these trees abound, as in our cemeteries, the birds hold high carnival all summer, building their nests close to the trunks at some height from the ground. The birds apparently like the society of man, the dooryard being one of their favorite haunts

The eggs, four or five in number, are of a beautiful shade of green, and speckled with black and brown, chiefly at the larger end. In appearance they closely resemble the eggs of the Chipping Sparrow, though much larger.

The opinion prevails in some quarters that the Purple Finch is a bird of the North, and is said to be most abundant in Nova Scotia. In New England the bird is a common breeder and it will doubtless be found to summer in the greater part of Pennsylvania and New York.

WILLARD N. CLUTE,  
Binghamton, N. Y.

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### Two Rare Nests.

On May 16, 1892 I found a nest of the Saw Whet Owl (*Nyctala acadica*) containing five eggs. The tree in which the nest was placed was an old dead poplar, which stood near a brook in a dark, dense piece of green woods, near this place. The nest its self was about twelve feet from the ground, and had been excavated by a Flicker, probably six or eight years ago, as the cavity looked very old and the wood was very

rotten. The opening had been enlarged a little, and the bottom lined with a quantity of moss and fine strips of yellow birch bark. The eggs are of a chalky white, with a rather rough surface, and are all more or less stained from contact with the nest. Incubation was so far advanced that I had great difficulty in blowing them. The measurements are as follows: 1.18x1., 1.19x1.03, 1.17x1.02, 1.21x1.03, 1.23x1. The Owl was quite tame, allowing me to get a good view of her bill as she looked at me from the hole, the bill being the most prominent distinguishing feature between the Saw Whet and the Richardson's, which are otherwise very much alike. In the Saw Whet it is black and in the Richardson's, yellow. On rapping the tree the Owl left the nest and flew about twenty yards alighting on a small dead limb of a spruce, apparently having no more difficulty in flying through the thick woods in the daytime than in the night. She again allowed me to approach to within about fifteen feet of her, finally flying off into the thick woods out of sight. The lining of this nest may possibly have been placed there by a squirrel as it is the same kind of material that is used by that animal in making its nest, and they often select an old Flicker's hole for a home.

May 21, 1892 I found a nest of the Red-breasted Nuthatch (*Sitta canadensis*). It was excavated in a small poplar stub about twenty feet from the ground and contained six fresh eggs. The cavity was lined with a considerable quantity of fine cedar bark with a few strips of birch bark mixed in and when removed from the hole formed quite a little nest itself. The eggs are white, thickly covered with different sized spots of reddish brown, looking very much like those of the Black-capped Chickadee, but are larger, as the following measurement shows: .63x.47, .64x.48, .64x.49, .62x.47, .63x.47, .66x.47. I was forced to shoot this bird to make

sure of her identity. This is the third nest of the Nuthatch that I have found, but the first that contained eggs. The other two were opened on June 5, 1884 and both contained young.

HOWARD H. MCADAMS,  
Oak Bay, N. B.

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### The Chestnut-sided Warbler.

#### *Dendroica pennsylvanica.*

Perhaps one of the most interesting of the wood warblers, which inhabits this section is the Chestnut-sided. The leaders arrive from the south about May 5th, and a few days later they are here *en masse*. Then their cheery song is frequently reiterated from the tree-tops, and occasionally when they are annoyed, they utter the peculiar note, which has been happily likened to the sound produced by striking two pebbles together. My experience has taught me to look for these birds in abundance, in, or in the vicinity of swampy woods. They are not, however strictly confined to trees, as their appellation (*Dendroica*) implies, but are found in bushes, and open land, but in lesser numbers.

During the migrating season when the number of residents is swelled by the birds of passage, it is sometimes difficult to distinguish the specific characteristics of the warblers; especially when they frequent tall trees, and do not utter their respective songs; but the species under consideration is a notable exception. I can usually recognize this bird, when against the sun-lit sky he is apparently black, and devoid of color. His silhouette has some peculiarity, which establishes his identity, and protects him from the collector's gun.

May 21st a few years ago, my attention was attracted by a pair of these birds around a tangle of briars, grape vines and bushes. By diligently watching them, I discovered the proposed site of their domicile, which was about two feet from the ground, and in a dense mass of briars.

Only a few blades of dead grass, and narrow strips of bark had been laid in place. I closely observed the process of construction from day to day, until finally a neat and compact structure had been fabricated. The materials used were: dead grass, bark, leaves, paper, horse hair, and spider's webs.

The nest was so deep inside, that tip of tail and bill only could be seen when the female was on, or in it. Two weeks from date of discovery four eggs of a delicate pink tint, dotted at the larger ends with reddish brown, and lilac, had been deposited. The average dimensions of several specimens are .67 by .52 inches.

Our little friend departs for a more genial clime early in September.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS,  
Taunton, Mass.

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#### APRIL CONTEST.

##### Sixty-four Judges.

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Pointers on Making Bird Skins. 288.
2. A Vacation with the Birds. 169.
3. The Ibises of Ledworth Lake. 130.
4. Collecting on an European Islet. 88.
5. Scientific Names, Their Use and Beauty. 70.

It was necessary to take into consideration, in awarding the judges prizes, the two following articles:

6. Zoöotomy. 62.
7. Collecting and Collectors. 51.

Ten other articles received from 1 to 44 credits each.

The successful judges, their recorded number, and the order in which they named their articles in their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 51—A. H. W. Norton, San Antonio, Texas; 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
2. No. 55—W. S. Cruzan, Sulphur Springs, Texas; 3, 1, 2, 5, 4.
3. No. 9—E. J. Brown, Washington, D. C.; 5, 1, 3, 4, 2.
4. No. 49—C. A. Fairchild, University, N. D.; 1, 2, 4, 3, 6.
5. No. 59—Bert H. Douglas, Burlington, Kans.; 1, 2, 4, 3, 7. □ □ □

As the following judges named the same articles as No. 59, we give them *Honorable mention*:

6. No. 34—F. S. Morse, Ridgefield, Ills.; 2, 1, 4, 3, 7.
7. No. 48—T. A. Smithwick, Walke, N. C.; 2, 1, 7, 4, 3.

Prizes were mailed to all winners on May 25th.

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#### World's Fair Notes.

A collection of finely mounted birds and animals will be shown in the Pennsylvania building.

Prof. Charles D. Walcott of the United States Geological Survey intends to have at the World's Fair an exhibit which will illustrate a section of the earth's crust by specimens of the rock strata placed in their proper relative positions, and by collections of the characteristic fossils shown in connection with the formations in which they are found.

Joaquin B. Calvo, minister of Costa Rica in Washington, has received from the commissioner-general of that country a letter stating that the country is sure to be well represented at Chicago. Plans and drawings for an Aztec temple to be erected by the Costa Rican government have been prepared. This building, which will be a very fine one, will be surrounded by a garden in which there will be a complete collection of palms, ferns, bromillas, schilas and other tropical plants, and it is probable that specimens of the native animals and birds will also be sent. In addition to this a fine archæological collection will be exhibited.

Mrs. Viola Fuller, of Mitchell, S. D., has applied for space in the Woman's building for a unique and beautiful opera cloak, the only one of its kind existing. The garment which is fifty-seven inches in length, and circular in design, is composed entirely of certain small and particularly delicate feathers of prairie chickens. Only five or six feathers of this peculiar kind are found on a single bird, consequently the cloak represents not only ten years of patient labor, but the plumage of hundreds of birds. The feathers were sewed to the foundation one at a time and deeply

overlapping, and now form a light, even surface as smooth as the bird's breast. The cloak is trimmed in otter fur, which is also the product of South Dakota.

The gold and silver and other mineral exhibits at the Exposition will probably aggregate in value several million dollars. In exhibits of this description Colorado will naturally take front rank. It is announced that the gold and silver nuggets to be shown by that state alone are worth a quarter of a million dollars. There has been made a splendid collection of native gold specimens, from all the richest mining districts. A single collection, valued at \$60,000, has already been secured. This will be supplemented by the finest collections, secured as loan exhibits. The exhibits will be both technical and economic in its character, showing a scientific classification of the mineralogy of Colorado and a correct presentation of its geology. At the same time a popular and massive display of ores, building stone, commercial clays and other mineral products will be made. In the display will be the "Silver Queen," a beautiful statue of an ideal female figure executed in silver and valued at \$7,500 to \$10,000.

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### THE SOUTHERN STATES.

#### To Show the Products at Buffalo.

The Southern Section of the Union for the past few years has made extraordinary strides in the way of development. The young men of that section have come to the front and are laboring hard to build up and bring out the vast natural resources of Dixie Land. Expositions have been held at Atlanta, Ga. Augusta, Ga., New Orleans, La., Richmond, Va. and Raleigh, N. C. The latter under the direction of a combination of Southern gentlemen interested in the immigration work of the several Southern States. This year it has been decided to show in one of the large Northern cities the products of the South, and Buffalo N. Y. has been selected on account of its nearness to the Canadian line. The selection of that point enables the South not only to reach the people of the North but those in the Dominion of Canada.

The display of Southern products will be under the charge of Hon. Jno. T. Patrick, Secretary to the Executive

Board of the Southern Inter-State Immigration Bureau, and was General Manager of the Southern Exposition held in the city of Raleigh, N. C. during October and November of last year.

A combination has been made with the Management of the Buffalo Exposition, which is held Aug. 17th to 27th, to show the products of the South at the same time, the Exposition will be open to the public. This gives the visitor the opportunity of seeing two great Expositions in one.

The Buffalo Exposition will be a grand display of the products of the North and the Southern feature will embrace many things not heretofore seen by the Northern people, among which will be growing cotton.

A small patch of growing cotton will represent the way the cotton is planted, grown and gathered.

The cotton gin will be shown in full operation daily. This is something that not one person out of a thousand has ever seen.

An old fashioned Spinning wheel will be shown with an old colored woman spinning and near by will be another colored woman carding the cotton into "rolls" to be used by the spinner and in the same department will be an old Southern cotton loom on which an old colored woman will be weaving "home spun cloth."

The pine forest will be represented in the way of sections of the trunks of huge turpentine trees that have been "boxed" to secure the pine gum to be distilled into turpentine and rosin.

There will be in practical operation a turpentine still, making from the crude gum spirits of turpentine and rosin.

A tar kiln will be shown in operation. The exhibits of wild game and animals, alligators and birds from the jungles of Florida, Louisiana and Texas will be a very interesting sight.

One of the special features will be the display showing the advancement of the negro race during the first twenty-five years of freedom. This special feature will be under the direction of Dr. J. C. Price, D. D., said to be the smartest negro the race has ever produced. The Doctor is a genuine African, no mixed blood. He is president of one of the largest colored educational institutions in the South, an institution built under his own directions.

There will be forty or more plantation negroes with the Southern exhibit,

and their songs and representation of old time plantation life South will be worth going a long journey to see.

There are many other features peculiarly Southern that will be shown. The visitors to the Buffalo Exposition this year will have an opportunity of seeing one of the most novel and interesting exhibitions ever presented to the public. This arrangement has been brought about principally through the influence of the live Manager of the Buffalo Exposition, Mr. Geo. M. Robinson, of Elmira, N. Y., Mr. Robinson and a committee visited the Southern Inter-State Exposition last fall at Raleigh and placed the advantages of an Exposition of the products of the South at Buffalo before Mr. Patrick and since then Mr. Robinson has been pressing the matter until it has been finally settled that the South is to be represented at the Buffalo Exposition.

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#### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Jun.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds, in e cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Hagerup's "Birds of Greenland."

5th prize—Leverkuhn's "Fremde Eier Im Nest."

For the July competition we will give a similar set of prizes, and throughout the year the aggregate value of these monthly prizes will not be less than ten dollars. The value of prizes offered this month is \$15.00.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "sparrow stories" and articles of a similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

**THE JUDGES:** You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given, and in no case later than the 10th of the month following the one on which the OÖLOGIST was issued upon which your decision is given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than July 20th. Write on the back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We have also decided to give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in the April competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize.

Address FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

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Detroit, Mich., June 17.

The well known Naturalist and Taxidermist, Mr. W. H. Collins, of this city died on the 11th inst, of heart disease.

Mr. Collins will be remembered by the old readers of ornithological publications, to which he contributed a number of interesting articles from 1876 to 1884.

W. A. D.

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Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

|    |                                     |      |                       |
|----|-------------------------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 56 | signifies your subscription expired | June | 1890.                 |
| 62 | "                                   | "    | Dec. "                |
| 65 | "                                   | "    | June 1891             |
| 74 | "                                   | "    | Dec. "                |
| 80 | "                                   | "    | will expire June 1892 |
| 86 | "                                   | "    | Dec. "                |
| 92 | "                                   | "    | June 1893             |

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c.  
Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 25 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books June 1, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

# JULY BARGAINS

A good 12 in. Leg Drill of best Stubbs steel, two sizes, only 35 cts. each.

## Naphaline Camphor Marbles.

A large box of 40 marbles. The neat-est and handiest article ever made, to lay around in Specimen Trays, Cases and Cabinets. Claimed to be a sure preventative against Moths and Insects. Price *prepaid*, only 15 cts.

A 25 yard coil of No. 20 annealed wire the right size for mounting Sparrows, Bluebirds, Catbirds, &c, &c. Price *prepaid*, only 12 cts per coil.

A Tin Nail Box, containing  $\frac{1}{2}$  pound of bright steel wire nails, plain and barbed in all sizes from the smallest to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length. This box contains exactly the nails every Collector and Taxidermist wants to use. Price *prepaid*, 20 cts.

If ordered by Express with other goods, the Marbles and Wire would each cost you 5 cts and Nails 10 cts less.

Set of *Three Note Books in Case* each contains 72 pages, bound in flexible cloth and set comes in a nice colored cloth covered case. Will send the set *prepaid*, for only 8 cts.

For any of the above, address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

## IDENTIFICATION!

During the past few years we have cheerfully attempted to

### IDENTIFY ALL SPECIMENS

our friends have sent us, and this without remuneration; but owing to the fact that we are now receiving packages by the dozen for this purpose, and that our time is more than occupied with our regular business, in the future we shall be obliged to CHARGE our friends *in addition to return postage* the following

#### RATES:

|                              |       |       |
|------------------------------|-------|-------|
| Single or first Specimen     | - - - | 10cts |
| For each additional Specimen | - - - | 5cts  |

The above rates for identifying we think very reasonable. We have spent several years in handling and studying specimens of various kinds, and have on hand a very large stock with which comparison can be made. We also have leading works to use for reference. The advantage of having specimens properly identified is invaluable to collectors.

Address,

FRANK H. LATTIN ALBION, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

**2d Hand Books:**—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire *at once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

## THE ODELL TYPE WRITER.

**\$20** will buy the ODELL TYPE WRITER with 78 characters, and \$15 for the SINGLE CASE ODELL, warranted to do better work than any machine made.

It combines SIMPLICITY with DURABILITY, SPEED, EASE OF OPERATION, wears longer without cost of repairs than any other machine. Has no ink ribbon to bother the operator. It is neat, substantial, nickel-plated, perfect, and adapted to all kinds of type writing. Like a printing press, it produces sharp, clean, eligible manuscripts. Two or ten copies can be made at one writing. Any intelligent person can become an operator in two days. We offer \$1,000 to any operator who can equal the work of the DOUBLE CASE ODELL.

Reliable Agents and Salesmen wanted. Special inducements to Dealers.

For Pamphlet giving Indorsements, etc., address m2t

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and emit unpleasant odors? If they do and you wish to rid yourself of the nuisance, send 25c, silver, for Tannine, a complete cure.

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**400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00**

Duplicates can be returned.

### AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN St. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.  
Catalogue for stamp.

# Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting.

A Complete Hand-book of 362 pages for the amateur Taxidermist, Collector, Osteologist, Museum Builder, Sportsman and Traveler.

Illustrated with Twenty-four Plates and Eighty-five Text Pictures.

—BY—

**WILLIAM T. HORNADAY,**

[For Eight Years Chief Taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum.]

It goes without saying that this is the best work in the market for the use of the Naturalist, since the author is at the head of his profession, and he has spared no time nor trouble to make the book complete.

It not only covers all the ground as a text-book for the beginner but any Taxidermist will be repaid by a perusal of its pages, and once read, it will lie on the work bench, as a companion to the scissors and skinning knife, for it is as indispensable to one who desires to be a WORKMAN, as the frame work of the specimen itself.

**PRICE, \$2.50.**

**Frank H. Lattin, Albion, N. Y.**

**YOUR SON.**--- Would you like to have him spend July with a Scientific Party, which includes several College Professors? Expenses Moderate!

For Particulars address

ALBERT L. AREY, Director,  
Natural Science Camp,  
229 Averill Ave.,  
Rochester, N. Y.

## The Best Oologist's Outfit

for the money ever offered.

One 25c. nickeled blowpipe, one 25c. nickeled and engraved embryo hook, one 20c. egg drill, all in a neat wood turned box by return mail, prepaid for

**ONLY 35 CENTS.**

When ordering this Outfit, if you will inclose 15cts. extra, 50c. in all, I will send you a fine, first-class set of one egg with data of the Noddy (list price 75c.) By accepting this offer you obtain 75c. worth of first-class instruments, and a very desirable 75c. egg.

**ALL FOR ONLY 50 CENTS.**

I will send you a dozen outfits and a dozen eggs prepaid for \$5.00.

Order at once as this offer may be withdrawn next month.

FRANK H LATTIN,  
ALBION, N. Y.

## World's Fair Relics.

Millions of fish made of STAFF will adorn the fishery buildings, aside from being a RELIC they are an ornament and show what the great buildings are to be decorated with.

### STAFF.

These are choice relics and are going very rapidly we will send them carefully packed so as to insure safe delivery as follows: 50 cents each, 3 for \$1, \$8 per dozen. Special offer in wholesale lots, size 4x7x1 inches. Stamps accepted for single orders.

Address all orders.

**Dr. McGill's Exhibit,**  
4310 Cottage Grove, Chicago, Ills,

WEST VIRGINIA

## Bird & Mammal Skins and Eggs

All specimens carefully prepared and with full data.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL.

Price List for Stamp.

**THADDEUS SURBER,**

Jefft White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

## The Oologist for 1892.

The OÖLOGIST is without question the most popular and instructive magazine, devoted to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, ever published, and while of special value to the Oologist and Ornithologist, its publisher is not alone in his belief that Teachers, Scientists, Naturalists, and Curiosity Collectors in all departments will find the OÖLOGIST not only worthy of their attention, but of their subscriptions. On January 1892, the OÖLOGIST entered its ninth volume, and it will be the aim of its Publisher, with the aid of its subscribers, to make it of greater value than any preceding one. Each number for '92 will contain twenty pages (16 and a cover), and will be promptly and regularly issued the first week of each month and will be sent post-paid to any part of the World

### For Only 50 Cents

Every subscriber received for '92, will be mailed a card composed of two Coupons one of which will entitle the person addressed, to a free Exchange Notice, of 25 words in the OÖLOGIST if used within one year from date. The second coupon will be accepted by the Publisher of the OÖLOGIST from the person addressed, in payment for or towards anything he offers for sale, to the amount of 25 cents providing the goods ordered amount to not less than \$1.25 This coupon is just the same as 25c in cash to you if you should want to purchase anything of us to the amount of \$1.25, during the year.

Remember every subscriber received for the OÖLOGIST will receive FOR ONLY 50 CENTS the following:

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| The OÖLOGIST for '92.....          | \$ .50 |
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\$1.00

**AGENTS WANTED ON SALARY** or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$70 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, THE MONROE ERASER Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. x 456. Jc3t

### VALUABLE OÖLOGISTS.

The following No's. of the OÖLOGIST are of special value to to every collector:

Feb. '89. Maurice Thompson's "Red-headed Family."

March, '89, "Directions for making a Bird or Mammal Skin."

Nov., '89, Complete List of N. A. Birds with prices of eggs, also three pages of Oölogical instruction.

Feb., '90, Complete List of N. A. Birds and the prices of their skins.

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Any of the above OÖLOGISTS will be sent you post paid for 5cts. or the entire five for only 15cts. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

THE OÖLOGIST.

JUST OUT!  
The Standard Catalogue

—OF—

North American Birds Eggs

—COMPILED BY—

FRANK H. LATTIN,

—ASSISTED BY—

Capt. Chas. E. Bendire, J. Parker Norris, Esq., and  
Capt. B. F. Goss.

It gives the Common and Scientific name of every North American Bird according to the A. O. U. Nomenclature. It also gives the A. O. U. Numbers as well as those of both Coates' and Ridgway, and last but not least it gives the value of eggs of *nearly every* species, over one hundred of which never appeared on any printed list before.

It is not a personal catalogue of any one Dealer or Collector, as there is not a Collector in the entire World who has or could furnish all the species whose values are given, and there is not a Dealer who could furnish over, from 50 to 75 per cent of the species priced.

The Catalogue is printed on extra quality of paper and contains 53 pages, size  $3\frac{1}{4} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$  in.

Price 35 cents per copy. 3 copies for \$1.00.

Special Offer to the subscribers of the OöLOGIST. We desire to place as many copies as possible *at once* as we believe that every copy sold now means the sale of dozens later. We have concluded to furnish the subscribers of the OöLOGIST what copies they may need if they will purchase on or before July 25th, '92 at the following reduced rates.

Single Copy, 25 cts.

Five Copies, \$1.00

One Dozen or more copies at the rate of \$2.00 per doz.

FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TESTIMONIALS.

As the first copy was mailed on June 16th and this page was printed on the 20th we cannot tell what our patrons think of the Catalogue until next month.

The following has, however, already been received:—

"I received to-day the "Standard Catalogue" and deem it truly the *standard*."

June 17th, 1892.

H. C. LILLIE, Ann Arbor, Mich.



# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1892.

NO. 7

## NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

### Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales." inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

**WANTED.**—First-class singles not in my collection in exchange for a set of 6 Screech Owls and a set of 7 Chickadees, First-class. HARRY STRATTON, Toulon, Ill.

**EXCHANGE.**—A.O.U Nos. the following sets for original sets with datas: 219 6-5, 5-6, 3-7, 2-8; 221 2-4, 4-5, 4-6, 3-7; 316 1-2; 412 1-4; 477 3-5; 488 3-4, 1-5; 498 1-3; 590 1-3; 563 1-4; 581 1-3; 755 1-3; 761 1-3, 1-4; 704 1-2; 776 1-3; 77 2-2; 214 2-4; 202 3-2, 5-3, 10-4, 3-5; 190 1-4, 191 1-4. E. R. & R. C. BENNETT, 893 Clybourn Ave., Chicago, Ills.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—Fine first-class singles for first-class sets with data. CHAS. A. PROCTOR, Hanover, N. H.

CALIFORNIA Traveler and Naturalist, Napa City, California, will accept good specimens, tools or other articles in exchange for subscriptions. Also minerals, printing and curios for exchange.

**FOR EXCHANGE.**—A live young Red-tailed Hawk taken from nest in April. For particulars address C. C. BACON, Bell, Christian Co., Ky.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—First-class birds eggs of this locality for desirable eggs in sets or for Taxidermist Tools in good order; address O. J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

I HAVE four pairs of white Japanese bantams also three tame Sparrow Hawks to exchange for first-class singles. Sea birds preferred. FRED HUBBARD, Lock Box 174, Geneva, O.

**WANTED.**—To exchange first-class, carefully identified sets; for like sets. Reliable collectors send lists and receive mine. FRANK CRAIG, 622 23d St., San Francisco, Cal.

SEND list of 1st class sets and receive mine of paper, eggs, stamps, minerals, and relics. Many common sets wanted. Also Davie's Key to exchange. WALTER A. LOVETT, Oxford, Mass.

**FIRST-CLASS EGGS** in sets, many with nests, to exchange for same. Original data with each set and only such wanted in return. Send list and receive mine. J. WARREN, JACOBS, Waynesburgh, Pa.

I HAVE rare eggs of this locality to exchange for books, back volumes of magazines, some government reports, microscope and other articles. H. G. HOSKIN, Beloit, Colo.

Sets of (A. O. U.) No's 12, 13a, 14, 47, 65, 92, 115, 163, 207, 314, 318, 319, 320a, 373d, 377a, 410, 414, 429, 496, 512, 586, 605, 615, 709, 707, 712, for others equally as rare and desirable. JAMES P. BABBITT, 12 Hodges' Ave., Taunton, Mass.

**WANTED.**—Some one to purchase an Evan's Foot Power Job Press, in good working order. Cheap, a bargain to the right person. Write for particulars. O. J. ZAHN, 427 S. Hope St., Los Angeles, Cal.

Large variety of fine skins and sets and singles for skins not in my collection. Want singles with data all correspondence answered. A. W. HANAFORD, 21 Olive Street, Grand Rapids, Mich.

**EXCHANGE.**—Have sets and singles of many western eggs to exchange for eastern singles. Would like to exchange several of a kind with each party. Basis of exchange, Lattin's Handbook, HERBERT KELLEY, Decoto, Calif.

**ALLIGATOR EGGS** wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

**TO EXCHANGE.**—First-class Hummers, Water-Thrushes and Hawks, for Ostrich, Sea Eagle or Southern eggs. Other eggs for exchange. J. C. CRAWFORD, Statesville, N. C.

## EXCHANGES and WANTS, Continued

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First-class set, with data, of 6 1-7. Will give following singles: 6, 77, 800, 387, 493, 652, and 735. (5 of 495). J. S. GRIFFING, Cutchogue, L. I., N. Y.

EXCHANGE.—Sets of this locality for other first-class sets, with data; also rare and common singles for sets, or large or showy singles. RAY L. WILBUR, Riverside, California.

A GOOD Collecting gun 38 smooth bore Shells 2 in. long, gun 3 ft. long, 5 lbs, for best offer of eggs in sets with data, send list. J. F. MCGINNIS, Box 244, Iowa City, Ia.

WANTED.—Repeating Rifle, Newhouse steel traps and offers for 20 gauge Breech Loading Collecting Gun and outfit, telescope, Frank Wessen pistol, books, watch, coins, eggs. C. BYRON VANDERCOCK, Odin, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—A 4x5 Anthony Photo Outfit with everything, complete, New, worth \$30. For 1st class eggs in singles. Send list to W. A. CRANDALL, Webster City, Iowa.

I HAVE a rare collection of 500 Bird Eggs to sell for \$10 cash or exchange for sea bird eggs. Send for List. PAUL MCGINTY, Box 150, Athens, Ga.

SETS TO EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. Nos., 12 1-1, 16 1-1, 29 1-1 2, 30a 1-1, 49 1-3, 59 1-3, 79 1-1, 120c 1-3 1-4 @ \$1.50, 122 1-3, 123b 1-3, 1-4, 337b 1-2, 360 1-4, 373c 1-2 1-3 1-4, 378 1-5 1-6, 431 1-2 and nest on twig, 413 1-7, 458 1-4, 464 1-4, 466 1-3 1-4, 474b 1-3, 476 1-4 1-5, 1-6 1-7, 499 1-4, 510 1-5, 530 1-4, 581d 1-4, 591b 1-4, 596 1-3 1-4, 599 1-3 1-4, 627 1-4, 715 1-5, 725a 1-3, 733 1-6 1-7, 743a 1-6 1-7, 758 1-3 1-4 and 767 1-4. The above are in 1st class original, and positively identified sets; nearly all were collected by me. Have singles of all the above except 59, 337b, 627 and 767; and in addition have singles of 47, 54, 58, 294, 417, 475 and 531. Want to exchange with reliable collectors, for 1st class well identified and original sets. Lattin's 1890 list as basis. FRED A. SCHNIDER, College Park, Santa Clara Co., California.

25 second-class arrow heads, five Nos. "Outing," and "Livingston's Travels and Explorations in Africa," for U. S. stamps. SAMUEL H. ROBBE, Belleville, Wayne Co., Michigan.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers anything I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

FOR SALE.—The following first-class sets with datas post paid on receipt of cash: Black-headed Grosbeak 1-3 @ 10c., Cala. Thrasher 1-3 @ 8c., Black Pewee 1-3 1-4 @ 5c., Least Vireo 1-3 @ 40c., Heerman's Song Sparrow 1-4 @ 5c., Arkansas Goldfinch 1-4 @ 6c., Arkansas Kingbird 1-4 @ 4c., Cactus Wren 1-3 @ 6c., Burrowing Owl 1-5 @ 10c., Cala. Screech Owl 1-2 1-4 @ 25c., Lewis' Woodpecker 1-5 @ 25c., Am. Sparrow Hawk 1-5 @ 12c., Road Runner 1-4 @ 12c., Lawrence's Goldfinch 1-4 @ 10c., Black-chin. Hummer n-2 @ 35c., Anna's Hummer n-2 @ 30c. The first order of over \$1.50 will receive a pair of Sharp-shinned Hawk's eggs. Address at once M. L. WICKS, Jr., Los Angeles, Calif.

A NEW \$100 International Type-writer and a \$75 Life Scholarship of the Euclid Avenue Business College, good at either Detroit, Buffalo or Cleveland. Will exchange for best offer. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class original sets with data of this locality, for same of other localities, also good 22 cal. target rifle for sale or exchange, make offers. Send list and receive mine. L. J. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

2d Hand Books:—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire at once good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

SEND STAMP for price list of birds eggs at adv. lowest rates. W. E. PRATT, Lake Forest, Ill.

AGENTS WANTED ON SALARY or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 200 to 500 per cent profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$200 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address, THE MONROE ERASER Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. x 456. Je3t

## BIRD CUTS.

An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving to order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OÖLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

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|----|-----------|------|--------------|---------|--------|-------|
| 56 | signifies | your | subscription | expired | June   | 1890. |
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| 68 | "         | "    | "            | "       | June   | 1891  |
| 74 | "         | "    | "            | "       | Dec.   | "     |
| 80 | "         | "    | "            | will    | expire | June  |
| 86 | "         | "    | "            | "       | Dec.   | "     |
| 92 | "         | "    | "            | "       | June   | 1893  |

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrears, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

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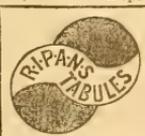
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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY, 1892.

NO. 7

## A Quawk Town.

For several years it has been my desire to visit the swamps in the northern part of this, Henry, county and this year I took a few days vacation and made my visit.

Old hunters told me about a "Town" of some kind of birds, where there were hundreds of nests and my friend, Keener, promised to take me to the place if I would come over.

I arrived in Annawan about sundown and we started for his home in a few minutes.

I soon began to see numbers of Am. Bitterns and after a while he showed me a flock of "Quawks" on the way to their feeding grounds, and as the sun went down and we went along the sand hills I could see them everywhere.

When nearly at his home "Doc" showed me one lying in the road. It was a Black-crowned Night Heron.

Next morning we went around one end of the swamp to get a boat and I saw great numbers of Herons flying about a grove, and at that time thought they were nesting there.

After getting our boat we "poled" through the marsh—Doc poled and I encouraged him. We found a number of Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Coots, Gallinules and Grebes nests, but it was not until we had gone some 3 miles that the Heronry came in full view.

It seemed to me as I stood up in the boat and saw their white necks in the grass that 5000 wasn't too big a guess for the number there.

We soon got in the town which was a large space where the birds had tramped down the grass to the top of the water, which was from 2 to 3 feet deep, the grass—a coarse kind found in

marshes—growing to the height of about 3 feet above the water at this time.

This made a kind of floor and on it the nests were scattered all about.

The nests were platforms from 2 to 6 in. deep, almost flat on top, so flat that many eggs had rolled off into the water, generally composed of green rushes and the stalk of the marsh grass. But some of them were very substantial affairs, made almost entirely of twigs and quite large sticks, brought from the grove where I first saw the birds flying and from which we could now see them coming with sticks in their bills.

Very few of the nests contained eggs at this time as the town had been thoroughly robbed a week before and all the eggs taken, 120 dozen I was told.

We only got one set of 4 and a few of three—most of the nests containing 2 or 1.

On the 8th I again visited the town and found several sets of 4 and a number of 3.

From what I could see I think 3 is about the full set and that 2 is common. 4 is rare and I did not see any with more than 4. The eggs were all fresh or incubation was so slight as to be scarcely noticed.

The eggs are dark greenish blue when first laid and in a set it is easy to pick out the first laid by the variation in color as they fade to a light greenish blue shade very quickly.

The eggs in a set sometimes show very great variations in size and shape, and the sets of 4 will average smaller than sets of 3. I think.

A set of 3 measures 2.10x1.48, 1.97x1.48, 2.04x1.53 another measures 2.25x1.50, 1.92x1.47, 2.00x1.49.

A set of four: 2.09x1.51, 1.95x1.50, 1.97x1.52, 1.87x1.40. Five eggs average 2.09x1.47.

A large number of the birds left the "town" as soon as disturbed and seemed to have no further interest in it—settling down about a mile away and remaining there as long as we were in the swamp. The "boys" called them the "bucks".

The birds did not seem to take any particular interest in their nests—keeping so far away we had difficulty in procuring specimens.

The feeding ground of the Herons are sometimes as much as 20 miles away.

They come regularly to the marshy sloughs and the lake a mile from Kewanee which is over 20 miles from their nesting place.

They reach here shortly after sundown. That these birds can fly fast I know as I saw a pair of Herons keep up with an express train for a distance of over 5 miles. A Heronry is not a sweet smelling place on a warm day I can assure you—both the eggs and the birds have a disagreeable odor—and the decaying matter makes it worse.

A. C. MURCHISON,  
Kewanee, Ill.

---

**The Hairy Woodpecker.**  
(*Dryobates vellosus*)

The Hairy Woodpecker is a common summer resident in this vicinity. Although it sometimes escapes observation by its retiring habits, I think it to be as common as the Downy Woodpecker (*D. pubescens*) here. In speaking of its retiring habits I do not mean that it frequents the deep woods alone, but merely that it is not seen in orchards and open groves near houses as the Downy often is. The plumage is much the same as the Downy's, the most conspicuous difference being the lack of the white on the back, so noticeable in the Downy Woodpecker.

The favorite nesting place of the Hairy here is in live poplar trees, the nest being dug in the body from ten to

forty feet high. So marked is their preference for these trees that of five occupied and many unoccupied nests, noted this year, all but one were placed in poplars. The exceptional one was placed in a dead but sound maple stub. I think that this preference may be accounted for by the fact that while they prefer strong, live trees, they naturally like the wood soft enough to dig easily, and also by the fact that a dead or spongy heart is very often found in these trees, in which the perpendicular passage may be dug with comparative ease. The nests are often dug in from the north or west side of the tree, probably to escape the summer storms. The entrance passage extends in about six inches to the perpendicular passage which is about ten inches deep, enlarging at the bottom.

While opening a nest at least one of the birds usually stays near by, flitting about and rapping on the neighboring trees as if in sheer nervousness. The eggs are four to six in number. A set of six taken June 8th, average in measurement .87x.67. They were taken from a nest, placed as usual, in a popular tree and about ten feet from the ground.

W. E. AIKEN,  
Benson, Vt.

---

**Birds Found Breeding in Bertie Co., N. C.**

Below I give a list of the birds of which I have taken eggs during the springs of 1891 and 1892, together with a short description of the nests, measurements of eggs, etc.

1. Green Heron. *Ardea virescens*. Common summer resident, nesting in bushes and small trees from 8 to 30 feet up; nest a shallow platform of small sticks loosely laid together; the complement of eggs is four or five, more often four; a set of five, taken May 16th, '91, present the following sizes: 1.49x1.11, 1.53x1.12, 1.48x1.10, 1.52x1.09, A set of 4

eggs taken May 2, '92 measure 1.46x1.12 1.52x1.15, 1.47x1.14, 1.55x1.12.

2. Chuck-wills-widow. *Antrostomus carolinensis*. A tolerably common summer resident. A set of two eggs taken May 14th, '91, measure 1.43x.97 and 1.47x1.00; these were laid on bare ground in the woods.

3. Chimney Swift. *Chatura pelagica*. Common summer resident. A nest taken June 20th, '90, was made of small sticks glued together and placed in a chimney of an occupied house. This contained five eggs, which measure .76x.51, .74x.51, .72x.51 .70x.48, .76x.51.

4. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. *Trochilus colubris*. Common summer resident. A nest with two eggs was taken May 9th, '91.

5. Kingbird. *Tyrannus tyrannus*. A common summer resident. Nests in the tall sycamores and oaks, and sometimes in apple trees. Nest made of almost any convenient material, lined with fine grass. Eggs, three or four; a set taken May 25th, '91, measure .90x.70, .94x.72, .92x.73.

6. Acadian Flycatcher. *Empidonax acadicus*. A common summer resident. Nest suspended usually at end of a swinging beech limb, but sometimes in oak and hollies, from 8 to 25 feet up, usually about 10 feet from ground; some nests are made of various kinds of material, such as small sticks, grass, fine black moss, etc., while the greater number are made entirely of green moss. The birds seem to prefer to nest along the edges of the small swamps. Eggs, usually three in number, but sometimes only two. A set taken May 21st, '91, measure .71x.55, .70x.54, .71x.54. Another set taken May 19th, '92, measure .75x.54, .77x.54, .78x.54.

7. Chipping Sparrow. *Spizella socialis*. Common resident. Eggs three or four. A set taken May 25th, '91, measure .67x.51, .71x.52, .71x.52, 76x.49.

8. Cardinal. *Cardinalis cardinalis*. Tolerably common resident. A nest

taken April 30th, '92, was made of weed and vine stems, dry leaves, reed, grapevine bark, lined with fine grass stems, and was placed six feet up, in a holly bush; this contained three fresh eggs which measure .99x.73, 1.01x.73, .96x.72.

9. Indigo Bunting. *Passerina cyanea*. Tolerably common summer resident, but I have seen but one nest, this was found June 1st, '91 and contained three incubated eggs. The nest was made of leaves and reed shucks, weed stems, etc., lined with fine grass, laced in the forks of a small oak bush 2 feet up. Sizes of eggs: .70x.49, .72x.52, .70x.51.

10. Summer Tanager. *Piragarubra*. A nest with three eggs of this species was taken May 9th, '91, from an oak tree about 15 feet up.

11. Purple Martin. *Prognosubis*. Very common summer resident, arriving the latter part of March. Nest in bird box and made of twigs and leaves. Eggs four, five or six in number. A set of six eggs taken May 20th, '92, measure .98x.72, .99x.72, 1.00x.72, .94x.70, .91x.71, .94x.71.

12. Rough-winged Swallow. *Stelgidopteryx serripennis*. Common summer resident. Nests in holes in banks along Albemarle Sound. A nest taken May 19th, '92, was of grass and dry green leaves placed in a hole two feet deep in a bank. This contained seven fresh eggs which measure .77x.53, .73x.51, .71x.52, .72x.52, .74x.53, .74x.52, .72x.52.

13. Red-eyed Vireo. *Vireo olivaceus*. A common summer resident. A nest was taken June 4th, '92, which contained three eggs. This nest was made of bark, rotten wood, moss and spider webs, lined with grapevine bark, suspended 7 feet up, below forks, at end of a dogwood limb. Sizes of eggs .80x.57, .79x.56, .79x.56.

14. White-eyed Vireo. *Vireo noveboracensis*. A common summer resident. A nest with three eggs was taken June 22d, '91.

15. Pine Warbler. *Dendroica vigorsii*. A common summer resident, nesting in pine trees, usually at elevations of fifty feet or more from ground. A nest and four eggs were taken April 29th, '91. This nest was made of weed stems, pine straw, chicken feathers, spider webs and other fibres, lined with hair and feathers, and placed 50 feet up on a horizontal pine limb, 5 feet from body of tree. Sizes of eggs .71x.54, .73x.54, .73x.53, .72x.53.

16. Prairie Warbler. *Dendroica discolor*. Common summer resident. I found a pair building April 30th, '92. The nest was completed by May 3d, and the first egg laid the 7th. The set of four was completed and taken May 10th. This nest was made of grass, reed leaves and bits of spider webs, and lined with hair and feathers, placed 2½ feet up in forks of small maple bush. The eggs measure .70x.48, .67x.49, .67x.48, .66x.51.

17. Oven-bird. *Seiurus aurocapillus*. Common summer resident. A nest was found May 19th, '92, which contained four fresh eggs. The nest was of skeleton leaves, pine straw and fine grass, lined with hair and fine leaves and was placed in shallow hole in the ground on a hill near a swamp. The eggs measure .75x.63, .74x.63, .73x.61, .74x.61.

18. Louisiana Water-Thrush. *Seiurus motacilla*. A common summer resident along the small branches and swamps. A nest was taken April 22, '92, which contained four eggs. The nest was of leaves which were taken from the mud, and coarse grass, lined with finer grass, moss and a few very fine black roots, and imbedded in side of a mossy bank, 1 foot above small stream of water. Sizes of eggs, .78x.58, .77x.58, .78x.60, 77x.59.

19. Hooded Warbler. *Sylvania mitrata*. A very common summer resident, arriving the first of April, our most common warbler. During the month

of May and the first part of June, '91, I took ten nests with eggs of this species and have seen four nests this spring. Of the fourteen nests, eight contained three eggs each and the others four. The nests are placed in low bushes from 1½ to 4 feet up, and are made of partly decayed leaves, strips of bark, etc.; lined inside usually with a fine black moss. A set of four eggs taken May 18th, '91, show the following sizes: .72x.49, .71x.49, .70x.49, .70x.49. Another set taken May 11th, measure .67x.53, .70x.53, .66x.53, .66x.53. A third set of 3 eggs taken May 16, '92, measure .67x.53, .70x.53, .71x.53.

20. Mockingbird. *Mimus polyglottos*. A tolerably common resident. Nests placed in grapevines and orchard-trees, and made of sticks, cotton, weeds, etc., lined with fine weed stems. A set of four eggs taken May 28th, '92, measure .97x.73, 1.02x.76, .98x.74, .98x.74.

21. Catbird. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. Common resident. Nest in briars and bushes. A set of four eggs taken May 21, '92, measure .90x.67, .90x.67, .89x.66, .91x.67.

22. Carolina Wren. *Thryothorus ludovicianus*. A very common resident. A nest taken May 5th, '91, was of leaves moss, bark, etc., lined with hair, and placed in bow of small boat, lying on shore of Albemarle Sound. This nest contained five eggs, which measure .76x.59, .79x.60, .77x.59, .77x.59, .76x.59.

23. Brown-headed Nuthatch. *Sitta pusilla*. A common resident. Nests of strips of bark, pine seed, leaves, wool, etc., placed in holes, picked by the birds in dead stumps, usually pines, from 2 to 25 feet, or more, up. Eggs five, sometimes six. A set of five eggs taken April 29th, '91, measure .60x.46, .58x.46, .60x.45, .57x.46, 57x.46.

24. Carolina Chickadee. *Parus carolinensis*. Common resident. A nest taken May 4th, '92, was made of moss and fine shreds of bark, lined with a cottony fibre, placed 8 feet up, in a hole picked in the top of a dead ash stub,

standing over water. The eggs, five in number measure, .58x.47, .57x.48, .57x.47, .56x.48, .57x.48.

25. Wood Thrush. *Turdus mustelinus*. A common summer resident. A nest taken June 6th, '91, was made of leaves, straw and a layer of mud, lined with fine roots and placed in a beech-tree 10 feet up. The eggs, three in number, measure .92x.71, .94x.71, 96x.72.

26. Bluebird. *Sialia sialis*. Common resident. Nests in bird boxes, holes in trees, tin cans, etc. A set of six eggs taken April 24th, '91, measure .86x.66, .85x.65, .84x.64, .86x.65, .85x.64, .84x.64.

THOS. A. SMITHWICK,

Walke, Bertie Co., N. C.

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#### California Bush-Tit.

*Psaltriparus minimus californicus*.

Description.—Tail long, feathers graduated. Above of a dark olivaceous-cinereous; top and sides of head dusky brown; whitish brown darker on sides. Sexes alike. Length 4 in.; tail, 2.25; wing, 1.90  
Hab.—California.

The Bush-Tits are among the smallest of North American birds. The species found in California is somewhat smaller in size and lighter in color than that from Oregon and Washington. The territory of both species overlap in northern California.

The California Bush-Tits are noisy, fearless, industrious birds: wandering in loose flocks they glean their humble fare from tree and bush uttering al. the while their cheerful *tweet, tweet, tweet, twee*, and are so intent upon their occupation that all danger is disregarded. If perchance an intruder ventures in their midst they cease for a moment their occupation and gaze upon the stranger with evident curiosity but when they perceive that no harm is intended they continue their work as noisily and industriously as before.

Although they often wander into orchards bordering the cities yet they are strictly rural residents and love the

quiet wooded canons and hill-sides of the retired, uninhabited districts of this genial clime and here we meet with them in our country strolls. They usually move in small flocks but in spring domestic duties necessitate the breaking up of these happy little groups in order that the little creatures may begin the construction of their pretty arboreal homes, and subsequently, rear their little broods.

The home of the Bush-Tit is a model of bird architecture, it is securely hidden in the dense, drooping foliage of a tree, purse-shaped with an entrance on the side near the top. Its average measurements are as follows: length 8 or 9 inches; width, 4 or 5 inches. The materials used are wool, lichens, plant-down, twigs and feathers.

The breeding season begins about the middle of March and extends through April and May. The eggs number from five to nine, are pure white in color and measure about one-half inch in length.

H. C. LILLIE,  
Santa Barbara, Cal.

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#### Nighthawks in Binghamton, N. Y.

It is a fact worthy of note that the Nighthawks that frequent our city each summer are very unequally distributed. In the suburbs and open country adjacent, where one would expect to find them, they are comparatively few in numbers, but about the business portion of the city they are scarcely less noticeable than the English Sparrow.

With this change in habitat they have apparently changed their habits and are less Nighthawks than ever. Every morning, and all day long on cloudy days, they are abroad, and even at high noon on sunny days the light seems to be no disadvantage to them if they choose to move about. True to Nighthawk traditions, however, the

birds have a preference for the twilight or evening.

When not flying about they usually may be found sleeping on some chimney-top or unfrequented roof. In such places the careful observer may see much of Nighthawk nature that does not come to the surface elsewhere. During their waking moments they sedately parade up and down their retreats and show capabilities for doing nothing that a tramp might envy.

Since they pass so much time upon the roofs, I concluded that they nest in such situations, but had no chance to verify this until this year. On June 10th, through the kindness of Mr. N. E. Severson, I was able to secure a set of two eggs from the flat roof of a building in the heart of the city.

The roof was of gravel and so much did the eggs resemble it, that it required a search of ten minutes by four persons to find them. There was no sign of a nest—scarcely a hollow. The eggs do not differ from those found in the fields. Upon blowing they were found to be nearly fresh. The birds were not at home when we called but were seen circling near the building several times during our stay.

WILLARD N. CLUTE.

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Omaha Crows Again.

In reply to "Coleopterist" (in May OÖLOGIST) I will say:

1st. That Government reports are not always correct in every particular as has been proven before now. *Humanum est errare.*

2d. I have examined the stomachs of a number of Crows, and find as I said in the March OÖLOGIST, that they contained mostly offal and animal matter, and especially has that been the case with young birds.

"Coleopterist says that "the Crow is valuable occasionally as a scavenger." I say and can prove that they are good

scavengers at all times, and if he will pay the expenses I will send him unopened stomachs in alcohol so that he can make personal examinations of them.

However as I said in my previous article on this subject, the Crow of this vicinity seems to have some different habits from the Crow of parts of Ohio, Indiana and Pennsylvania and very likely their qualities as scavengers differ also.

I do not mean to say that the Crow does not do any damage, but only that "He is not as black as he is painted."

Faithfully Yours

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,  
Omaha, Neb.

---

An "Owly" Find.

A few days ago, a friend of mine, Geo. H. Jenkins, and myself, went after Burrowing Owls' eggs. We found two holes. One contained 11 eggs, and a young Owl besides the old pair. Most of the eggs were highly incubated. The other hole seemed to be endless, but just as we were about to give it up, we saw the old female. One more stroke with the spade and I could reach them. I reached them! I got a handful of owls instead of eggs, as I had expected. I pulled them out and reached in again. More Owls. Again. The same thing. I pulled out Owls, *Owls* and more OWLS.

Fourteen young Owls, and two old Owls came out of that hole. The young ranged from about two days old up to almost full-grown owls, and presented a comical sight, sitting in the grass. There can be no doubt but that they were all of one family, as there were no other Owls within two miles of there.

MERLIN C. JOHNSON,  
Aberdeen, So. Dak.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, Orleans Co., N. Y.

\*\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

ENTERED AT THE POST OFFICE AT ALBION, N. Y., AS SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

**MAY CONTEST.**  
Sixty-nine Judges.

Prize winners and credits received by each article were as follows:

1. The Woodpeckers. .... 298
  2. Phainopepla, or Black-crested Flycatcher. .... 284
  3. Some of Our Louisiana Birds... 148
  4. "Among the Blue-grays"... 136
  5. The Wood Ibis..... 76
- Ten other articles received from 1 to 29 credits each.

Twenty-eight of the judges named the prize winning articles and five named their exact order, to these five the judges prizes were awarded.

The fortunate jurists was as follows:

1. No. 19—Albert Garrett, Lawrence, Kansas.
2. No. 37—F. E. Atwood, Chelsea, Vt.
3. No. 52—W. H. LaPrade, Jr., New Orleans, La.
4. No. 59—John A. Collins, Jr., Fall River, Mass.
5. No. 68—A. R. Hutchinson, Gaines, N. Y.

All prizes were mailed on June 22d.

**Sitta Canadensis in Montana.**

On June 3rd of this year it was my good fortune to find a partially incubated set of six eggs of the Red-breasted Nuthatch, (*Sitta canadensis*,) near Helena, Montana.

The nest was in a cavity, excavated in a decayed pine stump, some three feet from the ground. Below the entrance, which was perfectly round, and just large enough to admit the bird, the stump was smeared, for several inches down, with pine pitch, which I found to be still somewhat soft and sticky. I understand that this is a trait peculiar to this bird, but what their object can be I am at a loss to understand: Can it be that this pitch, by becoming soft from the heat of the sun, serves to prevent small insects such as ants, woodticks and other vermin, from invading the nest? Such insects, in endeavoring to walk on the pitch, would invariably stick fast and they could then be devoured by the birds at their leisure. However, this is only a conjecture, and I would be glad to receive some information upon the subject.

I had hard work to induce the female to leave the nest and only succeeded by enticing her out with the end of my pocket-handkerchief. She made a dash at it, and, upon my pulling it away quickly, she followed it clear outside. Once out, I made it a point not to allow her to return. On the bottom of the

cavity, which was some five inches in depth, the birds had placed a large quantity of loose wood fibres for a nest.

There was such a large quantity of them that at first I thought the excavation was only two or three inches deep.

This mass of fibres, with an occasional feather, formed a soft fluffy cushion and the eggs, which were a very light cream, spotted with reddish brown, were partially covered by the ends of the fibres which overlapped them. As the bird was entirely new to me, I was forced to shoot one, which proved to be the male, to make identification certain.

I had no trouble in tracing him by "Coues" and I now have the satisfaction of possessing, probably, the first set of eggs of this bird ever taken in Montana.

O. E. CROOKER,  
Helena, Montana.

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#### A Few Notes on the Red-tailed Hawk.

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The Red-tailed Hawk, *Buteo borealis* is a resident wherever found. In this locality it is the commonest of our large hawks. The bird begins laying the last of February. Last year the first set was taken here on the twenty-eighth of February. This year we began looking for them much before that date, but although many nests were examined, no eggs were taken until the thirteenth of March, when out of eighteen nests, old and new, one was found to contain an elegant set of two slightly incubated eggs.

Col. Goss, in his admirable "Birds of Kansas," says that the number of eggs laid by this bird is "three or four." I have never heard of a set of four eggs being taken here, and only occasionally of three eggs being taken; and I think that nine times out of ten, two will be found to be the usual complement. At least this has been my experience. This year, I have found a set of one egg, but I think this was due to a wind-storm, which had blown out a previous nest of

the Hawks. For it was probably the same pair which we had seen two weeks before, building a nest in a giant sycamore a half mile down the creek; and upon returning, fully expecting to find an elegant set of eggs, we found a few sticks on the ground to tell the story of our shattered hopes. But what oölogist has not suffered similar disappointments? Why relate experiences which we all have had? But to return—the Hawks had probably repaired to the nearest nest and finished their set.

I have found the nest at various heights, as for instance—39 ft., 52 ft., 55½ ft., 65 ft., 66 ft., 76½ ft. and 86 ft. These are all actually *measured* distances.—The first case was in a densely wooded district, and no high trees were accessible; but the others were in districts where trees a hundred feet high could easily have been found. From these figures it will be seen that the Hawk prefers a nesting site from fifty to seventy feet from the ground.

One incident has led me to believe that the placing of "dummy" eggs in the nest, after taking out an incomplete set, is useless. Last year, a Red-tail's nest was found, containing one fresh egg. This egg was taken, but we had no "dummy" to leave and we supposed of course that because of that, the Hawk would leave the nest; but two weeks later, two more eggs were taken from the nest.

One peculiar thing was noticed in this year's collecting. Much has been written about the persistency with which the Red-tailed Hawk occupies the same nest year after year; but our experience this year has been that in the first place, to our knowledge, not one nest from which sets were taken last year, was occupied this year;—and in fact, one or two nests which were unmolested last year, were unoccupied. Quite a number of old nests were blown out of the trees during a two days' wind-storm; but it was long past

time for these nests to have owners. From these various experiences, I am inclined to believe that the Red-tailed Hawk does not occupy the same nest so much as is commonly believed. I would like to hear from others on the point, whether the Red-tailed Hawk occupies the same nest after it has been disturbed the previous year. I will have a wide field to work next year, and hope to be able to decide more about this point.

ALBERT GARRETT,  
Lawrence, Kansas.

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### The Hummingbird in S. C.

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The Ruby-throated is the only member of the Hummingbird family that we have in South Carolina that I know of. I have heard persons say that they have seen Hummingbirds that did not belong to the Ruby-throated variety, but it is very likely that they were mistaken.

It is a common sight in the city to see Hummingbirds darting around among the flowers in the yard; or while sitting in the piazza, to see one within a few feet of you poised on musical wing before some potted plant.

Although we see them much oftener in the city than elsewhere, they only visit the city on excursions of pleasure, as they have their real home and breed in the woods.

I have been very lucky in finding Hummingbird nests, having found ten in the last four years, while I do not know of another collector in this vicinity who has found more than two in that time.

My first nest was found in 1889, and I found it by watching the birds fly from a large poplar tree where they were feeding and then following in the direction they flew. A friend was with me and we saw the bird as she flew to her nest in a good-sized pine tree, about 40 feet up. This nest was built in a curious position. A small

twig grew straight down and about half way had two cones growing together one on each side of the twig as is often seen. The birds built on top of one cone, the nest being fastened along its side to the twig. I tried very hard to get this nest and set but it was far out on a small limb, so I only succeeded in getting the nest, breaking the eggs and nearly breaking my neck.

In 1890 I found two nests. While walking along through the woods I heard a Hummingbird, so I kept perfectly still and presently saw her fly to a sweet-gum tree and light on her nest, which was just begun. When the time came for getting the nest, it had disappeared, and I found out afterwards that a party of negroes found it and tried to get it, but broke the eggs in the attempt.

I found the second nest, of that year in very much the same way, but it was in a small slender gum and contained one egg when I found it. On account of the tree being so slender, I could not climb it without its bending so far over as to spill out the eggs, so I propped it up with a forked sapling and then climbed it. Altogether I had a good deal of trouble getting it, as it was so far out on the limb that I had to cut the limb off and while I was cutting, I had to keep from shaking out the eggs and also hold up my whole weight by wrapping my legs around the tree, which being small made it very tiring. But I got my first set of eggs out of it which repaid all my trouble.

Last year I found four nests. The first was in a pine tree which was very hard to climb, but I finally got up and tried to get the nest but failed as it was too far out. The next was in a pine too, about 30 feet up, but she left it after she had laid one egg. The third was in a small oak tree on a limb about six feet from the ground and directly over a path that was not used much. I got a nice set of two from this nest. The fourth

was way out on a limb of a large long-leaf or yellow pine, and as I had very little time, I didn't try to get it.

I have found three nests this year, which I think is doing pretty well, considering the limited time I have for hunting. On May 11, while walking through a small group of pines, I heard a Hummingbird and after finding her, I soon found the nest, as she went back to it after a few preliminary darts here and there. But it was about fifty feet high and very far out on a limb, so I didn't think there was much use trying to get it. The next evening, May 12th, I started out rather late and went in a different direction, and while walking along, heard a "Hummer" and saw her dart past me and fly out of sight among the trees. I thought that looked suspicious so I stopped and waited. She soon came back and lit on a pine near by but was very restless so I began to look around for the nest. In a few minutes I saw it on a swinging hickory limb about eight feet from the ground. The limb was a little troublesome to pull down, but it wasn't long before I had it cut off and the eggs packed safely in my box. I then continued my walk.

About 200 yards further on, I was going along among some hickory trees when I heard another "Hummer" and saw her fly out and light in a pine tree. From past experience I was quite certain that I had flushed her from her nest and that she would go right back to it, but seeing a Wood Pewee acting suspiciously I left the Hummingbird and watched the Pewee. After watching her about fifteen minutes I found her nest in a pine tree and then went back to watch the Hummingbird but I could not find her. Ordinarily, I wouldn't have taken my eyes off that bird for a second until she went to her nest or flew away, but this time I felt strangely, but perfectly, confident that I would find the nest, so I didn't mind leaving her. I knew about the place

she flew from at first so I retraced my former route but didn't see or hear anything of the bird. I then went over it again hitting the limbs with my stick and this time was rewarded by hearing her fly from among the trees. As I didn't see exactly where she flew from I didn't stop to look but followed the bird until she lit in a pine tree about forty feet distant and began to plume herself. After watching her about ten minutes she flew around among the trees a little while and then settled on her nest. It proved much more difficult to get than the other one as it was about twenty feet high and near the end of a limb six feet long, but it was a hickory tree so I succeeded in bending it around and getting both eggs and nest safe.

From the numbers we see about the flowers and gardens in the spring and summer, I judge they must breed quite numerously in this part of the state, but they are of such small dimensions and fly so swiftly that it is very hard to find their tiny nests, which are made of cotton, thistle-down, fern-down, willow-down and other vegetable "downs" covered on the outside with fine lichens daintily stuck on with spider-web and caterpillar-silk.

From my observations they seem to prefer the pine as a building site as, of my ten nests, five have been in pine trees, two in gums, two in hickories and one in an oak. Six of them were in high ground and four in low ground. Eight of them were in clear woods, free of underbrush,

The only note I have ever heard them utter is a peculiar little "cackle" as it is called, used principally when they chase each other through the air with such swiftness that the eye can scarcely keep pace with them.

A. R. HEYWARD, JR.,  
Columbia, S. C.

## WORLD'S FAIR NOTES.

A solid gold brick, weighing 500 pounds and worth \$150,000, will be exhibited in the Mines and Mining building at the World's Fair by a Helena, Mon., mine owner.

The high school of San Diego, Cal., gave a grand Fourth of July celebration and will devote the proceeds toward making a complete collection of San Diego fish for exhibition at the World's Fair. The specimens will be preserved in alcohol and properly labeled, etc.

The ethnological exhibit at the World's Fair will include many curios from the Charlotte Islands.

A schooner is now being fitted out at Halifax to go to the arctic regions to get ten or twelve Esquimo families, fifty or sixty persons in all, for exhibition at the World's Fair. Dogs, fishing implements, utensils; and everything necessary to show Esquimo life, will also be procured.

May OöLOGIST announced that ostrich eggs, artistically painted in a prize competition, were to be a feature in the exhibit from Cape Colony, South Africa. This competition has been held. Nineteen contestants, mostly young women, participated, and furnished designs which the Cape press praises highly, as being very artistic and beautiful. Each contestant submitted half a dozen beautifully decorated eggs, all of which will be exhibited at the World's Fair. The subjects of the paintings include flowers, birds, animals, landscapes, public buildings, etc. The gem of the whole collection, painted by Miss Van Reenan, winner of the first prize of £7 10s, is reported to be a fairy figure standing on a vine leaf drawn by a butterfly, with underneath the words "To Chicago."

## Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America; apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

## Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OöLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (July) OöLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OöLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OöLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the August competition we will give a similar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than August 10th: Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OöLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

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**FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.,**



# OÖLOGIST.



Monthly.

50c. per Year.

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NO. 8

## NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

### Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

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WANTED.—Some one to purchase a collection of first-class bird eggs which I will sell at a bargain. Address J. P. STEVENS, JR., 200 Amite St., Jackson, Mississippi.

WANTED. A good detective camera. Will give in exchange finely mounted birds. Wm. BROWN, Hebron, McHenry Co. Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have some first-class singles, including sea birds eggs, to exchange for sets with data. Send for list. L. W. BROKAW, Pacific Grove, California.

I HAVE a number of rare stamps and single eggs to exchange for sets with data. W. H. SINTON, 226 Spears Wharf, Balto., Md.

FIRST-CLASS EGGS in sets with data and singles to exchange for singles and Davie's Key in paper. Correspondence desired. W. E. ROBBINS, North Cahocton, New York.

TO EXCHANGE.—A pair of tame Horned Owls full grown young birds, for best offer of sets or single eggs not in my collection. E. B. SCHRAGE, Pontiac, Mich.

TO EXCHANGE.—Southern California eggs in first-class original sets and singles for first-class Eastern sets. H. D. WATTS, Compton, Los Angeles Co., Cal.

FOR SALE.—A new pair of Lattin's Climbing Irons, strapped ready for use, for only \$1.75. Address CARL C. AMBROSE, 425 Clark St. Evanston, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—Eggs in sets with data for same or for Postage Stamps. BERYL HODGE, Sterling, Kans.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class Eggs in Sets and Singles with complete and original datas to exchange for same. W. A. OLDFIELD, Port Sanilac, Mich.

WHAT am I offered for fine sets of Whippoorwill and Night-hawk eggs, with complete data? All letters answered. JOS. S. WALKER, Evelyn, Glynn Co. Ga.

IN EXCHANGE for Birds' Eggs, I prepare badly incubated eggs and return them in first-class condition. Pack eggs carefully. R. LEY, Cobourg, Ont., Canada.

WANTED.—B or C Kodak Camera, will give in exchange 1st. class eggs in sets. J. P. FEAGLER, Waterloo, Ind.

COLLECTING GUN WANTED.—Send full description, original price, your present price, etc. All letters answered. GEO. H. GRAY, 1326 N. Mount St., Balto., Md.

I WILL exchange specimens of any kind for back numbers of natural history papers. ROY HATHWAY, New Castle, Ind.

WILL exchange eggs with Northern amateurs, sets preferred. One egg of Mongolian Pheasant to exchange for good set of eggs. EDWARD OSBORNE, 81 Fulton St. Auburn, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—For Davie's Key, new, cloth bound, 1 set of Night-hawk 2 eggs, 1 of Tufted Tit 4 eggs, and 1 Albino Bluebird egg, all first-class with data. C. F. DUNN, Scroggsfield, Ohio.

I HAVE a good supply of European Coleoptera on hand, mounted and unmounted, all correctly named, which I will exchange for domestic Spec. of Coleopt. Spec. from the South and Northwest particularly desired, no matter whether named or not. Prefer them unmounted if possible. Address P. J. WEITH, Elkhart, Ind.

FINE first-class sets with full data of Great Horned Owl Red tailed Hawk and others, to exchange for sets of other localities or for Indian relics. Send lists. CHAS. R. KEYES, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—Offers in Birds' Eggs for "War-ranted fine silver," hunting case watch. Send \$1 in eggs and see it yourself. R. LEY, Co-bourg, Ont., Canada.

WANTED.—First-class telescope, \$8 or more. Offered, arrowpoints, single eggs, trees, shrubs, flowers and insects from this locality. Write, C. E. PLEAS, Clinton, Ark.

A collection of named, mounted Beetles, 85 pairs, 50 kinds, including 5 pairs *Dynastes tityus* worth \$10 or more, to exchange for best offer of first-class eggs, sets with data. Address THOMAS ALLEN SMITHWICK, Walke, Bertie Co., North Carolina.

WANTED.—First-class birds' skins in exchange for full sets, with data, of N. A. Birds' eggs. Only 1st class specimens given and taken. All mail answered. D. FRANK KELLER, Naturalist, Reading, Pa..

RECEIPT for petryfying wood, etc. 30c., receipt for embalming birds, 30c., both 50c., in eggs. WILL SPEED, 308 Monmouth, St., Galesburg, Ill.

100 HANDSOME DATA BLANKS, printed in red or black, with cut of nest and eggs in corner, and your name and address under "Oölogical Collection of," for every full set of eggs sent me worth 75c. or over. F. W. McCORMACK, Leighton, Ala.

I HAVE an International Stamp album and 287 stamps, full value \$8.50, will exchange for \$5 worth of minerals or Indian Relics. A Tennis Raquet worth \$2.50 for \$1.50 Minerals or Relics. L. W. DELANO, Austin, Ills.

THESE SKINS, Kentucky Warbler, Orchard Oriole (?), Spotted Sandpiper 1st class and Whip-poor-will fair, for 1st class Turnstone, Black Skimmer, or Logcock. J. C. GALLO-WAY, Montgomery, Ohio.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A. O. U. 337 1-3, and 474b 1-3 also a few singles, for any of the following, 325 1-2, 417 1-1, 420 1-1, 221 1-5, 1 1-3, 2 1-3, 12 1-3, 77 1-4, 104 1-2, 373 1-3, 552 1-4, 552a 1-3, 687 1-3, 721b 1-5, 725 1-8. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Aymer, Ont., Canada.

EXCHANGE.—First-class sets with data of this and other localities to exchange for same. Also a lot of showy singles to exchange for sets. Send li-ts. JESSE W. MILLER, 1104 Dallas Ave., Houston Texas.

I WILL give the "Great Divide's" Gem-stone cabinet of 20 Gemstones for original set of Cooper's Hawk Eggs, with Data. JAMES ODELL, Jr., Austin, Tex.

FOR SALE—Young Bald Eagle, in good health. Will sell for CASH. CLARENCE MILLER, Frankfort, Ind.

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TO EXCHANGE—A. O. U. first class sets with full data 445  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 477a  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1-5, 593  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 692  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 702  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1-5, 705  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 718  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1-5, 729  $\frac{1}{2}$ , 1-5 for others. CHAS. WISE, York Station, Alabama.

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WANTED to Exchange—a fine collection of Birds Eggs for a Bicycle, Eagle ordinary or Victor Safety preferred. Send stamp for particulars. FRED JONES, P. O. Box, No, 54, Martin's Ferry, O.

WANTED, a Winchester or Marlin repeating rifle, 32 calibre, or larger. Smith & Wesson revolver. Will give good exchange in Birds eggs, Books, 20 Guage Collecting gun, and outfit, Brass Telescope, Watch, 22 calibre Pistol, C. BYRON VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE—I have 150 Birds Eggs, 100 different kinds. Exchange for Watch or single breech-loading Shot Gun, 12 guage, with all improvements. J. H. GRAHAM, West Buxton, Maine.

FOR SALE—35 sets with data, 175 eggs, books, instruments, papers, and supplies, must be sold immediately without regard to price. Back numbers of "Youth's Companion," Indian Relics, etc. to exchange for any offers. B. H. BLANTON, Frankfort, Ky.

WANTED—Cash offers for an A 1 collection of 66 varieties complete sets, listed at \$17.00. Also a lot of duplicate sets and singles, 150 trays, drills, and complete vols. of "Oölogist" and "Ornithologist and Oölogist," climbers, etc. H. M. HALL, 399 1st St., Riverside, Cal.

FIRST-CLASS eggs in sets with data, and singles to exchange for singles and Davie's Key in paper. Correspondence desired. W. E. ROBBINS, North Cahocton, N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE—First-class skins with full data to exchange for same. Also climbers, telescopes, and books on Ornithology, for skins. W.M. T. SMITH, 1145 Broad Street, Phila.

AGENTS WANTED ON SALARY or commission, to handle the new Patent Chemical Ink Erasing Pencil. The quickest and greatest selling novelty ever produced. Erases ink thoroughly in two seconds. No abrasion of paper. Works like magic. 300 to 500 per cent profit. One Agent's sales amounted to \$20 in six days. Another \$32 in two hours. Previous experience not necessary. For terms and full particulars, address THE MONROE ERASER Mfg Co., La Crosse, Wis. x 456. Je3t

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

What \$1 will bring when sent to  
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 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.  
 1 " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.  
 1 " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.  
 1 " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand  
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and  
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.  
 1 " " Chief Sitting Bull.  
 1 " " Three Hostile Chiefs.  
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.  
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs  
 sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Je3t

"82" is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers on Aug.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., AUG., 1892.

NO. 8

## Collecting on Cobb's Island, Va.

Extending along the Atlantic side of the Eastern shore of Virginia is a series of flat grassy islands, many of which are so low as to be covered with water at high tide. Some are there however which rear their backs high enough above the waves to be safe from an over-flow. Such a one as this is Cobb's Island, a large low sand spit which at flood tide is only a few feet above water. It is seven miles in length, while in width it is scarcely over an eighth of a mile, except at the south end where it widens out considerably and gives ample room for the buildings of a United States Life Saving Station, a hotel and several residences owned by parties who make them their summer homes. The ocean breaks continuously for the entire length on the eastern side of the island. Stretching along the western shore for perhaps half its length a salt marsh with its cackling Rails and low hovering Gulls makes the collector impatient to know what it contains. After going about three-fourths of the way up the island from the hotel one comes to a stretch of bare sand the width of the island and a mile or more in length. Scarcely a blade of grass is to be found on this blistering beach, yet this is a rookery and the breeding place of nearly all the birds on the island. Skimmers, Terns, Plovers and Oystercatchers all find a genial nest for their eggs in the warm sand: In the tall grass along the western side of the island Willets find a safe retreat for their nests.

While on an a collecting trip this last summer I stopped for several days on Cobb's Island, arriving there on July 15th: There is no doubt but that this was at one time a great nesting place

for sea birds. Prof. Ridgeway tells us of finding, years ago, a colony of thousands of Royal Terns breeding in close proximity on this island. But the colony was soon afterwards driven away and they have never been known to frequent the place since. During the entire time of my stay upon the island I did not see a single individual and Captain Crumb of the United States Life Saving Station who is an excellent Ornithologist,—and to whom I am indebted for much valuable information— informs me that he considers it a rather rare resident upon the island. Not so with the Common and Forster's Tern, they are still to be met with in considerable numbers. The former placing its eggs in a slight hollow in the sand along the beach above high-water mark; the latter building its nest of flags and reeds in convenient places in the marsh. But alas, for the Least Tern! That beautiful fairy of snowy whiteness! Once it bred in vast numbers upon the beaches of Cobb's and adjacent islands. Scores of them were sacrificed for science, hundreds were killed for practice by the so-called sportsman during his summer outing and *thousands* were pitilessly slain and sent to New York to help gratify "Fashion's" cry for bird feathers. I was told by a gentleman that not many years ago he took in one day from a single rookery three hundred birds. Think of it, and now it is one of the rarest birds on the island. Upon one occasion only did I see the *S. antillarum*. It perceived me apparently at the same time and with a startled cry was off like a bullet upon the wings of the wind. As I watched it dwindle into a mere speck out over the billows I coveted it yet could not blame the little fellow for fleeing from one of those monsters who had so sorely per-

secuted its tribe. Upon the morning of my second day's stay on Cobb's Island I took my collecting basket and after going about five miles up the beach came to where Black Skimmers and Terns were nesting in large numbers. Of course these birds do not sit on their eggs in the day time unless it be cloudy weather but trust to the heat of the sun to incubate them. Thus the only way to find the eggs was by looking close in the sand. Upon my near approach a large number of Skimmers which were sitting together on the sand rose with a loud clamor and pausing until within a few yards of my head they divided and passed to right and left. Turning they circled around flying wildly in all directions. The uproar soon brought others and in five minutes there were hundreds of Skimmers flying about in a confused throng, while high over all Terns by the hundred circled and whirled, at the same time giving utterance to their nervous and uneasy cry of wrath.

Of perhaps one hundred nests examined on this day three eggs were the most found in any one nest and not many were there which contained that number. In fact during all my stay I found it extremely difficult to obtain complete sets, so closely do the fishermen keep them picked off. The same day while returning I flushed several Willets from the tall grass on one side of the island and found the nests to contain nice sets of eggs. Three sets of three and two of four, were found, all of which were fresh laid eggs with the exception fo one nest which contained pipped eggs.

Wishing to visit some of the Laughing Gull's nests in the marsh I procured a pair of hip-boots and after a few hours tramping and wading secured what few sets I wanted. The nests were large and bulky affairs of rushes and reeds built up on a large bunch of rushes or drift-grass. Three were the

greatest number of eggs found in any one nest and nearly all contained this number. The nests were not all bunched together in one place but were scattered here and there over the entire marsh. Clapper Rails constantly called to one another from their hidden retreats among the tall grass and several of their nests were observed. Many of the eggs had hatched. Of the few nests which were found to contain eggs only one set was found which was not too far advanced in incubation to allow blowing. The number in a nest varied from seven to twelve. Several nests were found on the higher ground of the island above high-water mark.

The Wilson's Plover is the most common shore bird on the island at this season of the year although flocks of last year's young of Semipalmated and Spotted Sandpipers were seen. A few Black-bellied Plovers were secured, none of these had as yet assumed their black under plumage. These birds remain along the coast all summer, as they do not go north until ready to breed which is not until their second year. Several pairs of dignified Oystercatchers paroled the beach, but they were so extremely shy that it was only by exercising considerable caution that I secured a single pair. Their nests were very difficult to find, four eggs being the total number secured while on the island. Other birds that I observed during my stay were as follows: several Ospreys, Gt. Blue Herons and Gull-billed Terns, quite a number of Boat-tailed Grackles (which nest on a neighboring island), Green Herons and numbers of Barn Swallows, the latter nesting on the underside of the wharf near the hotel. Also Nighthawks and Sea-side Finches and one Long-billed Curlew was seen but was unable to procure it. While going down the beach one morning I spied sitting on the sand close to the surf an American Scoter. Cautiously creeping up behind a pile of

shells I discharged a load of No. 2's at it. It rose but after flying perhaps fifty feet, fell, and I standing there alone by the moaning sea watched my prize as it rose and fell on the billows, —drifting out to sea.

T. GILBERT PEARSON,  
(Museum),  
Guilford College, N. C.

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**The Ashy Petrel** (*Oceanodroma homochroa*)  
on the Farallones.

Having seen and read very little in the OÖLOGIST concerning the habits and breeding of that rare and beautiful bird, the Ashy Petrel, I venture my observations.

The morning of July 5th found my cousin, F. N. Kirschbaum and myself expectantly awaiting the departure of the tug-boat *Active* at the wharf in San Francisco. We gazed with admiration on the restless little boat as it rose and fell with the tide; and as the sun sent his first golden rays glittering over the waters, from behind the Eastern hills, we boarded the tug and were soon ploughing our way through the peaceful waters of the Bay of San Francisco toward the Golden Gate, on a trip to the Farallone Islands. Never shall I forget the beauty of that scene—the smoking of the ferry-boats as they prepared for another day's labor; the rapid skimming of some light fishing boat across our wake, and above all the beautiful quiet of the early morning hours.

But, as is the case of most amateur seamen beauties soon depreciated in value, as the form of the grim monster Seasickness came into view. The remainder of our voyage may have been lined with the most charming and picturesque scenery for aught we knew, but of it we saw nothing. Eventually we arrived at the Farallones, and I for one could imagine the feelings of poor Robinson Crusoe, as I stepped seasick, and dizzy, upon the barren rocks. This

feeling however, soon vanished and left me fitted to enjoy the beauties of the Islands.

We remained six days on the Farallones, during which time we collected many sets of eggs of the more common varieties, but it is of the Ashy Petrel that I wish to speak in detail. This is by no means a common resident, although I am convinced that these Islands are the breeding place of a liberal number. During my stay on the Islands I examined 18 nests, of the Ashy Petrel, 6 containing eggs; 7 containing young; and the remaining 3 containing only the broken shells, the young birds having left the nests.

My first observations were from a nest at the extreme end of a cave, damp and moss-grown, shown me by the genial Lighthouse Engineer, Mr. Winthar. The egg was lying on the damp ground with absolutely nothing for a nest. It was discolored by the moss on which it lay, and in some manner had become badly cracked. It was advanced in incubation and could not be blown.

Directly above the entrance to this cave, in the crevice of a large rock we noticed a forked tail protruding. Hastily ascending and reaching into the crevice, we pulled out a Petrel. Much to our disappointment and disgust, the hole proved to contain a promising young bird. It was from the old bird that I received a good deal of instruction in regard to collecting the eggs of this species. Let me say in the beginning that if you are not possessed of a moderately sensitive nasal apparatus, you can invest your time more profitably in collecting the other varieties of eggs, for "smelling" the Ashy Petrel is the only way you can find its nest.

Imagine a collector arrayed in a pair of overalls, crawling along some rough and ancient stone-wall on the Farallones, and inserting his nose at frequent intervals between the rocks,

and you have an idea of the successful Petrel hunter. After catching the bird on the nest near the cave, I took a few good whiffs of its feathers and this made me familiar with its scent. The Ashy Petrel has a musky smell, or as some term it— "strong."

On the following day I set out to spend an hour or two in hunting for these eggs, I repaired to a rocky cliff on the "West End" and selected a place where there were many loose slabs of rock. On smelling of a crevice in the cliff I immediately recognized the scent of the previous day and now I had a Petrel. By removing a number of the rocks I found the bird. She was unceremoniously removed but as the nest contained a young bird I replaced the mother. In color the adult bird was black, verging into a dark ash on the breast. The tail was forked  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch. The bird measured  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length and  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width, the wings of the Ashy Petrel being very long. The beak was a dull black and slightly hooked at the end, while at the base was a sort of tube which is used to spread oil over the bird's feathers. The feet were webbed.

I resumed my search and found two more nests in the same part of the cliff; one above and the other a little below my first. Both contained eggs but one was accidentally broken in removing it from the hole. Packing the other, I went to a stone wall about three feet high where I scented another bird. The nest was found among the stones on the ground and contained one egg which is invariably the full complement. In no case did I find any trace of a nest, save the bare rock. The remainder of my nests were situated quite close to the residents of the Island, and in most cases under piles of rocks and boulders which have, year after year, accumulated.

Out of the eight eggs found, two were broken by accident, while the remaining six I now have. Of these two

are cracked and incubated so as to be unblowable. The six eggs measure as follows: 1.12x.92; 1.13x.88; 1.12x.87; 1.18x.87; 1.25x.94; and 1.25x.88. This gives an average of 1.17x.89. In color, the egg of the Ashy Petrel is a creamy white when fresh, with usually a wreath of faint brown spots around the large end. Out of my six specimens two are very distinctly marked while the others are very faint.

The remainder of the nests examined were situated much the same as those I have described. In no case can any special place be given as preferable for Petrels, for they seem to breed almost anywhere among the rocks. But I have never yet found them in holes or burrows, they seeming to prefer crevices and rents in the rock. In the cases of some of the nests the birds must have zigzagged in among the sharp edges of stone until it found some flat ledge secure from molestation, where the single egg was laid, but it matters very little where the bird may be, if you are acquainted with its scent.

The Ashy Petrel is strictly a nocturnal bird, which, like Cassin's Auklet, renders it much more difficult of discovery. But the novelty and what might be termed excitement, of collecting these eggs will ever make memorable my trip to the Farallones.

C. BARLOW,  
Santa Clara, Cal.

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#### After the Yellow-billed Magpie.

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This bird is found nowhere in the world except California, where it nests in colonies throughout the state.

Unlike the European Magpie, which is said to nest in gardens, etc., ours resort to secluded places among the hills, where if unmolested they will propagate rapidly, occupying the same nest year after year and their colonies often extend for several miles.

On the 8th of April last, I determined to find a rookery and decided to explore

a portion of the mountains near here.

About fifteen miles to the eastward lay the hills and further on, the blue Santa Cruz range running from east to west in several chains, forming numerous valleys and canons my destination lay in one of these.

I had a pleasant ride, the road extending first through fields of green and oak groves, then among the hills covered with wild flowers and lastly through grey canons at the bottom of which ran noisy mountain streams.

As dusk approached I came to a rustic little cabin where I decided to pass the night. It was situated far in among the hills, without a habitation within many miles. A creek ran near the house where I caught a mess of mountain trout which added greatly to my supper.

Next morning I set out over the hills on foot, just as the sun was rising, and had walked about a mile when I saw a Magpie and soon after found a nest, from which I saw several others, and so was sure that I had found the desired colony. The nest was placed in the top of a white-oak, about thirty feet from the ground. When about half-way to the nest the Magpie flew off. I was excited and somewhat aggravated when I reached the nest, as I could not find the entrance from which the bird had just flown, but when I did find it, seven eggs resting upon a bed of horse hair and pine needles, met my gaze. The nest was over two feet high, and eighteen inches wide.

I found many more nests during the morning. They are a model of workmanship and cunning architecture. The outside appears like a mere mass of sticks about a foot long and as large as a lead pencil, but the nest proper is only about five inches wide and four deep inside, and is nicely lined with pine needles, and horse hair if accessible. Just outside of this is a layer of mud and then the sticks, which cover it en-

tirely, excepting an entrance for the parent bird. Altogether it is a very comfortable domicile for the young birds; a cool place in warm weather and a nearly dry place on a rainy day.

More than this, it shields them from the attack of hawks and animals.

They are exceedingly cunning as a story shows. A pair of Magpies in England built their nest regularly in a small bush in a farm yard. As there were no trees in the neighborhood, the birds were obliged to seek this spot, and to to guard against all intruders they scattered thorns around the bush which would have baffled the slyest fox.

The nests are often built in mistletoe which makes them difficult to observe, and if they should be seen would be taken for old affairs.

When climbing the tree the Magpie very quietly leaves the nest, but when taking the eggs both parents will often fly around close to you, uttering their harsh note. The denominating colors are black and white.

The birds are about sixteen inches long but their tail occupies one-half of this length. It is wedge-shaped, the two middle feathers being longest, and black in color.

The wings are short and rounded, black above and white on the edges below. Head, neck, breast, and back, black with a few small greyish streaks on throat. Below breast and shoulders white. The wings and tail especially, display several iridescent colors.

The distinguishing features between the California species and the common Magpie, are in one the yellow bill and a bare yellow space about the eye,

In the American species the bill is black.

They have a dipping flight similar to a Jay.

I found the average set of eggs to be six or seven, although less and occasionally eight or nine are laid. The ground color is a very light drab, thick-

ly spotted over the entire surface but settling heavier at the larger end with cloudings of a greenish brown interspread by indistinct lilac markings.

While walking across a wooded patch after lunch, my attention was attracted by a pair of Slender-billed Nuthatches walking up and down the limbs of an oak tree, when presently to my delight one of them entered a knot-hole about fifteen feet from the ground in an adjoining tree. It did not fly out until I reached the entrance, which was no larger than a dollar. I managed to enlarge the opening and found seven fresh eggs.

The bird resembles the White-breasted Nuthatch, being the western representative, as do the eggs also. They are white, speckled with red and purplish markings, principally at the larger end.

The nest was about one foot from the entrance, being horizontally in from the end of a broken limb, and was composed of loosely laid feathers and a wooly substance.

At length while walking slowly toward the cabin I crossed a gulch through which ran a little mountain torrent composed of waterfalls and rapids that sped down the rocky canon like mad, splashing spray on the ferns that grew beside its banks, making everything fresh and green surrounding it.

I sat down in the shady dell admiring the gigantic red-woods that towered above me 300 feet, when I was suddenly startled by hearing a whirr of wings, and just had time to catch a glimpse of a dark colored bird as it disappeared around a bend in the stream.

I walked up the creek a short distance little suspecting what was in store for me, till I came to a little grotto formed of rocks, at the end of which a streamlet entered by a fall, and flowing about a rod, entered the main stream. I never can forget that exquisite sight, the spray from the water-fall filled the place with a rare crystalline freshness added to by the setting sun shining on the diamond-

like sprays, spreading a rich golden lustre over the scene.

But the sight to interest a collector most, was the beautiful moss-covered nest perched in a little nook near the falls, bespangled with spray which kept it fresh and green.

This accounted for the frightened bird I saw a moment ago flying down the stream, and upon examining the nest I found in the nice dry center of it—four young Water Ouzels.

FRED A. SCHNEIDER,  
College Park, Cala.

#### An Oological Trip in Central Illinois.

Having planned to make a trip to the woodlands on the opposite bank from this city, my Oological friend and I departed bright and early one beautiful Wednesday morning in May for the field of our labor. Among the articles we took along were a set of instruments, a note book, some data blanks, a ball of strong cord, some tin boxes fastened to belts and filled with cotton, a pair of climbers, and last, but not least, a basket full of lunch. As the Lamarsh levee had broken, the lowlands were flooded with from 6 to 15 feet of water, so we were obliged to arrive at the bluffs before commencing operations. The *Antrosmus vociferus* (Whip-poor-will) were very plentiful, being driven out of the lowlands by the high water, and we could hardly walk two or three rods without scaring one up from the ground. We found no eggs, however, as it was a little early yet. While thumping dried and rotten trees and stumps, and peering into the thick undergrowth I suddenly spied a nest of the Cardinal Grosbeak. The female was on the nest and was a close sitter. It was situated among grape vines along a limb of a fallen tree, and was composed of bark, pine grasses, rootlets, etc., and contained three eggs of a bluish-white tint,

with fine brown or reddish-brown spots all over the shell. Having secured these, and written the particulars in our note book, we once more resumed our way.

We found three nests of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, two of which were unfinished, the other containing three eggs. These specimens were of a greenish-blue tint more or less spotted over the entire surface with reddish-brown. This nest was situated on a horizontal limb of a dogwood tree, about eleven feet from the ground and was composed mostly of fine grass, etc., and was very shallow.

We now seated ourselves beneath the branches of a large oak to do justice to our lunch basket. When this important ceremony was almost finished, my friend noticed a large, graceful bird hovering over a tree some distance away. I at once recognized it to be an American Goshawk, *Accipiter Atricapillus*, a kind often seen in these parts, but so far as known, seldom breeding here. We hastened in the direction of this great find, and soon discovered a large bulky nest at the top of a tall white oak tree. It was composed of sticks, weeds, grass, roots etc., and lined with softer material. My friend adjusted the climbing irons, and proceeded to ascend the tree. The large bird gave a loud scream and flew to a neighboring tree as my friend slid his hand into the nest and announced "three eggs." After securing them safely in a tin box he carried for the purpose, he descended, and we were soon examining the treasured booty. The eggs were of a bluish-white, or very light blue tint, rough and unmarked, and slightly incubated, measuring 2.23x1.82, 2.28x1.75 and 2.29x1.74 respectively.

Upon returning we procured the following sets: two sets of four, Brown Thrasher; one set of four, Catbird; and another set of four, Rose-breasted

Grosbeak; and "spotted" several unfinished nests for our next trip.

We returned home tired and hungry, but well satisfied with our day's sport.

Two weeks later I took two sets of two, Whip-poor-will; one of three, Least Bittern and a set of nine Gallinule eggs near the same place.

F. E. LUX,  
Pekin, Ill.

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#### Western New York Naturalists' Association.

The first stated meeting of the W. N. Y. N. A. will be held at Brockport, N. Y. on Thursday, Oct. 6, 1892. Business meeting at 2:30 P. M. Public meeting in the evening commencing at 8 P. M. All active members should be at business meeting as there is much to be done. Will publish name of building in Sept. No. of OÖLOGIST. All wishing to make exhibits please correspond with the Secretary, Truman R. Taylor, 90, William St. Rochester, or Neil F. Posson, Medina, Orleans Co., N. Y. All articles should be sent to the Secretary.

E. H. SHORT, Pres.  
T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

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#### "Our Birds in Their Haunts."

*My Dear Friend Lattin:*

Be so kind as to notice in the OÖLOGIST, that my book—"Our Birds in Their Haunts," new edition will soon be out; and that I have been greatly worried with delays on the part of the printer. In addition to other perplexities, many of the plates, which are very fine electrotypes, adhered to the card-board in which they were packed, thus causing great difficulty in cleaning them for the press, and great loss of time. My subscribers have been very patient, for which I most cordially thank them.

Yours very truly,  
J. L. LANGILLE,  
Kensington, Md.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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\*\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

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## JUNE CONTEST.

### Fifty-two Judges.

Prize Winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. A Day's Collecting in California. 212.
1. Some of Our Visitors and Neighbors. 158.
3. The Purple Finch. 140.

4. Two Rare Nests. 113.
5. The Chestnut-sided Warbler. 63.
6. The Turkey Vulture. 54.

(As "The Turkey Vulture" received credits exceeding the number of judges we award it a sixth prize.)

Four other articles received from 4 to 17 credits each.

Sixteen of the judges named the first five prize winning articles, only two, however naming their exact order.

The lucky judges and the order in which they made their decisions were as follows:

1. No. 37.—W. A. Achilles, Austin, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
2. No. 44.—A. R. Hutchinson, Gaines, N. Y. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
3. No. 25.—Herbert Sterzing, Austin, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
4. No. 50.—W. S. Cruzan, Sulphur Springs, Tex. 1, 2, 3, 5, 4.
5. No. 21.—Dana C. Gillette, Barre Centre, N. Y. 1, 2, 4, 3, 5.

All prizes were mailed on Aug. 2d.

## Iowa Notes.

I send you a few Iowa notes which may be of interest to some of your readers. First a friend collected a single egg of the King Rail near here along the edge of a shallow lake near the river. The egg corresponds exactly to an egg of this bird which I have in my collection. Also last spring, '91, I shot one of these birds near the same place. Is not this a rather rare occurrence? I have found four nests of the Acadian Flycatcher near here, three of which contained eggs two sets of two and one of three. Two of these sets were well advanced in incubation and the other fresh. Two of the nests are very unique specimens. I think, being almost entirely made of dried blossoms of the common scrub oak and suspended between the forks of a limb of a small tree, somewhat after the manner of the Vireos, but being much shallow-

er and presenting a very ragged appearance underneath. The other two were made of grass and are very frail structures.

I find the Wood Pewee to be very common here having found eight nests within a radius of less than half a mile. They prefer the elm and scrub oak and the nests are very often built on dead limbs.

A small boy found a nest of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird containing two eggs. I found two nests which I identified as those of the Traill's Flycatcher. Among other nests found are those of the Redstart five nests, Yellow-throated Vireo one nest, two nests of Bell's Vireo and several of the Red-eyed and White-eyed species. The Yellow Warbler is very abundant here, I could have taken fifty sets had I wished.

Last but not least I took one egg of the Red-tailed Hawk this spring which was absolutely unspotted. It is also a trifle larger than any others I have seen. The identification is correct, I think, as I saw both of the birds.

T. E. S.,  
Council Bluffs, Ia.

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#### The Chickadee, in Rutland Co., Vt.

As I have never seen very much concerning the habits of this bird in the columns of the OÖLOGIST; I thought a few lines on my part would not go amiss.

My first acquaintance with the nesting habits of this bird began, in the spring of this year, during which time I have found three nests each containing eggs.

On the 2nd of May, 1892, when on a trip after a nest of Cooper's Hawk I discovered a newly excavated hole in a beech stub about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet up, and at once recognized it to be an uncompleted nest of *Parus atricapillus*. I kept close watch of the birds as they brought material for the construction of the nest, which consisted of leaves, moss

and grass with a lining of fur from small quadrupeds and hair. On May 10th there were seven eggs in the nest of a white color spotted all over, but chiefly at the larger end, with spots of reddish-brown; which measured respectively .62x.49, .61x.48, .60x.49, .59x.48, .59x.47, .59x.47 and .58x.47 inches.

My second nest was discovered on May 11th while on a collecting trip with my fellow collector, but not being completed was marked down for the next trip. On May 20th I returned to the nest and secured a fine set of six eggs, the average size being .59x.48 inches.

My third, and last, nest was built in the same stub from which I obtained my first set, and probably by the same birds, as it was very late being found on June 27th. It contained five eggs, incubation apparently advanced, but as I did not take them I cannot say.

The birds are very close setters, and no amount of pounding will bring them off, but the minute you stop and stand back a little way they will flit off.

The birds remain here all winter and traverse the woodlands from tree to tree seeking their insect food; and any time that you go out into the woods, when there is snow on the ground, you will be accosted by the sharp "*Chick-a-dee-dee-dee*," and on looking up you will see *Parus atricapillus* eyeing you sharply.

WAIT C. JOHNSON  
Center Rutland, Vt.

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#### The Long-eared Owl.

In the October '89 number of the OÖLOGIST was an article describing my experience with this Owl for that year and the sets taken. In '89 I took 5 sets, one of 8, 3 of 7 and one of 5.

This season I have taken 5 sets, one of 4 and four of 5.

My first set was of four eggs, but I know that the bird had at one time five

eggs in the nest, so the set is not full.

It was a deserted Crow's nest and as usual the Owl took it just as she found it, making no additions at all.

The eggs were taken from the nest on the 10th of April and incubation was advanced in some of them fully two-thirds.

The second set was taken on April 30th and was of five eggs, incubation from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$ . The eggs were deposited in a Crow's nest from which I had taken the eggs of the Crow in early April, and for this reason was a much better nest than the Owl usually occupies. These eggs measure 1.71x1.31, 1.73x1.38, 1.67x1.30, 1.67x1.38, 1.69x1.33. Average 1.69x1.34.

On the same day I took another set of five from a new Crow's nest about 150 yards from the tree where I took the other set. This nest had been built over a month before by the Crows and had been robbed and the Crows shot. Incubation, as usual, was advanced for the reason that the Owl, like all birds of prey that I have had an opportunity to watch, only lays one egg in two days and sometimes not so often, so that it requires at least ten days for a set of five to be deposited, and I was not able to visit the nests as often as I desired, so they were left in the nest several days after the bird finished laying. Average of this set 1.66x1.27.

My fourth set was taken on the 28th of May and was of five eggs, incubation to about two weeks. The eggs were deposited in a Crow's nest that for some reason had not been completed by the Crows and was a very flimsy affair to say the least and the tree was so slender I could with great difficulty reach the nest.

The fifth set was taken from a "combination" nest, first used by the Crows last year, but was almost gone this spring so I took a "91" Cooper's Hawk nest from a tree near by and patched it up and the same pair of Hawks, they

remain in the grove all the year, used it and when I had robbed them the Owls took possession. The set was of five eggs and was taken June 25th, incubation advanced.

This set measures 1.68x1.28, 1.72x1.28, 1.71x1.25, 1.75x1.31, 1.66x1.25, average 1.70x1.27, fully as large as  $\frac{5}{8}$  the average of the previous sets, and this was probably the third set from the same pair of birds.

I am not sure about there being over one male in the grove as a male was shot early in the season and I never saw but three birds after that.

This season the birds made a most distressing moan when the nest was disturbed, something they had never done before.

All these nests were in pine trees, about 15 to 20 feet from the ground, in a thick grove used as a wind break to my father's house and were not at any great distance from it.

A great many Blackbirds nest in the grove and even on trees beside those containing the Owl's nest.

This Owl will use almost anything for a nest. In '89 I put an old Crow's nest in the lower branches of a pine tree and in '90 got a set of eggs from it, and some of the nests I have seen would hardly hold the eggs.

I do not, in the face of contrary statements by several writers in the OÖLOGIST, like to say the Owl does not make its own nest, but I know in over twenty-five nests, I have seen, the Owl had not added *anything* to any of them and pairs or even a small flock will occupy a grove all the year and not nest unless some old Crow's nest is to be found.

In nearly every case until this year I have been able to watch the nest from the time the Owl took possession, usually some time before she lays, until the last egg has been deposited, so I think I am able to be very positive about this.

If my business did not call for great

skill with a blow-pipe, I can blow a steady stream of air for at least ten minutes, and small tools, and my outfit was not of the best, I would have given many of these eggs up in disgust but as it is I got all out with small holes.

Before this year I had thought seven eggs was an average set and why the birds only laid five this year I do not know unless the heavy rain was the cause, though why this should effect them I do not see.

A. C. MURCHISON, D. D. S.  
Kewanee, Ills.

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### World's Fair Notes.

Butterflies to the number of 150,000 will be shown in the Pennsylvania exhibit at the World's Fair. The collection is said to be the most complete and and finest in the world.

The World's Fair commission of New South Wales has decided to send to Chicago for exhibition in the Horticultural department of the Exposition the following typical representatives of Australian vegetation and flora: tree ferns, staghorn ferns, birds-nest ferns, todea ferns, macrozaminas of two distinct kinds, gigantic lilies, rock lilies and grass trees.

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### To The World's Fair.

Join the club that is being organized to attend the World's Fair at Chicago. You can pay for your ticket in weekly or monthly payments; the ticket covers railway fares, board, room and Excursion tickets. The United World's Exposition Company is the strongest in United States, apply to local agent or write the United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange Building, Boston, Mass

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Sea Shells. Corals. Minerals. Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oologists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

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Madison, Wis.

### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Aag.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Sept. competition we will give a similiar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Sept. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this months competition the Judge whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earlist mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

MY WANTS FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS.

I CAN USE at full rates in *not less* than \$1 or over \$10 lots, as per conditions named below, the following species: Western Grebe, Loon, Black Guillemot, Gull-billed Tern, Least Tern, Black Tern, Leaches' Petrel, Fla. Cormorant, Anhinga, King Bird, Field Sparrows, Clapper Rail, Prairie Hen, Black and Turkey Vultures, Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, Bald Eagle, Purple Finch, Lark Sparrow, Oven-bird, Long-billed Marsh Wrens, Mourning Dove, Dickcissel, Red-head Duck, Razor-billed Auk, Snowy and Black-crowned Night Herons, Laughing Gull, Black Skimmer, Pied-billed Grebe, Gray Sea Eagle, Bobolink, and Mockingbird. Other specimens will be accepted at one-half rates. The prices given in the New STANDARD CATALOGUE *must* be used as a basis. All eggs must be *strictly first-class in every particular*, and if not in such condition I will take out eggs to the amount of *five times* the actual cost of return postage to pay for same and trouble, and will return the balance to you.

In return for above, I will give Back Numbers at single copy price, and advertising space in the OÖLOGIST at regular rates; one year's subscription to the OÖLOGIST, including coupons at \$1.00; Good White Metal Nickel Blower, 35c. Long-handled Nickled Embryo Hooks, 25c. 12-100 Egg Drills, 15c. Davie's "Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds," cloth and gilt, 4.00

New Standard Catalogue, 50c; and single eggs of the following species A. O. U. No's at new STANDARD CATALOGUE rates: 69, 75\*, 76\*, 79\*, 112, 140, 147, 190, 198, 224, 289a, 319, 393, 393b, 394a, 407\*, 465\*, 466, 466a\*, 477a, 488a, 490, 495a, 499\*, 500\*, 505a\*, 530\*, 594, 628, 551, 673\*, 706\*, 707\*, 719\*, 719a, 719b, 729\* and 758\*. Also any of the following European eggs at 10c each, Blackbird,\* Song Thrush,\* Robin,\* Chaffinch,\* Whitethroat.\*

Can furnish sets of all species followed by \*. This exchange and want offer holds good until Sep. 20th and until that date, I do not care to purchase or exchange for eggs under any other conditions.

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

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We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrearages, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c.

Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 25 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Aug. 1, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

BIRD CUTS.

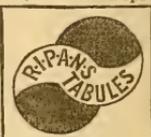
An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving on order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

PROGRAM OF THE  
CHAUTAUQUA ASSEMBLY  
SEASON OF 1892.

I have just issued a little 50-page Handbook containing a detailed program of the Chautauqua Assembly, during July and August, and much other matter of interest, relating to Chautauqua. This little book is distributed gratuitously from my Chautauqua stores, and should any of my patrons desire a copy or more I will gladly mail them upon receipt of stamps, at the rate of 1c per copy, for mailing expenses.

Faithfully Yours,  
FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

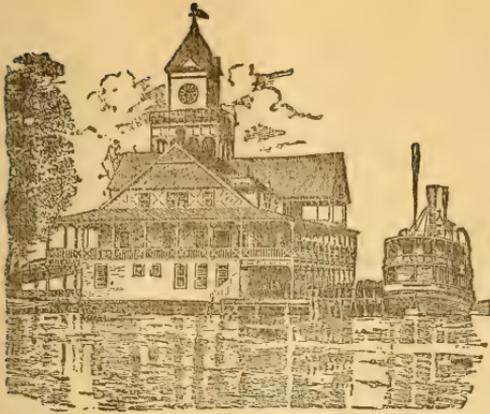
THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blistches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Painful Digestion, Pimples, to the Head, Plethora, Salt Head, Stomach-ache, Skin Distomach, Tired Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



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Should any of my patrons happen in the vicinity of Chautauqua during their summer vacation, I trust they will make it a point to "step in." We have on exhibition and for sale thousands of Specimens, Curiosities, Novelties and Souvenirs.

## At the Great Buffalo Exposition

—TO BE HELD AT—

**BUFFALO, N. Y.**

**AUGUST 17-27th, 1892.**

Frank H. Lattin will have a "carload" of Bird's Eggs, Sea Shells, Corals, Natural History Specimens and Curiosities of all kinds.

Duplicate specimens will be sold at surprisingly low rates.

"Lattin will personally attend the exhibit during the Exposition and would be pleased to meet any of his patrons. Should you visit the Fair do not fail to visit Lattin's Exhibit, which you will find centrally and conspicuously located, on the second floor of the main building. The exhibit will occupy over 500 ft. floor space with 75 ft. frontage.

## At the Inter-State Fair and Exposition

TO BE HELD AT ELMIRA, N. Y.

**AUG. 29th to Sept. 7th.**

We have agreed to make a big exhibit. If you attend the fair do not miss seeing our exhibit we expect to have several thousand dollars worth of specimens and curios on exhibition all of which will be for sale.

Our Elmira Exhibit will occupy the same space as that of our big Indian Relic display of '91.

—:O:—

"Lattin" may also make exhibits during ensuing Fall at the following places in New York State—although at date of going to press completed arrangements have not been made.

Western New York, Rochester, Sept. 26th—30th.

Positive announcements as to the above will be made in Sept. OÖLOGIST.

The following Fairs and Expositions

We also expect to have exhibits—

N. Y. State Fair at Syracuse Sept. 8th—15th:

New York and New England at Albany, Sept. 19th—24th.

Binghamton Industrial at Binghamton, Sept. 20th to 24th.

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### AT YOUR FAIR?

Don't you think it would pay you to obtain a stock of say, anywhere from \$10 to \$100 worth of shells, agates and curios to add a variety to your present collection, and make an exhibit at your own and neighboring Fairs this Fall?



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Faithfully,

FRANK H. LATTIN.

Albion, N. Y.



# OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1892:

NO. 9

## NEW RATES. NEW RULES. NEW REGULATIONS.

### Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the "New Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—First class sets A. O. U. Nos. 144, 201, 300, 310, 315, 394, 405, 417, 420, and many others. Will give good exchange in Nos. 12, 16, 120 and others. \$15.00 worth of miscellaneous books. C. BYRON VANDERCOOK, Odin, Ill.

TO EXCHANGE.—We have first class eggs to exchange, in sets or single, for first class in sets, not in our collection. J. S. & A. PYFER, Odell, Neb.

EXCHANGE.—A good Remington Rifle, .22 Calibre, for Breech Loading collecting gun. Will sell Rifle for cash, Cost \$12.50. Write giving description of gun or stating offer. T. B. HUDGIN, Athens, Ga.

NOTICE.—\$3.81 worth of first class eggs for sale or exchange. Would rather sell but will exchange for any good article. R. C. ALEXANDER, Stark, Mich.

NOTICE:—Fine first class sets and singles, rare and common, wanted in exchange for fine first class sets and rare and valuable foreign stamps. W. C. JONES, Bradford, Mass., Box 239.

FOR SALE.—25 odd numbers of "Forest and Stream" from March 1890 to March 1892. Also "Youth's Companions" for 1891. Make offers. ERNEST W. BENNING, 16 Lee St., Cambridgeport, Mass.

I HAVE over 200 species of first class desirable single eggs. Will exchange for fire arms or musical instruments in A No. 1 condition, or for other desirable articles. Send description giving lowest exchange price of what you can offer and I'll send list of my eggs. N. P. BRADT, Johnstown, N. Y.

WANTED.—Good guitar or banjo. Can offer collection of 350 A. 1 eggs in complete sets with data (worth \$60.00), such as Hawks, Owls, Warblers, Rails, etc.; also have one pair new climbers, 150 large datas on stub. Anyone having good instrument write. All answered. EDWARD FULLER, 161 Main St., Norwich, Conn.

FIRST CLASS single eggs, also large magic Lantern with views, Indian relics, and polished minerals to exchange for eggs in sets. H. W. ISAACS, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, New York.

FIRST CLASS Birds' Eggs to exchange for a Breech loading Shot-gun, 22 cal. Rifle 32 cal. Revolver, DANA C. GILLETT Barre Centre, Orleans Co., N. Y.

FOREIGN STAMPS, Lepidoptera, Petrified wood. Fossil mollusks and other curio from Texas, to exchange for eggs in sets. Write first. W. S. CRUZAN, Sulphur Springs, Tex.

EXCHANGE.—All my collections, including mounted birds, skins and eggs, mammals, insects, stamps and cabinets, value over \$200.00, for safety bicycle. Pneumatic tires preferred. TABER D. BAILEY, Montgomery St., Bangor, Maine.

A BARGAIN.—A collection of minerals, fossils, relics, coins insects, 2000 cards, broken violin, etc., etc. Will take brevior or long primer type in part payment. R. M. DALRYMPLE, Baker, O.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have some very nice sets to exchange for "an improved Waterbury watch in good condition." Write for lists. JNO. HOWARD, Tarboro, N. C.

PIKE'S PEAK specimens to exchange for good arrowheads; also an electric plater, as good as new for geological specimens or shells. Make offers. H. STEPHENSON, Wahoo, Neb. Box 51.

MOUNTED BIRDS. Minerals, Youth's Companion, Scientific American, tennis racket, piccolo to exchange for camera, field or opera glasses, or books on ornithology or taxidermy. CHESTER M. WHITNEY, Westminster, Mass.

FOR SALE!—Self Inking Model Press No 1 Improved. Chase 7x8 inches and outfit. Will send impression of type and description of outfit on application. Entire outfit cost sixty dollars will sell for cash at thirty-five. Positively no exchanges. L. C. FREENY, Pittsville, Md.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

WANTED.—I would like the price lists of all Collectors having Bird skins and Curiosities to sell. Also exchange lists. EDGAR A. FERRO, 116 Ontario St., Cohoes N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE:—First class sets and singles with or without data to exchange for same. RALPH MATTESON, 114 E. North St., Galesburg, Ill.

WANTED.—To sell my collection of singles, 145 varieties value \$30.00. Will sell for ½ price; or will exchange for flute, 8 keys, Key D. E. W. PATTERSON, Parkersburg, W. Va., Box 247.

ONE TRIO genuine Shawl-neck Games bought direct from Tom Ware, East Point, Ga. for self-inking printing press about 5½x9½ in good condition, also 6-inch roll Fluting Machine, price \$4.00, bran new, for type or skins. J. J. WIRZ, Taxidermist, Rutherfordton, N. C.

HAWK and OWL eggs wanted.—Any species in sets with full data. Will give good exchange in Stuffed Birds, Mammals and Indian Relics. THADDEUS SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

TO EXCHANGE.—An Army Musket made over into a Breech-loading shot-gun, will exchange for best offer of Birds' Eggs. No postal answers. C. J. TIFFANY, Arcadia, Wayne Co., N. Y.

TO EXCHANGE.—The following eggs marked according to Lattin's checking list. 30a—32—71—192—212—236—289a—294a—373—378b—476. Make offer for the same. H. B. HUSTON, Lakeland, Ky.

WANTED.—22, 38, 44 cal. repeating rifles,, 20 bore collecting gun, Hopkins and Allen preferred, also sporting goods. Will pay cash or give first class rare sets. HARRY B. SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

I HAVE to exchange moths, butterflies cocoons, pupæ and birds' eggs for live cocoons of *Santas-Ceanoti*, *Gloverli*, *Pronietha*, *Acquila*, *Columbia*, *Cecropia*, *Antheas*, *Polyphemus*, *Actias Luna*; live pupæ of *Sphingus* and butterflies or birds' eggs in first class sets with data. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT, care G. W. Knight, Bangor, Maine.

TO EXCHANGE.—First class sets with data. 16-1-1, 30a 1-1, 120c 1-3, 1-4; 221 1-7; 343 1-4; 378 1-4; 431 1-2; 499 1-3, 1-4; 581d 1-3; and 758 1-3, 1-4. Will give \$5 in fine sets for good taxidermists' outfit. I also want a fine set of 704, 705, 755, 761 and 766. Anyone having part or all write at once. Good value given. For every set of eggs with data, listed at 5c. or over I will send a first class 120c single (with data if desired). All answered. C. BARLOW, Santa Clara Cal.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A collection of over 200 first class singles. 150 varieties, value over \$50. Will exchange for Hawk's and Owl's eggs in sets, two dollars' worth of singles for one dollar in sets. Or will sell entire collection for \$10. Contains such eggs as 128, 315, 404, 411, 420c, 479, 580a, 583, 590, 607, 629b, 648, 701, 738. Send for list, stating what you have to exchange. Also have some fine sets for sale or exchange, including Mississippi and White-tailed Kites. W. B. PORTER, 224 So. Oakley Ave, Chicago, Ill.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

RARE & beautiful foreign eggs for exchange, Black-throated Loon ½, Red-throated Loon 1-2, Cinereus Crane 1-3, Numidian Crane 1-2, Pintail Sand-Grouse 1-3, Great Bustard 1-2 1-3, Gray Sea-Eagle 1-2 1-3, Ingrain Falcon 1-4, Egyptian Vulture 1-2, Griffon Vulture 1-2 Night Jar 1-2, Golden-crown Kinglet 1-10, Fire crested Kinglet 1-9, Wryneck 1-12, Barbary-Partridge 1-10, Large-billed Puffin 1-1, Lesser Black-back Gull 1-3, Adriatic Gull 1-3, Rufous Warbler 1-5, Bared Warbler 1-5, Melodia Warbler 1-5, Ostrich 1-1, Emen 1-1, Rhea 1-1 and a large list of others. Many American species wanted, both common and rare. C. W. CRANDALL, Woodside, Queens Co., N. Y.

WANTED.—A first class Camera, size 5x7 or 5x8, Birds' Eggs and skins in large or small lots, Mammal skins and skulls. A Human Skeleton in whole or part. Also a small amount of U. S. Currency of recent date in good condition. Offer for same. 60 in. American Challenge Bicycle, cost \$70. 48 in. Express bicycle, cost \$60. Compound microscope, \$15. Pair Australian Paroquettes and new brass cage, cost \$10. Also a few Natural History books, Birds' Eggs, Osteological Preparations and other miscellaneous articles too numerous to mention. Send for descriptions of the above articles, stating what you have to offer in exchange, mentioning cash offer also. All letters cheerfully answered. A. MOWBRAY SEMPLE, Poynette, Wis.

A COLLECTION of stamps principally old English and English colonial issues, would prefer to trade in one lot. A Cross stylographic pen used only a few times, cost \$1.50. A 10 ft. fishing rod with bag, brass reel fittings, ferrule and butt piece, lance wood, spliced tip in good condition. An 11 ft. cane rod and bag, lance wood tip, brass ferrule in sound condition. A few old foreign silver coins. A few fine cabinet specimens of Dolomite, Calcite (var) and Gypsum crystals. Aragonite, petrified moss and plants. A choice lot of polished Agate and Onyx specimens. A few Iroquois, Tuscarora and Seneca implements and relics. I wish to exchange above for first class eggs in sets. No attention paid to persons not enclosing lists. I wish to purchase a first class double barrel breech loading shot gun by a good maker, second hand in perfect order, also a few copies of last editions "Davie's Nests and Eggs," "Coue's Key" and "Ridgeway's Manual" in good condition. HARRY SARGENT, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

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# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT., 1892.

NO. 9

## The Breeding Warblers of Western New York.

I do not wish my readers to think that I am going to say all there is to be said on such a wide subject as this, for I am only going to tell what I have found and what I think, which will probably prove tiresome enough to you. However I hope that some parts of it will be of interest to you.

First I will tell what I have found.

According to the A. O. U. Classification, the first species I found breeding is 642, Golden-winged Warbler, (*Helminthophila chrysoptera*)

It was on the evening of the second of June last, I had finished my day's work and at 7 o'clock had reached one of my favorite haunts, two miles from home, on the banks of Black Creek, which flows into the Genesee River a few miles south of Rochester.

On the south side of a fair sized wood is a clearing of some ten acres, which has grown up to underbrush of every kind except in a few spots where it is too wet for anything but a few willows, weeds and grasses. This is a paradise for many birds.

As I entered this clearing, I came to a spot where the brush was thin and small, and weeds grew plentifully underneath. I was looking high for nests of the Redstart, when I heard a flutter under my feet, and looking down saw a nest placed between the stalks of some weeds growing in a clump. Seeing that it contained eggs, I went away for a few minutes and on coming back, crept carefully up to the nest.

What was my delight to find myself within 18 inches of a Golden-wing sitting on the nest. She was easily identified by the yellow crown, combined with black throat and yellow wing bar. After watching me a minute she left the

nest and went into the brush, calling for her mate, who by the way, did not show up.

The nest contained three eggs and one of cowbird. On blowing I found the eggs partly incubated, indicating a full set.

The nest was made of dead leaves placed crosswise one on the other to the height of four inches, when the nest proper was constructed on this foundation; of fine grasses, inside and out. The eggs were creamy white, spotted sparsely, but generally distributed with light red dots.

My next Species is No. 645, Nashville Warbler, (*Helminthophila ruficapilla*.)

I was walking through a small wood near here on the morning of the 8th of June of this year, (1892) and as I was stepping through a partly decayed brush heap, situated near a ditch, and nearly buried with weeds, I saw a small bird flit from under my feet and alight in a bush near by. I thought there must be a nest near by, so before looking for it, I, as is my custom turned my attention to the bird which I was glad to find was the Nashville Warbler.

After watching her until her warning note brought the mate, I then hunted out the nest, which was placed in the brush, concealed by the weeds, and was similar in construction to the Golden-wing's except that the lining was of dead rootlets instead of grasses. It contained five eggs about the size of the common Phoebe's. They were light cream color, spotted liberally with light red. They were very beautiful and made a welcome addition to my collection. On blowing, I found them slightly incubated, probably three days.

The Nashville Warbler may be known by the uniform greenish color above with chestnut spot on the crown and

white beneath upper chest, ashy under tail coverts yellowish.

My next species is No. 652, Yellow Warbler, (*Dendroica aestiva*.)

This bird is too well known to need any extended description. In this locality they breed very commonly in willow patches, near water, making their nests out of the willow catkins. They strive in many ways to cover up the eggs of the obnoxious cowbird, among which is their habit of building two or three story nests. Very often they cover some of their own eggs as well as the cowbirds.

In most instances where they hatch a cowbird's egg their own young soon disappear to be seen no more. In many instances they are found on the ground under the nest. Sometimes I can find no trace of them. Their eggs vary in number, from (where there are no cowbird's eggs) three or usually four to sometimes six. They are easily known from other Warbler's eggs by the greenish ground color and the bold, coarse pattern of the brown markings.

Next I find on my list, No. 659, Chestnut-sided Warbler, (*Dendroica pennsylvanica*.)

This bird, through from what I can learn, it seems to be considered rather common in some portions of Western New York, is a rare breeder in this vicinity. I have only one record and not even seen the birds during the breeding season in any other instance. On the same evening that I found the nest of the Golden-winged Warbler, (June 2d; 1892) was forcing my way through a clump of bushes, in the same clearing that I had noticed the starting of a nest in some five days before, when I found myself looking down on a nest situated quite low, in a small bush. On looking closely I saw a bird, which I recognized as the Chestnut-sided Warbler, sitting on the nest.

She did not wish to leave and staid until I placed my hand on the edge of

the nest. Then she left with a cry of alarm which brought the male at once.

The nest was constructed almost exactly like the common Chipping Sparrow's but was smaller. The lining was entirely of hair and the nest was well shaped. It was placed in the crotch of three twigs and fastened tightly. The eggs were three and one of the cowbird, incubation commenced. In color they were cream, with a slight, greenish tinge, spotted with umber light brown and lavender shell marks, all gathered in a decided wreath at the larger end; altogether they were a beautiful set, but I wish the Cowbird had not found the nest as I think there would have been four eggs, but for her.

The eggs were quite small, except Parula and Golden-wing, the smallest warblers eggs I have.

Next on my list is No. 681, Maryland Yellow-throat, (*Geothlypi strichas*.)

This species though not a very common breeder here, is occasionally seen in suitable places. However it was not until this present season, that I found a nest of this bird. On the evening of June 17th, while searching for eggs of the Indigo Bunting, in a swamp,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles north of here on the line of the N. Y. C. R. R., I was tramping through a patch of briers (and a very thick one too) I heard a flutter close to the ground and on watching intently, saw a small bird leave the briers which from the pooriness of the light I could not make out.

On searching underfoot I finally discovered a nest firmly placed in the canes about ten inches from the ground. Of course on finding the nest I was determined to find out what the bird was, so I concealed myself and soon had the pleasure of seeing both birds come back and recognized them as Maryland Yellow-throats. They were very much disturbed by my presence and the female made many trips to the nest.

The nest was built almost exactly like

the Golden-winged Warbler's in every particular. It contained four incubated eggs. They were white, spotted with lavender and various shades of red and a few streaks of dark brown on larger end.

My next is No. 683 (*Icteria virens*) Yellow-breasted Chat. This bird is far from common in this vicinity or in fact any other place as far north. I did not see a bird this year, and only two pairs in '90 and in '91.

On the 26th of May, 1890, I found a nest of this bird in a thicket, close to the edge of quite a large wood, on the banks of Black Creek, one-half mile from here. My attention was first attracted by the noisy female in her effort to keep a Cowbird out of her nest; and I watched her until I was satisfied that she could do it too.

The nest was placed in the crotch of a small maple, about five feet from the ground. It was made of weed stems and grasses, lined with fine grasses and strips of grape vine bark, and about the size of a small Robin's nest. ¶

It was a rather large nest for the bird. It contained one fresh egg and when I took it the bird was extremely noisy, exhibiting every sign of anger. The egg was about the same size as the average Cowbird's egg, but the ground color was clear white and the spots light red, the whole effect being much lighter than the Cowbird's. There were a few lavender shell marks.

This is the only nest of this species I have found here and do not think many breed here.

Next I have 687, American Redstart, (*Setophaga ruticilla*). This bird is the common warbler of our woods, especially common on Black Creek. Their short trill can be heard continually in the breeding season and, now and then, the sharp loud notes of the male's song will rise and you will wonder where the bird gets his vocal powers from.

¶ Except when the female is sitting,

they are continually on the move, and you see the flashes of red and yellow as they flit from tree to tree, their tails opening and closing with their peculiar fan-like motion, their black eyes always on the alert for food or foe. I hardly know which is the handsomest, the male with his black and orange-red, or the female in green and yellow.

The male always comes when the female calls and is quite pugnacious,

The nests are situated, usually in the crotch of some small straight tree, sometimes in the upright crotch of some limb. Always in or near woods of some size and usually from 3 to 15 feet from the ground, rarely higher. They are composed of bark fibers and in two instances, which I have observed, of feathers. The lining is usually of fine grasses, in three recorded instances a few feathers being used, never hair. They are small and neatly cupped, in fact they are as compact as any of our birds' nests. The eggs are invariably four if the Cowbird misses the nest which *sometimes* happens. Many nests contain from two to three of Redstart and one or two of the Cowbird. They are creamy, sometimes bluish-white (*rare*), spotted with reddish-brown and lilac, sometimes evenly, sometimes in scattered or compact wreaths.

Now for what I *think* but do not *know*. I think that the Cerulean Warbler and Oven-bird *do* breed here although I can offer no conclusive evidence as yet. Also that the following may possibly breed in more secluded portions than I have access to: The Blue-winged, Tennessee, Black and White, Worm-eating, Prairie, Water-thrush, Mourning and (*rarely*) the Kentucky Warblers. If this article brings to light any more information in regard to our breeding Warblers, I shall feel amply rewarded.

ERNEST H. SHORT,  
Chili, Mon. Co., N. Y.

### A Tramp Through Woods and Marshes in Eastern Iowa.

I awoke at 6.20 on the morning of the 15th of last May and after breakfasting took my collecting box, climbers and wading boots, and started after Geo. W. S., who was to accompany me. He took a 22 rifle and wading boots and we started out.

After a ride of about four miles on the electric cars and a walk of two more (which was through a marsh) we reached a sawmill on the bank of the Missouri River. There we met my friend, Ike Hamilton, a young logger and miller who was to accompany us on our trip. We were rowed over the river (then about a mile wide on account of spring rise) into Iowa.

We first went to a Broad-winged Hawk's nest which I had seen building or rebuilding a crow's nest two weeks before. When I started up the tree we could hear the Hawks screaming and thought a nice set of eggs was awaiting me at the top, but we were disappointed, as the nest was just finished and no eggs yet deposited.

We started north through the trees, our destination being Lee's woods about nine miles away. We did not find anything except a crow's nest with five young in, on our way up. After about three miles bad walking through sloughs and woods, we reached the Pigeon Creek which can usually be cleared at a bound, but which was then so swollen by recent rains that it was about 25ft. wide and 15ft. deep in the middle.

Our woodman companion or logger as I called him before proposed rafting over, and as there were plenty of logs at hand we started to do it. We peeled a lot of willow bark from trees near by and after tying two logs we rolled the logs into the water. We took three and pulled them side by side and tied one log across. After tying two long willow withes, end to end, we fastened this im-

proved rope to the raft, so that we could pull the raft back after one had crossed on it.

Ike got on the raft and poled over and I then pulled the raft back for Geo. to go over. Geo. stepped upon the already shaky raft and it went to pieces, George making the quickest move and jump in ten years. (He does not often move quick being 5ft. 5in. tall and weighing 192lbs.)

Well, there we were; one of our party on one side of the Pigeon and George and myself on the other. We started down the stream to find a place to wade but reached the Missouri river and no ford.

Ike started up the river bank after a boat to take us across the Pigeon but returned in about an hour having found two boats but no oars. He had found out however, that there was a bridge over the creek about three miles up the stream so up we started.

On the way up to the bridge George shot several large Gar, and I killed one weighing about eight pounds with a climbing iron.

We finally arrived at the bridge and found Ike awaiting us as he had taken a short cut through the woods and thus had reached there first.

It was then 3 o'clock p. m., and we were still four miles from our objective point which was a herony four miles north of Honey Creek Lake, Ia.

Our tea bottles were long since exhausted and we were drinking miserable slough water, as we were very thirsty, but we soon reached a log cabin where a benevolent old lady gave us some river water to drink. That river water was nectar to us although it was so muddy you could almost cut it with a knife.

After resting a while we started again and in about an hour reached the Buoy Creek where we met an old German fisherman who was about to start down the river to where we came from. We bribed him to wait for us until we

returned and then started on our tramp to the Heronry which we soon reached.

Only a few tall trees were occupied by the Great Blue Herons, but those few counted, as we saw thirteen nests in one tree and less numbers in the rest, in all about fifty nests.

Being very tired myself, I tried to bribe Ike to climb up to a nest which was about 70ft. up but he said he was very comfortable where he was, so up I started. After a hard climb I reach the nest and found it to contain five large blue eggs. Encouraged by this, I put my hand into another nest but took it out very quickly, (a young Heron tried to swallow my finger.) I took several sets of eggs but many nests were already occupied by young birds.

The first set I found had no doubt been left when fresh as they were cold and as a dead female Heron was lying under the tree no doubt that she had been shot by some one who happened along.

While I was packing our treasures in the box, George shot a Turkey Vulture, a number of which were flying high in the air above the Heronry.

I did not know that the Buzzard bred this far north and west and so I was greatly surprised to find three nests, one in a hollow log and two others in hollow trees near by.

After packing the Buzzards' nests we started back to where we had left the fisherman, stopping only to pick a good mess of Mushrooms which we found very plentiful near the water.

After a ride in the boat of an hour and a walk of another hour we reached the motor line and sped home as fast as electricity could carry us.

I afterwards took three eggs from Broad-winged Hawk's nest mentioned.

ISADOR S. TROSTLER,  
Omaha, Neb.

### Acadian Flycatcher.

*Empidonax acadicus.*

This spirited and somewhat eccentric little Flycatcher, otherwise known as the Little Green-crested, is said to take up its summer abode anywhere throughout eastern United States, the Mississippi Valley and as far west as Kansas.

Arriving in the vicinity of Baltimore sometime in the second week in May, by the last of the month it is quite common in low wet woods, along the wooded banks of slow-flowing streams, shady mill-races, and in short any place where there are low drooping limbs, little under brush, and water, for which it seems to have the strongest attachment doubtless because of the fact that insects generally abound in the quiet water.

It is soon bethinking itself of a nesting site which will be in one of the places just named and very probably overhanging some mill-race, even if it is an unused one in which the rain water stands in puddles only. By the second week in June the first nests have been built and in this locality about the middle of the month it is the best time to collect their eggs.

The nest, hung by the rim from the extremity of a slender drooping limb anywhere from three to eighteen feet from the ground, is a structure of rustic beauty, a bunch of oak catkins loosely and rather carelessly put together decked with spider cocoons or beach bud-scales and lined with fine round weed stems, or occasionally composed almost entirely of either weed stems or oak catkins, and measuring some three inches in exterior diameter by two high, interior diameter three and three-fourths inches by one and one-fourth deep. One nest found this season, June 15th was composed almost entirely of fine grasses and lined with perfectly green seed heads of grass, giving it a very unique appearance, and was so slightly

made that the eggs could easily be seen from the under side, as is frequently the case. The most elaborate nest we have ever seen we found June 16, 1891, much larger interiorly than the typical nest, composed chiefly of the ever present oak catkin (for I have yet to find a nest into the composition of which this article does not enter) embracing some of the green leaves of the beach limbs to which it was attached, festooned with light brown beach bud-scales, strings of several varieties of spider cocoons, a few pieces of "down" from the sycamore ball, a little bit of moss, and several blades of grass hanging down from the bottom about four or five inches, which latter generally characterize the new nests.

We have never read of but one brood being reared by these birds, but a set of three taken near the middle of July, '91 would seem to indicate that there is sometimes a second. The nest was hung well out on a slender maple limb about sixteen feet from the ground by a shady and rather quiet road and, directly over a gateway through which the vehicles were passing several times a day and near a low wet piece of ground. This set taken within a few days another set was laid, a set of two, the only set comprising any other number than three that we have ever found, though Davie states that occasionally four are laid, however, one of the eggs proved to be minus a yolk and the bird did not set long.

The eggs averaging about .75x.55 inches, having a ground color of rich cream color, and being sparingly speckled and dotted with light brown, with the larger dots and greater number about the larger end, they are almost indistinguishable from those of the Traill's Flycatcher (*E. traillii*), it is said the nest, however, being entirely different, the latter being placed in an upright fork and built after the manner of the Yellow Warbler (*Dendroica aestiva*).

In this locality *acidicus* is quite common and as you are walking through some quiet shady damp woods you are suddenly startled by a loud, quick, emphatic "What-d-see What-d-see," probably followed by a series of low, twittering notes, sounding as though the bird were peevishly talking with itself, then you see him dart by with a snap of the bill and alight on some low limb near by, and possibly hear another note, as soon as he has swallowed his insect, very much like the *peet weet* of the Spotted Sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*), which it sometimes gives vent to.

The following incident it seems to me might be of interest to those who are debating the question whether or not the bird is endowed with something more than mere instinct; a nest found June 13, 1891 contained but two eggs and, as it was in a place where it was likely to be found by certain "small fry," we did not deem it safe to leave them, so taking them, we substituted two small smooth stones wrapt in paper somewhat the same shade as the ground color of the eggs. Visiting the nest four days later we found that one of the stones had been removed, the paper taken from the other, and the third egg laid, which we took; but undesignedly left the stone. Happening to be passing the spot nine days later we noticed the bird sitting on the nest, and to our greater surprise found she was setting on that same stone. Our curiosity was aroused and we were anxious to know how long the bird would thus sit on this "hard cruel stone," or if finally she would succeed in hatching from it a little *Acadicus* (for we are ever told that patience will surely accomplish its end), but when four days later, after she had been setting for two weeks (no doubt a much greater length of time than is required to hatch the eggs), we found her still sitting there, our compassion for her prevented our carrying our investigations any further and we

tossed the stone out into the mill race.

Early in September, when the telegraph wires are lined with Swallows and its cousins begin to come down from the north, it joins them and without waiting to see the colors of Autumn's sunsets reflected on the forest leaves it departs for the regions where where the insects never die.

GEO. H. GRAY.  
Baltimore, Md.

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The Prothonotary Warbler.

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This is quite a common bird in the bottoms along the Illinois river.

The bright cadmium yellow of the head and neck render it easily distinguishable at quite a distance.

The birds may usually be seen near the surface of the water either on driftwood or on the bushes.

A typical nesting ground for this active little warbler is in a willow swamp which is covered with water and contains many dead willow stubs perforated with woodpeckers in many places. In some of these holes, an old broken out one preferably, you will find the nest. Made of moss and grass lined with fine grass. A sharp blow or two on the stump will usually scare the old bird off though often she will leave before you see the nest. They will usually fly away as if having no further concern for the nest I never saw but one pair "show fight" The nests are usually so close to the water that a raise of a foot or two will drown them out. This I know to my sorrow as I had a large series of nests which I was "counting on" when a sudden raise of about three feet in the river covered them all.

The nesting season lasts from the last of May till the middle of July. The first clutch is usually deposited in the latter part of May and first of June.

The eggs are from 4 to 6 rarely 7 in the first set and if accident befalls them from 2 to 4 in the 2nd and 3rd clutches.

They are a fine glossy cream color

dotted and blotched with chestnut red.

There is a great variation in coloration. The eggs are from, .70to, .74x.52 to .58 of an inch.

The nests are nearly always over water, in any kind of an old stump, usually willow.

RUSSELL M. FRISBEY JR.  
Sparland, Ill.

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Notes from Bexar Co., Texas.

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March 27, 1892. Found a nest of the Caracara containing two eggs, which were nearly hatched. The nest was a large platform of weeds about thirty feet from the ground in a live oak.

April 14th. Took a set of four eggs of the Texan Woodpecker. The nesting cavity was a foot deep in the dead limb of a hackberry tree.

April 22nd. O. A. W. and myself found a set of two eggs of the Caracara.

The nest was made of sticks lined with weeds and was formerly the property of a Harris's Hawk.

The next day in going by the nest from which I took the first set of Caracara's eggs we saw a bird of the same species leave the nest. My friend climbed to the nest and announced two eggs which I suppose were laid by the same bird that laid the first set.

May 7th. Collected a set of two eggs of the Harris's Hawk. The nest was made of sticks and for a lining there was a bed of green oak leaves.

May 20th. Took a set of five eggs of the Tufted Tit in a gate-post near a house. The nest was nothing but Rabbit hair and a large piece of snake skin.

June 4th. Found a set of Bell's Vireo eggs. The nest was a neat little structure composed of leaves and fine grasses with a few hairs interwoven and was suspended from a small branch in a clump of bushes.

June 10th. Found a set of two Caracara's. The nest was composed of sticks with a few small weeds for lining.

There was a large hole in the middle of the nest with a few sticks laid across it on which the eggs were laid so that they were plainly seen from below.

A. H. W. NORTON.  
Bexar Co., Texas.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to

OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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\*.\* Articles, Items of Interest and Queries for publication should be forwarded as early in the month as possible.

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## How I Spent Easter Monday.

It had been my intentions for several years to have a good days collecting in the early spring chiefly for Hawks as I have had poor success in the past. This year an opportunity offered so my brother and I started off early in the morning we had to walk well over a mile till we came to any woods at all. We had not got through the first woods before

I noticed a nest that I knew must be a new one on account of the small white feathers sticking to the lower twigs of the nest and on the trunk of the tree. I have observed these feathers on every new hawk's nest I have found. As I did not see any birds around I could not tell what kind it was till I was half way up the tree when a pair of Cooper's Hawk's began making their peculiar cry. The nest was 64 feet from the ground in a straight maple, built on the second branch it was composed of sticks lined with grass, leaves and green cedar twigs it contained five eggs, three light colored spotted with small dark spots while two were thickly dotted with larger spots. The next nest was found at the bottom of the hill, it was only reached after a hard climb, as the tree was very thick and two large limbs were growing out about half way up. This proved to be a Red-shouldered Hawk's nest, and contained three eggs, the nest was 60 1-2 feet from the ground, it was smaller than the nest of the Cooper's Hawk, but much the same except that it contained no green twigs the eggs were a very pretty set, heavily spotted and blotched with a reddish brown color, while the shells were covered with purple ground markings. The next nest we found about a mile and a half further on, it proved to be a Red-tailed Hawk's nest but it was in such a large elm tree I could not get to it. I climbed the tree next to it and tried to dip the eggs out with a fish net but I could not get high enough to see into the nest so I only got one cracked specimen while the other two got broken.

The one I rescued was light colored thinly spotted with dull red spots. My next nest was also a Red-tail, and in an elm tree no doubt what, that tree lacked in width it made up in height the nest was placed as high as it was possible, in fact at the extreme top on a limb not over three inches in diameter it was 91½ feet from the ground and rocked so much in the high wind that both the

eggs and myself had a hard time keeping our places, the nest was a very poorly arranged one and nearly flat, it was composed of sticks lined with grass, leaves and corn husks. The eggs which were two in number were similar to the last only smaller, by this time we were a mile and a half from home, we walked about a mile further without seeing anything when I found a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk in a small maple tree the nest was only 37 feet from the ground and contained three dirty looking eggs with very little color in fact it could hardly be called anything but ground markings, these differed from the others as they were quite well advanced in incubation while the others were nearly fresh. We got home about 7.30 pm, having taken fourteen eggs thirteen first class and one second class egg, which is considered a very good haul around here.

J. E. HOUSEMAN,  
Aylmer Ont.

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#### A California Collecting Ground.

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I have read with pleasure the accounts of collecting trips recorded in the OÖLOGIST and, thinking that other of your readers might be interested in such articles, I have decided to give a description of my favorite collecting ground.

The place spoken of is a canon about three miles from town, among the numerous foothills which surround the valley. It is about four miles long and although nowhere very steep, contains many large boulders and rocks and at places its sides are quite steep. The trees are mostly buton-wood, or sycamore, with willow and water-mootic along the bottom where there flows a small dirty stream of water. There are also a large number of sunflower bushes in which a great many nests may be found

As the canon contains many points of interest, interesting to one who has

collected there at least, we will enter at the lower end and pass up the canon. For the first half of a mile it is quite broad and the ground is covered with a thick growth of grass and clover. There are no trees here with the exception of willows, but the large sunflower bushes furnish nesting places for the humming-birds, the nests being placed among the dead leaves and therefore hard to find.

Here too is an old stump surrounded by sprouts where a Road-runner had her nest last April.

As we pass along, the sycamores grow more abundant and here is the home of the Arizona Hooded Oriole. Yes, here is where Mr. Wilber and I took a beautiful set of five. The nest was placed eighteen feet from the ground among the branches of a slender sycamore and was composed of long, partially dried grasses finely woven together, lined with a small quantity of cotton. These birds are quite common as also are the Bullock's Oriole, both of which may be seen with their gaudy coats gayly flitting from tree to tree uttering their loud calls or scolding us as we pass.

We now come to a good sized boulder with a large opening three feet from the ground. This is where I had taken beautiful sets is '90 and '91 of the Canon Wren and this year decided to catch the bird. So I slipped up and quietly brought my hand down over an empty nest. I learned afterward that another collector had gotten ahead of me. The nest was placed on a twelve-inch platform of small sticks and composed mostly of fur and feathers, forming as soft and comfortable a bed for the "chicks" as any I have examined. The bird, which I saw in '91, was a very shy little fellow with pure white breast and reddish back and under parts, spotted above with whitish dots.

In a small side-canon is a large, white stump which I once ascended to open up what I supposed was a Flicker's domicile. On the way up I had the pleasure

(?) of pulling Mr. and Mrs. Cal. Screech Owl off a set of four nearly incubated eggs, and then tried for the Flicker's hole, which turned out to be empty, as is usually the case after a hard climb.

We must hurry on so we come to a large tree where I usually put up for dinner as there is a small chance for clean water at this point. In this tree Mr. Wilbur and I took a set of Ashthroated Flycatcher's in '91, the nest being in a hollow snag twelve inches deep and six inches in diameter, inside, and was composed of fur and hair. I have taken three eggs of the Sparrow Hawk from this hollow, one of which was pure white. Near this tree are two others from which sets of Sparrow Hawk and Red-shafted Flicker may be obtained, that is, if you get there before the other fellow. Just across from this, among the brush, I took a nest which contained four Road-runner eggs and three of the Valley Partridge. The Partridge eggs were fresh but two of the Road-runner's were incubated. The nest was placed about three feet from the ground and evidently built by a Road-runner.

In coming home I usually come by another canon which runs parallel with this one. At the head of this smaller canon I took three nests of the California Bush Tit in one day, two of which contained six and the other five eggs.

The nests, which were composed of bits of leaves and grass thickly lined with feathers, were neatly tucked away among the upper branches of sunflower bushes.

Passing on down the canon we come to a large bed of poison-oak and other wild bushes. I was one time on my knees under this thicket looking for a Towhee's nest when on raising I nearly upset a nest of the Least Vireo. This, as you may imagine, was a pleasant surprise as they are by no means commonly met with in this locality. The nest contained three fresh eggs and was suspended from the horizontal crotch of

a water-mootie bush. It was a neat structure of bits of leaves and dry split grass, lined with a few feathers. The eggs were clear white, when blown, with quite numerous spots of cinnamon mostly near the larger end and measured; .68x.49, .70x.49, .66x.48 inches.

Still farther down the canon there grows a box-elder bush with a large, bulky nest in the top, from which I fished six eggs of the Road-runner last year.

We are now near the place where we left the horse, so, if he has not gone home without us, we are very glad to have his company.

H. M. HALL,  
Riverside, Cal.

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### JULY CONTEST.

#### Fifty-eight Judges.

Prize Winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. The Hummingbird in South Carolina. 226
2. Birds Found Breeding in Bertie Co., N. C. 167
3. A Quawk Town. 152
4. A Few Notes on the Red-tailed Hawk. 141
5. Sitta Canadensis in Montana. 55

Three other articles received from 28 to 54 credits each.

Ten Judges named the prize winning articles—none, however their exact order.

The winners were as follows:

1. No. 6.—Tom Fluornoy, Clinton, Ia., 1,2,4,3,5.
2. No. 22—A. W. Baylis, Cedar Rapids, Ia., 1,2,4,3,5.
3. No. 26—Clifton D. Howe, Newfane, Vt., 1,3,2,4,5.
4. No. 9—Will de la Barre, Minneapolis, Minn., 2,1,3,4,5.
5. No. 12—N. G. VanDeWater, Gretna, N. Y., 2,1,3,4,5.

All prizes were mailed on Aug. 24th.

"83" is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers on Sep. 22.

## Past Reminiscences.

The first impression made upon ones memory by ornithological discoveries are very apt to prove most lasting.

Time will not erase these impressions that have been so vividly made and it is but an easy task to recall every connected detail. Thus as I cast my eyes over the pages of my note-book, I can easily recall the circumstances inscribed therein.

It seems as but yesterday, when I was strolling along the bank of that little creek, I saw my first Scissor-tailed Flycatcher. It was sitting on a small willow bush, pluming its bright, beautiful feathers, and I watched it until it took wing and flew away. Its beauty was enhanced as I realized its rarity at this latitude.

That first Crow's nest is still fresh in my memory too. How my old friend, Frank, and I saw the nest in an oak on a distant hill. How eagerly he climbed the tall tree and after looking into the nest, called out in an excited tone, "Oh Billy, two eggs." Then I too had to climb that tree and see those eggs in the nest.

With what pleasure it gave me to pack those then precious eggs I shall never forget.

In a small tray in my cabinet, reposing on the softest of cotton, is a set of eggs of the Prairie Warbler marred by the addition of one of the Cowbird.

Who would have thought that such a dainty nest and eggs would have been found in a dusty field. Having occasion to cross this field, I passed through a few hazel bushes, and there in one small bush I espied the nest. How very dainty the warbler's eggs looked beside that of the Cowbird. What cared I if it was nearly dark and I ten miles from home?

Then there are those four delicate white eggs finely speckled. What are they? Why they are those of the Bell's Vireo, found one hot afternoon in an exceedingly large pasture covered with

hazel brush. Were they easily found?

I should say not, for it seems as though I crawled over the whole pasture on my hands and knees hunting for the nest but without success, and then as I was starting for home I fell headlong over a stump, right in front of it. Odd, wasn't it?

In the next tray to this set are the eggs of a near relative, the Yellow-throated Vireo, found under peculiar circumstances. A find that I will not soon forget was that of a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher. True, it was not found by myself but I was there when it was taken. A nest so delicate and beautiful in construction cannot help but excite the enthusiasm of a collector.

My acquaintance with the Loon was made at its home in the north. I was staying for a few days at a beautiful northern lake, one summer not long ago, and one cloudy night my curiosity was aroused by a weird cry coming from the lake. I could not place it as I had never heard the like before, but I was soon informed. Asking a native about it I received a reply, "them's Loons".

Does not every one remember his first duck hunt? I can very well, and can imagine that I am there at this very moment right in the midst of the Blue-bills, Coots and hosts of others. What a delightful experience it is to be out on a lake in the early morn among the water fowl, before old Sol shows his face.

Early attempts at taxidermy are not soon to be forgotten, and mine are always flashed to my mind whenever I see a Blue Jay. The Jay was the victim when I started out for a subject to commence on, but when I had finished, he looked no more like a Jay.

Methinks I taste frogs legs when I look at those Red-wing's eggs, and can see and hear the sun-fish jumping in yon small lake. In future years, what comfort we shall take in reviewing our

journals, filled with numerous adventures, finds and past experiences, that have been recorded while we were young and lusty for

"When Time, who steals our years away,  
Shall steal our pleasures too,  
The mem'ry of the past will stay  
And half our joys renew."

W. E. LOUCKS.  
Peoria Ills.

#### Meeting of W. N. Y. Naturalists Association.

The meeting as given out out in Aug. number will take place at Brockport, N. Y., Thursday Oct. 6th, 1892, in Republic Hall, 82 Main St. Business meeting 2.30 p. m., Public meeting at 8 p. m., at which exhibits of different specimens will be made, and several original articles read. All interested in natural history are cordially invited to attend.

E. H. SHORT, Pres.  
T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

#### World's Fair Notes.

Carl Hagenbeck, the celebrated German collector and tamer of wild animals is in Chicago to arrange for the extensive zoological exhibit which he will make in Midway Plaisance at the World's Fair. He will exhibit lions, tigers, panthers, leopards, bears, monkeys etc., in great numbers, and will show the largest "happy family" ever seen.

The World's Fair Commission is endeavoring to locate twelve of the largest trees in the State of New York. Up to the present time only two notably large trees have been found. If this item attracts the notice of anyone who owns, or knows of a tree of unusual size, and the person will communicate with George T. Smith, No. 9, Niagara Street, Buffalo, N. Y., giving the approximate size of the tree, the favor will be appreciated by the World's Fair Commissioners.

Owing to the illness of our mailing clerk the credit number on address label of this month's OÖLOGIST has not been corrected. The proper number showing when your subscription expires or has expired will be given on the wrapper of next month's issue.

#### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Sep.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Sept. competition we will give a similiar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Oct. 15th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this months competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earlist mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

At Chicago the exhibit will be divided into fifteen groups. It will occupy a room 88x60 feet and the entire floor space is to be built up to represent a natural landscape, with rocks, grass, cacti, willows, quaking asp and natural fir and evergreen trees. On each side of the wing will be built a tall cliff and in between a valley with a running stream of water, a lake and swamp. On the back it is intended to have a panoramic painting, continuing the effect of the scenery of the foreground and giving distance to the scene. Each group of animals will be placed among surroundings imitative of their native haunts; the moose will be seen in natural positions in the swamp; the goats and sheep on the rocky cliffs, and the buffalo on a buffalo grass prairie. One feature of the exhibit will be "Comanche," General Custer's famous war horse, that has been mounted by the Professor within the last year.

What \$1 will bring when sent to  
**C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb.**  
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlefield.  
 1 " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.  
 1 " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.  
 1 " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand  
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and  
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.  
 1 " " Chief Sitting Bull.  
 1 " " Three Hostile Chiefs.  
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.  
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs  
 sent for 2 cent stamp. **C. L. FREEMAN, Je<sup>st</sup>**

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. **FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.**

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JULY, '92

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It gives the Common and Scientific name of every North American Bird according to the A. O. U. Nomenclature. It also gives the A. O. U. Numbers as well as those of both Coues' and Ridgeway, and last but not least it gives the value of eggs of *nearly every* species, over one hundred of which never appeared on any printed list before.

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"It's a little dandy, best I ever saw, have looked it all over very carefully and think you have the prices well regulated."—K. B. MATHES, Chicago.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or "Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, *edition*, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.



# OÖLOGIST.

Monthly.

50c. per Year.

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NO. 10

## Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

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ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the "New Standard Catalogue."

TO EXCHANGE.—First class eggs in sets to exchange for same. Send lists. W. A. OLD-FIELD, Port Sanilac, Mich.

FIRST CLASS singles, and sets with original nests, to exchange for sets with original nests, many common ones wanted. Write. C. S. BUTTERS, 69 Merrimaek St., Haverhill, Mass.

FOR SALE.—Bald Eagle 18 months old first class condition and healthy; price ten dollars. A. J. MILLER, Frankfort, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE.—Forty "Once a Week," newspapers and forty "Once a Week" library books, for eggs in singles which I have not got. WILLIE ALLEN, Lock Box 1, Medina, N. Y.

FOR SALE or exchange:—Compound microscope Acme No. 5; two eye-pieces; two objectives; power 25-500 diameters; clear field; nearly new. Write for particulars. W. T. SHAW, Bozeman, Mont.

EXCHANGE:—Nicely stuffed specimens A. O. U. 194, 201, 300, without stands. Also one first class skin of No. 144 and two of 201. Make offers. MYRON J. PARSONS, Mt. Tom, Mass.

I HAVE 1st class sets to exchange for same, and 1st class skins. Send lists. EDWARD WALL, Box 473, San Bernardino, California.

WILD MEXICAN POTATOES:—In lots of 50 to exchange for eggs, shells, Indian relics, curios and minerals. Make offers. A. R. OGDEN, Brocton, N. Y.

A COLLECTION of stamps valued at \$10.00. Would like to exchange for camera or kodak or -ell for value. Write to C. C. RENSHAW, Boyce, Va.

WILL EXCHANGE copies (new) life of Cleveland for books on Oology and Ornithology preferred. A few eggs to exchange. GEO. M. COULTER, Baileyville, Kan.

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WANTED:—A pair of opera glasses and Indian relics. Will give foreign and United States stamps, books and papers for them. Send for list. E. T. JOHNSON, 104 Coert St., Memphis, Tenn.

WANTED.—Good opera or field glass, also boxing gloves. JAMES E. MALLORY, Baldwin, Kan.

TO EXCHANGE.—Fossils and minerals to exchange for same or deer, elk and buffalo horns in rough, also good exchanges given for microscope or opera glasses. MORTON CULVER, La Salle, Ills.

NOTICE.—On account of my going abroad I offer my collection of Mounted Birds, skins, eggs, minerals etc. for sale at bottom prices. Send for list. All must go. D. FRANK KELLER, Reading, Pa.

I HAVE a number of miscellaneus articles, magazines, minerals, fossils, birds' eggs, glass eyes for mounted birds, curios, etc. etc. to exchange for birds' eggs. Write for lists, all answered. R. C. WOODHOUSE, 135 West 93 St., New York City.

MRS. JAS. E. TANNER, 17 Lincoln Ave., Corland, N. Y., has a glass shade cone 20 in. tall by 12 in. wide, that she would like to dispose of for best offer. A local purchaser preferred.

EXCHANGE.—Insects, Cocoons, *Belestoma Giraudis* (gigantic water bug) and many others, in large or small quantities for sale or to exchange for coleoptera, books, curios etc. PAUL VAN RIPER, Curators St., Joe Valley Chapter A. A. Niles, Mich.

FOR SALE or exchange:—Complete blow-pipe analysis outfit, including chemical reagents and books to enable one to readily name any animal; complete in cherry stained case. Write for particulars. WM. B. FRANK, Bozeman, Montana.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

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WANTED.—To sell or trade a \$7.00 collection of fossils and curiosities. Also *Exogyra arietina* fossils, under 10, 10c. each; over 10, 7c. each; over 20, 5c. each. Any quantity. For next 30 days only. WILLIAM M. THORNTON, 1501 Colorado St. Austin, Texas.

COLLECTORS:—I have fancy pigeons, tripod camera, stamps, 600 U. S. and foreign coins, taxidermist's instruments, butterflies and bugs, for sale or exchange. Will exchange for geological specimens, 1st class eggs, Indian relics and arrow points, will give 100 foreign stamps for every mineral or arrow point sent me. All letters answered. Correspondence invit-d. V. F. MUELLER, 346 Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

WANTED.—Cooes' Key, flexible binding preferred, also any other standard works on American ornithology. State condition and edition. Will give cash. All answered. N. G. BUXTON, Encina Hall, L. S. J. U., Palo Alto, Cal.

SETS of Common and King Eider Duck's eggs for butterflies. Correspondence solicited with lepidopterists, especially from the West, South and Northwest. Perfect specimens only. LEVI W. MENDEL, Reading, Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE.—New self-inking press, 100 Agricultural, School Smithsonian, Geological (all states) reports and statistics, very cheap, land corals, cigarette pictures, new striking bag (Spaulding), Indian clubs, etc. etc. Wanted, Indian relics, eggs and curiosities. JOHN W. MYKRANTZ, Ashland, Ohio.

FOR EXCHANGE.—1 pair gray squirrels and cage, also a few volumes of Natural History papers for first class bird skins and eggs in sets. ARTHUR W. BROCKWAY, Hadlyme, Conn.

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I HAVE a quantity of petrified wood from the petrified forest of Colorado, to exchange for curios and U. S. Fractional Currency in good condition. WILL D. WALTMAN, 18 South Wahsatch Ave., Colorado Springs, Col.

FINE SPECIMENS of Chalchodny, also sample copies of Oölogical papers to exchange for 1st class sets, or sets for sets. PERCY G. BOURNE, 180 Merrimack St., Haverhill Mass.

I HAVE to exchange several volumes of the Argosy, Golden Days, Golden Hours and Good News for the best offer of Natural History specimens or curiosities. Write for particulars. ORA W. KNIGHT, Bangor, Maine.

WANTED IMMEDIATELY:—Live birds, such as canaries, fancy pigeons and especially quail and partridge; also small animals such as squirrels, ferrets, weasels rabbits etc.; also eggs in first class sets, moths, butterflies and live cocoons, for which we offer eggs in first class sets and singles, moths, butterflies and live cocoons and for exceptionally good offers, cash. All letters answered. ORA W. KNIGHT or R. A. POMROY, Bangor, Maine.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be and with "Lattin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."*

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

GOOD FOREIGN and U. S. stamps to exchange for same, or for eggs. A printing press and outfit, and bicycle for sale. D. TODD MAY, East Akron, O.

LOOK.—I have a 38 cal. shot gun, for collecting, also one hundred brass shells and one wad cutter and recapper for it. A "Cooes' Key to N. A. Birds" latest edition, nearly new. Mounted deer head, woodchuck, grey squirrel, pin-tail and lesser-er scamp duck. Over one hundred and fifty first class bird skins. Will sell above goods for cash, cheap, and will exchange for a pair of fine canaries, or a fine field glass or telescope. Write for list of skins. All letters answered. W. R. BIRD, Mason City, Iowa.

NOTICE.—I have a nice list of fine first-class sets with full data, which I am desirous of exchanging for same. Collectors desiring to exchange please send list and receive mine. L. J. DRENNAN, New Sharon, Iowa.

Ornithological Books, Papers, Bench and Hand Vices, Scalpels, Spring Forceps, etc., to exchange for Painters or Carpenters tools or books. W. INGRAM, Odin, Ill.

FOR EXCHANGE.—Sets 373 1-5 1-4 3-3, 325 2-2, 337 1-3 3-2 1-1, 368 1-2, 731 1-7, 610 2-4, 400 1-4, 394 1-4, 289 1-4 and many others as desirable. Send list and receive ours. WILLIAMSON & CHADWICK, Loring, Kansas.

WILL SELL as pets, 3 tame coons 5 months old, one male and two females. Taken when very young. Perfectly tame. Can handle. Price \$15. CLIFTON D. HOWE, Newfane, Vt.

WANTED. Insects, mounted birds and mammals, minerals, fossils, eggs and shells can offer for same Breech Loading Air Rifle, pamphlets, minerals, curios, 22 cal. Double Action Revolver and eggs. W. F. MOUNTAIN, 338 William St. East Orange, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A silver plated B fiat cornet with gold plated mouth piece. Exchange value \$75. Also a Flobert Rifle and a collection of single eggs, 250 different kinds. Will exchange the above for first-class mounted birds. Any one sending lists of birds, please state sex. E. L. HALEY, Box 214, Phillips, Maine.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OÖLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History, in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York"—and copies of "Cooes' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I HAVE "Footprints of the World's History," new, cloth bound, cost \$3., to exchange for good pair of climbing irons. L. C. BLANTON, Newberry, S. C.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Cooes' Key" or Ridgway's Manual will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

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NO. 10

## The History and Mystery of Jacob Potter, Jr.

"Jake" was a young Barred Owl who lived a short but eventful life at the home of Wm. C. Coomles, in Clement Co., Ohio.

On the 9th of May, a gentleman, Mr. Jacob Potter, while hunting in a piece of wet woodland described in "Notes from Southwestern Ohio" in the March, '92 OÖLOGIST, flushed an owl from a hollow beech, near which a small Barred Owl had been killed, two days before. He fired at it, as it left the hole but secured nothing but feathers.

The writer was visiting at that time, at the home of the above mentioned W. C. Coomles, and being informed of the occurrence by Mr. Potter, went with him and Mr. Coomles's two sons to the tree. It was a large beech, with a long slit in the south side, about fifteen feet from the ground. The writer immediately ascended, and found tucked in a corner of the hole, a curious ball, or rather mass of grey and brown down, and brown eyes and blue pupils. He was lifted out, and as it was a rather long drop, his feet were tied to the end of a long neck-tie, and thus, snapping and hissing, he was lowered to the hands of the persons below.

After sitting in a hat at the base of a tree while other holes were investigated for the old bird, he was taken home, and placed in an artificial nest on a barrel top, with two young Red-tails, taken two days before.

Here his baby eyes and steady gaze, his downy covering and fuzzy feet soon won the affection of all who saw him; and he was more petted than were the Hawks.

He soon began, when hungry, to utter a long, strained-out "squee," strongly emphasised at the end. Afterward

when hungry, this was repeated so continually as to be quite annoying.

His primaries, when he was taken, were half an inch long. After eating about his weight daily of all manner of flesh till the 13th of May, he began to be conscious of their size, and would often stand on the edge of the barrel and flap his wings vigorously. I have neglected to mention the fact, that from the day he was placed in the barrel until our acquaintance with him ceased, he had a way of twisting his head, or rather turning an invisible crank with it, now one way and now the other, in a most ludicrous manner, when looking at objects, and this was kept up until his history closed.

A few days after the 13th, he was placed on the floor a few times daily, where he would drink and wade in a pan, and run and jump around, flapping his wings, in an endeavor to fly; and soon grew courageous enough to jump and sail from the barrel. Then he climbed upon an old hammock, and going to the highest part, stared and "squeed" for hours.

It was at this time that I closed my visit; but full accounts were sent me of his doings.

A day or two after I left, he was found sitting on top of the stove-pipe, where it entered the wall, and then he ventured out-doors, and was immediately surrounded by a noisy crowd of martins, robins, cat-birds, etc., who made him twist and stare, but did not hurt him, and he took up his abode in a large maple near the house.

Here he stayed for several days and refused to come down, and my cousin was compelled to carry his food up to him: but growing tired of this, and quit, and at length Jake, very hungry, appeared

at the woodshed and received his breakfast, and continued to do so afterward.

One evening as Jake sat in his tree, a Screech Owl attacked him and had quite a battle; Jake being at this time about twice the size of a Screech Owl, but still a mere baby. The battle was decided a draw, and the Screech Owl withdrew, but appeared the next evening, and, after a desperate battle in air, they fell crashing through the branches.

All was then silent; my cousin called, "Oh, Jake, where are you?" "*Squee, squee, squee*" came out from the darkness, and the Screech Owl, after screeching around awhile, left in disgust.

Jake now grew friendly, and took to riding about on people's heads, and to playing with the yellow dog, dragging his wings on the ground and rushing at him, while the dog enjoyed it as much as Jake.

Jake about this time began to drop suddenly upon persons' heads, and finding that young ladies and children screamed at his approach, he became quite troublesome, and delighted to appear at unexpected times and to frighten them as much as possible. He also attacked a small chicken, and devoured it, when unusually hungry.

This was the early part of Jake's history. Now comes the mystery. One day in September, Jake, after having gone hungry for several days, turned up missing. He was not heard of for two weeks, and then he was heard hooting, by a farmer, who was well acquainted with him. The farmer called him and he came a lit on a stump, and twisted his head at him, and, after further calling, flew up and knocked off the farmer's hat and then left.

That was in September.

One day in December, my cousin being in a neighboring village, heard an old gentleman telling about an incident which occurred on his farm, then occupied by a tenant.

Some time in October his chickens

disappeared, one by one, until twenty were killed. He (the tenant) was much puzzled, and at a loss to account for their disappearance, till one day a large owl appeared in the yard, and flew at a little girl, and on the farmers attacking it with a club, it tore a hole in his ear.

The next day it appeared again, and was promptly shot by the angered farmer.

We have no means of knowing to a certainty that this was Jake, but think from his actions and the direction of his travels that it must have been him. Although he possessed many faults, his owners still remember him with kindly sorrow, and desire to pass a tribute to his memory, in this article, which, unfortunately, has been written in so prolix a manner that it appears to be in a condition similar to which Jake's stomach was for days at a time, namely there is but little in it.

FALCO,

Montgomery, O.

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### A Day in the Field.

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Saturday, June 11th, 1892, was one of those days in the latterpart of spring, which are made beautiful by a deep blue sky overhead, green fields spangled with butter cups and daises, and every bush and tree filled to overflowing with sweet songsters, whose voices and flitting forms are a never ceasing source of delight to every lover of nature.

"Old Sol" had risen long ago, before we, after packing up a slight luncheon and donning our old clothes, made a "bee line" for the nearest woods.

Our ears, while walking through the charming bit of woodland, were continually saluted with the songs of Redstarts, Black and White Warblers, Ovenbirds, Grosbeaks, Scarlet Tanagers, and Wilson's Thrushes; while apparently far off in the distance someone is heard calling "Bob White, Bob White," and immediately overhead, from the throat

of a Quaker clad little fellow, who sits with drooping wings and tail, comes the plaintive notes of *pe-a-wee, pe-awee*.

Our first find was a Redstart's nest containing two fresh eggs, next a Wilson's Thrush with four, and a Black billed Cuckoo's with five eggs. Then followed several nests of the same species and others of like catalogue value.

While we were traversing a small wooded swamp, trying all the while to dodge the attacks of numberless mosquitoes, and to keep our feet from sinking in the black and treacherous looking mud, I caught sight of what, at first sight, I supposed to be a Redstart's nest placed on the nearly horizontal branch of an elm tree about thirty feet from the ground on investigation the nest, which was admirably concealed, was found to contain four incubated eggs. These did not look like the majority of Redstart's eggs which we had seen, so on the strength that it might be something rare, we hung around for some time to see if we could get a glimpse of the owner. At last our patience was rewarded by seeing a small bird slip quietly on the nest. On attempting to climb up again she flew off and darted down to within a few feet of us. where she alighted on a small twig, thus giving us ample opportunity to identify her as a female Black-throated Green Warbler.

Leaving the nest and eggs to be collected on our way home, we struck off through the neighboring pines to an apple orchard where two weeks before a female Ruby-throat had been seen loitering among the apple blossoms. We had advanced about half way through the Orchard without finding anything beyond two nests of the Red-eyed Vireo, when our advance was suddenly checked by the humming sound made by minute wings. We quietly settled down into the deep grass and proceeded to follow the movemenis of Mrs. Ruby-throat. She flew about for some time, and then alighted on a dead twig where

she proceeded to make her toilet. After she had completed her ablutions she suddenly left her perch, darted into the air and after hovering over us, seemingly to discover whether we had any designs upon her home or not, she almost as quick as a flash, darted under the spreading branches of an apple tree, and after poising for the space of half a second, settled down upon her lichen-covered home.

Few collectors need a description of the nest or eggs of the Ruby-throated Hummingbird, and so I will not attempt a description of my find, but I must say that although I have in the course of my wanderings over field and woodland, found several of these beautiful fairy like structures yet the feeling of exultation is just as strong and every newly found nest seems to be more beautiful than all its predecessors.

By this time we felt thoroughly satisfied with our days success, and although regardless of the fact that we had not eaten our lunch, we set out for home, and were soon enjoying all the discomforts of a "cold dinner."

On visiting the situation of the Ruby-throat's nest two weeks later, another nest was discovered in the process of construction, in the same tree and within a yard of the old nest. This nest was never fully completed, possibly on account of the heavy rains which came the next week.

WALTER C. JONES,  
Bradford, Mass.

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### The Genus *Thryothorus*.

*Thryothorus ludovicianus*  
*Thryothorus bewickii*.

The genus *Thryothorus* in North American ornithology embraces two species, *Thryothorus ludovicianus*, and *Thryothorus bewickii*, commonly known as the Carolina and Bewick's Wrens.

The habitat of the first is in the south

it being rare or local north of the Ohio river, and is not common even in Kentucky, but as you go south it becomes more abundant, and in Louisiana it is one of the most common birds. Here you can hear the Carolina Wren singing everywhere from house tops, from the bush and briar, one bird seeming to answer the other in singing.

It is a resident in the south, and about the beginning of March the breeding season begins: Eggs may be found in the latter part of March, or in April, and as late as July, showing that two and even three broods are raised in a season. The nest is placed indiscriminately in houses, hedges, tin cans, gutters, or anywhere. My first set for 1892 of this species was taken April 8th, the nest being wedged between a drooping shingle and the roof, on the inside of an old cabin. The nest was composed of fine and coarse grasses, corn leaves and shucks, and leaves, and warmly lined with feathers and horse hair.

About this time an article came out in the OÖLOGIST referring to the Carolina Wren's fondness for building in artificial nests such as tin cans, boxes, etc. The writer stated that he had taken several sets from tin cans that he had placed in various situations. I determined to try the experiment myself, so seeing an old milk can lying near a deserted cabin frequented by the wrens, I put it up, and awaited the result.

About two weeks afterward I visited my can, and to my delight a bird flew out, which I at once recognized as the wren.

Putting my hand in the nest, I drew out five pretty eggs, which subsequently proved to be fresh. The industrious birds had completely filled the can, a rather large one, with the usual material, leaving only a small cavity for the eggs.

Another set of five was taken from behind a board nailed to a post of an old house, and several others in similar situations.

Much has been written about the song of the Carolina Wren, and it surely deserves all that has been said about it. Its notes are remarkably sweet and loud for so small a bird, and in some of their variations greatly resemble the song of the Cardinal, though lacking in volume and mellowness.

The eggs of this Wren are from four to six in number, lightly specked with dots of reddish brown. The average size is about .73 x .60.

The second member of the genus, the Bewick's Wren is a smaller and plainer bird than the above. Its habitat is from the Alleghanies across the Mississippi Valley to the plains. It is tolerably abundant here, and I have fortunately been able to observe many of its habits. The mating season begins in the latter part of March and eggs may be found by the middle of April. Sometimes they lay a second set as I have taken eggs as late as July 8th.

The nest, like that of the Carolina Wren, is built almost anywhere, but often differs in construction. Sometimes a nest will be built like that of the Carolina Wren, but such are rare, the typical nest being of large twigs, as large as those used by the Robin, and almost destitute of lining. A nest such as I have described is above the porch of our house, and has been occupied for nearly ten years by a family of these Wrens. Another nest which is exactly like the above in construction, and has been occupied for an equal length of time, is on a small shelf over the door of an outhouse. Although people pass within a foot of these nests all the time the Wrens beyond scolding now and then never seem to be disturbed and generally raise their broods in peace.

A habit I noticed in connection with these Wrens is similar to one possessed by their cousins, the Long-billed Marsh Wrens (*Cistothorus palustris*); namely: that the male, in the exuberance of the nesting spirit, builds a small nest of his

own close to that on which the female is sitting, and thus amuses himself while waiting for the young to hatch. Generally he seems dissatisfied with it and pulls it to pieces many times before he gets it to his liking. I have noticed this habit only with the Wrens over the porch and in the outhouse, not having had opportunities for observing others.

The food of this Wren is mostly of grubs found in wood, and caterpillars, which it gathers with great dexterity.

After the young are able to fly, they follow their parents on a tour around the neighboring fences, the old ones feeding them all the while, like a family of Vireos.

The Bewick's Wren lays from four to seven eggs, very similar to those of the Carolina Wren except in point of size, the average size of the Bewick's Wren being about .64x.51, the Carolina, as before stated about .73x.60.

The eggs are white spotted with reddish brown, forming a thin wreath at the larger end. In comparing the two birds we see a great many points of similarity, the long curved bill, the bluish line over the eye and the long, barred tail being common to both species.

The song of the Bewick's Wren certainly deserves attention. He is a cheerful songster, and in my opinion is fully the equal of his much vaunted brother, the Carolina Wren. He sings the whole day long in the nesting season, and every time he brings a worm to his patient mate, he flies to a branch of the nearest tree, and pours forth a song of gladness and rejoicing.

"THRYOTHORUS."

H. B. B.

Christian Co., Ky.

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#### The Californian Bush-Tit.

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*Psaltriparus minimus californicus.*

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Along towards the end of our check-lists we come to a number 743a, the

Californian Bush or Least Tit. During the past season I have found, in them, a very interesting study, often watching them for hours as they busied themselves in the construction of their homes. Beautiful homes they are too. Hanging from the extremity of some swaying live-oak branch, rocked by the breeze, and secure from depredation, the home of the Bush-Tit is indeed one to be proud of. And fully conscious is the owner of its value, for he always, very indiscreetly chirps and chatters and makes a great fuss as soon as you approach the tree which contains his nest.

The nest is generally situated in a live-oak tree near water, although I have found nests in gum, pepper and poplar trees at some distance from the creek. One day in March I took a walk along a creek with a friend and we found about a dozen nests in three or four hours. Two were in eucalyptus trees and the rest of them were in live oaks and the most of them contained seven fresh eggs, though one or two sets of six were taken and several nests found with but one egg in.

The birds are pretty well distributed over the state and remain with us nearly all the season. Quite frequently they lay two sets in a season or even more when circumstances compel them to. One nest that came under my observation was built in the last of February in a pepper tree right over the sidewalk and a set of six eggs were taken from it. Immediately afterwards the foolish birds commenced the construction of another nest in the tree next to the one in which the first had been. I thought I would leave them rear their young in peace this time, but some one else thought differently and the second nest went the way of the first.

The little fellows did not seem at all discouraged at this however but immediately repaired to a poplar tree about 20 yards distant and soon had the third nest completed and six eggs laid and

things were progressing finely, but alas! like some unfortunate men, they seemed doomed and nest No. 3 followed in the steps of its predecessors. Whether they laid a fourth set or not I do not know but sincerely hope if they did, that they were left unmolested.

The nest is a beautiful structure often being made almost entirely of willow down with perhaps a little moss and lichens and a few cobwebs mixed in, and being invariably lined with down and small feathers. The bird itself is one of our smallest and plainest, the main color being brown with a lighter hue on the under parts.

The egg is perfectly white, slightly larger than a hummingbird's, and somewhat conical in shape. Seven is an average set though they sometimes lay but five and rarely as many as eight.

My greatest pleasure has been in watching them in the construction of their nests. Lying flat upon my back under a poplar tree one afternoon, I watched a pair that were building there and enjoyed myself immensely for some time. The nest, when first discovered was about half finished and I had hardly seated myself when the old birds arrived. They were much troubled by my presence, in their excitement dropping the cargo of moss which they had brought with them, hopping nervously about from twig to twig and keeping up an excited chatter for some time. But finding that I was not disposed to remove myself, they gradually, by a few successive hops from twig to twig, approached the nest. Finally the female made bold to hop in at the top while the male left to procure more material.

The nest now began to cut up strange antics, jumping up and down and swaying from side to side. It was quite evident that my little friend on the inside was exerting herself remarkably. Soon her mate arrived with fresh material in the shape of a few small feathers

from a neighboring poultry yard, and the two went inside and wove the feathers into the bottom of the nest.

Thus they worked all the afternoon, always busy and ever uttering their low contented *chit, chit*, at intervals of a few seconds. A few days later and I returned to see how things were progressing, but, as I said before, alas! the cruel hand of man had destroyed all the labor of a few days before. I say the hand of man, though I strongly suspect that the hand which accomplished the work belonged to a man of very tender years, as is too often the case.

Volumes could be written concerning these interesting *multum in parvi*, if I may use that expression, but I refrain from further expatiating on their merits.

WILFRED H. OSGOOD.  
San Jose, Cal.

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#### A Ramble in May.

It was a delightful May morning, a morning when the aroma of the woods seems to penetrate even the busy, bustling city, and invite a ramble in the mossy depths whence it comes.

Such a temptation was not to be resisted. So gathering together my collecting utensils, I boarded a W. S. & B. railroad train, and was soon landed in the pleasant little village of Frankfort with its back ground of prettily wooded hills.

Leaving the depot I started up the bank of a little stream, which came rippling down from the hills, startling the Spotted Sandpipers, and noticing several of their nests.

A pair of Rough-winged Swallows were flying up and down the stream, and after a vigorous search, the nest was located in the side of the bank. The opening to the nest was very round and deep, somewhat similar to a Kingfisher's burrow, which has been the case in all of these nests of my collecting, and forms a distinguishing mark when

found in company with Sand Swallow's nests, which may be deep, but almost invariably have elliptical openings.

Securing the five pure white eggs it contained, after a tiresome dig, I entered a small grove where the lispng ditty of the Redstart proclaimed the nearby presence of a nest, refusing the incessant challenge of the Maryland Yellow-throat to "tackle me" "tackle me," and espied a flimsy platform of twigs, whereon was seated a Rose-breasted Grosbeak, called by the natives, "Red heart," which recalled to my mind the story of the henpecked hubby taking care of the children while his wife went calling. Packing away this set of three eggs, I went on to a small sapling where I saw the trim little nest of the Redstart, its owner seeming rather more distressed than honored at my presence, and relieving the nest of its four dainty treasures did not tend to allay its distress.

I had now reached the foot of the hill where the stream rippled over the slate in musical little cataracts, and the hemlock and beech formed an arch overhead, when, like a tongue of flame a Scarlet Tanager darted past in pursuit of its better half, both alighting on a branch of a small tree, seemingly unconscious of a hostile presence. The female had something in its bill, which, by the aid of my field glass, I made out to be a few small twigs, and after waiting a short time it flew to a limb of a hemlock, whither the male closely followed, and on approaching I saw a nearly completed nest. Spotting this nest for the future I proceeded up the glen, to where the growth was smaller and in a small shrub, about two feet from the ground I found a nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler. Gesticulations did not seem to frighten its occupant in the least, so I gently removed it with my hand and disclosed to my delighted gaze four eggs of the Warbler and one Cowbird's.

In a grape vine near by a Black-billed Cuckoo was sitting on six eggs. Three

were of the normal size, but the remaining three were as large as those of the Yellow-billed.

Seated on the mossy bank of the stream, I satisfied the cravings of the inner man, occasionally tossing a stone at an impudent Jay, which was eyeing me with evident distrust. Watching the Magnolia and Black-throated Green Warblers flitting from tree to tree and listening to the twittering of a flock of Pine Siskins, and the far off *auk, auk* of the Nuthatch, I had gradually arranged myself for a quiet doze, when I heard a harsh scream overhead and starting up began to look for the intruder. It proved to be a Sharp-shinned Hawk and a through canvass of the district soon showed a nest, snugly packed against the trunk of a large hemlock. The tree was very large and the birds daring, but after a hard tussle I reached the nest, and finally stepped once more on terra firma with four heavily incubated eggs. They were beauties, with a delicate clouding around the larger end, and make a fine appearance in my cabinet. The male Hawk made an excellent skin.

As it was nearly time for the return train, I began to make my way toward the depot, noting many nests on my way, though few deserving mention, and soon my attention was attracted by the mellow lay of a Warbling Vireo.

It has always been my experience, that we are excusable, the Warbling Greenlet prefers a popular tree, (*Populus tremuloïdes* or *candicans*) and as this song came from such a tree I began to search for the nest, soon finding it on one of the topmost branches. The owner of the premises offered some slight objections, but these were readily overcome by the judicious administration of Uncle Sam's all powerful coin.

Ascending the tree I secured the single egg it contained, reaching the depot just in time, and was soon whirling towards home wrapped in the memoirs of the pleasant day I had passed.

CHAS. C. TREMBLY,  
Utica, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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## Among the Hummingbirds.

While in Santa Barbara, California, during the season of '91 I had the pleasure of being so situated that I could spend a considerable amount of time in the field, a privilege of which I gladly availed myself. Among the numerous birds that received my attention were the various species of Hummers which abounded in the vicinity. The mild and tranquil climate of those southern

coasts seems a fitting abode for these gorgeous feathered gems, that everywhere flit about and vivify the semi-tropic vistas. By the dense hedge-rows in the moist and shaded canons, over the sun-crested hill-tops and the warm wide fields, these fairy creatures loiter in sportive mood, or wing their way on sonorous pinions with incredible speed.

Of the six species of Hummers found in California, five are residents of the vicinity of Santa Barbara; these are in the order of their occurrence, Anna's, Rufous, Allen's, Black-chinned, and Costa's. Of these I collected sets of all but the Rufous and the Costa's.

Contrary to what appears to be the popular impression, the Hummingbirds are not summer nesters. In Southern California, I believe, the Hummers nest mostly in the months of March and April; however, the nests may be found as early as January and as late as June, perhaps later.

During my wanderings in February I located a nest of an Anna's in an oak tree over-hanging a cañon, but, it being inaccessible, I made no effort to get it. My first set was collected on March 18. A week or so previous to that date, I had noticed an Allen's carrying material to a cypress tree a short distance in front of the house. I soon located the nest, which was about half finished, upon a twig about five feet from the ground. While the nest was being built, the bird would permit me to draw near and watch her at work. When bringing material she would fly directly towards the nest, and with undiminished speed light upon it without causing the slightest agitation, a feat that is continually performed, even when the nest contains eggs. After resting a moment on the cottony mass, the bird arranged the downy substance with her bill and darted away after more. The little structure was completed and on the 16th contained one egg. Two days later the set was com-

plete, and with no little compunction, I deprived the creature of her treasures.

This acceptable addition to my cabinet added new zeal to my endeavors. On the 20th I began a systematic search of a hedge close by, which lined a public road. I found it impossible to keep trace of a particular bird on account of the number that inhabited the place, and also, on account of the density of the foliage of the large cypress trees which composed the hedge. The sun was rather warm so I took the shady side of the hedge and began the search. It was a day characteristic of these happy coasts; the quiet was broken by no sound but the reveling of songsters and the busy hum of the creatures whose province I had invaded. In the distance the ocean which in these genial climes seems to have renounced its prerogative of terror—the quiet waters reflecting the kindly hues of the skies, the deep and placid bosom receiving the fragrant odors borne it by the breezes of the land—lay peacefully moaning as the breakers lapped the sand skirt shores. My first find was a full set of Allen; the nest was fastened to a twig at the height of my breast from the ground. While removing the nest and placing it and the eggs into my collecting-box, the female darted about my head. During the remainder of the search, two other nests were found, one containing one egg, the other just completed. These were collected when the sets were complete, which was upon the 21st and 22d.

On the 10th of April I again searched this hedge. Upon that morning, while passing the hedge on my bicycle, I flushed a female Allen's from her nest. I made an unsuccessful search for the nest and concluded to search again for it upon my return at noon. At noon I watched closely and flushed her again from the same spot. After a long search I had about concluded that I could not find the nest, when the bird dashed up

on it. It was only a foot or so from the ground and contained two fresh eggs.

On the following day a friend and myself visited some ponds nine or ten miles from town. Here we expected to find nests of Coots and Rails; but after wading among the tules for an hour or two we gave up in disgust, and started in our rig for a mountain canon a few miles further on. Here we scrambled about among an indeterminable mass of poison-oak, black-berry vines, wild roses, and nettles, making little progress and no discoveries. Finally we found a nest of an Arkansas Goldfinch, and in our endeavors to get it, we succeeded in tipping it upside down with the result which usually accompanies such a misfortune.

Considering our time wasted here, and being attracted by the presence of a number of Hummingbirds, we took to the bed of a stream hard by. The banks rose up perpendicularly fifteen to fifty feet, and were matted and covered by a dense mass of bushes and vines of many kinds. While here we found two complete sets of Allen's. The nests were fastened to the stalks of slender weeds that grew on the banks. After we emerged from the water-way and were about to leave the vicinity, we found a nest of an Anna's in an oak tree, far out on a slender limb; we tried to get it. Each took his turn and clambered up the tree, and performed all the acrobatic feats that he had mastered during his career as an oölogist, while the bird, sitting unconcernedly on her nest, watched the circus with no little interest. Frustrated in all our attempts we sat down to gaze longingly at the nest, and grow eloquent in berating the climbing abilities of the other. Our oratorical efforts were cut rather short by the appearance of our horse coming tearing down the lane close at hand, with the rope lashing the ground in a furious manner. We set out in hot pursuit and captured the fugitive in a

neighboring orchard and, finding every thing safe, we started for home.

On the 12th I searched anew the cypresses in front of the house finding two sets of Allen's, one in nice condition the other too badly incubated to save. Again on the 28th I found a full set of the same species together with a nest containing young, and a set almost hatched.

During the last of April I found a nest of an Allen's in a cypress tree overhanging a bank of about fifteen feet in height; the nest was at the extremity of a limb extending over the bank, which was of loose, crumbling earth. I ventured out on the limb until it began to give and yet the nest was beyond my reach; I crawled out a little further and yet the nest was too far away; the limb was threatening to break every moment—out I moved—I heard a crack, felt a thud then down the bank rolled the nest, limb, and myself, landing at the bottom in an ignominious heap. I pulled my crushed derby from over my eyes to find myself astride the limb, plumb upon the nest, which contained an omelet ready for the cook.

On May Day my friend and I took a trip into the country where we found a complete set of each of Anna's, Allen's and Black chinned.

Just a week after I found in the hedge a set of Allen's, the nest being built in a very exposed situation, and easily seen from the road. On May 9th while wandering about the hills, I took a nest and one egg of the Black-chinned. Three days afterwards, while in a creek bottom after a Lazuli Bunting nest which I had previously located, I stumbled upon a nest of an Anna's containing two eggs. On the 20th I searched in the same creek, finding two full sets of the Anna's, the nests were in a sycamore tree and composed of the down from the leaves of the tree. On the last day of May, I made my last find which was a complete set of Allen's.

The eggs of all Hummingbirds (as far as known) are white in color; and the complement is two. The eggs of the Anna's are usually a trifle larger than those of the Allen's or the Black-chinned. The nests of the Black-chinned and the Anna's are usually composed of the down from the leaves of sycamore trees, and appear like small yellow balls. Sometimes the nests of the Anna's are covered with green lichens, held on by cobwebs. The nests of the Allen's are usually larger than those of the former two, bulkier and less attractive; they are composed of feathers, plant down and moss.

During the season I collected 15 sets, 28 eggs, in all cases preserving the nests with the eggs. My companion collected at least as many. I made no note of the nests I found containing young, or those where the eggs were too far advanced to save. This, I have the audacity to consider a good record considering the limited amount of time which I had to spend in the field.

HARRY C. LILLIE,  
Ann Arbor, Mich.

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#### A Collecting Expedition.

The day appointed for our collecting and camping expedition June 13th, having arrived we were on the boat bright and early making preparations for our departure. Our party consisted of four pleasure-loving youths, two of which were bent on fishing and two, including myself were after oölogical specimens. It is useless for me to enter into any preliminaries concerning our camping, fishing and collecting outfits, or to give a lengthy detail of our adventures, etc., but I will simply state that we had an abundance of the articles necessary on such an occasion.

Our destination was a small woodland lying on the east bank of the Illinois river about 12 miles south of this city. The place was almost surrounded by marshes, with the river on one side.

We arrived at this place about 11

o'clock, and upon erecting our tent, building a fireplace, and doing other things necessary, my oölogical friend and I departed in quest of our "hobby" specimens. As usual we met with poor success at first, but as we were about to retrace our steps "homeward" we procured the following eggs.

One set of three *Botaurus exilis*, Least Bittern, this nest was situated on a platform of rushes in a clump of "cat-tails" in the swamp. The eggs are pale blue, unmarked and averaging 1.18x.93.

In crossing a wet meadow we found a set of the *Bartramia longicauda*, Bartramian Sandpiper. The nest was placed in an old cow track and consisted of grass, moss, etc. The eggs are pale buff with the ground color almost concealed with brownish blotches and markings, mostly at the larger end. We also found a nest of the American Coot near here built out of rank rushes and moss over the water. In crossing the timber on our return we found a nest of the Wood Pewee. The nest was placed on a horizontal limb of a tree and contained 4 slightly incubated eggs, which were creamy white in color, speckled and blotched with cinnamon brown or dark red mostly in a circle around the larger end. The day began to fade and we turned in for the night. We tried to rest in our tent, but the mosquitoes were too bloodthirsty, and we were obliged to place our beds on the leaves near the tent and build fires around it in order to obtain relief. Talk about mosquitoes! They would actually bite through three quilts and your clothing! We passed the night somehow and on the morrow and next day procured the following eggs:

One set of six *Pronotaria citrea*, Prothonotary Warbler. Nest was in an old stump 5 feet from the ground, and consisted of moss, leaves, and fine grass, bark etc. The ground color of the eggs was glossy white, blotched with rich chestnut red, averaging 72x.57.

One set of two Whip-poorwill *Antrostomus vociferus*, eggs were on the leave located in the thick underbrush. No attempt was made to build a nest as the leaves were not even disturbed. Eggs were almost alike in shape at both ends, and were greyish white, marked very faintly with bluish grey, measuring 1.14 x.86, 1.13x.87.

One nest of the Savannah Sparrow, containing 6 eggs. Nest was on the ground in a wet place almost level with surface. Eggs were greyish white in color, blotched with light brown and lilac, averaging 72x.54.

We welcomed the arrival of our tug and pulling stakes we soon found ourselves cutting the water homeward. We had all enjoyed a good time and were well satisfied with our trip.

F. E. LUX,  
Pekin, Ill.

#### AUGUST CONTEST.

##### Sixty Judges.

Prize winners and credits received were as follows:

1. Collecting on Cobb's Island, Va. 257
2. The Ashy Petrel on the Farallones. 226
3. After the Yellow-billed Magpie. 198
4. The Long-eared Owl. 134
5. An Oölogical Trip in Central Illinois. 75

Two other articles received credits. *Fifty-two* judges named the prize winning articles and *fourteen* of them their exact order.

The winners were as follows:

1. No. 7—C. M. Ross, Ont.
2. No. 11—A. Lohmann, Wis.
3. No. 12—A. O. Garrett, Kans.
4. No. 13—Robt. McPherson, Mass.
5. No. 14—Frank H. Nutter, Minn.

As the decisions of the following judges were correct we sent each a copy of the "New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs."

- No. 15—H. C. Higgins, N. Y.
- " 17—A. R. Hutchinson, N. Y.
- " 19—Harry B. Sargeant, N. Y.
- " 21—H. L. Vandegraft, Pa.
- " 30—A. M. Semple, Wis.
- " 32—Dana C. Gillett, N. Y.
- " 35—Robt. H. Moulton, Tenn.
- " 52—R. P. Gillespie, Miss.
- " 59—Guy A. Moore, Ills.

All prizes were mailed on October 1st.

## World's Fair Notes.

The government of Mexico will exhibit at the World's Fair a large and valuable collection of Aztec relics.

The flora of Montana will be shown at the World's Fair by a collection as complete as it is possible to make it. The state has about 1,000 different varieties of wild flowers and of these 800 have already been collected. The exhibit will include also a display of grasses and forage plants. Many of the states are preparing similar exhibits of their flora.

Kansas will make at the World's Fair a notable exhibit of its native animals. The specimens are being prepared by Prof L. L. Dyche, of the Kansas State University, one of the most skillful of living taxidermists. The exhibit will consist of at least 400 animals, and will include a fine group of ten Rocky mountain sheep, seven Rocky mountain goats, nine moose, eight elks, seven antelopes, five caribou, five buffalo and twelve deer including mule, white-tailed, Virginia and others; eight wolves, timber and coyote; five mountain lions, six bears, twelve foxes, including a beautiful silver gray; besides a large number of lynx, wildcats and other smaller animals.

## Will You Join Us?

But a few tickets left to complete the club to attend the World's Fair on the United World's Excursion Co. plan. Payments monthly or weekly; this is the strongest company in America, apply to Local Agent or write United World's Fair Excursion Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

What \$1 will bring when sent to  
 C. L. FREEMAN, Chadron, Neb.  
 1 Photograph of "Wounded Knee" Battlfield.  
 1 " " Burial of the Dead after Battle.  
 1 " " Beef Issue at Pine Ridge.  
 1 " " Chief Red Cloud or Bloody Hand  
 Or for \$2 I will send the above collection and  
 1 Photograph of Red Cloud's House.  
 1 " " Chief Sitting Bull.  
 1 " " Three Hostile Chiefs.  
 1 Pair of genuine Sioux moccasins.  
 Catalogue of Indian Relics and Photographs  
 sent for 2 cent stamp. C. L. FREEMAN. Je6t

## Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Oct.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Nov. competition we will give a similiar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Nov. 15th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this months competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earlist mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
 Albion, N. Y.

# \$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs.                                   | \$ 35   |
| 1 Egg with data of Noddy.   | 50      |
| 1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.)                             | 25      |
| 1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel.   | 10      |
| 1 Nickered White Metal Blowpipe.  | 25      |
| 1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished.   | 15      |
| 1 Sea Urchin from Phillippines, rare.   | 25      |
| 1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes. | 10      |
| 1 Fossil <i>Scaphites Nodosus</i> from Black Hills.                                       | 20      |
| 1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay.  | 35      |
| Total value at fair retail prices.  | —\$2.45 |

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots PREPAID for **ONLY 50 CENTS**

**PROVIDING**—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893.

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupons, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.

If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid IN FULL for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase *one* lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

**This Offer will Hold Good until NOVEMBER 15th Only.**

At which date we will either withdraw or extend the same to the Holidays—the offer if extended, will positively expire on December 31st, 1892.

Remit an even \$1.00 in most convenient manner, at once to

**Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oologist, Albion, N. Y.**



Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OÖLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

|    |           |      |              |             |      |       |
|----|-----------|------|--------------|-------------|------|-------|
| 56 | signifies | your | subscription | expired     | June | 1890. |
| 62 | "         | "    | "            | "           | Dec. | "     |
| 68 | "         | "    | "            | "           | June | 1891  |
| 74 | "         | "    | "            | "           | Dec. | "     |
| 80 | "         | "    | "            | "           | June | 1892  |
| 86 | "         | "    | "            | will expire | Dec. | "     |
| 92 | "         | "    | "            | "           | June | 1893  |
| 98 | "         | "    | "            | "           | Dec. | 1893  |

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrears, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c.

Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oologist your indebtedness to us is 10 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Oct. 5, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

# NEURO-KON

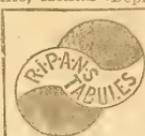
—THE—

## New and Wonderful Cure for NEURALGIA!

This medicine is warranted to cure or money refunded. It is for NEURALGIA only. One bottle enough for the most obstinate case. PRICE ONE DOLLAR. We employ no agents and do no business with Druggists. Send us one dollar postal note, money order, or currency—and we will send you (all charges paid) our regular One Dollar package of the medicine, ready for use. If it does not cure your neuralgia you may return us the package and we will refund your money. No cure, no pay.

PARISH MFG. COMPANY,  
Parish, Oswego, Co., N. Y.

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Rash of the Face, Stomach Trouble, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



Painful Digestion, Rush of Blood, Calfs, Sour Stomach, Scald Head, Sick Headaches, Sour Feeling, Torpid Bowels, Water Brash, or any other symptom results from

## CLOSING OUT SALE BIRDS EGGS.

I desire to close out my entire stock at once and in doing so, wish to call your attention to the following:

|                            | Per Set. |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Noddy Tern.....            | 1.....14 |
| Sooty ".....               | 1.....09 |
| Man O'War Bird.....        | 1.....70 |
| Bri. led Tern.....         | 1.....55 |
| Booby Gannet.....          | 1.....90 |
| White crowned Pigeon.....  | 2.....90 |
| Great-tailed Grackle.....  | 4.....40 |
| Texas Thrasher.....        | 4.....50 |
| Curve-billed Thrasher..... | 4.....50 |
| Texas Sparrow.....         | 4.....80 |

Will sell lot \$5.00 postpaid. Send for my October list at once. New list every month. Lowest prices in America for nice eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

## Bird & Mammal Skins and Eggs

All specimens carefully prepared and with full data.

WHOLESALE AND RETAIL,

Price List for Stamp.

THADDEUS SURBER,

Jefft White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

## BIRD CUTS.

An illustrated price-list of Electrotypes of Birds sent free. Just the thing to use on your letter heads, circulars, etc. Engraving to order. H. A. CARHART, Syracuse, N. Y.

400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.

AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

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Catalogue for stamp.

## CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists, Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR

Madison, Wis.

"84" is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers Oct. 15.

THE OOLOGIST.

Monthly. 50c. per Year.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1892.

NO. 11

**Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.**

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges," "For Sales," inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only*.

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

A PRINTING PRESS and complete outfit Minerals and a Breech-loading Shot gun with shells, to exchange for Larger Press or Minerals. A. R. HUTCHINSON, Gaines, N. Y.

AMOS BISSELL, of Princeton, N. J., has a large collection of single eggs valued at \$33., which he will sell for \$9. cash.

FOR SALE.—A collection of about 100 first-class eggs. Address H. R. GRAHAM, 2106 Spring Garden St., Phila., Penn.

TO EXCHANGE.—Foreign stamps, novels and good Waltham Watch for birds eggs in singles. CLARENCE LUTHER, P. O. box 322, Fayetteville, Ark.

TO EXCHANGE.—Ferret, good for hunting rabbits, for the best offer of eggs in sets or for cash. L. N. ROSSITER, Lake Forest, Ills.

A COLLECTION of rare eggs, sets and singles valued at about \$60., will sell for \$10. cash with order. H. VAN TRUMP, Rochester, Ind.

TO EXCHANGE. Indian relics, large magic lantern, polished and unpolished minerals, and single eggs, for sets, also wish to purchase first class sets cheap. Send lists. H. W. ISAACS, Prospect House, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

NOTICE what L. L. Krebs, Cedar Rapids, Ia., offers for sale in this issue. A grand opportunity for some one. Please read his advertisement and make offers.

A GOOD COLLECTION of sets and singles, List price \$75., to exchange in bulk or lots, for desirable articles. Reason given for exchanging. Address, A. R. HEYWORD, Jr., 96 Pendleton St., Columbia, S. C.

TO EXCHANGE.—I have a few sets and singles to exchange for cheap western or southern eggs in sets, a few showy singles wanted. Wm. E. PIERCE, 19 Summer St., St. Johnsbury, Vt.

TO EXCHANGE.—Bunwell key and sounder, 20 ohms, good condition, for books on Taxidermy or Oology, eggs, minerals or field glass. All letters answered. W. H. HENDERSON, Chanute, Kans.

WANTED.—Tobacco company tickets, Kinney Bros. especially, Rare Stamps, Coins, Curiosities and any good articles, Books on Oology, Taxidermy, etc., for cash or exchange, Revolvers, Guns and many other articles. Write giving particulars. All letters answered. WM. GILBERT, Box 30, Elk River, Minn.

TO EXCHANGE.—A collection of first-class birds' eggs, sets and singles, 60 varieties, listed at \$25., standard catalogue rates, for rifle, back numbers Am. Field or Forest and Stream, set boxing gloves, tennis racket and other sporting goods. Will sell col. for \$4. cash. FRED A. BOYER, 1045 Nineteenth St., Des Moines, Ia.

A GREAT BARGAIN.—300 fine beautiful specimens worth over \$35. for sale at a great sacrifice. The collection contains Minerals, Fossils, Sea Curiosities, Alcoholic Specimens, etc., nearly all large and choice. Any person wishing to purchase specimens has a fine opportunity. Please write and make offer. L. L. KREBS, Cedar Rapids, Ia.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE.—My entire collection of mounted specimens, skins and eggs, including mounted Wolf, Wild Cats, Raccoon, hedgehog, Am: white pelican, cormorant, loon jackrabbits, Warblers, etc. Also photographs of mounted spec. to ex. for first-class eggs in sets or singles. W. W. SEARLES, Lime Springs, Iowa.

I will give specimens of any kind, advertising space in the OOLOGIST, and for extra good offers *anything* I offer for sale or possibly CASH for first-class Indian Relics, or for new or 2d hand books in Natural History. in good condition, ornithology or oology preferred—a set of the "Natural History of New York" and copies of "Coues' Key" especially desired. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

I HAVE over 200 species of first-class desirable singles and sets of eggs. Will exchange for fire arms or musical instruments in A No. 1 condition, or for other desirable articles. Send description giving lowest exchange prices of what you can offer and I'll send list of my eggs. N. P. BRADT, 7 Gilbert St., Johnstown, N. Y.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—A fine collection of postage stamps for a photographic camera or offers. Write for particulars and state what you have to exchange. ROBT W. COLBURN, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

ALLIGATOR EGGS wanted in hundred or thousand lots. Must be first-class, side blown. Write stating quantity you can furnish, with cash or exchange price. I would also like a few hundred snake eggs. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE. - Choice Bird Skins from all sections. Also some good eggs for skins. Please send full list of skins and receive mine. F. T. PEMBER, Granville, N. Y.

UNITED STATES Stamps wanted. 1851, 5c brown, 1860, 90c, blue, 1875, 10c, yellow, '875, 30c, carmine and blue, 2 and 6c Executive, 90c Justice, 30c and 90c State. State your lowest cash prices to A. H. Matthiessen, Box H, National City, Cal.

WANTED.—2d hand copies of either "Coues' Key" or Ridgway's Manual" will give cash or exchange. Write stating condition, edition, and best terms. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

NOTICE.—Will each Ornithologist and Oologist in the state of Illinois, who is willing to help in some ornithological work to further the knowledge of our Illinois birds, please send me their address on a postal? W. E. LOUCKS, Peoria, Ill.

AMERICAN HISTORY.—I desire, at once, the following books, either new or second-hand, Bancroft's History of the United States, Bancroft's History of the formation of the Constitution of the United States, Fiske's American Revolution, Frothingham's Rise of the Republic of the U. S., or any other Standard Works on American History. I will give in exchange, Shells, Corals, Indian Relics, Minerals, Birds Eggs or other curiosities. Send description of what you have to offer and state what you want for the same. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Painful Digestion, Rash of Blood, Scald Head, Salt Rheum, Scald Head, Scrofula, Skin Diseases, Sore Throat, Stomach, Tired Feeling, Torpid Bowels, Ulcers, and every other ailment which results from impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c, 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



Fossils, Agates, Shells, Corals and Curiosities. Cretaceous Fossils of Eastern Montana a Specialty.



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|  |                   |
|--|-------------------|
| Aporrhais biangulata.....                                  | 15                |
| Actaeon attenuata.....                                     | 15                |
| Anisomyon nativelliformis.....                             | 30                |
| Baculites ovatus.....                                      | 10 to \$1.00      |
| Callista Deweyi.....                                       | 15 to 25          |
| Dentalium gracile.....                                     | 15                |
| Haminea minor.....   | 15                |
| Volsella Meeki.....  | 15                |
| Veniella subtimida.....                                    | 15                |
| Inoceramus convexus.....                                   | 20 to 75          |
| "    Crispili.....   | 15 to 75          |
| Lunatia concinna.....                                      | 15                |
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Homer Squyer,

Mingusville, - - - Montana,

# THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., NOV., 1892.

NO. 11

## Osteology for Amateurs.

A goodly collection of skulls or a fair number of skeletons will give a naturalist more knowledge regarding the birds represented than a like number of first-class skins. This assertion may be disputed by some, but it only proves that such persons have never dabbled in the pleasures of an osteological study.

Probably the main reason that so many naturalists have omitted avian osteology is the great difficulty experienced in preparing cabinet specimens.

Recognizing the need of a good method for preparing specimens it is the object of the writer to present to you clear and simple directions for the manufacture of good preparations for osteological study.

About a year ago Mr. Will T. Shaw, a naturalist well known to many readers of the OÖLOGIST, while studying this interesting branch of ornithology discovered a new process for preparing skeletons and skulls for the cabinet.

That process combined with the experiences of the writer is herein condensed and respectfully submitted to the American Naturalists.

The process—simple but efficient is as follows. In preparing skeletons, skin the bird and remove all the flesh possible with the scalpel. Then boil for one hour in a solution of water and lye, in the proportion of one teaspoonful of lye to every quart of water.

After one hour steady boiling the remaining flesh may be easily detached from the bones by the use of a water blower. Rig up your blower in some out door situation, and get a good strong stream of water playing on all the parts. You will be surprised at the ease with which it is done, the force of

the water easily dislodges all matter contained in the various crevices of the avian frame.

Skulls are prepared in the same manner only it is not necessary to remove any of the flesh before boiling. The water blower will be found especially useful in removing the brains through the orifice of the spinal column.

It will sometimes be found necessary to boil the preparation longer than an hour in order to remove all traces of flesh. Care should be exercised in this direction for if the bones are left in the solution too long, the lye will "eat a hole" through—an accident not easily repaired.

When all traces of flesh have been removed, they are ready for drying, which can be accomplished best by placing in the sun, the sunlight bleaching in a first-class manner.

When dry label all the miscellaneous bones and place in the cabinet.

You will experience difficulty at first in putting a skeleton together, however practice and a careful study of "Osteology" in Coues' Key will overcome this also.

Place the completed skeleton upon a neatly varnished stand of hard wood. Ah! how valuable your first skeleton will seem.

As naturalists are always "orderly souls" perhaps an idea of an osteological work room will not be out of the way. If possible always have a place especially set apart for your work. You will find a corner of the barn or out-house more convenient and satisfactory, for manufacturing skeletons is not a very inviting job to many of the family. Have your work table here, four or five light wooden trays, size about 7 by 14 and one inch high for carrying preparations.

I find an oil stove almost indispensable, they are so cheap and yet so convenient a tin pail holding from 6 to 12 quarts for use in boiling, another pail for refuse, forceps and scalpels, besides a big pair of wooden forceps, useful in taking bones from pail while boiling.

If you wish, arrange a barrel of water fitted with a faucet. You will see "what for" when you begin real work.

All bones of birds skinned, those shot for identification also those so badly torn by shot that they cannot be used for skinning, can all be utilized in making preparations for osteological study. Do not waste time in making skeletons of the smaller birds. Keep the pelvis, sternum and skull, also any peculiarity of construction that may occur, such as the tibia of a grebe, etc.

Finally, my brethern, "go at it to win." You will find many obstacles in the path but do not give up Osteology. Let us build our knowledge of the avian family upon the avian framework: and in the end you will find that your osteological researches have brought to you a knowledge of the parts of a bird, but, (what is more valuable) knowledge of a Creator's mind, a Creator's power, and above all, a Creator's love. For if we study the creature, there will surely creep into our minds and hearts some knowledge of the Creator, whom to know is life eternal.

A. MOWBRAY SEMPLE,  
Poynette, Wis.

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#### Buzzard Island.

One of my earliest recollections on coming into the field as an enthusiastic young ornithologist is an island located about 5 miles above the head of navigation on the Chattahoochee River, which from the multitudes of Black and Turkey Vultures which inhabit the place, is called "Buzzard Island."

I had always longed to make a visit to the island and collect some Buzzard eggs which were said to be plentiful

there, but as the river at that point is about half a mile wide and nothing but rocks and rapids, the island has always been considered almost inaccessible. Under these circumstances I had about come to the conclusion that I was never to take the much desired trip, when one day last May, my chum and brother oölogist drove up in a buggy and announced the fact that his brother had the day before; while on a fishing excursion up the river, succeeded in reaching Buzzard Island in a batteau and brought away a couple of sets of eggs of the Black Vulture. That was sufficient; I jumped into the buggy and we went by and picked up another enthusiastic friend and having been re-enforced by the aforesaid successful brother who was to act as guide, we immediately set out up the river for Buzzard Island.

Having arrived at a point nearly opposite the island, we found the batteau moored safely in a little nook where the water was quiet; she was quickly unfastened and we all four secured paddles and shoved off into the rapids. Our "guide" was confident we could make it all right but after having passed the first slue by hard paddling and careful steering I don't think we were all quite so anxious to tackle the next one, which if anything looked less inviting than the first. We were all good swimmers but in rapids like that the best swimmer would not have much chance, for the moment he touched the water he would be dashed against the rocks and disabled by having his leg or arm broken. However, it was too late to turn back now and no one felt like saying he was afraid, so we again pushed off from the temporary landing we had made and after considerable hard paddling and yelling and a profusion of entirely unnecessary orders given by all members of the party we succeeded in making about a quarter of a mile through the rapids. Here we came to a succession of shoals where the rocks were so

numerous and the water so swift and shallow, it was impossible to navigate the boat, so all hands jumped out, up to our knees in the swift water, where it was very hard to keep your footing, and with two of us at the bow and two at the stern, we succeeded by lifting, hauling and dragging, in making about 200 yards more. We had now gotten away from most of the rocks and were among a series of small islands covered with trees and undergrowth, and could travel with ease as the water was deeper, not so swift and in some places quiet.

Turning the point of a little island, we came in sight of Buzzard Island which was about 50 yards further. As soon as we came in sight hundreds of Vultures rose from the trees on the island with a noise almost like thunder and soaring round and round, gradually rose until they looked like a swarm of bees against the blue heavens. A low sand bar projected from one end of the island for a distance of about 300 feet, and this was also covered with Vultures pluming themselves and hopping about in their awkward, ungainly manner. As we approached the bar to make a landing they rose and either alighted among the small trees on the numerous small islands or soared away to the sky in their cork-screw fashion. I noticed that they were nearly all Black Vultures, the Turkey Vultures being very scarce. I think there were a hundred of the Black Vultures to one of the other species.

Numbers of the birds remained in the trees on the island and watched us curiously as we made our way among the dense undergrowth and canes. It was almost impossible to stand erect as the reeds and vines were matted together and we were forced to crawl along on our hands and knees through the well defined paths which the birds had made through the canes. These paths wound around in every direction all over the island, and had it not been for them I

doubt if we could have made our way at all. I had crawled about 30 yards through the canes when I came upon two young Vultures cuddled up together in a slight depression in the ground, gazing stupidly at me. They were about half grown and were covered with white downy feathers. While I was looking at them I heard a yell from one of my companions as he announced that he had bagged a set of eggs. This was immediately followed by a similar yell and announcement from another of the party about 20 yards off. I pushed forward a few feet further when I was rewarded by a set of two eggs which were laying on the bare ground by an old log. The eggs are a dirty white, spotted and blotched all over with lavender and brown and are generally, somewhat larger than those of the Turkey Vulture. Having tied them up in my handkerchief I pushed on and after finding another pair of young birds and numerous nests which had recently been occupied, I bagged another set of eggs. My companions were more successful and when we reached the other end of the island, which was only about 500 feet, they showed up with 3 and 4 sets, respectively.

They had also found several young birds and old nests, which were only slight depressions in the ground without any attempt at lining, except the dead cane leaves which covered the island. The ground was almost white with bones of birds, chickens and small animals carried there by the vultures, which would seem to indicate that the place had been used by these birds as a breeding and roosting place for years.

On the way back to the boat I found another set, which made a total of ten sets or twenty eggs. Our guide had preferred to remain in the boat as he had explored a portion of the island the day previous and was not sufficiently interested in bird eggs to put up with the almost suffocating, musky odor

which you have to endure while crawling about on the island.

Highly elated, we started back and arrived at the opposite shore without any mishap save the loss of our 'guide's' coat, which was lying on a seat and got over-board during a little excitement caused by the boat getting jammed among some rocks.

All the eggs were those of the Black Vulture, and some were highly incubated. I think if we had arrived about 3 weeks earlier we would have secured a great many more eggs. However, we were very well satisfied and returned home with the full intention of visiting "Buzzard Island" again next Spring.

BEN HUDSON,

Columbus, Ga.

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#### Winter Visitors.

When late in the autumn the deciduous trees lose their verdant summer foliage, and the landscape appears desolate and barren, a number of northern birds come to spend the rigorous months of winter with us.

Their advent is cheerfully welcomed by the lover of animated nature, who laments the departure of his summer friends. The following species are to be found in the inland districts of Bristol County, Mass: Black Snowbirds and Tree Sparrows are abundant, and they usually associate with each other; they are gregarious, frequenting bushy pastures, cultivated fields, and if there is a spot where weeds have grown, and have been allowed to go to seed, these birds may be found in large numbers feeding on them. After a snowstorm the birds under consideration become semi-domesticated, hopping around the veranda and even alighting on the window-sills, and peering curiously into the apartments. At this time they get a great many dainty morsels, which their superior bipeds expose purposely for them. When they find a sheltered

nook on a sunny day, they emit a low melodious warble. During the month of August I have seen Black Snowbirds among the rocky crevices, on the summit of Mt Washington, at an altitude of 6,300 ft. They probably breed on the slopes of the Presidential Range.

The beautiful Snow Bunting with his white plumage, marked with gray, yellowish brown and chocolate is usually first seen, during, or just after a heavy snowstorm. When snow, wind and a low temperature combine to make life, to the inhabitants of the temperate zone disagreeable, this hardy wanderer from the boreal regions is found in the greatest abundance. They move rapidly over the surface of the immaculate mantle of snow, in detached flocks, at times uttering their low call note.

As we ramble among the coniferous trees in winter we hear a very weak, squeaking note, and soon discover a flock of diminutive birds around us. they are all busily at work gleaning their insect food from the trees. Finally a bright-eyed little fellow comes close to you, and inquisitively peers into your face; his yellow and orange-crowned crest is slightly erected, and you at once recognize the Golden-crowned Kinglet. These birds often associate with the Black-capped Titmice.

Later we may have occasion to climb over a stone wall, when with a rattling chatter a little brown body darts into the wall, out on the other side, gives you a rapid glance, and then disappears again. If you remain motionless the little eccentric will next appear a rod or more away having wended his way through the interstices of the wall.

You will first see his head over the top of a stone, next he is on top of the wall in full view, with his tail in a perpendicular position. There is no doubt but what you are in the presence of the Winter Wren. This genial little bird comes around the house, explores the recesses of the wood-pile, and the pump.

I once caught one alive, which was making himself at home in the barn.

In yonder pines, or birches we notice a flock of small birds industriously searching for food. Their under parts is whitish, with the feathers centerally streaked with dusky, and a slightly yellowish tinge around wings. It is perhaps needless to say that this is the Pine Finch, and that they are a common winter visitor in this section.

The White-bellied Nuthatch may be seen around the dooryard, in the orchard, and in the deep woods. His harsh and peculiar note is easy to recognize, it is uttered frequently as he goes up, down and around the tree trunks, regardless of the laws of gravitation, in his diligent search for food.

The Shore Lark frequents the salt marshes in flocks, making an occasional visit inland when they often accompany the Snow Buntings.

The Pine Grosbeak visits us in extremely cold winters, then it feeds on juniper berries to a great extent, and it has a low pleasing warble like a great many other northern birds. During a snowstorm it is easy to approach.

The Great Northern Shrike is most common in the open country, where it may be seen perched on a tree or a fence-post patiently watching for its prey.

The Bohemian Waxwing is rare in this section. I once came across two, which were perched on a juniper tree, and I had an excellent opportunity for observing them, as they allowed me to approach quite close without taking flight.

CHARLES L. PHILLIPS.  
Taunton, Mass.

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#### The Chestnut-collared Longspur.

Of all the birds which inhabit our North Dakota prairies, there is none with which I would part with more reluctance than with this bird. I never think of the prairie, that sea of waving

green speckled with floral gems of every hue, without associating with it this happy little songster. But what wonder, for it is, I think I may safely say, the most abundant resident of the prairie.

Unlike the Meadow Lark and Prairie Horned Lark which seem to prefer plowed land grown up to grass and weeds, and the Baird's Sparrow which makes its home in wet and low-lying prairie land, the Chestnut-collared abounds on the higher and dryer portions of the virgin field.

It arrives here from the south during the last week in April. This year I find from my note-book that I first observed it on April 22d. By the middle of May they are extremely common, and the fields resound with their melody. Once seen and heard they are not soon forgotten. They seldom sing except when on the wing. They will rise from the ground, make two or three undulating flights after the manner of the American Goldfinch, uttering a pleasing twitter, and, having attained a height of 20 or 30 ft., they will slowly descend to the ground with wings spread like a parachute, at the same time pouring forth their beautiful but unique song. From the first rosy messengers of morn till the last fading sky of evening they are untired in their singing.

About the third week in May they begin nesting and sets of eggs may be found from the latter part of this month to the end of July. The nest is a slight hollow in the ground lined with dried grasses, as is usual among other prairie *Fringillidae*. The usual complement of eggs is four (4), although sets of 3 and 5 are not at all uncommon. In this place the nest of the Longspur is a common repository for eggs of the Cowbird; three, two or only one being found per nest.

I think that two broods of Longspurs are reared each season.

These birds leave us in September.

I append a slight description of the birds and their eggs.

Male—distinguishable by the broad black of the breast, and the band of chestnut on the back of the neck.

Female—similar but colors less intense and marked.

Eggs—light reddish-clay with spots of dark reddish-brown, and sometimes scrawls of the same color; also shell marks of lilac.

A set of three eggs in my collection measure .75x.56, .75x.56, .76x.57, respectively.

In Ramsey Co., this species is associated with McCown's Longspur, which it resembles greatly, both in appearance and song.

ROLLA P. CURRIE,  
Grand Forks, N. Dak.

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*Fringillidæ* in Newton, Middlesex County,  
Mass.

There are about fifteen species of *Fringillidæ* here that have come under my notice, of which seven are known by me to breed and the others are only migrants or winter visitors.

The Chipping Sparrow (*Spizella socialis*) is perhaps the commonest here, and best known. It arrives here about the 6th of April and leaves in October or November. They begin in the spring about three o'clock in the morning and sing most all day. Their song is a prolonged trill all on the same key, and I have noticed two different trills one sharper and louder, the other softer and duller. In the fall their only note is a "chip." I found this year the prettiest nest of this species I ever saw, it was ten and one half feet up in an apple tree and was composed of fine weed stalks, rootlets and fine grass and lined with white horse hair entirely. It contained five eggs which were the usual color, light blue, spotted mostly at the larger end with black and lavender and measured, .72x.50, .72x.50, .75x.50, .75x.50, .75x.50.

The Song Sparrow (*Melospiza melodia*) comes next in numbers. A few re-

main with us through the winter in some brush heap, or thick overgrown spot that is sheltered from the wind, but they do not begin to get very common till about the first of April. They do not sing in the winter at all, but by the first week in March while the snow is still on the ground one can hear them singing from their respective brush heaps, [first one taking up the song, of which there are more than twenty, and the others joining in. They have also a peculiar squeaking song, which I have only heard in the fall of the year. About the last of April they commence nest building, and the nest is usually snugly tucked away in a tussock of grass or bunch of weeds but sometimes in a small bush. A nest I found this year on May 13th was four feet up in a hedge, and contained five eggs, four of them were light green, spotted mostly at the larger end with brown and lilac, the other egg was like the rest only the spots were smaller and more evenly distributed, they measured .81x.63, .81x.63, .72x.56, .72x.56, .72x.56. The nest was made of leaves, weed stalks and grass lined with horse hair, it was very fragile and quite bulky.

The Purple Finch (*Carpodacus purpureus*) is rather common here, but breeds rather sparingly. It arrives here in the first week of April, and departs by October. The female is an insignificant looking bird but the males of the second and third year are very beautiful, being crimson above, each feather of the back having a brown stripe through the middle, wings and tail black edged with brown, throat, breast and sides are crimson, the belly being white. They feed off the buds of different trees, or seeds of plants or fruit.

I had the good luck to find a nest this year on June 11th, it was fifteen and one-half feet up in an apple tree, and was made of weed stalks, flower stems and rootlets lined with fine grass and

horse hair, it contained three eggs, which were light blue spotted mostly at the larger end with brown and black. They measured .87x.59.

The Rose-breasted Grosbeak (*Habia ludoviciana*) is rather common here arriving by the 12th of May and leaving by September. I found two nests of this species here this year; the first was found May 31st, it was fourteen feet up in a basswood tree and contained four eggs, which were light greenish blue, spotted and clouded with black and lavender, and measured .88x.50, .94x.69, .94x.69, .91x.66. The nest was composed of weed stalks and flower stems lined with fine weed stalks. The second nest was found June 4th, it was seven and one-half feet up in a little birch tree and contained two eggs; the first egg was the usual color except for a thick wreath of brown all around the large end, the second was the same only instead of a wreath the whole of the larger end was brown. The eggs measured 1.x.69, 1.x.66. The nest was made of weed stalks and small twigs, lined with fine weed stalks. The nests are always built near water and are usually quite shallow.

The American Goldfinch (*Spinus tristis*) is one of our common birds and may be seen the whole year round. I have noticed young birds of this species here in September, that could hardly fly, and once I found a deserted nest in a pear tree, but the larger part of them go farther north to breed.

The Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) is quite common here, arriving about the first week in May and departing in October. They breed undoubtedly and I have been told of nests being found here but I have never found any myself.

The Field Sparrow (*Spizella pusilla*) is rather common here, arriving by the last week in May and remaining through the summer. I found but one nest of this species here; it was in a

large field covered with brake, in going through it one day a Field Sparrow flew from under my feet, upon looking down I discovered, under the top of a fallen brake the nest, containing four eggs, which were white spotted with red and lavender. It is pleasant at mid day, when most birds are silent, to hear from his perch on a small bush or perhaps a telegraph wire, the sharp, descending trill of the male, while the female patiently sets on her eggs.

The following are those which I have observed only as migrants or occasional visitors.

The Pine Finch (*Spinus pinus*) occurs only in small numbers, in fall or winter, and often with a flock of Chickadees. Their only note seems to be a wirey *see-see see-see*, the first note being the longest and the whole being given quite fast.

Avanna Sparrow (*Passerculus savanna*). I have seen but one of this species here. It was the fifth of May, this year, and the bird was in company with a large flock of White-throated Sparrows.

White-throated Sparrow (*Zonotricha albicollis*) these birds are very common here during the migrations. They take from the last of April to the second week of May for their passage north and return in September and October.

Tree Sparrow (*Spizella montana*) this bird occurs only as a winter visitor. I have often noticed large flocks around a marshy spot near here, where they feed on the seeds of the long grass that grows there. Their song is a subdued warble resembling very much the song of the Bobolink.

Slate-colored Junco (*Junco hyemalis*) these birds appear here by the middle of April on their passage north, which takes about three weeks, and return about the first of October.

White-crowned Sparrow (*Zonotricha leucophrys*). I have but one record of this species seen by me on the second day of May, this year, in company with a flock of White-throated Sparrows.

Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*). This bird is rather common here, arriving by the middle of May and staying through July. It may breed but it is doubtful.

Red-poll (*Acanthis linaria*). I have seen but two of these birds here, and that was about the first of September this year. One was alone and the other was with a flock of Chickadees.

GLOVER M. ALLEN,  
Newton, Mass.

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#### The Birds in the Bush Fields in Summer.

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It has occurred to me, that the readers of the "OÖLOGIST" located here and there over Eastern North America, might be interested in an account of the birds spending the summer in a 40-acre bush field, near Washington. As I have occasion to visit such a field nearly every day from April till November, sometime spending many hours of the day there, my memory serves me readily in recalling its bird-life. The field is surrounded by a grand forest of oak, hickory and chestnut, in which the Wood Thrush, Wood Pewee, Scarlet Tanager, Blue Jay, Red eyed Vireo, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Chickadee, Black and White Creeping Warbler, Tufted Titmouse, Golden-crowned Accentor, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Whip-poor-will and Golden-winged Woodpecker are common.

In the field, especially along the border of the woods, the ever present Cat-bird scolds at you, with her cat like mewling, her nest, of course, being hung in the alders and tall black-berry bushes. Here and there among the bushes all over the pasture, the Brown Thrush and the Chewink make themselves heard; and their nests are frequently found, the Chewink in one case at least, placing its nest in a bush, about a foot from the ground. The Maryland Yellow-throat is abundant, its nest never being quite down on the ground, and the eggs not unfrequently having

peculiar pen-like markings, somewhat after the manner of the Oriole and the Vesper Sparrow. The Field or Bush Sparrow is in every part of the field, delivering its plaintive melody, and breeds abundantly. Occasionally the drowsy melody of the Prairie Warbler is heard. Not infrequently the Carolina Wren startles one with his spirited but rather monotonous melody. The King-bird perches on the tops of the bushes, and cuts his curves in quest of insects. The Cardinal calls to you in his quaint whistling tones, while his plainer mate nests patiently in the bushes.

But the most noticeable bird-voice to one from more northerly latitudes, is that of the Yellow-breasted Chat or Crazy-bird, as the boys sometimes call it.

It toots, clucks, whistles and chats, till its varied notes become so common as scarcely to attract attention. Should you approach its nest, hung in a thicket of bushes, it will scold you in notes not unlike those of the cat-bird, only with more of the pathos of anxious grief. These syllables of complaint sound not unlike *cree-oo cree-oo*. This is one of the birds which may be heard occasionally at any hour of the night.

Bob-white's whistle not infrequently greets one, and the Indigo bird is a common songster, often delivering its spirited warble while soaring high in air, after the manner of the Golden-crowned Accentor. The Blue-bird is also there, and nests in the holes of trees along the edge of the woods. In like manner the Great-crested Flycatcher passes its time between the field and the woods. The bright colors of the Goldfinch ornaments the bushes, and the cooing of the Mourning Dove is occasionally heard. Once in a while one hears the Robin.

Overhead one sees the Turkey Buzzards soaring majestically, and sometimes the Red-shouldered and the Broad-winged Hawks.

J. H. LANGILLE,  
Kensington Md.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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## Some Trips for Hawk's Eggs.

Many years ago I made my first successful trip for Red-tailed Hawk's (*Buteo borealis*) eggs, and long will I remember with what nervousness I ascended that ponderous oak and reached the large branch just below the nest. For a moment I stood, my whole frame shaking with excitement, then with all the en-

ergy I could muster, peeped into the nest.

Two eggs. How happy I was. The possessor of a clutch of fine large Hawk's eggs. My then small collection had never known such valuable accessions.

Young collectors all have similar experiences. And experiences wherein they are in extreme danger. Such incidents are not easily erased from memory.

In the midst of a small woods about three miles from my home, stands a mighty oak, lifting its head heavenward over a hundred feet, which rocks and nods, as it were, to its less lofty neighbors.

Although it has been nearly half-a-score of years since its construction, the fragments of a nest can be seen far up within a few feet of the top. I reached that nest once, but it nearly cost me my life.

Gaining the nest I was rewarded with only one fresh egg of the Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) also new to my collection.

However as I do not wish to tire my readers with my earlier experiences I will proceed to describe some of my last successful trips.

On April 2nd of the present year I packed my "traps" and set out for a long tramp in search of nests of *Buteo borealis*.

After a rough walk of five or six hours, passing by two deserted nests from which I took sets last year, I came within sight of a nest from which I took a set of two eggs in 1890. Last year I was disappointed at this point as the nest was not used. But this time I had found the object of my search, for high in air was a small speck circling against the light flying clouds, which told conclusively that the male was watching his home. The female left the nest while I was yet some distance off and joined her mate.

The tree was a 'shellbark' hickory and

very tall and slender, and rocked and jerked dangerously in the strong wind which prevailed throughout the day.

The nest was placed near the top in a very small crotch ninety feet above the ground, and was extremely hard to reach, owing to the oscillating motion of the tree. The material used was sticks and twigs for the body of the nest with a lining of fine strips of bark and was rather bulky, measuring thirty-six inches in diameter and twelve inches deep, outside.

While I was nearing the nest both old birds swooped down toward me several times passing quite close.

The eggs were two in number, white with soiled bluish tint. One is marked over the entire shell with light cloudings of yellowish brown, thickest on smaller end. The second, which had become addled since incubation started, was marked sparingly and chiefly on larger end. They measure, respectively 2.44x1.88 and 2.40x1.92 inches.

Several other like trips made, but in no one day did I take more than one set of eggs.

Leaving the subject of Red-tails I will now describe my most interesting (1892) Hawk's nest trip. Interesting because I found my first authentic nest of the Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter velox*).

Stimulated by recent finds of Cooper's Hawk (*Accipiter cooperi*) nests, I decided on the evening of the sixth of May, to make preparation for a long trip the next day.

The morning dawned bright, and accordingly, I started on my route.

Four or five miles were traveled without success. Presently, while ascending a long hill I caught sight of what I supposed was a Cooper's Hawk's nest, among some vines, forty feet above the ground in a chestnut sapling, which, with three or four companions, was growing from the roots of an old stump long since mouldered to soil. Upon pounding on the tree I was pleased to

see a Hawk leave the nest and fly rapidly away.

Imagine my surprise upon climbing up to find a small richly colored egg in the nest. At first I thought it was a runt egg of *Accipiter cooperi*. But the nest was so small, constructed differently, and in such an odd situation. While thus engaged, in pondering over my mysterious find the clear notes of a Sharp-shinned Hawk rang out, followed closely by the whispering of wings, as the old bird dashed past my head. Quickly whirling upward she turned and with lightning velocity darted past again. Again and again this performance was repeated, all the time keeping up her alarm notes.

Slipping down quickly I hurried away fearing my already long presence would cause the birds to quit their nest.

Pressing on four miles farther I came across a Cooper's Hawk sitting on her nest fifty-five feet up in a hickory tree. It contained four eggs, pale bluish green and unmarked. Size: 1.95x1.52, 1.94x1.54, 1.93x1.51 and 1.95x1.51 inches.

The nest was composed of twigs, sticks and bark. Bark, in this case as in general with nests of this species was used as a sort of lining, being scattered over inside wall of nest. This nest measured twenty four inches in diameter and twelve inches deep, outwardly including an old squirrels nest upon which it was placed.

Returning home by another route, I was so fortunate as to find another set of four. The nest was of the same material as the last, and was placed on an old crow's nest fifty feet above the ground where four oak branches formed a substantial crotch.

Eggs almost equal ended, pale bluish-green. One is unmarked and the others marked sparingly with blurred splashes of yellowish. Size: 1.82x1.57, 1.88x1.53 1.84x1.52 and 1.86x1.52 inches.

Returning to the subject of the Sharp-

shinned. I visited this nest again on the 14th, as this was my regular Saturday route and found the nest to contain only two eggs, which as I believed to be an incomplet set, concluded to leave a week longer. Going back on the 21st, I found no more eggs had been laid, so I took the set.

The eggs were still clean and bright, I was afraid they were badly incubated. But, notwithstanding the length of time, incubation was merely started. They are nearly equal ended and in color, are bluish white. with slight grayish tint.

No. 1, which was the first laid, has numerous small blotches of lavender gray scattered over the surface. Laying the egg down with blow-hole upward, scarcely any spots of brown are visible; but upon reversing the position, a handsome egg lays before me. Marked in an oblique manner with rich chestnut and umber and hiding three-fourths of the ground in view.

No. 2 is marked with the same tints, but the smaller specks are very profuse over the entire shell, and a broad wreath of bold blotches encircles the larger half of the egg. Their respective measurements are 1.50 by 1.18 and 1.51 by 1.20 inches.

The nest which I also took is an infirm affair composed of small sticks and twigs, becoming finer toward the inner side. Outside diameter, 14 inches, depth, 7 inches. Inside diameter, 5.50 inches and 1.25 inches deep.

J. WARREN JACOBS,  
Franklin Co., Pa.

SEPTEMBER CONTEST.

Forty-five Judges.

Prize Winners, and credits received by each were as follows.

- 1. The Breeding Warblers of Western New York. 216
- 2. Acadian Flycatcher. 157

- 3. A California Collecting Ground. 116
  - 4. A Tramp through Woods and Marshes in Western Iowa. 67
  - 5. How I Spent Easter Monday. 47
- Three other articles received credits ranging from 6 to 43 each.

Twelve Judges named the prize winning articles, only two however named their exact order. Between these two in point of *priority* of arrival of decision the first prize belongs to the Indiana Judge—but from point of *fairness* the California Judge is equally entitled to the same as there was only three days difference in mailing decisions which is fully offset by the greater length of time required by the OÖLOGIST to reach the far distant Judge and besides the California Judge named a *sixth* article which was the non-winning article that received the 43 credits.

Taking the above facts into consideration we award *each* Judge a *first* prize.

The other three winning Judges named the articles in the following order:— 1, 2, 3, 5, 4. A case of coincidence worthy of note occurs in that of the Judge winning the third prize, he not only wins a prize of same rank but his recorded number is also *identical* with that of last month.

The winners.

- 1. { No. 11—Everett Baxter, South Bend, Ind.  
No. 33—C. Barlow, Santa Clara, California.
- 3. No. 12—A. O. Garrett, Lawrence, Kans.
- 4. No. 13—L. C. Andrews, Elmira, N. Y.
- 5. No. 19—J. S. Griffing, Cutchogue, N. Y.

Prizes were mailed October 24th.

"85" is the publication number of this OÖLOGIST, and it was mailed to subscribers Nov. 3.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be had with "Latin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

ERRATA:—The article on page 210, Sept. OÖLOGIST should have been headed "A Tramp Through Woods and Marshes in WESTERN IOWA."

### Excursion Club to Attend the World's Fair.

If you have any desire to visit the World's Fair at Chicago, bear in mind that the United World's Fair Exposition Co. is a sound organization, with ample capital to fulfil their promises. The company sells tickets on the installment plan, refunding all but first payment if you fail to go, apply to United World's Fair Exposition Co., N. E. Dep't, 406 Exchange B'ld'g, Boston, Mass.

**2d Hand Books.**—I will give at all times good exchange for second-hand copies of any book I offer for sale. I desire at *once* good copies of "A. O. U. Check-List," and Baird, Brewer and Ridgeway's "History of N. A. Birds"—both "Land" and "Water Birds." Will pay cash. FRANK H. LATTIN, Albion, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs *should be* and with "Lattin" *must be* based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

### Prizes for Best Articles.

We have decided to give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are to be awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Nov.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For the Dec. competition we will give a similiar set of prizes.

The articles entering into competition must contain at least one hundred words and we prefer that they do not exceed seven hundred words, unless they fairly teem with very, very interesting facts or happenings—Remember that "fancies," "rehashes," "Sparrow stories" and articles of similiar nature are not solicited and will rarely be found "available."

**THE JUDGES:** *You* have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Dec. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which *you* have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this months competition the Judgs whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earlist mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

The Little Schoolmaster in the  
Art of Advertising:

# Printers' Ink,

A Weekly Journal for Advertisers,

Will be sent to  
any address  
from date of order  
to Jan. 1, 1894,  
for

**ONE DOLLAR.**

ADDRESS  
(inclosing One Dollars)

**PRINTERS' INK,**

10 Spruce St., New York

For five dollars a copy of the American Newspaper Directory for the current year (1,500 pages) will be sent, carriage paid, to any address, and the purchase of the book carries with it a paid-in advance subscription to PRINTERS' INK for one year.

Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the Oölogist. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired.

|    |                                     |             |        |
|----|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------|
| 56 | signifies your subscription expired | June        | 1890.  |
| 62 | " " " "                             | Dec.        | " "    |
| 68 | " " " "                             | June        | 1891   |
| 74 | " " " "                             | Dec.        | " "    |
| 80 | " " " "                             | June        | 1892   |
| 86 | " " " "                             | will expire | Dec. " |
| 92 | " " " "                             | June        | 1893   |
| 98 | " " " "                             | Dec.        | " "    |

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '92 including all arrears, at their earliest conveniences, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

"56"—\$1.25. "62"—\$1.00. "68"—75c. "74"—50c. Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oölogist your indebtedness to us is 15 cents less than the above amounts. The figures are according to our books Oct 21. 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

**CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.**

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oölogists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquariums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

**C. F. CARR**

Madison, Wis.

**NEURO-KON**

—THE—

New and Wonderful

Cure for

**NEURALGIA!**

This medicine is warranted to cure or money refunded. It is for NEURALGIA only. One bottle enough for the most obstinate case. PRICE ONE DOLLAR. We employ no agents and do no business with Druggists. Send us one dollar—postal note, money order, or currency—and we will send you (all charges paid) our regular One Dollar package of the medicine, ready for use. If it does not cure your neuralgia you may return us the package and we will refund your money. No cure, no pay.

PARISH MFG. COMPANY,

Parish, Oswego, Co., N. Y.

**CLOSING OUT SALE**

**BIRDS EGGS.**

I desire to close out my entire stock at once and in doing so, wish to call your attention to the following:

|                            | Per Set. |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Noddy Tern.....            | 14       |
| Sooty ".....               | 09       |
| Man O' War Bird.....       | 70       |
| Bridled Tern.....          | 55       |
| Booby Gannet.....          | 90       |
| White crowned Pigeon.....  | 90       |
| Great-tailed Grackle.....  | 40       |
| Texas Thrasher.....        | 50       |
| Curve-billed Thrasher..... | 50       |
| Texas Sparrow.....         | 80       |

Will sell lot \$5.00 postpaid. Send for my October list at once. New list every month. Lowest prices in America for nice eggs. WALTER F. WEBB, Geneva, N. Y.

**NOVEMBER LIST**

OF

**BIRDS EGGS.**

My entire stock of over ten thousand eggs is being closed out in lots to suit purchaser. Offer in October Oölogist will be continued this month.

Send for above list at once, if you have not received a copy.

Have a good assortment of Trays and Datas that are going cheap.

Until Dec. 15th, I will allow a discount of 5 per cent to readers of the Oölogist. Orders not less than \$2.00. I want to hear from every working Oölogist during next thirty days.

ADDRESS Walter F. Webb,

Geneva, N. Y.

**POP CORN.**

Rice, the best Popping Variety, crop of '91, shelled.

By freight or Express at purchaser's expense; 5c per lb. In lots of 50 lbs. or over, 4c. Only about 500 lbs. left.

Crop of '92, ears, \$1.00 per bu.

F. O. B. and no charge for sacks.

\*\* Will exchange for desirable eggs in sets.

FRANK H. LATTIN,

ALBION, N. Y.

**400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00**

Duplicates can be returned.

**AN UNUSUAL OFFER**

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN St. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL  
Catalogue for stamp.

# \$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| 1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs.                                   | \$ 35  |
| 1 Egg with data of Noddy.   | 50     |
| 1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.)                             | 25     |
| 1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel.   | 10     |
| 1 Nickered White Metal Blowpipe.  | 25     |
| 1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished.   | 15     |
| 1 Sea Urchin from Phillippines, rare.   | 25     |
| 1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes. | 10     |
| 1 Fossil <i>Scaphites Nodosus</i> from Black Hills.                                       | 20     |
| 1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay.  | 35     |
| Total value at fair retail prices.  | \$2.50 |

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots PREPAID for **ONLY 50 CENTS**

**PROVIDING**—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893..

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupon, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.

If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid IN FULL for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase one lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

**This Offer will Hold Good until DECEMBER 15th Only.**

At which date we will either withdraw or extend the same to the Holidays—the offer if extended, will positively expire on December 31st, 1892.

Remit an even \$1.00 in most convenient manner, at once to

**Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oologist, Albion, N. Y.**

## STRAWBERRY PLANTS,

### ASPARAGUS ROOTS,

## SEED POTATOES.

I have choice plants of twenty leading varieties of Strawberries, Tips of the Ohio Raspberry, Extra Fine 2 year old roots of Barr's Mammoth, Palmetto, and Conover's Colossal Asparagus and Fifty selected varieties of Seed Potatoes. Will sell at low rates, or will exchanged for desirable Eggs, specimens or Books in Natural History.

**FRANK H. LATTIN,**

ALBION, N. Y.





**Wants, Exchanges, and For Sales.**

Brief special announcements, "Wants," "Exchanges" "For Sales." inserted in this department for 50c per 35 words. Notices over 35 words, charged at the rate of one cent per each additional word. No notice inserted for less than 50c. Terms, cash with order.

Strictly First-class specimens will be accepted in payment at one-half list rates.

"DEALERS" can use these columns at *Regular Advertising rates, only.*

Exchange Cards and Coupons (subscription) will be accepted for "Wants" and "Exchanges" *only* and according to conditions stated thereon.

SETS to exchange of 12 x-1, 16 x-1, 59 x-3, 120c x-3 x-4, 122 x-3 x-4, 37<sup>2</sup> 1-8 2-4, 431 n-1, 456 2-3 1-4, 476 2-4 2-3, 486 1-2, 510 x-5, 591b x-4, 96 2-3 1-4, 642 1 2, 738a n-4, 743a 2-6, 758 3-4. Many common sets wanted. FRED A SCHNEIDER, College Park, Cala.

FIRST CLASS skins, minerals and plants with full data to exchange for the same. DR. W. E. ROTZELL, Narberth, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE.—A large collection of first-class birds eggs in sets with data to exchange for stamps, coins or Indian relics. All letters answered. D. A. KINNEY, Box 73, Waseca, Minn.

WANTED.—Books and Papers on Ornithology and Oology; in exchange, offer 3 volumes of Golden Days and 3 volumes of Youth's Companion. GEORGE H. SHERIDAN, Highland Ave., Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa.

TO EXCHANGE. Foreign and domestic sets including 311, 355, 339a, 410, Nightengale, Merlin, etc. Wanted, books, Mark Twain's especially; a parrot, or pure bred poultry. Wyandottes preferred. ARTHUR E. PRICE, Grant Park, Ills.

OLD and NEW Violins and Violas wanted. Have to exchange Musical Instruments. Natural History books, Birds eggs in complete sets with data, Fire Arms, etc. P. P. NORRIS, Lock Box 99, North Topeka, Kans.

FOR EXCHANGE. Several new and complete Volumes of Naturalist's magazines also several old numbers, also have a few single eggs and some nests. Address GEO. W. VOSBURG, Box 307, Columbus, Wis.

FOR EXCHANGE. A skin of the Great Blue Heron. Any sets of A. O. U. 197, 199, 200, 203 taken in exchange. M. L. WICKS, JR., Los Angeles, Cala.

FOR BEST OFFER.—Fine first-class set, Reinhardt's Ptarmigan 1-6 (\$24). Wanted first-class sets, firearms, pair fine canaries, field glass, fine dark lantern, ornithological books, etc. B. S. BOULISH, 103 W. 103d St., New York City.

EXCHANGE.—I have about 150 first-class bird skins, such as A. O. U. Nos. 139, 167, 367, 149, 221, 254, that I would like to exchange for a 22 or 32 cal. rifle. I only want a good one. W. R. BIRD, Mason City, Iowa.

TO EXCHANGE.—Double roller self inking press with 20 fonts type, furniture and \$10 for Safety Bicycle, THOMAS GADSDEN, 725 Fullerton Ave., Chicago, Ills.

TO EXCHANGE.—Chamber's Encyclopædia in good condition, cost \$30, for first-class mounted b'rds. EVERETT E. JOHNSON, 29 High St., Lewiston, Maine.

WANTED.—Coues' Key or Ridgeway's Manual. Write stating condition and price for cash or fine specimens of Oregon skins and eggs. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318-320 Exch. Blk., Salem, Oregon.

WANTED.—Fire arms, reloading tools, etc., or any good offers, in exchange for b rds eggs, singles and sets. Lattin's list to select from. Describe what you have and send exchange price. N. P. BRADT, Johnstown, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE.—1st class sets with data, of 35, 269, 278, 325, 429 with nest, 466, 481, 552a, 597a, 683a, 710, 765 and many others. Wanted common Eastern sets. DR. A. DAVIDSON, Los Angeles, Calif.

FOSSILS from different ages to exchange for fossils. Fossils exchanged for land shells (snails). Send list of what you have to exchange. CHARLES S. HODGSON, Albion, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE.—Set Loading Tools, 50 paper shells 12 gauge, Stamp album. All value at \$1.25, for Eggs or Back numbers OOLOGIST. CHARLIE E. MATTHEWS, 31½ N. Third St. Newark, Ohio.

I HAVE a fine lot of European Birds Eggs to exchange for Am. species, also want Bird skins and Standard books. Only strictly first-class specimens given or accepted. Send list and receive mine. FRANK WAKRIS, La Ciescent, Minn.

## EXCHANGES AND WANTS, Continued.

TO EXCHANGE.—Sample bottles of Tanning Liquid for any 25c. worth of eggs I can use, regular price \$1 per quart, also a few sets and singles, chiefly of this locality. J. E. HOUSEMAN, Aylmer, Ont.

EXCHANGE.—Nicely mounted Great Horned Owl, on stand, for first-class eggs in sets or first-class skins. Mounted Hummingbirds and nests wanted. Few sets of A. O. U. 364 wanted. WHIT HARRISON, La Crescent, Minn.

FOR EXCHANGE.—A Clipper safety bicycle for wooden cruising canoe, shot-gun and outfit, or eggs. Also Fancy tumblers and White Jap. Bantams for eggs or "O and O" books. "A Tramp Abroad," Twain, for "Samuel's N. and E. Birds." "Historic Waterways" for "Cruise of the Canoe Club." Have sets 619 1-5 1-4, 633a 1-3, 474b 1-3 1-5, 263 1-4, 390 1-6, 461 1-3 for 1st class sets Am. Crow, small warblers and hummers. R. S. LOUDON, Big Rapids, Mich.

A COLLECTION of over 500 stamps in an International album, including U. S. envelope stamps valued at \$2.50 each, the whole catalogued at \$22.70. Wanted, cornet, camera, or rifle. Will sell for \$12 cash. E. G. RUANYAN, 638 1/2 St., N. W., Washington, D. C.

OPERATORS ATTENTION.—One Pony Re-lay, good as new, and A 1 specimens Oregon skins and eggs for Coues' Key or Ridgeway's Manual. A bargain for some one. CLYDE L. KELLER, 318 3/4 Exch. Bldg., Salem, Oregon.

WANTED.—Live Canaries, Goldfinches, Siskins, Linnets, Parakeets, African Finches, Cardinals, Bobolinks, Indigo and Nonpariel Buntings, Owls and Hawks. Will give good exchange in Fire arms, 4x5 Camera, Stuffed Birds and Mammals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Mammal Skins, 1 Centennial Business Press, War Relics, 1 Silver mounted Infantry Officer's Sword, finely engraved blade, latest style, new, 1 Miners Teat, 10 oz Duck, and other useful things. THAD. SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, West Va.

DEAR SIR:—I enclose herewith "copy" for an exchange notice which I would like to have inserted in next issue of the OÖLOGIST. I enclose herewith in payment for same 70c. in stamps. I find that an exchange or want notice in your magazine always brings more replies than from any paper I've ever tried. Very truly, THAD. SURBER, White Sulphur Springs, W. Va.

SEND STAMPS for my price-list of N. A. Birds eggs, sets or singles, at Rock bottom prices. W. E. PRATT, Lake Forest, Ill.

WANTED—Pair of A 1 skins of Golden crowned Kinglet. Will give for same 1 first-class skin of male Anna's Humminbird. JOE GRINNELL, Pasadena, Cal.

CORRESPONDENCE solicited with a reliable person living in Ontario, with a view to exchanging birds in the meat. F. BAKER, Box 334, Stratford, Ont.

I WOULD LIKE to buy a few guinea pigs, cheap or will exchange pigeons or Youta's Companions for same. FRANK E. SWEETSER, Danvers, Mass.

TO EXCHANGE.—Books, "Ten Thousand Miles on a Bicycle," by Carl Korn (new) for eggs (singles or sets) shells, bird skins, coins, etc. C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

WANTED.—In exchange for western eggs, A. O. U. Nos. 106, 194, 208, 201, 331, 373, 387, 461, 513, 674, 735. OSCAR P. SILLIMAN, Box 245, Watsonville, California.

FOR SALE.—Fine telescope, achromatic lenses. An induction coil, and electric motor. Single eggs in exchange for others. L. B. CHADWICK, 1569 Euclid Ave., Cleveland, O.

TO EXCHANGE.—Foreign stamps in large or small quantities, many rare, for bird's eggs or natural history specimens. MALCOLM M. THOMPSON, St. Croix Falls, Wis.

OVER 1500 stone implements and spear heads from the mound builders to exchange for 1st class sets, or singles, or works on natural history. GEO. W. PITMAN, New Castle, Indiana.

TO EXCHANGE.—First-class eggs in sets with data and a few bird skins for singles and common sets. All letters answered. HARRY HEATON, Oberlin, Kans.

WANTED.—Collecting gun, books on natural history, bird skins and 12 ga. shell belt. Can give for same bird skins, mounted birds and eggs. JNO. L. HOOPER, Lake Mills, Wis.

WHO WANTS nice set 7 Canvasbacks for \$3.50; 3 Am. Ospreys .75; 2 B. W. Hawks \$1.20? Balance of collection, containing many rare sets, at equally low prices. Send for lists. J. B. HUBBARD, 119 Penn St., Pittsfield, Mass.

FOR SALE or EXCHANGE.—Caligraph typewriter, microscope with two eye pieces and three objectives, 5x8 camera, surgical instruments and pocket cases, cabinets for mineral or egg collections. 14k gold (warranted) Century fountain pens, pocket lamps, fancy pigeons eggs in sets and singles. Will exchange for first-class eggs in sets, arrow points and Indian relics. All letters answered. Correspondence invited. V. F. L. MUELLER, 346 Ninth Street, Milwaukee, Wis.

EXCHANGE.—Wood's Illustrated Natural History, Davie's Nest and Eggs of North Am. Birds (Paper) and Oologist's outfit number two. All the above are perfectly new. Also the Oologist for 1892. Will exchange for Hornaday's "Taxidermy and Zoological Collecting," or other desirable offers in books or anything else relating to natural science. Make offers. JAS. J. GRIBBLE, Box 213, Austin, Texas.

WANTED.—Gray's Botany, books on Taxidermy, violin, banjo, cornet. Will give first-class eggs in sets with data, small egg cabinet, rare terns of Vermont, mounted, egg trays, double barreled gun. All answered. C. E. BRYANT, Williston, Vermont.

NOW READY.—"Bird Nesting in North West Canada," full of illustrations of birds and their nests and eggs, hunting scenes, Indian camps, etc. The colored plates of Birds Eggs are excellent, send 12 cts in stamps for samples of Colored Plates and Birds, and list of testimonials from those who have read this book. W. RAINE, Toronto, Canada.

## Eggs of California Murre.

Collected in '92 by the "eggers" on the Farallones. One specimen, prepaid, 25 cts.; three, 60 cts.; six \$1.00. By express at purchaser's expense, \$1.50 per dozen, \$10.00 per 100.

FRANK H. LATTIN,  
Albion, N. Y.

# THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. IX.

ALBION, N. Y., DEC., 1892.

NO. 12



EGGS OF THE CALIFORNIA MURRE.—*From photo by C. Barlow.*

## Professional Egging; or the Collecting of Murre's Eggs in California.

“What kind of birds are those?”, was one of the numerous queries I propounded a deck-hand on the tug-boat, while on my trip to the Farallone Islands this summer. We had just steamed through the Golden Gate into the surging Pacific, with the gray, barren, sloping shore on either side gradually creeping away from us, when a flock of beautiful birds, with black backs in striking contrast to their snowy white breasts, winged their rapid flight across the water from a point near the shore, and gracefully settled on the crest of a wave, a short distance from the boat. As these were the first sea-birds I had noticed, I did not recognize them at

first, though I could have done so had I referred to my prepared list of the birds I expected to see on the trip. This, however, was keeping company with a lime and a piece of codfish, (preventatives (?) of seasickness) in my pocket, and was left undisturbed.

So I did not attempt to identify the birds, but inquired of the deck-hand, who seemed to have a correct knowledge of the sea fowl, what they were. He glanced toward the birds and replied: “Those are Murres.” Here was my first introduction to the California Murre, and I admired the flock as they executed many graceful feats in the water, until the mountainous waves hid them from view.

The Murre, common as it is, is a beautiful bird, and a nicely mounted

specimen vies well with most sea birds in one's collection. I suppose there are few collectors who have not one or more Murres' eggs in their cabinets, yet I know that by some they are considered quite rare, owing probably to the fact that they are usually found away from the mainland and are therefore more difficult to obtain. Probably a majority of the people of the United States are not aware that the collecting of Murres' eggs for food, by organized parties of men, is a business, so the operations of one of these "egging" parties may prove of interest to the readers of the OÖLOGIST.

The Farallones and other groups of islands farther down the coast of California, are the principal collecting grounds. The party of "eggers" who collected at the Farallones this year were Greeks, and a more hardy and healthy set of men I never saw. They ranged in number from five to eight at different parts of the season. The light-house keeper and his three assistants also engage in egging during the greater part of the months of May and June.

An industrious "egger" in full uniform, and hard at work, is not the handsomest sight in the world, for the nature of the work does not warrant his wearing fine clothes. To begin with, their shoes are made of canvass and the soles are of woven rope. This makes a durable shoe and one that will not slip on the steep, rocky cliffs. The ordinary leather shoe lasts but a few days on the sharp, granite rocks. A pair of overalls and a loose cotton blouse, tucked up at the bottom and drawn tightly about the waist, in order to hold the eggs, completes the costume.

The Murres begin to nest in May and in consequence of the depredations made on their rookeries, they continue laying until the early part of July, when the "eggers" cease collecting.

Each pair of birds then manage to hatch one or two eggs, and by the time the young are grown it is their migrating time. On some portions of the islands there are small caves and nooks where the "eggers" do not go, and here many of the persecuted Murres find peace. The caves are usually crowded with birds, squatting on their single egg on the bare rock, but they huddle into the most remote corner when a person enters. The foul odor arising from the damp caves and the birds, make too long a visit quite unpleasant.

A few days before the "eggers" intend to begin operations, they select routes covering all the cliffs where the Murres lay, and go carefully over them, breaking all the eggs in order to destroy any that may be incubated. In a day or two another lot of eggs have been laid, which can be collected as fresh. As the Murres nest on the same cliffs throughout the season, it enables the "eggers" to keep the same routes. Let us start out with the "eggers" in the morning and follow them through a collecting trip. They have no occasion to hurry in their work, so it is usually 8 or 9 o'clock before they start. A few minutes walk across the level "flat" of the island, which is covered with stones and bowlders, brings us to the foot of the cliffs.

We wind in and out among the gullies, now clambering over the wreckage old ocean has cast up; then walking for a few moments on a level stretch of rock. This brings to an artificial suspension bridge of wire and rope, stretching across a small yet rocky channel of water. Carefully crossing, we find a well-beaten path over the cliffs and rocks which leads to our destination. The party divides, and each man takes a separate ground. With their canvass shoes they scale the cliffs with ease and safety.

As an "egger" approaches a flock of

Murres the gulls begin their harsh screams, seemingly to assist in scaring the Murres from their eggs. The air is often black with multitudes of Gulls. As the "egger" nears the rookery, the Murres stir uneasily, but remain on their eggs until they are sure their enemy is about to rob them, when, with a last glance at their treasures, they shamble from the rocks and soar out over the ocean. The "egger" rapidly gathers the eggs and puts them in the folds of his blouse. The Gulls, however, manage to get their share, and should the collector overlook any, *Larus occidentalis* quickly discovers them. Owing to the voracity of the Gull, the Murre never leaves its egg for a moment unless compelled to.

As soon as the "egger" "cleans out" a rookery, he goes to his baskets and unloads himself, taking care to cover the eggs securely before he leaves for another collecting ground. Climbing about on some of the high cliffs is exceedingly dangerous and ropes are used for safety. A solitary "egger" on the summit of a high cliff at a distance, with thousands of screaming Gulls hovering about him is a weird scene to one who has never witnessed such. The Gulls are very fierce and many of the eggers carry clubs, which they wave vigorously above their heads, in order to prevent attacks from these birds. I am told that one saucy Gull swooped down on an unwary "egger" and, fastening its talons in his straw hat, sailed out over the ocean with it. I can bear proof to their attacks on persons disturbing their young.

As the eggs are collected the baskets are put together in some central spot, and are securely covered with weeds, weighted down with rocks. They are left here until all the rookeries have been visited, when each man takes two baskets and the party returns to the egg-house. Here all the eggs are washed and then piled up. The egg-house is a small structure with thick stone

sides to make it cool. In the middle of the season 250 dozen eggs are sometimes collected in a single day. When a sufficient number have been obtained they are put loosely into compartments of a large fishing-boat and taken to the San Francisco market where they are sold to hotels, restaurants and bakeries. 6,000 dozen eggs were shipped from the Farallones this year in a little over one month's time. In San Francisco, Murres' eggs are usually known as "Gulls" eggs. The latter are very palatable but seldom reach the market.

During my stay on the Farallones I had an opportunity of testing Murres' eggs as food. I could not detect any fishy taste in the fresh eggs and liked them fully as well as "hen fruit."

I suppose it is almost unnecessary to say that the Murres' eggs range in color from a plain bluish-white, through various shades of green into pure white as a ground color. The markings are brown and black and often have the shape of beautiful scrolls. The variations in color of Murres' eggs makes a series desirable for a cabinet. One egg is the full complement.

It is no wonder that the persecuted Murre seeks a nesting place "away from the busy haunts of men," for the despoiler of their homes can but be an object of fear to them. At present, I think the California Murre exceeds in numbers any species on the Farallones, but whether the depredations of the eggers will noticeably decrease these birds, or not is a question that only the future can solve.

C. BARLOW,  
Santa Clara, Cal.

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## A Collection of North Carolina Birds Eggs.

THOS. A. SMITHWICK.

## 1. Green Heron. 201.

Set a. Walke, Bertie Co., N. C., May 16, 1891. Nest of small sticks placed 12 ft. up in pine sapling. 5 fresh eggs, 1.48x1.10, 1.47x1.09, 1.49x1.09, 1.53x1.11, 1.52x1.09.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 2, 1892. Nest of small sticks and vines placed 12 ft. up on branches of small alder bush. 4 fresh eggs, 1.46x1.12, 1.52x1.15, 1.44x1.14, 1.55x1.12.

## 2. King Rail. 208.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., June 9, 1892. Nest in tall grass in meadow. 11 fresh eggs, 1.67x1.18, 1.57x1.20, 1.58x1.16, 1.55x1.16, 1.46x1.08, 1.62x1.17, 1.64x1.18, 1.57x1.16, 1.65x1.20, 1.54x1.15, 1.58x1.17.

## 3. American Woodcock. 228.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 16 1891. 1 fresh egg, found on the bare ground in an open field, 1.58x1.19.

## 4. Bobwhite. 289.

Set a. Weaverville, Buncombe Co., N. C., June 10, 1891. Nest on hillside; composed of grasses, etc. 17 eggs, incubation begun, 1.06x.89, 1.21x.92, 1.16x.91, 1.19x.92, 1.15x.91, 1.17x.91, 1.16x.91, 1.22x.92, 1.18x.92, 1.18x.90, 1.23x.92, 1.17x.91, 1.15x.90, 1.15x.92, 1.15x.91, 1.15x.87, 1.19x.92.

Set b. Vanceville, N. C., May 31, 1892. Nest as usual, on hillside, 15 eggs, incubation begun, 1.20x.94, 1.14x.95, 1.16x.92, 1.22x.94, 1.21x.93, 1.16x.92, 1.17x.93, 1.18x.93, 1.18x.92, 1.16x.92, 1.17x.92, 1.13x.92, 1.15x.92, 1.18x.94, 1.15x.92.

## 5. Wild Turkey. 310.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 23, 1890. Nest a few leaves, etc., in open place in woods. 3 eggs from a set of 10, incubation advanced, 2.70x1.95, 2.72x1.93, 2.64x1.87.

## 6. Mourning Dove. 316.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 15, 1888. Nest of twigs, in willow, 7 ft. from the ground. 2 eggs, rather large embryos, 1.08x.78, 1.04x.77.

Set b. Bertie Co., N. C., May 10, 1889. Eggs laid in an old Green Heron's nest, without any repairing. 2 eggs, incubation commenced, 1.15x.86, 1.23x.90.

## 7. Turkey Vulture. 325.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 1, 1891.

Nest under the end of a prostrate log near swamp. 2 eggs, incubation slight, 2.88x2.01, 2.83x1.98.

## 8. Cooper's Hawk. 333.

Set a. Statesville, N. C., April 6, 1892. Nest about 50 ft. from ground, composed of sticks and lined with a little bark. 5 eggs, 1.87x1.43, 1.91x1.45, 1.82x1.40, 1.81x1.42, 1.79x1.42.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 5, 1892. Nest 50 ft. up in a pine tree. 4 eggs, incubation begun, 1.94x1.54, 1.92x1.51, 1.97x1.53, 1.95x1.53.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., May 20, 1892. Nest of sticks and lined with pine bark, 60 ft. up in an oak tree. 4 eggs incubation well along, 1.85x1.51, 1.86x1.52, 1.90x1.51, 1.88x1.52.

Set d. Weaverville, N. C., May, 1892. Nest 50 ft. up in an oak tree. 4 eggs, incubation begun, 1.86x1.40, 1.83x1.46, 1.80x1.44, 1.81x1.42.

## 9. Red-tailed Hawk. 337.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 12, 1892. Nest in pine tree on steep mountain side, overhanging cliff of rocks, 60 ft. from ground, composed of sticks and lined with soft bark fibres. 2 eggs, incubation advanced, 2.07x1.80, 2.12x1.74.

## 10. Red-shouldered Hawk. 339.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., April 10, 1891. Nest 24 ft. up in fork of sweet gum. 2 fresh eggs, 2.14x1.66, 2.17x1.60.

## 11. Barred Owl. 368.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., March 14, 1890. Nest 20 ft. up in hollow in dead top of live birch. 2 eggs, large embryos, 1.97x1.57, 2.00x1.60.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., April 14, 1891. Nest 20 ft. up in hollow in dead top of live birch. 1 added egg, 2.13x1.68.

## 12. Screech Owl. 373.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 3, 1891. Nest in hollow oak, 35 ft. up, merely a few feathers. 3 eggs incubation advanced, 1.34x1.14, 1.35x1.14, 1.37x1.17.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., April 14, 1891. Eggs on rotten wood. 3 eggs, incubation advanced, 1.45x1.15, 1.38x1.17, 1.36x1.14.

## 13. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. 387.

Set a. Bertie Co., N. C., June 20, 1890. Nest of sticks and leaves, 13 ft. up in small gum bush. 2 eggs, incubation advanced, 1.13x.90, 1.10x.89.

Set b. Bertie Co., N. C., June 25, 1890. Nest 15 ft. up in a beech tree, of sticks, moss, etc. 4 fresh eggs, 1.13x.91, 1.14x.90, 1.22x.91, 1.15x.89.

Set c. Bertie Co., N. C., June 26, 1891. Nest made of sticks, 20 ft. up in an oak. 2 fresh eggs, 1.28x.90, 1.24x.90.

14. Hairy Woodpecker. 393.

Set a. Craggy Mountain, N. C., May 1, 1891. Nest in beech tree 30 ft. up. 5 eggs, incubation begun, .99x.76, 1.04x.76, .98x.73, .96x.73, .95x.75,

15. Downy Woodpecker. 394.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 26, 1889. Nest in dead limb of live oak, 25 ft. from ground 6 ft. from body of tree. 3 eggs, incubation fresh, .80x.60, .81x.58, .83x.60.

16. Flicker. 412.

Set a. Craggy Mountain, N. C., May 31, 1891. Nest in hollow beach, 25 ft. up. 6 eggs, incubation well along, 1.02x.86, 1.04x.87, 1.09x.88, 1.10x.85, 1.06x.86, 1.06x.84.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 15, 1889. Nest in hole 30 ft. high in dead top of live ash, depth of hole 15 inches, diameter about 9 inches. 8 eggs, small soft embryos, .98x.80, .98x.81, .97x.81, 1.01x.83, .97x.80, 1.02x.80, .97x.82, .95x.77.

17. Chuck-wills-widow. 416.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 14, 1891. Eggs on bare ground in woods. 2 fresh eggs, 1.43x.97, 1.47x1.00.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 16, 1891. Eggs on bare ground in woods. 2 eggs incubation slight, 1.41x1.00, 1.45x1.00. □

18. Whip-poor-will. 417.

Set a. How Creek, near Ashville, N. C., May 26, 1888. Eggs on bare ground. 2 eggs, 1 broken, incubation well along, 1.22x.90.

19. Chimney Swift. 423.

Set a. Walke, N. C., June 20, 1890. Nest of small sticks glued together, placed in a chimney of an occupied house. 5 eggs, small embryos, .76x.51, .74x.51, .72x.51, .70x.48, .76x.51.

Set b. Sans Souci, N. C., June 24, 1890. Nest in a chimney, made of sticks glued together. 4 eggs, incubation just begun, .77x.48, .78x.50, .76x.50, .75x.49.

20. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. 428.

Set a. Statesville, N. C., May 2, 1892. Nest of soft cotton like material, covered on the outside with bits of moss, fastened with spider webs. 2 eggs, .47x.30, .50x.33.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest 25ft. up on limb of an oak tree. 2 eggs, incubation begun, .48x.33, .46x.34.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., June 3, 1892. Nest 20ft. from ground on oak limb. 2 eggs, incubation well along, .52x.32, .47x.32.

21. Kingbird. 444.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest of vine stems, cotton moss, strings etc., lined with fine grass, placed 20ft. up in a sycamore. 3 fresh eggs, .90x.70, .94x.72, .92x.73.

Set b. Walke, N. C., July 6, 1892. Nest of cotton, roots, vine stems, etc., lined with fine weed stems and horse tail hairs, 12ft. up in an apple tree. 3 fresh eggs, .90x.70, .91x.70, .92x.70.

Set c. Walke, N. C., June 6, 1891. Nest 15 ft. up in apple tree. 3 fresh eggs, .86x.67, .90x.69, .90x.66.

Set d. Raleigh, N. C., June 19, 1891. Nest 7ft. up in pine, near end of limb. 3 eggs, small embryos, .91x.65, .92x.65, .88x.65.

22. Crested Flycatcher. 452.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 29, 1892. Nest of grasses, feathers, mosses, hairs, etc., 30ft. up in hollow limb of a white oak tree. 5 eggs, incubation well along, .87x.68, .93x.67, .88x.68, .91x.70, .84x.68.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 23, 1892. Nest 4ft. high in hollow in willow, very slight, dead leaves and stems, etc. 5 fresh eggs, .87x.67, .85x.66, .81x.64, .82x.66, .83x.67.

Set c. Walke, N. C., June 20, 1889. Nest in hollow of apple tree limb, 5ft. high, a few leaves, etc., with pieces of snake skin. 4 eggs, incubation advanced, .91x.72, .93x.72, .92x.72, .95x.72.

23. Wood Pewee. 461.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 30, 1890. Nest 20ft. high in pine tree. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.53, .70x.52, .69x.53.

24. Acadian Flycatcher. 495.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 21, 1891. Nest of moss and a few other fibres, placed 9ft. up at end of a beech limb. 3 fresh eggs, .71x.55, .70x.54, .71x.54.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 27, 1892. Nest of leaves, stems, fine black moss, etc., lined with moss, 10ft. up at end of a beech limb. 2 eggs, very small embryos, .71x.54, .70x.53.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., May 21, 1891. Nest 20ft. up in dogwood sapling. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .74x.56, .77x.56, .76x.56.

Set d. Cashoke Creek, Bertie Co., N. C., May 19, 1892. Nest of green moss, suspended below small branches

of swinging water-oak limb, 4ft. above the water. 3 eggs, small soft embryos, .75x.54, .77x.54, .78x.54.

Set e. Weaverville, N. C., May 26, 1891. Nest in fork of thorn bush, 20ft. up, composed of moss. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .71x.53, .73x.55, .72x.53.

Set f. Bertie Co., N. C., July 17, 1890. Nest 25 ft. up near the end of a beech limb. 2 eggs, incubation commenced, .76x.54, .76x.54.

Set g. Alexanders, N. C., June 20, 1892. Nest in a dogwood sapling, 10ft. up, 3 eggs, incubation slight, .70x.53, .71x.53, .70x.53.

Set h. Weaverville, N. C., May 19, 1892. Nest in fork of maple tree, 15ft. up. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.53, .73x.53, .71x.53.

Set i. Sans Souci, Bertie Co., N. C., June 2, 1890. Nest at end of beech limb and composed of moss with a few other fibres. 3 eggs, incubation commenced, .72x.54, .73x.54, .72x.53.

Set j. Weaverville, N. C., June 1, 1891. Nest in fork of dogwood twig, 12 ft. up. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .70x.53, .68x.53, .71x.54.

Set k. Bertie Co., N. C., June 3, 1890. Nest 10 ft. up at end of a beech limb. 3 fresh eggs, .65x.50, .69x.53, .71x.54.

Set l. Weaverville, N. C., June 20, 1892. Nest in a crab apple tree, 20ft. up, of mosses, etc. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .74x.52, .70x.52, .77x.51.

25. Blue Jay. 477.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., May 5, 1891. Nest in white pine, 60ft. up, 5 fresh eggs, 1.05x.83, 1.02x.81, 1.03x.80, 1.10x.80, 1.07x.81.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., April 24, 1891. Nest of grasses and rootlets, 40ft. up in chestnut tree. 5 eggs, incubation just begun, 1.03x.82, 1.08x.83, 1.03x.81, 1.03x.82, 1.01x.81.

26. American Crow. 488

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 24, 1892. Nest 45 ft. up in a pine tree. 5 eggs, incubation well along, 1.51x1.10, 1.56x1.08, 1.55x1.13, 1.58x1.09, 1.58x1.11

Set b. Walke, N. C., April 26, 1890. Nest 40ft. up in a pine, of cypress bark, sticks, moss and pea and potatoe vines. 4 eggs, small embryos, 1.66x1.13, 1.68x1.15, 1.62x1.12, 1.72x1.17.

Set c. Weaverville, N. C., April 4, 1891. Nest 50ft. up in a white pine. 5 eggs, incubation begun, 1.54x1.10, 1.52x1.09, 1.57x1.08, 1.48x1.08, 1.58x1.09.

Set d. Weaverville, N. C., April 9, 1892. Nest in oak tree, 45ft. up. 4

eggs, incubation advanced, 1.58x1.15, 1.70x1.14, 1.59x1.19, 1.65x1.18.

27. Red-winged Blackbird. 498.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 18, 1888. Nest 3ft. high, in button bush. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .86x.65, .88x.66, .93x.67, .92x.67.

Set b. Raleigh, N. C., May 28, 1888. Nest 5ft. high in willow in low grounds. 4 fresh eggs, .93x.70, .93x.68, .93x.68, .93x.67.

28. Boat-tailed Grackle. 513.

Set a. Plymouth, N. C., May 13, 1890. Nest in an old tree overgrown with ivy, of grass, etc. 3 fresh eggs, 1.27x.24, 1.12x.85, 1.20x.84.

29. English Sparrow.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., May 11, 1892. Nest on rafter of porch, of straw and weed stems lined with feathers. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .89x.59, .86x.59, .95x.60, .91x.59.

30. Vesper Sparrow. 540.

Set a. Weaverville, N. C., April 15, 1891. Nest of grasses and fibre, corn shucks, etc. 3 eggs, incubation begun, .79x.62, .77x.61, .79x.61.

31. Chipping Sparrow. 560.

Set a. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest of grass stems lined with hair, 10ft. high in an apple tree. 4 eggs, incubation slight, .65x.53, .63x.52, .64x.51, .65x.52.

Set b. Walke, N. C., May 24, 1890. Nest of weeds, grass, etc., lined with hair, 15ft. up in an apple tree. 4 fresh eggs, .69x.53, .66x.53, .64x.52, .63x.53.

Set c. Walke, N. C., July 9, 1892. Nest 6ft. high on horizontal limb of an apple tree: 4 eggs, small soft embryos, .66x.47, .68x.47, .63x.46, .67x.47.

Set d. Walke, N. C., May 25, 1891. Nest 8ft. up on a limb of a small oak. 4 eggs, small embryos, .67x.51, .71x.52, .76x.49, .71x.52.

32. Field Sparrow. 563.

Set a. Raleigh, N. C., June 1, 1891. Nest of grass stems, lined with fine grass,  $4\frac{1}{2}$ ft. high, in top of a pine sapling. 4 fresh eggs, .62x.51, 65x.56, .65x.48, .65x.51.

Set b. Weaverville, N. C., May 15, 1891. Nest of fine grasses, placed in small pine 2 feet from ground. 4 eggs, incubation begun, .73x.52, .70x.50, .73x.51, .72x.49.

Set c. Raleigh, N. C., May 22, 1891. Nest 3ft. up in small dogwood, of weed stems, lined with horse hair. 4 fresh eggs, .69x.48, .68x.48, .70x.48, .70x.48.

# THE OÖLOGIST,

A Monthly Magazine Devoted to  
OÖLOGY AND ORNITHOLOGY.

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

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

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## Report of Western New-York Naturalists Associa n.

The first annual meeting of the W. N. Y. N. A. was held at Brockport, N. Y., Oct. 6, 1892. The business meeting was called at 2:30 p. m.

The following officers were elected:

E. B. Peck, Pres.

Harry B. Sargent, Vice-Pres.

T. R. Taylor, Sec.

E. H. Short, Treas.

Executive committee; Geo. Guelph, Harry B. Sargent, T. R. Taylor.

There were seventeen active and two associate members present.

The following draft of objects was adopted:

I.—The object of the Association shall be to afford means for a more definite, thorough and systematic study of the Natural History of New York State by promoting the mutual acquaintance of those interested, and by bringing together and comparing notes of interest from different sections and disseminating information gathered therefrom.

II.—To awaken in the hearts and minds of all a truer love and deeper interest in the study of Nature, enabling them to "*Look through Nature up to Nature's God.*"

III.—To promote a truer knowledge of *The wonders of Nature*, by exhibits of specimens and the reading of articles relating thereto.

IV.—To lend its voice, its influence and its labors to insure the protection and preservation of animal life and to promote such measures as shall point to this end.

NEIL F. POSSON,  
TRUMAN R. TAYLOR, } Committee.  
ERNEST H. SHORT,  
GEO. F. GUELPH, }

Thirty-one new members were added to our roll.

At the evening session—which was open to the public—the following interesting papers were read:

"Was the North American Indian a descendant of the Mound Builders?" by T. Harry Derrick; "The Rough-winged Swallow," by Neil F. Possou; "What can we do, and how shall we do it?" by Ernest H. Short; "The winter birds of Harrison Co. Georgia," by B. S. Bôwdish. Lecture by Truman R. Taylor; Lecture by Harry B. Sargent.

Several fine collections of Natural Science specimens were exhibited by the following: Harry B. Sargent, A.

E. Kibbe, Truman R. Taylor, Nathan Davis, L. V. Case, Bert Davis, Geo. Guelf and Ernest H. Short.

T. R. TAYLOR, Sec.

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### Two Western Birds.

WESTERN WOOD PEWEE. (*Contopus richardsonii*.)

This is a rather common bird of this locality inhabiting the young groves of willow and other small trees which grow in abundance along the brooks and river bottoms. The dull colored birds may be seen during the breeding season perched upon some twig watching for his breakfast or flitting through the green foliage after insects or with material for the nest.

The nest is a cup shaped structure placed from 5 to 20 feet from the ground in some young tree or among the wild grape vines, always near a stream and usually in some dark recess. Of about twenty nests I have examined all were placed either in an upright crotch or saddled onto the side of an upright branch. Nearly all were composed of the bark of the wild grape vine or of the inner bark of box-elder bushes and coarse grasses, occasionally lined with wild cotton and does not present so loose and flimsy an appearance and is also much deeper than that built by the eastern Wood Pewee, although I have never taken one covered with lichens.

Fresh eggs may be taken from the first of June to the fourth of July. Three eggs generally constitute a set and I have never taken more from the same nest. They are of a beautiful creamy or yellowish tinge sparingly spotted near the larger end with reddish-brown or lilac, I have taken some specimens that were *unmarked*. They vary greatly in size and shape, some being nearly round while others are quite long and drawn out but never pointed. An average specimen will measure .69x.53 inches.

The birds do not remain long with us after nesting but leave during the first half of August for their winter home.

WESTERN YELLOW-THROAT. *Geothlypis trichas occidentalis*.

This beautiful warbler with its bright yellow coat and black trimmings may be seen in this locality flitting along close to the ground wherever there is water and plenty of tall grass. Its favorite haunts are along some stream or lake over-grown with tule beds and enough trees around to darken the spot and make it picturesque.

The nest is usually placed near the ground among the high grass and therefore hard to find. And then it is often placed above the water and not a few times have I been lured away by the bird to soon find myself caught in a mud-hole with my boots full of water; but that matters but little to the collector who desires to add another set to his collection. The bird when flushed stays near the nest flying among the grass and tules continually uttering a plaintive "peep peep." The nest is usually composed of dry tule stems heavily lined with fine dry grass or bark and is extremely large for so small a bird.

A set of four eggs is the largest I have taken from one nest and I find it to be the usual number deposited although most authorities give four to six, I have found fresh eggs from the last of April to the middle of June. They are clear white with black and brown spots and streaks usually forming a distinct wreath around the larger end. A set of four in my collection measures; 70x53, 69x52, 71x53, 72x53 hundredths inches, which is somewhat larger than the average.

Most of the birds leave for the south as winter approaches but I have observed a few that remain with us during the winter.

H. M. HALL.  
Riverside, Cal.

### The Fascination of Oology.

One of the most fascinating pastimes of the age is the study of ornithology and the collecting of specimens of oölogy.

It is a study that never tires, and is one that is constantly full of new life and excitement. A collection began in boyhood days, and partly finished in the declining years of life is a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

As one looks over his beautiful collection, what pleasing recollections they recall to his mind. Well do I remember when I first found my nest of Canada Warblers, *Sylvania pusilla pileolata* and Virginia Rail, *Rallus virginianus*, in fact each set of eggs brings back to me that day's experience, the place, and its happy recollections.

Many a day have I spent

"In the forest dim and old,"

listening to the sweet voice of the Red-eyed Vireo, *Vireo olivaceus*, or watching the Wilson's Thrush, *Turdus fuscescens* as he called to his mate from a neighboring tree. There in that sweet solitude, it was the natural communion with nature, among the sweet wild flowers.

My brother Naturalists evidently recall to their minds, such scenes, which they treasure as some of their most happy days.

I am far from being an advocate of the annual nest robbing by the thousands of boys who, just for the sake of having an "egg collection" rob every nest of our songsters within their reach, but for those who love Nature, the scores of different species of birds which have their habitation within our vicinity, the study of their habits, and their peculiarities, together with the beautiful marking of their eggs, they are the persons to whom I suggest the formation of an oölogical collection, and the continuance of it through life for it will prove a constant reminder of days

long gone by and they will recall memories which time cannot eradicate.

My business being that of a traveling salesman, but a naturalist from birth, I see before me sets of eggs collected in various states, and each has a short history, which make them all the more dear to me, as they recall so vividly those pictures of memory.

Eighteen years ago, in the county of Chenango I commenced the formation of my cabinet, and it has slowly grown till to-day I have several hundred sets, from all parts of our country, and they have long reached that point, where their intrinsic value (with me) has passed, for they are rich in the history of oölogy, ever reminding of those summer rambles, vacations, camping parties and collecting trips.

My naturalist friends will all agree with me in saying that ornithology grows more fascinating year by year, and should we live till the "silver tints the gold," we will still be, but less active enthusiastic students in our study of bird life.

May the time hasten when we shall have more students of ornithology and less boy egg robbers.

WM. B. LIMBURGER,  
Randolph, N. Y.

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### To the Ornithologists of Illinois.

The results from the short notice I placed in the November OÖLOGIST, for help in ornithological work on the birds of this state, have been far from satisfactory.

The general distribution of probably the majority of the Illinois birds has been sadly neglected by our most prominent writers. In fact, Illinois compared with some other states, has had very little systematic and scientific research among her birds. To partially remedy this and advance the knowledge of our Illinois birds, Mr. A. C. Murchison, of Kewanee, Ill., and I have decided up-

on a plan to be accomplished only by the combined help of all Illinois workers.

This state has many ornithological students in the field and by bringing their observations together and combining them, very satisfactory results could be obtained. It is desired to make a thorough investigation into the distribution, nesting, arrival and departure of the birds throughout the state; to publish the same and give due credit to each observer. Therefore all Illinois workers are invited to help and to send in their names at once in order that circulars may be sent. This work cannot be carried on unless a sufficient number of stations be established. It is intended to commence work by the first of January, 1893, and your early and prompt reply will oblige.

W. M. E. LOUCKS.

Peoria, Ills.

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#### Cerulean Warbler.

In our rambles through the wood in the neighborhood of Buffalo, N. Y., I have often noticed some beautiful Warblers, mostly in the middle of May, when the foliage is not yet fully developed. Those wood that contain high and old beech trees, seem to be their favorite places, perhaps that insect life is more abundant there. Toward the end of May until the middle of June I stayed with friends near Buffalo and there observed on the border of a large wood in an elm tree a pair of Warblers building their nest. They seemed to be a species that differed from those that I had observed before. It was with a great deal of difficulty to watch them as the nest was on a very small limb quite a distance from the trunk of the large elm tree, I should judge not less than 40 feet from the ground. The construction of the nest and its final completion must have taken at least from 8 to 10 days. In the earlier part

of those, say 8 days, the male sang on a neighboring tree in the morning and toward evening splendid, but I am at a loss to give a resemblance of the notes. When the nest was completed and the female on it I would only occasionally hear a few notes which sounded like *zee zee zeeep*, this is as near as I can express it in words. It was a great treat to see these bright azure blue colored birds flit through the not yet whole developed leaves. They seemed to me with their partly light colored tail feathers similar to our American Redstart, but they are smaller in size. After, say, 8 or 10 days not a sound was heard by me, when I came near the nesting place and it took a minute watching to see the male bird, and only in one instance I observed the male close by the nest, perhaps bringing some nourishment to the female. On the 15th of June I thought it might be brightest time for me to see whether a full complement of eggs were laid. After a hard climb I came in a straight line of the nest. By walking out on a lower branch, I was within reach of the nest. The female looked at me with its bright eyes and staid on the eggs until I almost touched her. Four of the nicest eggs of a blueish white color speckled with reddish brown spots, partly lilac, almost uniform on the larger end, the largest the size of not quite a pin's head, were revealed to my gaze. Only one of them is a trifle smaller and the spots are fewer, perhaps the last laid egg. When blown the color changed into a clear white. The eggs were fresh. I cut the nest off which is in my possession. It is more a hanging nest, 3 inches in diameter and 1 $\frac{1}{4}$  inches deep, you might say woven to a slender fork of an elm twig, constructed of fine grasses and hair in the inside, being from 3-16 to 5-16 of an inch thick, interwoven with spider webs and covered artistically on the outside with light grey colored lichens, which gives it a most charming appearance.

In order to be positive I shot the male bird which proved beyond any doubt the identity.

I have since then, this fall, shot several more of the Cerulean Warbler, which during migration time seems to be quite abundant in our neighborhood.

EDWARD REINECKE.

### OCTOBER CONTEST.

Sixty-three Judges

Prize winners and credits received by each were as follows:

1. Among the Hummingbirds. 255.
2. The Genus *Thryothorus*. 208.
3. The Californian Bush-Tit. 153.
4. A Ramble in May. 136.
5. The History and Mystery of Jacob Potter, Jr. 87.

Two other articles received 45 and 59 credits respectively.

Seventeen Judges named the winning articles—one their exact order and four in the following order:—1, 2, 3, 5, 4—these five received the Judges prizes.

1. No. 30—Chester Irvine, Georgetown, Texas.
2. No. 3—Frank H. Nutter, Minneapolis, Minn.
3. No. 21—A. O. Garrett, Lawrence, Kans.
4. No. 32—E. J. Shaefer, New Orleans, La.
5. No. 47—C. Barlow, Santa Clara, Cal.

Prizes were mailed November, 23d.

### Prizes for Best Articles.

We give our patrons, each month, five prizes. These prizes are awarded to the five best articles appearing in the OÖLOGIST in which the offers are made.

For the five articles in *this* (Dec.) OÖLOGIST which are the most instructive, valuable and interesting we shall give as follows:

1st prize—A Part of Maynard's Birds of Eastern North America, bound in boards and leather.

2nd prize—Davie's Key to the Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds in cloth.

3d prize—Same as 2d prize, in paper.

4th prize—Vol. 1 ('84-'85) YOUNG OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

5th prize—Vol. III and IV ('86-'87) THE OÖLOGIST, bound in cloth.

For 1893 a more valuable series of prizes will be offered. Full particulars will be given in January Oologist.

THE JUDGES: You have been selected to act as one of the Judges in these Prize article contests, and your decision must be promptly and fairly given.

Your decision for this month's competition must be mailed us not later than Jan. 10th. Write on back of a postal card the articles which you have decided to be the *most valuable, instructive and interesting* in this number of OÖLOGIST and mail to us. Number the articles in the order which you think the prizes should be awarded.

We also give our Judges five prizes, one to each of the five whose decisions are nearest the final award of prizes and in this month's competition the Judges whose list of five articles is the nearest the awarded list, we will give a copy of Davie's Key to the Nest and Eggs of N. A. Birds, paper. 2d and 3d each a Book relating to Natural History, elegantly bound in cloth and gilt. 4th and 5th each a set of Noddy. In case of a tie, the earliest mailed list takes the prize. Address

FRANK H. LATTIN.  
Albion, N. Y.

### CARR'S NATURAL HISTORY STORE.

Sea Shells, Corals, Minerals, Bird Skins and Eggs, Curios, Supplies for Taxidermists, Entomologists, Botanists and Oologists. Taxidermy in all Branches of the art. Gold fish and aquarums.

40 page Illustrated Catalogue for 2c stamp.

C. F. CARR, Madison, Wis.

## YOU CAN MAKE \$4 PER DAY

Handling the FASTEST SELLING article on record OVER A MILLION SOLD IN PHILADELPHIA!

No matter where you reside everybody wants them. Write to-day, enclosing 2c stamp and we will mail you 4 Free Samples and full particulars, which will enable you to commence work at once. Circulars free. SMITH MFG. CO., No. 171 Pepper Bldg., Phila., Pa.

## CIRCULAR DISTRIBUTERS WANTED.

Publishers, Patentees, Manufacturers, etc., are daily requesting us to supply the addresses of reliable circular distributors, bill posters, etc. Brunn's success is marvelous, and will open up in 200,000 AGENTS HERALDS next issue, to be mailed to business men, new, profitable and permanent employment to one man, woman or youth in every town and hamlet in the U. S. and Canada. "The early bird catches the worm." We want a few such ads, as Brunn's (sample below) to start with in this month's MAMMOTH editions of AGENT'S HERALD.

**BRUNN** Nails up signs, distributes circulars, papers, samples, etc., throughout Blackhawk and surrounding counties only \$3.00 per 1000. Address, W.H. BRUNN, Waterloo, Ia.

Brunn paid \$2.40 to insert above 4 lines; June '90. He began during the summer. That ad. paid then; *is paying yet*. He has been kept constantly busy, employs three men to assist him, clearing *on their labor* from \$10 to \$15 a day distributing circulars at \$3.00 per 1000 for many firms who saw his ad. in THE HERALD. It costs every firm at least \$10 in postage alone to mail 1000 circulars. A saving to each firm who employ you of \$7 per 1000. Ten firms may each send you 1000 at the same time, making 1000 packages of 10 each, for distributing which you would promptly receive \$30, \$15 in advance and \$15 when work is done. Parents make your boys a present. Start them in this growing business. Begin this neat business before some one in your county gets the start of you. "Come in on the ground floor." Instructions How to Conduct the Business, Free, to each distributor ONLY, who sends us \$2.40 cash or postage stamps for a 4 line "ad".

AGENTS HERALD,  
No. 171 South 8th Street, Philada', Pa.

400 VARIETIES OF STAMPS \$1.00

Duplicates can be returned.

### AN UNUSUAL OFFER

W. F. GREANY,

827 BRANNAN St. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Catalogue for stamp.

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**REPEATING RIFLES**

Made in all styles and sizes. Lightest, strongest, easiest working, safest, simplest, most accurate, most compact, and most modern. For sale by all dealers in arms. Catalogues mailed free by

**The Marlin Fire Arms Co.**

NEW HAVEN, CONN., U. S. A.

## BIRDS EGGS.

### Christmas Offer.

### December List Now Out.

My Entire stock of Eggs offered for sale at Christmas Prices. New List contains Bargains, such as this:

Between now and the Holidays to every one sending me \$3. I will mail postpaid Chachalaca 1-3. Bridled Tern 1-1, Noddy Tern 1-1, Sooty Tern 1-1, Curve-bill Thrasher 1-4, Sennett's Thrasher 1-4.

Write for list at once if you wish to buy eggs. Address

WALTER F. WEBB,  
Geneva, N. Y.

ALL future transactions in Birds Eggs should be and with "Latin" must be based on the prices given in the New "Standard Catalogue."

## THE DICTIONARY HOLDER

Did you ever learn what fabulous results grew out of the manufacture by Mr. Noyes of an ornamental stand to hold the dictionary? The story reads like a fable but to tell it one must ask another question: Have you ever noticed the advertisement of the Aermotor Company, which starts out as follows:

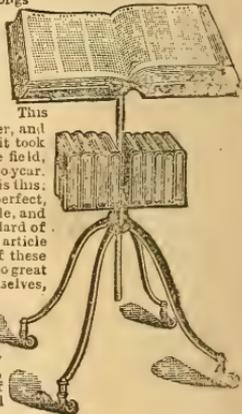
**45 sold in '88**  
**2,288 sold in '89**  
**6,268 sold in '90**  
**20,049 sold in '91**  
**60,000 will be sold in '92**

**A Steel Windmill and Steel Tower every 3 minutes.**  
These figures tell the story of the ever-growing, ever-going, ever-loading Steel Aermotor. Where one goes others follow, and we "Take the Country."

Well, that establishment belongs

to La Verne W. Noyes, and the means with which it was built up until it is the third largest user of steel in the West (being only exceeded by two of the great Harvester companies) was wholly furnished by the Dictionary Holder business.

This brings us back to the Holder, and suggests inquiry as to how it took and held and still holds the field, increasing rapidly from year to year. The secret of that success is this: Mr. Noyes has made a most perfect, artistic and meritorious article, and has maintained a high standard of excellence and supplied the article at a low price. The merit of these Dictionary Holders has been so great that they literally sold themselves, and in such great quantities that a small profit on each one has made the result above mentioned. They have gone to almost every habitable portion of the globe, even to the remote islands of the sea, and are kept by all booksellers.



# \$2.50 FOR 50 CTS.

We have recently purchased several desirable articles and specimens in enormous quantities at "Snap" prices.

Rather than hold them a life time (?) in order to obtain fabulous prices or to wholesale to other dealers in order that they may derive benefit from our "snap" we have decided to share our good luck with every reader of this advertisement.

The specimens and articles are as follows:

- 1 New Standard Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs. 35
- 1 Egg with data of Noddy. 50
- 1 Egg of Hammer head Shark. (A great curio from the Pacific.) 25
- 1 Egg Drill, hand made from best Stubb's steel. 10
- 1 Nickeled White Metal Blowpipe. 25
- 1 Embryo Hook, long handle and nicely finished. 15
- 1 Sea Urchin from Phillippines, rare. 25
- 1 Fossil Shark Tooth from Virginia. Can be mounted for scarf pin or other jewel purposes. 10
- 1 Fossil *Scaphites Nodosus* from Black Hills. 20
- 1 Sea Horse from Delaware Bay. 35

Total value at fair retail prices. —\$2.50

The lowest possible price which the above Lot could be ordinarily purchased of any Dealer in America would not be less than \$1.50 and at *lowest possible wholesale rates* at not less than \$12.00 per dozen.

We propose to send every reader of the OÖLOGIST one of these Lots PREPAID for **ONLY 50 CENTS**

PROVIDING—that you will either subscribe or renew your subscription to the OÖLOGIST for 1893.

The subscription price of the OÖLOGIST, including Coupons, is 50 cts., making an even \$1.00 for the Lot and the OÖLOGIST.

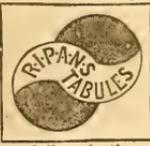
If in arrears, the same must be paid in full at the time, or before accepting this offer. If you have already paid IN FULL for 1893, we will under this condition and *no other* allow you to purchase one lot separately.

The only condition on which we will allow a person to purchase more than one of these Lots, would be, that they subscribe for the OÖLOGIST for two or more years—that is, a year's subscription must *invariably* accompany every Lot purchased.

**This Offer will Hold Good until DECEMBER 31st Only.**

**Frank H. Lattin, Publisher of the Oologist, Albion, N. Y.**

THE RIPANS TABULES regulate the stomach, liver and bowels, purify the blood, are pleasant to take, safe and always effectual. A reliable remedy for Biliousness, Blotches on the Face, Bright's Disease, Catarrh, Colic, Constipation, Chronic Diarrhoea, Chronic Liver Trouble, Diabetes, Disordered Stomach, Dizziness, Dysentery, Dyspepsia, Eczema, Flatulence, Female Complaints, Foul Breath, Headache, Heartburn, Hives, Jaundice, Kidney Complaints, Liver Troubles, Loss of Appetite, Mental Depression, Nausea, Nettle Rash, Pimples, Rash of Blood, Stomach Tired, Liver, Ulcers, and every other disease that impure blood or a failure in the proper performance of their functions by the stomach, liver and intestines. Persons given to over-eating are benefited by taking one tabule after each meal. A continued use of the Ripans Tabules is the surest cure for obstinate constipation. They contain nothing that can be injurious to the most delicate. 1 gross \$2, 1-2 gross \$1.25, 1-4 gross 75c., 1-24 gross 15 cents. Sent by mail postage paid. Address THE RIPANS CHEMICAL COMPANY, P. O. Box 672, New York.



Examine the little rose-colored address label on the wrapper of the OÖLOGIST. The number following name denotes the time when your subscription expires or has expired. The figures are according to our books Nov. 15, 1892 and renewals sent since that date have been credited on our books, but not on the label.

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|----|--|
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| 62 | " " " " " " Dec. " "                           |
| 68 | " " " " " " June 1891                          |
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| 80 | " " " " " " June 1892                          |
| 86 | " " " " " " will expire Dec. " "               |
| 92 | " " " " " " June 1893                          |
| 98 | " " " " " " Dec. " "                           |

We are desirous of straightening our subscription books at once and trust our subscribers will send in their subscriptions for '93 including all arrearages, at their earliest convenience, the amounts necessary to accomplish this are as follows:

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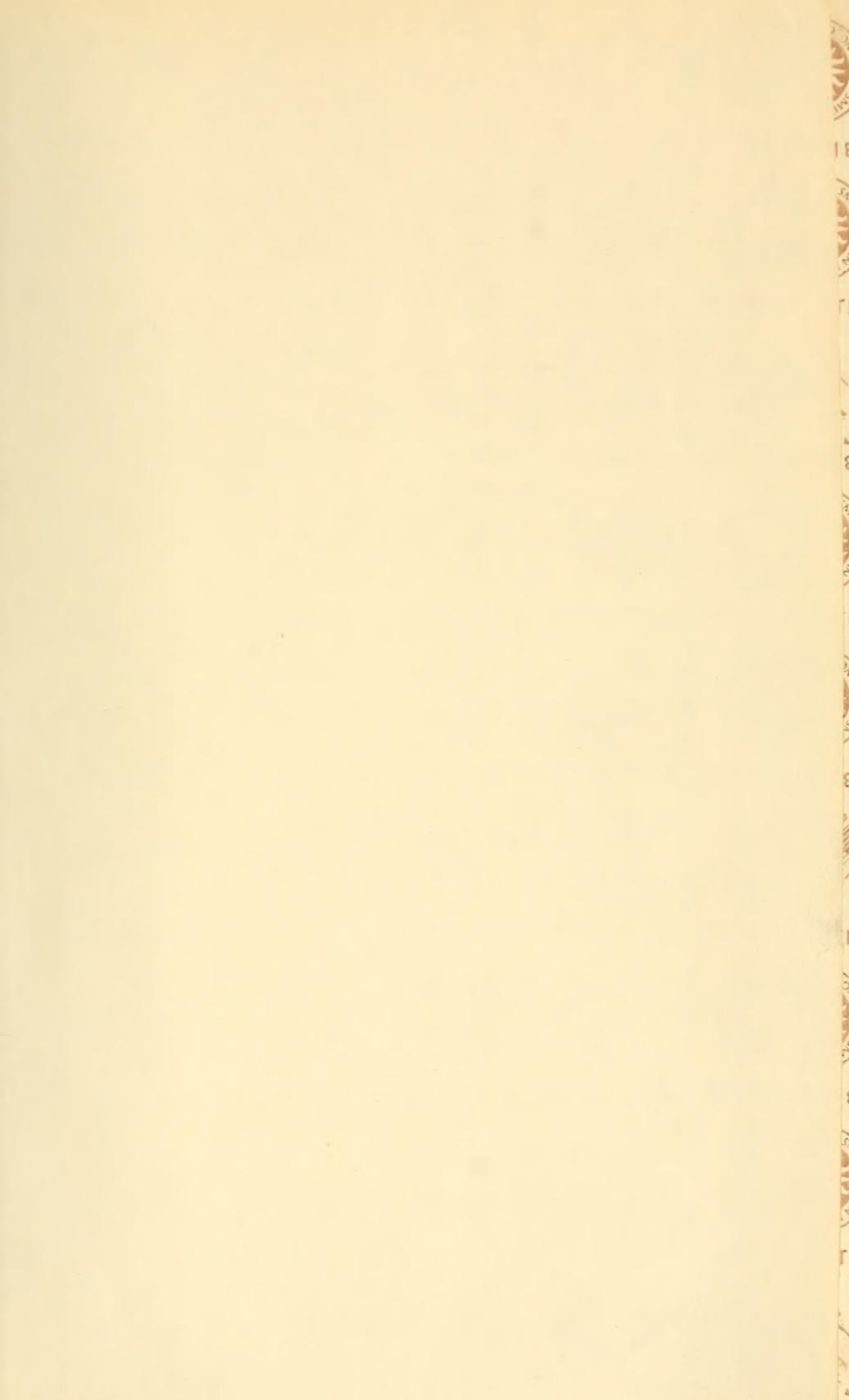
Should you desire to discontinue your subscription to the Oologist your indebtedness to us is 50 cents less than the above amounts.

"86" is the publication number of this Oologist, and it was mailed to subscribers Dec. 6.













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