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— *for the* —

STUDENT OF BIRDS

THEIR NESTS AND EGGS

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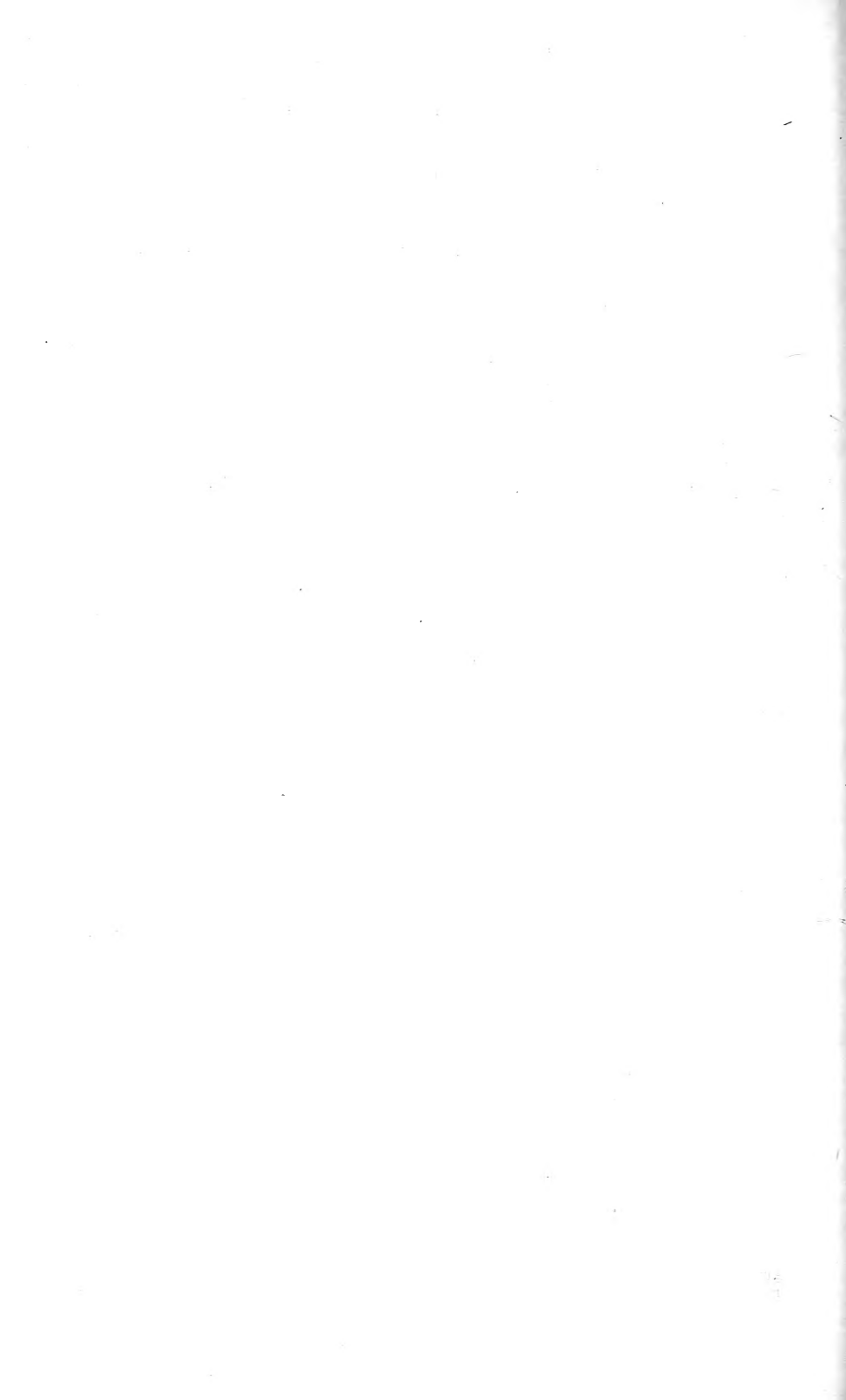
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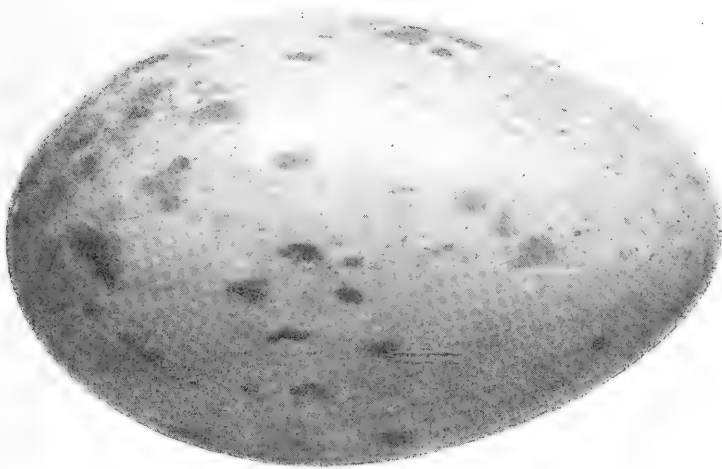
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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 1. ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 405



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

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THE OÖLOGIST.

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VOL. XXXVIII. No. 1 ALBION, N. Y., JAN. 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 405

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Loomis, Ill.

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oölogist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1908, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



We want Notes from every Reader

Look through your note-book and write up something. Odd finds, large sets, unusual nesting sites, birds rare to your locality, habits observed, migrations, etc., are things that interest every other reader.

If we get one letter of only 250 words from each, the editor won't have to make another call for copy in a year.

1921

To our hundreds of subscribers, we wish each and every one a Happy Prosperous New Year. Very many of you have remembered us with Holiday Greetings, which we much appreciated, and the only reason we have not replied in each instance in kind, is the fact that we have been engaged most of the month of December, in trying a desperately fought law suit, or rather a criminal case in which six lawyers were engaged. When one gets mixed up in that sort of melee, there is little time for anything else.

We look forward to a pleasant and successful year oologically, and trust the same will be the portion of each one of The Oologist's large family. If we all push a little we can put the necessary pep into the game and bring oology up to the desired standard, and amid the desired enthusiasm. There are two things to do requiring immediate attention, and the very first is for everyone to renew your subscription to the only oological publication in America, The Oologist, the next is to secure your permits with State and Federal.

R. M. Barnes.

HOW DO THEY GET THAT WAY?

Some of us keep hens, and if we only knew how, we would get eggs, at least more than we do.

Most field men know that many birds will, if their eggs are taken, at once nest again. Owls will for at least three times. Flickers will by the season. Gulls will, and so on. Normally these birds will nest but once in a season, yet when robbed can and do at once nest again. I have taken Screech Owl sets of five and within two weeks more a third set of two well incubated. How do they do it? It would help us a lot with our hens if we could know. Does any one know? I don't, and I have spent many

hours and many seasons trying to find out.

F. M. Carryl.

CALIFORNIA SHRIKE

This member of the butcher-bird family is one of the familiar birds in the vicinity of Benicia, California. Our California Shrike has the same relish for small birds, mice and grasshoppers and other insects as its eastern relatives, the loggerhead and Northern. In this vicinity it nests in scrubby trees, frequently in a row of trees along the roadside, though sometimes in a lone tree in a field. The locust is a favorite tree with them. In construction the nest is rather bulky and the interior is lined with any soft material, including feathers, hair, wool, etc., gathered from the barnyard. The eggs number five to seven,—I find sets of seven common. The best season for eggs is during April and the forepart of May.

One of my prettiest specimens of nests is one of this bird taken with seven eggs on May 9th, 1919 along the Benicia-Vallejo road. This nest is especially well rounded and softly lined. It was placed eight feet from the ground in a small lone locust tree which was in full bloom.

Emerson A. Stoner,
Benicia, Calif.

THE GREAT HORNED OWL

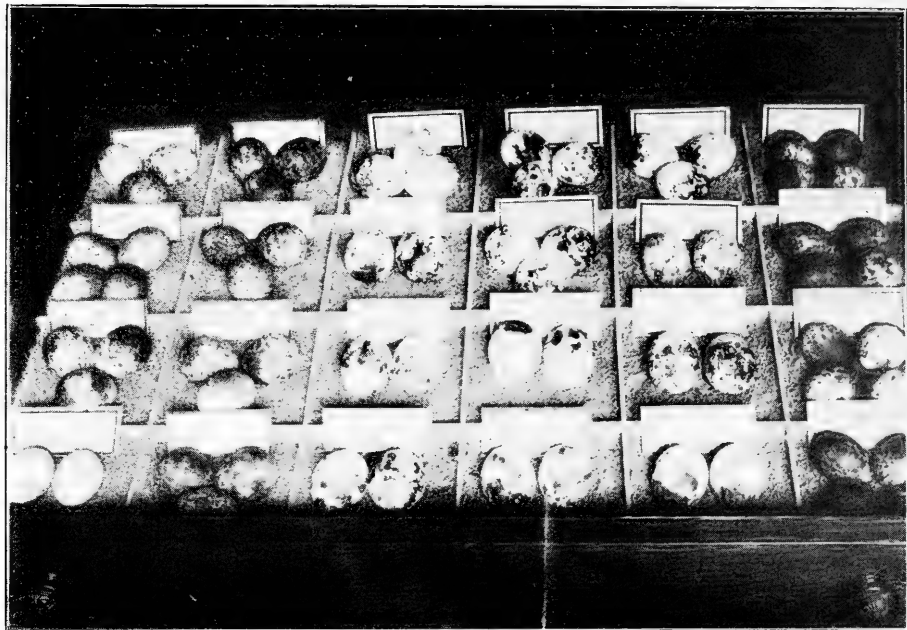
By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine.

Who-who, Who-who, Who-who, ho; thus was I greeted this spring, when I commenced operations in my sap berth making maple syrup. Just a might startling to the nerves to be requested sometime in the middle of the night to explain "Who" I was and my business there in that man's wood at that time of night. I commenced to tap the twentieth of March this year; there had been a fine run of sap for a few days, and that I might keep

abreast of the flow with my evaporating I was running the fire nights. The only birds I had noted at this time had been a Downy Woodpecker, Chickadees, a Red-bellied Nuthatch and a Ruffed Grouse. It was near one o'clock. The moon was up and quite bright. I was alone, busy cutting up wood for the fire, when, Who-who-Who-who, Who-who, he rang out from way up in the trees, just over my head. I will admit I jumped. This Owl often commenced to hoot just before sundown, though one dark cloudy day he was heard at various times throughout the day; usually the hooting stopped at sunrise. The first hooting always came I noted from a certain point in the wood then passed to other parts as his hunt for supper, or perhaps it was called breakfast since he worked nights, progressed. I judged by the excited cawing of the Crows that he was often mobbed, but this soon stopped as darkness came. Once about two o'clock in the morning, while yet very dark there being no moon, there was a great outburst from the Crows, who spent the night in the trees at no great distance from the camp. I judged from the sound that the Owl had caught one of his persecuters, having chanced upon the roost, and the Crows had fled in every direction. It was as though each startled Crow awoke with a yell; there was much excited cawing for a time. The night the Owl made my camp a visit, I had been hearing the calls at a distance, thus I knew he was abroad, but I neither heard the sound of his arrival, and although I watched and listened carefully I could hear no sound as he took wing again. The flight through the limbs and tree trunks was as swift and sure as a Partridge in the day time. My time was so taken up with syrup making and other farm work that I did not lo-

cate the nest, though I felt sure it was not far away. Often I would hear an answer, Who-who, Who-who, Who-who as he called in his hunting and this answer always came from the section of the wood whence the first calls of the night came; these answers coming as I thought from his mate on the nest. This nest I judged to be in an old Red-Shouldered Hawk's nest. From this hawk's nest, which has been used yearly for a number of years, I on the 5th of May, this year, 1920, took a set of three eggs. While part way up this tree after the hawk's eggs there again came the question, Who-who, Who-who, Who-who, Who, twice repeated, from just a few rods away, then it passed to another part of the wood, but I was up a tree and not in position to follow as I would have liked, this was about one o'clock of a bright sunny day, yet some people say Owls cannot see in the day time. This Owl appeared to wish to know why I took such an interest in his old home, since he had broken up house-keeping and let the place to Mr. Red-shouldered Hawk for the summer; said hawk to keep the place in repair as rental. The Great Horned Owl is given a bad reputation and to some extent no doubt deserves it. I know it is not adverse to making a meal from a farmer's poultry, Mrs. Johnson having found one which had just killed a young four pound rooster when she went to close up the chicken house after dark one night, and would I come quickly with the gun and avenge the death of the poultry.

Like Caesar, "I came, I saw, I conquered," at least I ate the chicken. Mr. Owl had departed. I am also quite sure that the Skunk is favorite food for the Great Horned Owl. This spring I picked up one that a sportsman had shot and then thrown away and it was strongly impregnated with the odor



Kites in Case of T. H. Jackson

of that animal, and I have noted this odor at other times in connection with this Owl.

January 3-4th, The Editor enjoyed an afternoon and overnight visit from Frank H. Willard, formerly of Galesburg, Illinois, and Tucson, Arizona, and now of Long Island, N. Y. He is the same enthusiastic Oologist of yore—and one of the best in America. It was long in the night when we closed the last drawer of eggs and quit, to steal a little sleep before dawn. The visit was enjoyed as only such can be when two egg cranks exchange experiences over a lot of specimens. Here's hoping he will come again.

Buchanan County, Iowa, Birds

By Fred J. Pierce.

I was much interested in Mr. John

Coles' list of "Story County, Iowa Birds," which was printed in the Jan. 1920 number of THE OOLOGIST (page 11). Below is a list of the birds I have positively identified in Buchanan County, all of which have been seen in 1919 or 1920, with the exception of the Lesser Yellow-legs, Snowy Owl, and the Orchard Oriole. It must not be presumed that this list contains the approximate number of birds to be found in this county, for my limited time has prevented an extensive study of the birds of this county, and my observations have been confined largely to a region along Buffalo Creek near my home. Therefore this list includes only a fair per cent of the birds to be found in Buchanan County, migrating or resident. Many other birds are often reported by friends, but in the following list only those

- that have been seen by the writer are given.
- A. O. U.
59. Franklin Gull. Very rare transient visitant.
69. Forster Tern. Very rare transient visitant.
77. Black Tern. Rare transient visitant.
- Wild Ducks. Common visitants.
- Wild Geese. Once a common transient but growing rare in later years.
190. American Bittern. Rare spring visitant.
194. Great Blue Heron. Rare spring and fall visitant.
201. Great Heron. Rather common summer resident.
202. Black-crowned Night Heron. Rather common summer resident.
219. Florida Gallinule. Very rare transient visitant.
221. American Coot. Rather rare visitant which probably nests in suitable parts of the county.
230. Wilson Snipe. Rather common in spring and fall.
255. Lesser Yellow-legs. Very rare visitant. Seen in 1918 only.
263. Spotted Sandpiper. Rather common. Known chiefly as a spring migrant.
273. Killdeer. Common summer resident.
289. Bob-White. Permanent resident almost exterminated a few years ago but the 5 year closed shooting season (expiring 1922) has made them quite common again. We need another 5 year period to make them abundant enough to withstand the gunners.
305. Prairie Hen. Once a common permanent resident but now very rare. A farmer of my acquaintance thinks that the advent of the barbed wire fence, on the prairie lands in Iowa, did as much to exterminate the Prairie Hen, as the gunners did. According to him, a covey of these birds fly low and are impaled on the wires. He says he has often seen their dead bodies on the wires. Perhaps this is a new theory but it sounds quite reasonable.
316. Mourning Dove. Very common permanent resident.
337. Red-tailed Hawk. Rather common permanent resident. There are a good many species of Hawks to be found here, but I have not identified them positively.
352. Bald Eagle. Excessively rare visitant. Only one seen, May 6, 1919.
368. Barred Owl. Once rather common but now very rare.
373. Screech Owl. Rather common permanent resident.
376. Snowy Owl. Very rare visitant. Only one seen during a snow-storm, Nov. 22, 1918.
387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. Summer resident. Cannot be called common.
388. Black-billed Cuckoo. Rare summer resident.
390. Belted Kingfisher. Common summer resident.
393. Hairy Woodpecker. Rather common permanent resident.
394. Southern Downy Woodpecker. Common permanent resident.
402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Rather common in the fall.
406. Red-headed Woodpecker. Very common summer resident.
412. Flicker. Permanent resident. Very common in summer.
417. Whip-poor-will. Rather common summer resident. More often heard than seen.
420. Nighthawk. Summer resident. Common some summers, rare others.
423. Chimney Swift. Common summer resident.
428. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Rare summer resident.
444. Kingbird. Very common summer resident.
452. Crested Flycatcher. Rather common summer resident.
456. Phoebe. Common summer resident.
461. Wood Pewee. Summer resident. Less abundant than the preceding.
- 474B. Prairie Horned Lark. Very common in summer, but I have not made enough observations to determine whether it is a permanent resident in this locality or not.

477. Blue Jay. Permanent resident. Very common in summer.
488. American Crow. Very common permanent resident.
494. Bobolink. Very common summer resident.
495. Cowbird. Very common summer resident.
498. Red-winged Blackbird. Very common summer resident.
501. Meadowlark. Very common summer resident.
506. Orchard Oriole. Rare summer resident. Not seen since 1918.
507. Baltimore Oriole. Common summer resident.
510. Rusty Blackbird. Very common spring migrant.
511. Purple Grackle. Very common summer resident.
517. Purple Finch. Very rare spring visitant.
529. American Goldfinch. Permanent resident. Very common in summer.
- English Sparrow. Very common permanent resident. Extending its nesting range into the open, away from buildings.
540. Vesper Sparrow. Very common summer resident.
554. White-crowned Sparrow. Rare summer resident.
558. White-throated Sparrow. Common summer resident.
560. Chipping Sparrow. Summer resident. Not common here.
567. Slate-colored Junco. Common during spring migration.
581. Song Sparrow. Common summer resident.
587. Towhee. Rare summer resident. Often common during spring migrations.
593. Cardinal. Very rare summer resident on Buffalo Creek, but rather more common on the Maquoketa River near Manchester, Ia. (in an adjoining county).
595. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. Rare summer resident.
598. Indigo Bunting. Rather rare summer resident.
604. Dickcissel. Common summer resident.
608. Scarlet Tanager. Rare summer resident. Seen only during spring migrations usually.
611. Purple Martin. Summer resident. Common in towns but not found in the country around Buffalo Creek.
613. Barn Swallow. Very common summer resident.
614. Tree Swallow. Rather rare summer resident.
617. Rough-winged Swallow. Very common summer resident.
622. Loggerhead Shrike. Rather common summer resident.
629. Blue-headed Vireo. Very rare visitant. Seen only in the fall of 1919.

THE WARBLERS

With the exception of Maryland Yellow-throat, all of the Warblers are seen only as transient visitants, although doubtlessly some of them remain to nest. With the exception of the Myrtle Warbler which is always very common in migration, they all seem to appear in about the same degree of abundance; some springs certain species are rare or missing altogether, and the next spring they are common.

636. Black and White Warbler.
655. Myrtle Warbler.
657. Magnolia Warbler.
659. Chestnut-sided Warbler.
661. Black-poll Warbler.
667. Black-throated Green Warbler.
672. Palm Warbler.
674. Oven-bird.
675. Northern Water Thrush.
681. Maryland Yellow-throat. Common summer resident.
685. Wilson Warbler.
687. American Redstart.
697. American Pipit. Very rare visitant.
704. Catbird. Common summer resident.
705. Brown Thrasher. Common summer resident.
721. House Wren. Very common summer resident.
722. Winter Wren. Rather common visitant and perhaps a resident.
726. Brown Creeper. Rather common (permanent?) resident.
727. White-breasted Nuthatch. Common permanent resident.
728. Red-breasted Nuthatch. Rare permanent resident.
731. Tufted Titmouse. Rare. Seen during migration only, as a rule.

735. Black-capped Chickadee. Common permanent resident.
 748. Golden-crowned Kinglet. Rather rare spring visitor.
 749. Ruby-crowned Kinglet. Rather common in summer.
 755. Wood Thrush. Rare summer resident.
 756. Veery. Rather common summer resident.
 759B. Hermit Thrush. Rare spring visitant.
 761. American Robin. Very common summer resident.
 766. Bluebird. Very common summer resident.

May 22, 1920.

Note.—The plates illustrating this article were published in the December number.—Editor.

SOME NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J. MIGRATION RECORDS.

This year, 1920, probably on account of the mild fall and early winter, many birds have stayed much later than usual. Some of the most notable of these have been the Purple Martin, which stayed until Oct. 20; the Phoebe, Oct. 30; the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Oct. 30; the Towhee, Dec. 30; the Prairie Warbler, Nov. 14; Black-crowned Night Heron, Nov. 19; Bluebird, Nov. 24; Chipping Sparrow, Dec. 4; Purple Grackle, Dec. 20; Killdeer, Dec. 25; Sora Rail, Dec. 24. Red-winged Blackbirds seem to be wintering, along with Meadow Larks, Robins, White-throated and Fox Sparrows.

Stuart T. Danforth.

SOME BIRD NOTES FROM THE PINE BARRENS OF NEW JERSEY

The country in which these observations were made is typical pine barren country lying about four miles southeast of Browns Mills, N. J. The soil consists of pure white sand with pine trees twelve to fifteen feet high growing everywhere, and almost everywhere there is a more or less thick undergrowth of various shrubby and herbaceous plants. The country is not

nearly as barren as is often supposed, and it is a wondrous place for flowering plants, including the Pyxie or flowering moss, and many other plants that are peculiar to the pine barren region. Here and there are impenetrable cedar swamps, which are the sources of all the streams in the region. The waters are often dammed up, and used as reservoirs for cranberry bogs. In June I had my first encounter with a real Jersey cedar swamp. It was several square miles in area. The edge was sharply defined, forming an impassable wall. The cedar swamp was composed mainly of white cedars about 20 feet tall, and swamp magnolias about 6 feet high, with a conglomerate mass of undergrowth, and underneath all a knee-deep layer of soaking wet sphagnum moss. The whole formed a jungle so thick that it was a wonder to me that bird or insect could find room to move in it, yet a loud bird chorus came from within the swamp, and as for insects, well, it seemed as though every kind of noxious Diptera ever invented was present by the hundreds of millions, including everything from horseflies and deer-flies to mosquitoes and midges. But as the bird fauna was also very abundant I endured these pests for awhile, and even forced my way a few feet within the swamp, though vegetation was too dense to see much in there.

Blue Jays, which are rare or absent at this time of year in most of the surrounding pine barren district, were breeding abundantly in the cedar swamp. The Carolina Chickadee was also found commonly in the swamp, although it was not noted in the surrounding region until after the breeding season. The notes of the Black and White Warbler issued from within the swamp, indicating that it was breeding in there. Flickers and Maryland Yellowthroats abounded, and I

am almost certain that I heard the call of the Pileated Woodpecker. Turkey Vultures and Nighthawks were flying around overhead. About the middle of August a group of about twenty herons appeared at the cedar swamp, and were seen there and at the adjacent cranberry reservoir daily until I left the region in September. They were probably immature Little Blue Herons, as the color of legs of the individuals I had close views of more resembled that of the Little Blue Herons than of the Egrets, but as I did not obtain specimens the identification is not quite positive.

On the whole, if it were not for the hordes of biting insects and the impenetrableness of the jungle, the cedar swamp would be a great place for bird observation, as it contains many forms not observed in the surrounding country, and appears to be a regular bird paradise.

A common and interesting breeder of the pine barren region, outside of the cedar swamps, is the Blue-winged Warbler. It nests especially near the scrub oak trees which are frequently interspersed with the pine trees. At several times during the summer I had opportunity to observe the interesting hybrid known as Brewster's Warbler. It was found in the same locality as the Blue-winged, but it puzzled me for sometime. However, I finally ascertained it to be this hybrid. It would sing sometimes like the Golden-winged Warbler, and sometimes like the Blue-winged, but its appearance was more like that of the latter.

Stuart T. Danforth

GLEANINGS FROM MY BIRD JOURNAL

Many years ago I recorded in The Oologist some bird observations under the title of "Gleanings From My Note Book." In the present article I

am venturing to offer similar notes on birds in the hope that they might help appease The Oologist cry of alarm for "More Copy."

We have taken The Oologist ever since the beginning of our Oological dream. I feel sure that not one of the whole bunch wish to travel the remaining thousand miles (not guaranteed) of our life journey without the little Oologist. Therefore, fellow oologists, just dig up that bird journal and tell us what there was so important that caused you to write up nine full pages about that collecting trip or hitherto unknown bird fact. That is what The Oologist wants and what we want to know.

The Lake Keuka region of Western New York is famous not only for the multitude of birds but great variety of species. There are more birds to the square mile than almost any other portion of Western New York, for we have a wonderfully wide range of bird haunts not only Lake Keuka surrounded by mountainous hills but large forests of cattail swamps, deep cool and picturesque hemlock clad gullies, well as the famous Gvyanoga Valley where that renowned Indian Chieftain "Red Jacket" used to "whoop," eat venison, and formulate treaties for the Six Nations. His Indian name of "Sa-goye-wa-tha" signifies "he keeps them awake."

That Red Jacket used to "whoop" in the beautiful Gvyanoga Valley is proven by the fact that even in this day the inhabitants of that old Indian valley refer to it as "Up the Holler." Also within this region that ought to be bird sanctuary is the wilderness of Potter swamp where 87 species of birds find congenial nesting haunts.

In this Keuka region we have 217 species that occur during their proper season and 115 are known to breed here. Of this number 30 are Warblers

with 21 species known to breed. We have the boldest bird that flies. The Ruby-throated Humming Bird, to the regular midsummer visitors, and the comparatively timid Bald Eagle.

On Oct. 15 is recorded a great wave of migrating birds at Patter Swamp. Here we found hundreds of birds but most remarkable of all was the great wave of Bluebirds. They swarmed on the ground, on weed stalks, in tree tops, bathed in the stoney brook and warbled excitedly in the barren bushes on their journey to the southern climes.

Here I spied a Red-bellied Woodpecker and desiring it to adorn my collection I shot and brought it down in a heap. But when I went to pick it up it uttered a shriek flying to a lofty stub top. I hit it again but life was dear, and the Woodpecker clung to a tuft of twigs in a crotch and fluttered and uttered such gasping choking sounds that it quite hoodooed me all day. I do not wish to witness the dying agony of another Woodpecker. I would remark here that I do not want to skin another Woodpecker either, for this one was hide bound from one end to the other.

With this army of Bluebirds were hundreds of White-crowned, White-throated Vesper, Fox and Field Sparrows, Juncos and Myrtle Warblers. The dense fog that lasted all forenoon caused these migrating hosts to congregate and tarry for several hours.

On a certain March 17th I went in quest of a nest of Great Horned Owl. Upon my return I wrote "I am still questing." On the way of the slope I noted dozens of Bluebirds as they flitted along stumps, fences and warbled from upturned prongs. The fields were quite barren of snow and the warbling Bluebirds made it seem spring-like, but over the crest of the hills it was mid-winter in aspect, with

snow two or three feet deep. And in keeping with this wintry altitude were large flocks of Snow Bunting, dashing about in the storm from field to field. Their flight is peculiar. They give several energetic flips then close their wings. Doing this causes their flight to be undulatory like the Flicker, except it is more zigzag. Again on March 31, I made this same four mile hike, recalling an old nest that a Red-tailed Hawk had built many years before I visited it. It looked too small and shaky for an Owl to stand on, say nothing about rearing young ones. While I stood knee deep in the water near the big elm tree not a sign of old Bobo could I discover except a downy feather signal fluttering on a branch and that was there on March 10th.

However that little feather kept up such a vigorous flutter that I decided to climb up. With the first climber jab I was greeted with pleasure, for out went a scared Bobo., with considerable more haste than dignity. The two eggs were fresh and lay on a fragile nest bottom of twigs with downy feathers stuffed in the cracks to keep the wind out. The nest was old and weather worn, measured but four inches thick, the bowl being 9 inches in diameter.

One day in June while in a hillside clearing full of Warblers, Towhees and Chats, I discovered a nest of the Chestnut-sided Warbler full of one Cowbird, and when I lifted him from the nest which fitted him so snugly, his peevish cries caused to gather around me all the Warblers that lived near by,—many Crestnut-sided, Redstarts, a pair of Black and White and a female Worm-eating Warbler.

I could not but be astonished that this juvenile Cowbird uttered the genuine "chip" of the Chestnut-sided which indicates that they learn the notes and cries of their foster parents,

However, after these elevating warbler environment they revert back to the well-known parasitic habits of all Cowbirds. Nearby, while endeavoring to locate a nest of the Yellow-throated Vireo I heard in a distant part of the woods a Wood Pewee making a great fuss, snapping her bill which sounded like a toy pistol. I soon found the Pewee chasing a red squirrel away from her nest. The attack was so vigorous that the red squirrel did not get the three fresh eggs, but I know who did. I remember the incident well even if it was 19 years ago.

A little later while sauntering through an oak woods listening for Hummers, I was suddenly confronted by one who buzzed into a tangle of spider webs near the ground after which she darted straight to the nest a hundred feet away. I was about to follow when the male Ruby-throat went through the same procedure as the female. The tiny nest was not so easily found owing to the protective coloration beside the female suddenly took a notion to preen herself while perched on a delicate dead branch. The nest was about thirty feet up in the bend over top of a small oak situated on a long slender branch. I could just reach the nest by standing in the top of a stubby pine. There being but one egg I left it. The female resumed the nest as soon as I descended. I must have mussed her nest of down and lichens for she kept turning around and around poking the rim out here and tucking it in where she imagined it was not just so.

The following October 13th the thickets bordering the cat-tail swamp was full of all kinds of Sparrows and in the edge of the cat-tails a strange Sparrow came out in a very mouse-like fashion. Here is an instance where I felt justified in obtaining the

bird for it was new to me. It proved to be Lincoln's Sparrow and in fine feather. Rusty Black Birds were abundant and they congregated to roost with the thousands of Red-wings, Cowbirds and Grackles. The ~~babble~~ babble of Blackbirds' voices is something wonderful to hear in the early morning or at evening. As a result of this immense blackbird roost the cat-tails are a broken down and tangled mass.

November 6th. The great army of Blackbirds left here sometime in the night of November 4th. I did not see them go but on the morning of the 5th all was quiet down in the cat-tails and none gathered here at night. It was easy to know when the night had arrived for their departure for there is an unusual hubbub, and many skylarking flights by first one portion and then the other in the gathering darkness.

March 9th. Although it was a cold, foggy day I made my annual hike after a set of Great Horned Owl. I found her nesting in a swampy wilderness, the nest being an old one of the Red-tailed Hawk's and about 65 feet up and eight feet out on a limb of a large elm. The two were nearly fresh. As the moss covered bark was soaked with rain and fog it was a cold and slipping climb, something like climbing an icicle. On my way homeward I spied a Northern Shrike but he spied me too, so he just silently fluttered away and was lost to view and to science.

April 21. For the past week about 100 animated Old Squaws have been in lake close to town and their incessant gossip can plainly be heard. I don't understand what they can be gabbling so noisily about, however, I have decided to agree with them. During the past two or three nights I have been hearing Mourning Doves and

Grackles sing at about midnight, not once but many times. How delightfully soothing is the oft repeated "Coo-coo-cooing" of Mourning Doves at midnight. Talk about Screech Owls. In vain I listened for the screech of the owl but like myself he was probably wondering "What mournful sounds are these I hear? What being comes the gloom to cheer?" Last evening just after dusk I flushed several Juncos from their retreat in huckleberry vines where they huddled on the dead leaves at the base of the vines. My passage through their night retreat nearly caused them to flutter to one side and dodge into another tangle of huckleberries.

May 21. While searching for nest of Whip-poor-will my attention was attracted by the queerest, most comical conglomeration of bird notes coming from a tree top 45 feet up. It sounded so happy go lucky, so deliberate, with short interval between each utterance and what a great variety of imitation changing from Vireo, the Wood Thrush, the Towhee, the Cat-bird and the whistle-like trills of the Northern Shrike. I soon detected the yellow banner of the Yellow-breasted Chat and learned that this jovial bird rises to high tree tops at early dawn to pour forth its borrowed "Gab fest" from its woodland neighbors. Close by I found the Chat's in a thorn bush in an open sort of place. There were but two eggs and one of the ever present Cowbirds. Wilson's Thrush and Ovenbird were in full melody but the plaintive Wood Pewee made one feel like resting in some woodland dell and dream the time away. Their's is a "Sedative" kind of voice anyway. In this hillside woodland I detected the songs of Blackburnian, Cerulean, Pine, Magnolia, Black-throated Green, and the Black and White Warblers. At dusk the Whip-poor-wills left the

woods and went down on the flats when I saw him laying lengthwise a rail as I rode by and not even a break in his oft repeated threat to whip-poor-will. This derisive bird (for I failed to find the nest) was so desirous of keeping me company that he followed me to the suburbs of Branchport—nearly a mile from his nesting place.

Clarence F. Stone.

THE MARCH OOLOGIST

We propose to devote most of the March issue to hints, suggestions, and directions useful to oologists and ornithologists. If you can favor us with any that you think will be beneficial to the fraternity please send them on at once.

R. M. Barnes.

NOTICE

When this issue reaches our readers the editor will be in Hollywood, California, at the bedside of a sick mother. If your correspondence is neglected that will be the cause, and we know you will overlook the delay with patience.

R. M. Barnes.

A RECORD

In the spring of 1917 I was stationed at Collinsville, Illinois, and, of course, did the usual field and collection trips when ever possible. On May 3, 1917 I collected near Collinsville a set of five eggs of the Brewer's Blackbird. Nowhere am I able to find any reference of this bird breeding that far east. I would like to inquire as to whether this bird is known to be a summer resident of Illinois or was this unusual?

L. R. Wolfe,

1st Lieutenant 64th U. S. Infantry.

The Brewer's Black Bird has never before nested in Illinois so far as we know.

R. M. Barnes.



"Billy", The First Snow Goose ever Raised in Confinement, and His Nurse
Lizzie Lynch.

—Photo by Jay Myers

"BILLIE"

The above is a picture of Billie. He is the first Blue Goose ever raised in confinement. It was taken at the advanced age of about six weeks. Billie owes his life to the careful nursing of Miss Lynch, for whom he formed the closest friendship. It was with much pleasure that we noted the first moult of this unusual bird. The first white feathers began to show on the head in late December, and it was mostly a white head and neck that he took out into pasture April 1st, though there is still a streak of dark feathers running up the back of the neck to the top of his head, even at this late day. late, we think that the little Oologist may perhaps be excused for an occasional delay of a few weeks. Only publishers know what those engaged in such undertakings have been up against since 1915.

This issue of Cassina No. XXIII-1919, is good as usual—a splendid portrait of Wm. L. Bailey, Sr., is the

first offering followed by a short account of his life by his nephew, Wm. L. Bailey, which is a very entertaining sketch covering 12 pages; this issue also includes half-tones of a nest and 13 eggs of the Wild Turkey in Situ and a Pileated Woodpecker, at its nest hole, and a fine paper on the latter bird by Samuel Scoville, Jr. An exhaustive report tabulating the Migration Schedules of 46 observers followed by an abstract of the proceedings of the D. V. O. C. for 1919. A Bibliography of Papers relating to the Birds of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, in which The Oologist often appears. This followed by a list of Club Members and an Index to Species, complete this most excellent issue.

He never seemed to associate with the other Wild Geese much but stayed mostly with the ducks, a trait I have noticed also in a Lesser Snow Goose that we raised. Billie is now, Jan. 1, 1921, 18 months old and perfectly healthy.

Editor.

THE O O L O G I S T

FOR EXCHANGE—Nice set Golden Eagle 1/2, 1/1. Can use sets of 9, 10, 112, 113, 204, 249, 288, 328, 351, 356 or other rare sets. ROBERT F. BACKUS, Florence, Colorado.

SOMETHING NEW—Solid silver tip to fit over the point of any Blowpipe. Gives a very fine stream for blowing small eggs and can be removed in an instant for larger ones. Price 50 cents. F. M. CARRYL, No. 1 Princeton Street, Nutley, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—One Taylor Smoke torpedo, one Mandalette, one minute Camera. Wanted—Butterflies. W. J. Holland's Moth Book. D. GOLDBERG, R. R. 3, Rockville, Connecticut.

FOR EXCHANGE—I still have a lot of Bird and Oological Magazines to exchange for Natural History specimens. DE LOS HATCH, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

WANTED—For cash or exchange, first class sets, with full data. Send list at once. D. E. Bull, Route A, Box 158, San Jose, California.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbell; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

FOR SALE—The Insect Book, by L. O. Howard (cloth), \$1.50; American Animals, Stone and Cram (cloth), \$1.50; Fishes of North and Middle America, Vol. 4, with 392 plates (paper), \$2.00; Reed's Flower Guide, 25c; North American Fauna, Nos. 10, 12, 13, 15, at 30c each. Above prices postpaid if ordered at once. EMERSON A. STONER, Box 444, Benicia, Calif.

WANTED—Sets of eggs, side blown, of Raptores (excluding Owls) of the world. Cash or Exchange. H. K. SWANN, Thorncombe, Lyonsdown, New Barnet, Herbs, England.

For 30 Days Only I will exchange lots of 500 datas blanks for sets, give me an offer. Your name on the datas. Merrills' Pararque wanted. EDWARD S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

I Wish to Buy single eggs, of a number of species. Imperfect eggs acceptable, of rarer kinds. Say what you have. Still in hand a number of medium value negatives at sixty-five cents per dozen. Quantities of bird magazines at low prices. P. B. PEABODY, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

MAMMALS—I want skins of North American Weasles. Will give in exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or mammals on Bird materials. Nothing but A No. 1 skins desired or sent out. I also want North American Fauna Numbers 4, 50, 7, 16, 19, 20, 23, 25, 28, 30. Cash or exchange for same. ALEX WALKER, Blaine, Ore.

Can use two copies of the A. O. U., 1910 check list. Barrows' Birds of Michigan, and these magazines; Bittern, Vol. 1, No. 3; Condor, Vol. v, Nos. 4, 5, 6; Hawkeye O. and O., Vol. 1, all; Vol. II, 1 to 5; Journal Maine, Vol. iv, Nos. 2 and 3; Iowa Ornithologist, Vol. 1, No. 1; Museum, Vol. 1, No. 3; Oregon Naturalist, Vol. 1, No. 2; O. and O., Semi Annual, Vol. 1, No. 1; Vol. 11, No. 1; Vol. III, No. 2; Western Ornithologist, Vol. I, No. 3; Nidologist, Vol. I, Nos. 2 and 6; Wilson Bulletin, Nos. 1 to 85; Auk, 1908 to 1917 inclusive. Offer for above, cash, old bird magazines, sets or skins. ALBERT F. GANIER, 2507 Ashwood Ave., Nashville, Tenn.

NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS EGGS

For Exchange

I have on hand, to offer for exchange for specimens desired by me, two hundred and eighty different varieties of birds eggs. Of some species I have but one set, of others considerable series. Send me a list of what you have for exchange and if it contains anything I want I will send you my list in reply.

Some specimens that I have for exchange are very rare and hard to get, and others are of the common varieties.

This is an unusual opportunity to secure new specimens or to enlarge series in your collection.

R. M. BARNES,

Lacon, Ill.

ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS WANTED by H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Me.; American Ornithology, Vol. VI, 1-3-4-6-7; Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; IV, 1-2; VII, 1; IX, 5 and index; X, 4-5-6 and index; XIII, 4. Ornithologist & Oologist, Vol. VI complete; VII, complete; XI, 2-3-4-5-6; XII, 10.

FOR SALE or Exchange—Many odd numbers and some complete Vols. of Am. Ornithology, Condor, Journal Main Orn. Soc., Oregon Naturalist, Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology, Oologist (Utica), Oologist (Albion), Ornithologist and Oologist, Osprey, Warbler, Wilson Bulletin, and Nature Ornithological magazines. BENJ. ADAMS, Wethersfield, Conn.

WANTED—A good pair, each of Black and Yellow Rails for which I will give good exchange. O. C. HASTINGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

WANTED—First Class sets from reliable collectors. Especially sets containing Cowbird eggs. G. B. REGAR, 1000 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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THE OOLOGIST.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 2. ALBION, N. Y., FEB. 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 406



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—First class showy singles for Exhibition collection. Will exchange sets from this locality. RAMON GRAHAM, Box 136, Route 2, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—To Trade birds eggs in sets—almost any kind. Also will buy birds eggs in sets. Senr lists right away. ARTHUR BLOCHER, Box 404, Amboy, Illinois.

WANTED—Complete set of "Condor". I have a small collection of sea birds' eggs, excellent for duplicates, that I am offering for this set. THEODORE R. GREER, Sheridan, Ill.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. EDW. S. COOMBS, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

CORRESPONDENCE and Exchange wanted with Butterfly and Moth collectors. Especially in the West, the Gulf States and Canada. A. E. BROWER, Willard, Mo.

CORRESPONDENCE desired with parties having sets of any of the Gyr-falcons to spare. ERNEST S. NORMAN, Kalsvala, Manitoba, Canada.

TEACHERS WANTED for schools and Colleges—big salaries—write or wire. National Teachers Agency, Syracuse, N. Y.

WANTED—"Birds of Pennsylvania," by Warren, 1st and 2nd editions. RICHARD F. MILLER, 2526 North Second St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR BEST CASH OFFER—Cones Key Fifth Edition, 12 Vols, like new, A. C. DYKE, Bridgewater, Mass.

MAKE MONEY—You can handle and tan your own furs and skins, hair on or off. You can make up-to-date lined fur rugs with mounted heads; open mouth finish. My tan formulas and time and labor-saving methods enable you to do this profitable work at small cost. No former experience necessary. You are certain of success; no spoiled skins. Complete formulas and instructions, only \$3.00 postpaid, duty free. EDWIN DIXON, Taxidermist, Unionville, Ont.

BUTTERFLIES—I wish to correspond with collectors with a view to purchase or exchange. Dr. T. W. Richards, U. S. Navy, Naval Hospital, Annapolis, Maryland.

FOR EXCHANGE—Eggs in full sets from Southern California for those of other localities. Must be from reliable collectors and in good condition. JOHN BURNHAM, Timken Building, San Diego, California.

FOR DISPOSAL—A collection of choice cabinet sets and sets with nests from Europe and America with full and accurate data. Send 2 cent stamp for complete lists. Satisfaction guaranteed. DR. M. C. CLECKLEY, Augusta, Georgia.

"TECCOBS" wants correspondents to exchange ornithological observations and experiences. Address Geoffrey Gill, Sea Cliff, Long Island, New York. Western Correspondents address Theodore Greer, Sheridan, Illinois.

TO EXCHANGE—Many complete and incomplete volumes and odd numbers of bird magazines, U. S. Reports, etc. for flower plants and bulbs. A. E. SCHUIZE, Box 302, Austin, Texas. R. R. 1, Miami Beach, Florida.

WANTED—Correspondence with parties desiring to exchange good specimens, ornithological publications, photographs, etc. B. S. BOWDISH, Demarest, N. J.

FOR DISPOSAL—Four volumes of The Oologist, 1916-1919, inclusive, with October, 1918, supplement. Make offer. H. M. HOLLAND, Galesburg, Ill.

FOR SALE—Vol. VI, VII, VIII, Birds of North and Middle America, E. K. SCHLEICHER, Mathias Point, Va.

ALL WHO ARE WILLING to pay cash for mounted birds and bird skins write to me at once. Satisfaction guaranteed. D. V. HEMBREE, Roswell, Ga.

FOR EXCHANGE—A. O. U. 77, 408, 413, 560a and 683a. Can use any common sets. JOHN B. HURLEY, Yakima, Wash.

WANTED—Mountable skins of coon, opossum, Swift Fox, civet, ringtail and wild cats, Mt. Beaver, badger, white and fox squirrels, all colors, western hares and rabbits, gopher, ermine, and prairie dog. Will exchange or buy at reasonable prices. Squirrels wanted especially. HAROLD N. VARS, Plainfield, Conn.

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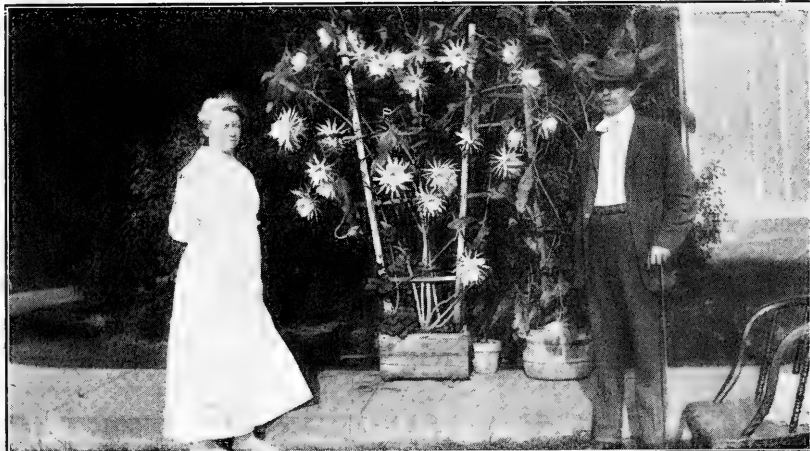
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TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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



Ye Editor and His Better Half at Home. Queen Cactus with 24 Blooms.
—Photo by Virginia Lane.

BIRD LISTS

This issue of *The Oologist* is given over to the publication of Bird Lists, "with malice afterthought." The reason being that the collecting season is now rapidly approaching and we believe that the publication of a wisely selected series of Bird Lists, from various parts of the country would be of benefit to the collectors in the field, and would enable them to avoid taking more specimens of the common species than would be needed for their own collection.

A bird that may be rare in one territory may be quite common in another and eggs of the common varieties of birds are of no value commercially, and have no demand for exchange, hence it is well to examine all lists and take duplicates only of those that are generally rare and not merely locally uncommon.—R. M. B.

BIRDS OF YAKIMA COUNTY, WASH.

By John B. Hurley, Yakima, Wash.

A. O. U.

1. Western Grebe. One record in winter of 1917.
4. Eared Grebe. A pair observed on May 27, 1920. No specimens secured.
6. Pied-billed Grebe. Fairly common in summer and fall.
10. Pacific Loon. Rather rare. Several specimens secured. Regular migrant in fall.
77. Black Tern. Summer resident. Small colony breeding.
129. Merganser. Regular winter migrant.
130. Red-breasted Merganser. Breeds in mountains. Last specie to leave in winter.
131. Hooded Merganser. Fairly common in fall and winter.
132. Mallard. Regular resident and migrant. Breeds over the county.
137. Bald Pate. Regular migrant and probably breeds.
139. Green-winged Teal. Regular migrant and resident. Breeds.
141. Cinnamon Teal. Regular migrant and resident. Breeds.
142. Shoveller. Fairly common. Breeds.
143. Pintail. One pair observed June 10, 1920. No specimens secured.
144. Wood Duck. Rare. Fall migrant and probably breeds.
147. Canvas-back. Rare. One specimen taken 1915.
149. Lesser Scaup Duck. One specimen (female) taken in fall of 1919.
151. Golden-eye. Fairly common late in fall. One of the last species to leave.
153. Buffle-head. Not common. One pair taken in fall of 1913.
154. Old Squaw. Rare. A male taken in fall of 1919. Probably driven over mountains by severe storm on Pacific coast.
155. Harlequin Duck. A pair taken on mountain lake in 1912.
169. Snow Goose. Several flocks seen. Probably of this specie.
172. Canada Goose. Regular migrant limited numbers.
180. Whistling Swan. Rare. One specie taken in fall of 1919. Federal Government prosecuting offender at present writing.
194. Great Blue Heron. Summer resident. One small colony reported. Breeds on ground and in trees.
202. Black Crowned Night Heron. Rare. Probably breeds in some localities.
212. Virginia Rail. Not common. Breeds in suitable localities.
221. American Coot. Common. Breeds extensively in all parts of the country.
224. Wilson's Phalarope. Rare. Three birds of this specie observed on May 27, 1920. A female secured.
230. Wilson Snipe. Fairly common resident and migrant. Breeds.
254. Greater Yellow-legs. Rare. A few specimens observed in fall and spring. No egg records.
263. Spotted Sandpiper. Fairly common. Breeds over all the county.
273. Killdeer. Common. Breeds extensively and along water courses.
289. Texas Bob-white. Common. Introduced by county game commissioners.
292. Mountain Quail. Once fairly plentiful but now rare. Introduced by County Game Commission.
- 294a. Valley Quail. Common. Introduced by County Game Commission.
- I. S. Hungarian Partridge. Common.

- Introduced by County Game Commission.
1. S. Chinese Pheasant. Common. Introduced by County Game Commission. About 15,000 birds killed every year during open season.
- 300a. Canada Ruffed Grouse. Fairly common. Protected in this county for several years yet.
309. Sage Grouse. Fairly common. Breeds in suitable localities. Protected.
- 310a. Wild Turkey. Three pairs planted by County Game Commission. No record of them since planting.
316. Mourning Dove. Common. Nesting in trees and on the ground, open season on them in fall.
325. Turkey Vulture. Not common. Breeds on cliffs above the city in limited numbers.
331. Marsh Hawk. Not common. Probably breeds but no egg record.
332. Sharp-shinned Hawk. Fairly common. - Breeds.
333. Cooper's Hawk. Not common. Probably breeds.
- 337b. Western Red-tail. Common. Breeds over all of county. Eggs range from two to five in set.
342. Swanson Hawk. Not common. Breeds in limited numbers in certain parts of county.
349. Golden Eagle. Rare. Reported to breed in mountains.
357. Pigeon Hawk. Rare. One bird taken in 1912.
- 360a. Desert Sparrow Hawk. Common. Breeds over all of county.
3664. Osprey. Not common. Probably breeds.
366. Long-eared Owl. Not common. Breeds. A set of eggs taken by Mr. Fred Weber of this city.
367. Short-eared Owl. Fairly common. Breeds.
- 373h. MacFarlanes Screech Owl. Common. Breeds over all the county.
- 375a. Western Horned Owl. Not common. Breeds in certain localities.
376. Snow Owl. Rare. Several specimens secured in late years.
378. Burrowing Owl. Common summer resident. Breeds over whole county.
379. Pygmy Owl. A pair taken in 1910 that was probably of this specie.
390. Belted Kingfisher. Common resident at all seasons of the year.
- 394a. Gardiner Woodpecker. Fairly common. Breeds.
399. White-headed Woodpecker. Fairly common in mountains. Undoubtedly this specie breeds here, have no egg record.
- 402a. Red-naped Sapsucker. Breeds in mountains. Not common.
- 405a. Northern Pileated Woodpecker. Rare. One bird taken in 1912.
408. Lewis Woodpecker. Common. Breeds over entire county.
413. Red-shafted Flicker. Common summer resident. Nests placed from sixty feet from ground to almost level with ground.
- 413a. Northwestern Flicker. Rare. Two records of birds but none of its nesting although it probably does.
- 420a. Western Nighthawk. Common summer resident. Breeds in mountains and in sage brush hills.
444. Kingbird. Fairly common summer resident.
457. Say Phoebe. Fairly common resident. Nests chiefly about old buildings.
462. Western Pewee. Common summer resident. No egg record.
464. Western Flycatcher. Several pairs observed. No egg record.

466. Traills' Flycatcher. Several pairs noted One set of eggs taken July 8, 1920.
- 474i. Dusky Horned Lark. Common summer resident. Breeds.
475. American Magpie. Common resident at all times of the year. Are on the bounty list as destructive to game birds' eggs.
- 478c. Black-head Jay. Common resident in mountains. Breeds.
- 485a. Gray Jay. Rare. Several small flocks observed in mountains. No egg record.
- 488b. Western Crow. Common summer resident. Large flocks gather in early fall.
491. Clarke's Nutcrackers. Rare. Several birds reported from mountains. Common summer residents. Breeds in small colonies on alkali swamps.
498. Red-winged Blackbird (Authority Dawson & Bowles Birds of Washington). Common summer resident.
499. Bi-colored Blackbird. This specie and the nest seem to merge in No. 498 although several birds have been taken that show clear markings of No. 498 and No. 499 and No. 500.
500. Tricolored Blackbird. See notes on 499.
- 501.1. Western Meadow Lark. Common summer resident. All nests secured have been exceedingly well hidden.
508. Bullock Oriole. Common summer resident. Seems to prefer cotton woods over-hanging water for nesting sites.
510. Brewer Blackbird. Common summer resident. Gather in large flocks in fall.
519. House Finch. Fairly common summer resident.
- 529a. Pale Goldfinch. Fairly common summer resident.
- 552a. Western Lark Sparrow. Fairly common summer resident.
554. White-crowned Sparrow. Rare spring migrant.
557. Golden Crowned Sparrow. Rare spring migrant.
- 560a. Western Chipping Sparrow. Common summer resident. Breeds in orchards and along river bottoms.
- 567b. Shufeldts Junco. Fairly common summer resident. Breeds mainly in mountains.
- 574i. Sage Sparrow. Uncommon summer resident. One set of eggs taken June 6, 1913.
- 581k. Merrills Song Sparrow. Common resident at all seasons of the year.
- 588a. Spurred Towhee. Fairly common summer resident.
596. Black-headed Grosbeak. Common summer resident.
599. Lazuli Bunting. Common summer resident.
607. Western Tanager. Fairly common summer resident. Reported to breed in mountains.
612. Cliff Swallow. Common summer resident. Breeds in large colonies.
613. Barn Swallow. Common summer resident.
615. Northern Violet Green Swallow. Several pair observed. Set of eggs taken May 6, 1920.
616. Bank Swallow. Common summer residents. Breeds in small colonies in suitable localities.
619. Cedar Waxwing. Common migrant and young birds observed in summer so they probably breed.
- 622a. White-rumped Shrike. Fairly common summer resident. No egg record but young birds reported.

- 652. Yellow Warbler. Common summer resident.
- 656. Audubon Warbler. Rare spring migrant.
- 681a. Western Yellow-throat. Fairly common summer resident
- 683a. Long-tailed Chat. Common summer resident.
- 685a. Pileolated Warbler. Rare. One pair observed April 19, 1920. No egg record.
- 701. American Dipper. Uncommon summer resident. Reported to breed in mountains.
- 721a. Western House Wren. Common summer resident.
- 725a. Tule Wren. Uncommon summer resident. No egg record.
- 735b. Oregon Chickadee. Common summer resident.
- 758. Russet-backed Thrush. Not common summer resident.
- 761. Western Robin. Common summer resident. Comes early in spring and leaves late in fall.
- 767. Western Bluebird. Common summer resident. Prefers woods to nest in.
- 768. Mountain Bluebird. Common summer resident. Builds in bird houses, mail-boxes, etc.
- I. S. English Sparrow. Numerous. A nuisance and a pest. Build in crevices of trees, walks, electric signs, under awnings, etc. Are spreading out even in rural districts.

- 428 Ruby Throat.....1, unusual to us
- 456 Phoebe1
- 477 Blue JayNumerous
- 488 Crow.....1 flew over
- 494 Bobolink. Hundreds feeding in Vetch. Migratory only.
- 498 Red-wing Blackbird ..Numerous
- 501 MeadowlarkNumerous
- 506 Orchard OrioleSeveral
- 507 Baltimore OrioleNumerous
- 511b Bronzed GrackleHundreds
- 593 Cardinal4
- 597 Blue Grosbeak2
- 598 Indigo BuntingSeveral
- 604 Dickcissel. Numerous partly migratory for scarce in nesting season.
- 610 Summer Tanager2
- 611 Purple MartinNumerous
- 619 Cedar Waxwing. Numerous, migrating North.
- 6622 Logger Head Shrike.....1
- 681 Maryland Yellow-throat. Several
- 683 Yellow Breasted Chat.....2
- 687 Redstart1, male
- 703 Mocking Birds3
- 704 Catbird2
- 766 Blue Birds3
- 563 Field SparrowSeveral

I saw some two or three different species of Sparrows but am not positive of their identity. The above list of birds seen on April 8, 1920.

M. G. Harden,
Rosemont, Miss.

SOME WINTER BIRDS OF PERRY COUNTY, ALABAMA

The following list is not as notable for the birds which are included as for those which are omitted. There are a great number of birds whose winter range is given as from Kentucky southward which are not noted. With the exception of the water birds the following list is complete for the section around Marion, Ala., as walks were taken almost daily during the months of January and February, and

Errata:

- 334a. Western Goshawk. Resident in mountains of county. Reported to breed but no record.

MISSISSIPPI BIRDS

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| A. O. U. | Common Name | No. Seen |
| 326 | Black Vulture.. | 3, overhead flying |
| 387 | Yellow-billed Cuckoo | 1 |
| 394 | So. Downy Woodpecker..... | 1 |
| 406 | Red-head Woodpecker | 5 |
| 409 | Red Bellied Woodpecker..... | 2 |



Young Cooper Hawks—Photo by T. H. Jackson

daily lists were made from which the following is made. The opportunity for observing the water birds was limited as there are no large creeks or lakes near Marion.

132. Mallard. Fairly common during January. None observed in Feb.
 228. American Woodcock. Several observed on the flat places in the open part of the swamps during both months.
 273. Killdeer. Common all winter.
 289. Bob White. Very common now but will probably become scarcer as Alabama has a four months season or did have two years ago.
 316. Mourning Dove. Large bunches are seen feeding in the stubble fields all during the winter. A

much hunted game bird in Alabama.

325. Turkey Vulture. See next.
 326. Black Vulture. There is hardly a time when several of these and the above cannot be seen sailing in the air. Probably not so common as the Turkey Vulture.
 368. Barred Owl. Common in all the swamps. In the larger swamps are liable to be heard at any hour of the day. Begin nesting January.
 390. Kingfisher. Not common.
 393b. So. Hairy Woodpecker. Not common.
 394b. So. Downy Woodpecker. Very common.

402. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Not common.
405. Pileated Woodpecker. Not common, but occurring in all the large swamps.
406. Red-headed Woodpecker. Very common.
409. Red-bellied Woodpecker. Not common.
412. So. Flicker. Very common. The northern form probably occurs as large bunches were seen migrating early in March, but no specimens were taken.
477. Blue Jay. Common.
488. Am. Crow. Very common, occurring in immense droves.
490. Ruby Crowned Kinglet. Very common among the thickets in all the swamps but does not occur in large numbers as when migrating.
498. Red-winged Blackbird. Was not observed until late in February when the northbound migration had begun.
- 501c. So. Meadowlark. Very common. It is probable that the No. Meadowlark also occurs.
- 511b. Bronzed Grackle. Fairly common.
517. Purple Finch. Occuring in large droves, periodically, all winter.
529. Am. Goldfinch. Common.
540. Vesper Sparrow. Not common.
558. White-throated Sparrows. With the exception of the English Sparrow, the commonest of the Sparrows.
559. Tree Sparrow. Not common.
560. Chipping Sparrow. Not common.
563. Field Sparrow. Occurs in large numbers.
567. Slate Colored Junco. Very common. Leaves late in February.
581. Song Sparrow. Common.
585. Fox Sparrow. Only a few observed,
587. Towhee. Very common
593. Cardinal. Very common.
619. Cedar Waxwing. Occurs periodically in droves of from one to two hundred. The negroes are fond of Cedar bird pie, and large numbers are killed.
622. Loggerhead Shrike. Only two observed in two months.
655. Myrtle Warbler. Fairly common.
703. Mockingbird. Very common. Hardly a yard in the town but what have from one to three pairs of Mockingbirds.
705. Brown Thrasher. Very common. An early nester.
718. Carolina Wren. Very common around the edges of the swamps. Nests early in March.
721. House Wren. Not common.
722. Winter Wren. Only one observed.
726. Brown Creeper. Not common, but occurs regularly.
729. Brown-headed Nuthatch. Common. Nests early in March.
731. Tufted Titmouse. Observed three or four times.
736. Carolina Chickadee. Very common.
761. American Robin. Very common. Can be seen early in March gathering in large droves preparatory to their northward journey.
766. Bluebird. Common along the creeks where cleared.

Prewitt Roberts,
Conway, Missouri.

Olar Columbianus

The last native Wild Swan was shipped a short time ago to J. O. Jackson, of Denver, Colorado, in an effort to mate the same with a male of the same species, which Mr. Jackson has on his grounds there. It is to be hoped that this effort will not result as did the effort to mate the last Trumpeter

Swan, of a female of the same species in the Zoological Garden, at Washington, D. C.

TEXAS NOTES

Texas Bob White

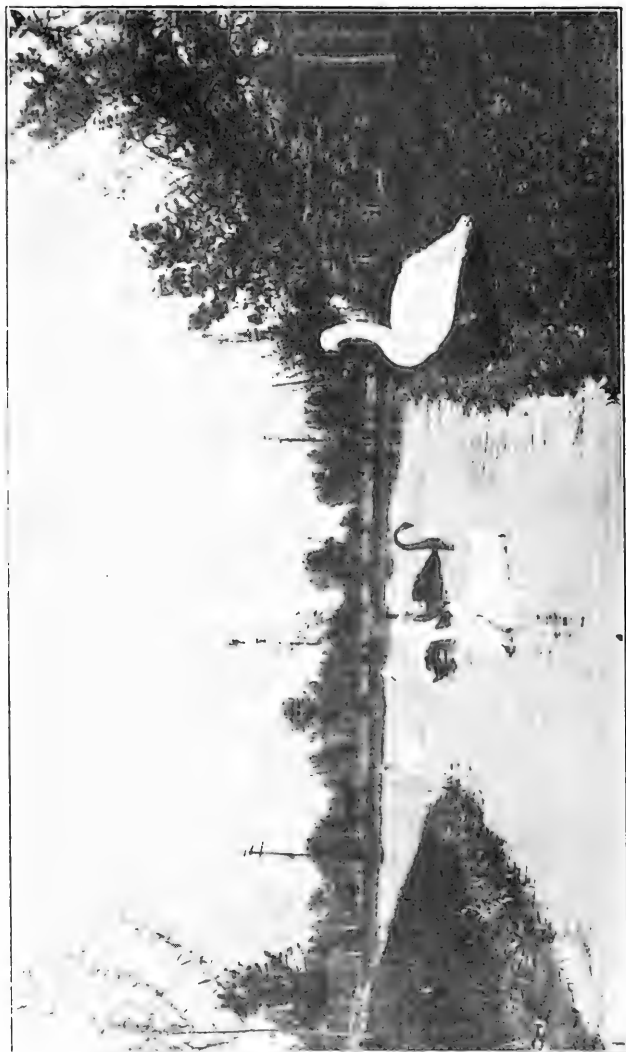
While on the Elkhart Dairy on ranch out from San Antonio, Texas, my wife and I were getting material for some stories and also taking bird notes. I could hear Quail, Bob Whiting in the hay fields near the house. The Johnson grass was all mowed down and I thought these Quail lost their eggs, by horses or cattle tramping on them. But after a few weeks the grass was ready to cut again, so I was running the mowing machine. I had about six acres cut down and was finishing up on my last round when up jumped Mrs. Quail and about fifteen little ones just big enough to fly. It sure was a fluttering sight to see them make their first flight and they were lucky to be alive after the grass being cut where the nest was situated.

BIRDS OBSERVED AT EAST RANDOLPH, N. Y.

(B) indicates Breeding Birds of this area.

Horned Grebe
 Pied Billed Breeds
 Loon
 Herring Gull Breeds
 Bonapart Gull
 Common Tern
 Black Tern Breeds
 American Merganser
 Red Breasted Merganser.
 Mallard Breeds
 Black Duck Breeds
 Gadwall
 Baldpate
 Green Winged Teal
 Blue Winged Teal
 Pintail
 Wood Duck Breeds
 Canvasback

Scaup Duck
 Buffle Head
 Old Squaw
 American Scooter
 White Winged Scooter
 Surf Scooter
 Ruddy Duck
 Canada Goose
 Whistling Swan
 American Bittern Breeds
 Least Bittern Breeds
 Great Blue Heron Breeds
 Green Heron Breeds
 Black Crowned Night Heron (B)
 King Rail (B)
 Virginia Rail (B)
 Sora Rail (B)
 Florida Galinule (B)
 American Coot (B)
 American Woodcock (B)
 Wilson Snipe (B)
 Pictorial Sand Piper
 Least Sandpiper
 Red Backed Sandpiper
 Sempal Mated Sandpiper
 Western Sandpiper
 Sanderling
 Greater Yellow Legs
 Yellow Legs
 Solitary Sandpiper
 Spotted Sandpiper (B)
 Bartramian Sandpiper (B)
 Black Bellied Plover
 Golden Plover
 Killdeer (B)
 Semipalmated Plover
 Turnstone
 Bobwhite (B)
 Ruffled Grouse (B)
 Mourning Dove (B)
 Marsh Hawk (B)
 Sharp Shinned Hawk (B)
 Cooper's Hawk Breeds
 American Goshawk
 Red Tailed Hawk (B)
 Red Shouldered Hawk (B)
 American Sparrow Hawk (B)
 American Osprey
 American Long-eared Owl (B)



Swan on J. O. Jackson's Place, Denver, Colo.

- American Short-eared Owl
 Barred Owl (B)
 Saw-whit Owl
 Screech Owl (B)
 Great Horned Owl (B)
 Snowy Owl
 Yellow Billed Cuckoo (B)
 Black Billed Cuckoo (B)
 Pelted Kingfisher (B)
 Hairy Woodpecker (B)
 Downy Woodpecker (B)
 Yellow Bellied Sapsucker (B)
 Red Headed Woodpecker (B)
 Red Bellied Woodpecker
 Northern Pileated Woodpecker
 Northern Flicker (B)
 Whippoorwill (B)
 Night Hawk (B)
 Chimney Swift (B)
 Ruby Throated Hummer (B)
 King Bird (B)
 Crested Flycatcher (B)
 Phoebe (B)
 Wood Pewee (B)
 Alder Flycatcher (B)
 Yellow Bellied Flycatcher
 Green Crested Flycatcher
 Least Flycatcher (B)
 Horned Lark
 Prairie Horned Lark
 Blue Jay (B)
 American Crow (B)
 Bobolink (B)
 Cowbird (B)
 Red Winged Blackbird (B)
 Meadow Lark (B)
 Orcard Oriole (B)
 Baltimore Oriole (B)
 Rusty Blackbird
 Bronzed Grackle (B)
 House Sparrow (B)
 Purple Finch (B)
 American Goldfinch (B)
 Snowflake
 Vesper Sparrow (B)
 Savanna Sparrow (B)
 Grasshopper Sparrow (B)
 White Crowned Sparrow
 White Throated Sparrow
 Tree Sparrow
 Chipping Sparrow (B)
 Field Sparrow (B)
 Slate Colored Junco (B)
 Song Sparrow (B)
 Swamp Sparrow (B)
 Fox Sparrow
 Towhee (B)
 Rose Breasted Grosbeak (B)
 Indigo Bunting (B)
 Scarlet Tanager (B)
 Purple Martin (B)
 Cliff Swallow (B)
 Barn Swallow (B)
 Tree Swallow (B)
 Bank Swallow (B)
 Cedar Waxwing (B)
 Northern Shrike
 Migrant Shrike (B)
 Red-eyed Vireo (B)
 Warbling Vireo (B)
 Yellow Throated Vireo (B)
 Black and White Warbler (B)
 Golden Winged Warbler (B)
 Nashville Warbler (B)
 Tennessee Warbler (B)
 Yellow Warbler (B)
 Black Throated Blue Warbler
 Myrtle Warbler
 Magnolia Warbler (B)
 Cerulean Warbler (B)
 Chestnut Sided Warbler (B)
 Bay Breasted Warbler
 Black Pall Warbler
 Blackburnian Warbler
 Black-Throated Green Warbler
 Oven Bird (B)
 Water Thrush (B)
 Northern Yellow Throat (B)
 American Redstart (B)
 Catbird (B)
 Brown Thrasher (B)
 House Wren (B)
 Short-billed Marsh Wren
 Long Billed Marsh Wren (B)
 Brown Creeper
 White Breasted Nuthatch (B)

Red Breasted Nuthatch
 Chickadee (B)
 Golden Crowned Kinglet
 Ruby Crowned Kinglet
 Wood Thrush (B)
 Wilson Thrush (B)
 Hermit Thrush
 American Robin (B)
 Blue Bird (B)

Earl A. Wheeler.

RARE AND UNCOMMON BIRDS

Lawrence County, Mo. Notes

By Johnson Neff

Down here in Southwest Missouri, where it seems that hills and prairies merge together, we sometimes find uncommon birds, sometimes rare ones in our state, many times rarer to our vicinity. A partial list follows:

11. Red-throated Loon. Very uncommon visitant. One bird was observed by myself on a large body of water, eleven miles east and south of Marionville, on May 11th, 1918.

74. Least Tern, August 10th, 1917.

77. Black Tern, August 10th, 1917.

My first and last acquaintance with these birds. The birds were flying over the pond mentioned above and these were in all probably 80 individuals.

125. White Pelicans. Fall of 1919.

For several weeks during September and October reports came to me from people living about ten miles south of a flock of Pelicans which were straying first to the river then back to the pond in the hill regions. But it was not my good fortune to be able to see the birds.

137. Bald-pate. Fall 1919. First time I had ever been lucky enough to collect a specimen of this common duck. Was found feeding in a puddle of water in a wheat field.

169. Snow Goose. (Lesser Snow Goose in all probability.—Ed.). Have seen several geese flying over which

are called Snow Geese, but a neighbor was lucky enough to kill one out of a flock of ten which were feeding on his wheat field in October 1919.

181. Trumpeter Swan. (Possibly Whistling Swan.—Ed.). A very observant farmer living on the James River about 35 miles south reported a Swan, or rather a pair of Swans which remained on the river for weeks in the fall of 1917. After looking through some bird books to which he had access he named it a Trumpeter, although one more reliable might have been able to distinguish which it was, this species or the Whistling Swan.

196. American Egret.

The "Snowy Egret" is becoming more and more common here on the rivers, as a few years ago none were seen. I also saw one specimen sitting on a log in the Missouri River, East of Macon on September 6th, 1918, as I passed on a Wabash train.

212. Virginia Rail. Found one specimen with a broken leg, in 1910.

206. Sandhill Crane. I saw one specimen of the Sandhill Crane near the James River in July 1914. It was sailing in circles high over the hills but with a good field glass I was able to identify it. For weeks one lone Crane fed about over the prairies within sight of Marionville during December and January, 1919 and 1920, until the owners of the farm it frequented heard some town hunters planning to kill it. He and his neighbors tried to scare the bird away but could not so at last killed the bird to save it, and it is now in the hands of an expert taxidermist.

228. Woodcock. Possibly once a year I hear from various sources that Woodcock have been killed, but I have never found any very reliable traces. Have seen many Woodcock in Wisconsin but none here.

367. Short-Eared Owl. My only

acquaintance with the species is one individual found dead in the woods about five miles south of my home on Nov. 15th, 1916.

595. Rose Breasted Grosbeak. Have seen only two specimens of this beautiful bird. One was in 1909, the other was on May 1st, 1917, a very clear and distinct view.

638. Swainson's Warbler. Have seen two of these birds. One was at Brown Spring Lake, Aug. 10th, 1917, the day I found the Black Tern. The other specimen was observed on the James River near Galena, Mo., in the rank growth near the water's edge on July 18, 1917. (Identity very doubtful.—Ed.)

648. Parula Warbler. Have seen only two instances of this bird. One was an adult male April 15, 1917, at Browns Mill Pond, six miles southeast. The other was a pair with nest of perhaps from young about seventy feet above James River, in a Sycamore tree, July 16, 1917. The latter were very tame and were closely examined.

697. American Pipit. I saw one specimen of this northern bird while plowing, Feb. 19th, 1917. The bird was not wild but remained for hours following the plow. It was observed from all distances and angles and cannot be mistaken.

ADDENDA

Since writing my list of Sw. Mo. Warblers I have added two more species to my list. Both are common birds according to Widmann, but I have had much trouble in finding them—Addenda.

667. Black-throated Green Warbler. Seemingly rather common here but was first seen in the College Campus of Marionville College, by the Biology Class which I had charge of for field bird-study. On April 22, 1920 I found

a pair with two full-grown young on James River.

686. Canadian Warbler. I just almost fell over one of these Aug. 22nd, 1920 as I went through a small group of oak trees on the edge of my lawn. This is the only one of the kind I have seen here.

Johnson Neff,
Marionville, Mo.

The Sequel of the Death of a Wandering Snowy Owl

J. Warren Jacobs

This little nine page publication is a poem brought forth by the death of a Snowy Owl, near the home of J. Warren Jacobs, December 9, 1918, and is credible to the author. It is written in truly Jacobs style—R. M. B.

"Economic Books Received"

"Economic Value of The Starling in the United States." United States Department of Agriculture, Bull. No. 868 Professional Paper January 10, 1921, by E. R. Kalmbach and I. N. Gabrielson.

This paper consisting of 66 pages contains an exhaustive review of the present status of the Starling in the United States, and all its habits, food, and the conclusion arrived at is that most of the Starling food habits have been demonstrated to be either beneficial to man or of a neutral character. Furthermore, it has been found that the time the bird spends in destroying crops, or in molesting other birds is extremely short compared in the endless hours it spends searching for insects or feeding on wild fruits.

Nevertheless new policies would be warranted which would give the birds absolute protection and afford new relief to the farmer, whose crops are threatened by local abundance of this species.—R. M. Barnes.

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WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

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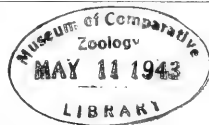
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THE OOLOGIST.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS
TAXIDERMRY

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 3. ALBION, N. Y., MARCH 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 407



THE OOLOGIST

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

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

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

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

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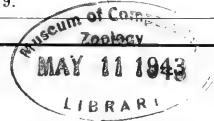
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Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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PREPARATION OF FAR-INCUBATED EGGS

For the benefit of newer oologists, one repeats, here, with some additions, a suggestion made some time ago, in regard to the Preparation of Incubated Eggs. As a rule, of course, when we find eggs opaque, we graciously leave them to hatch. But when one finds a beautiful set of Le Conte Sparrow at the very hatching point, one hates to see them lost to the enrichment of oological treasuring. If such an experience falls to you, try this: Carefully, with a darning needle, prick out, on the less-finely marked side of the egg, an area as small as possible; yet large enough to admit of the drawing of the embryo through the opening, with a hook. It is really surprising through how small a hole an embryo can be removed, if not too far advanced to completion.

A large bent pin, attached to a wooden handle, makes a perfect embryo hook. With this, turn the embryo about, in the egg, until the back of the head appears. Then draw it out, with extremest care.

The placenta usually presents grave difficulty. It clings to the shell. It must be coaxed out. This may often be done with a strong jet of water, through ones blow-pipe. With caution, the hook may be used. The placenta having been removed, rinse the egg thoroughly; and lay it to dry on some hard surface. When it is utterly dry, tear out a section of tissue paper, of a suitable tint; providing a margin wide enough to grip the edges of your opening fairly. In applying this, on the point of a darning needle, gently press down the edges of the paper smoothly. In preparing the patch, use glue,—good, strong glue. NOT mucilage. When this patch is dry, make another, somewhat larger. With an indelible pencil, affix the species-number, the

set-mark and, if you care, your own private hall-mark, and apply this patch over the other. Use especial care in pressing and smoothing the outer patch. Firm adhesion can only thus be secured.

When the patch is dry, with your darning needle spread over it a thin layer of collodion. With larger eggs, this treatment should be repeated. You will find that the ether in the collodion brings out the color of the indelible pencil finely. (By the way, why not use such a pencil, always, in marking your eggs? It involves less danger of denting a fragile egg if you will moisten the surface, evenly and thinly: and then lightly mark the legend. In this wise you assure the impossibility of some dishonest pseudo-ornithologist making up sets by erasing the common-pencil markings)

A concrete example of the above sort of treatment for eggs with extremely large emptying holes is added, here:

Last June, in a little meandering swale, I found a robbed and deserted nest of a Montana Red-wing. It was set a foot above the slowly-running water. The new nest was just finished; and was quite like the former nest. It was but a rod distant.

In the abandoned nest were two perfect eggs and one that had been partly eaten by some small bird or mammal. In the water below was another egg with a small hole in one side through which almost the entire content had been removed; still another that had almost all of one side crushed in. One of the perfect eggs was of rare beauty, all marked at the apex with delicate striplings and hair-lines of dull-brown. The five eggs were all of them mutually so unlike that one might have imagined that the female Red-wing had "made up" a set by stealing from other nests!

I greatly desired to save so unusual a set. I therefore rinsed the partly-emptied eggs, carefully; and blew the others: (which of course, were fresh). On reaching home I prepared the eggs in this set, as above indicated. By holding the much-broken egg gently, but firmly, with thumb on one end and fore-finger on the other, I was able to "treat" it without crushing. And now, with its fellows, it is one of the treasures of my cabinet: loath as you may be to believe it.

I am well aware that the dilettanti among collectors will ridicule this idea of mine, without measure. But I shall still smile back at them, remembering how instructive is that one crushed egg, now secure against all ordinary breakage, as it lies beside its rarely-beautiful pin-hole-blown fellow. We older "boys" turn many a trick that may not appeal to the other fellow; we get lots of fun out of such exploits.

P. B. Peabody,
Blue Rapids, Kansas.

NESTING OF THE AMERICAN HAWK OWL

On my arrival in Manitoba, seven years ago, the American Hawk Owl was a very common bird, at least in this northern part of the province. Without doubt, it was by far the most common one of all the owls. During the winter 1913-14 several were shot here by "Sunday-hunters," and "the boy with the 22" destroyed many of them, knowing little and caring less of what he was doing.

During the summer 1914 this semi-nocturnal raptor evidently bred here, as specimens were often seen during the breeding months, yet no nests were found.

After that year this owl was gradually getting rarer, and finally it disappeared entirely. I have not seen a

hawk owl for three years.

One day last summer (June 28, 1920), when I was walking through the woods near a small lake, following an old unused trail, that in winter times I use for a trap-line, I got a surprise of my life, and a pleasant surprise it certainly was. In an old dead willow bush, within a few paces of the trail is an old crow's nest which I had known for years. This nest is only five feet above ground and another heavy, dead willow bush has fallen over the bush containing the nest, in such manner, that it forms a sort of a slanting roof over the nest some fifteen inches above it. I had never seen a crow nor any other bird in this nest, yet as I have a habit of looking into old nests, when within an easy reach, on this particular trip I stepped off the trail to peep into the nest. When I was within a step or two, off flew a bird, only to light on the branch of the next willow bush. Sure enough, right there before me was the American Hawk Owl, snapping her bill at me and wondering what I was about. And I had not seen a Hawk Owl for three years!

In the nest were three very heavily incubated eggs, which I collected of course, and was successful enough in preparing first class specimens of them, with moderately large holes. The eggs average 1.48 x 1.18 in size, and are decidedly smaller than the eggs in a set of the European Hawk Owl, which I have and which also is a personally collected set.

In the spring of the year 1912 I made a trip to my native country, Finland, and while there I collected several sets of eggs, among them being a set of four of the Hawk Owl. This last mentioned set was in an old hollow poplar tree, which had been excavated by the Great Black Woodpecker. The

eggs of the European bird average 1.60 x 1.29 in size.

It goes without saying, that I am very proud of these two sets, and as I am particularly interested in the Birds of Prey, and their nesting habits and eggs, these twin sets, will become "fixtures" in my collection for some time to come.

In connection with the American set there are several items worth nothing. It is not the custom of this Owl to nest in an open nest (though in this particular instance the nest was partly covered, yet there were dead stubs with unoccupied Flicker holes within few hundred yards). The number of eggs is smaller than the average and the date unusually late. I am of the opinion, that it is a second set of the season, the first one having been destroyed somehow.

The male bird was not to be seen and even the solitary female has probably left the land, as I have not seen her, nor any other Hawk Owls since.

E. S. Norman,
Kalsvala, Man., Can

HINTS FOR BEGINNERS

Horace O. Green, Wakefield, Mass.

The editor of *The Oologist* has always been willing to allow space in the magazine for anything connected with the study of birds and I feel tempted to offer a few remarks in regard to field work. Since the Biological Survey has so wisely decided to allow permits for collecting purposes to be issued to sincere students of natural history it is to be expected that many young men may be encouraged to take up seriously the most fascinating studies in all nature, ornithology and oology, and it is for these beginners that this article is written.

So many instructions for field collecting have already been published that the novice has little difficulty in

learning from books most of the important details in collecting and preparing birds' skins, nests and eggs, but there are a few little points which seem to be worthy of mention either because they are generally omitted in printed directions or because the amateur is not liable to appreciate their value unless they are given special emphasis. Some of them seem so simple that most people would think of them anyway, but it often happens that attention to minor details determine whether success or failure shall attend your efforts to add to your cabinet a specimen in perfect condition.

If the novice is fortunate enough to have among his acquaintances a naturalist who is willing to take him afield and give him a little practical experience, this is by far the easiest, best and quickest way to require proficiency in the work, but there are many nature students who are not blessed with such an opportunity, and for these a few hints may be helpful.

As many naturalists have begun their career by collecting eggs we will do well to consider this subject first of all. The best way is to get the eggs when perfectly fresh if possible. If a set is taken as soon as the full quota has been laid they can be blown and rinsed easily through small neat holes and they make perfect specimens, whereas eggs in which incubation has considerably advanced not only require much more work in their preparation, but in some cases, at least, become badly nest stained, the color becomes duller with a faded appearance, and it is almost impossible to remove the contents without making holes of such a size that they will be frowned upon by many collectors. In order to get the eggs while fresh try to find the nest before the complete set has been laid and then you can easily estimate

about when to go again and collect them. Although it may seem much easier to wait until the bird is sitting and find the nest by flushing its owner from it you are very liable to have trouble because of incubation if you depend on that method, and it frequently is not only possible but quite as easy to find the nest long before the full set has been laid.

It is a good plan to go afield and observe what birds are about your territory, and if it is the proper time for a species you see to be nesting, to immediately begin to look in suitable places for the nest, whether the bird's actions betray its whereabouts or not. Some birds do show plainly by their actions when their nests are being approached but many species slip out of your way quietly and disappear, and you would seldom find the nest by watching the birds until it was too late to save the eggs in good condition.

It is well to make a list of all birds known to breed in your territory, beginning with the very earliest date on which a full set of any species has been found, and following in the order of time in which the various species have their nests until your list is complete. I simply rule sheets of ordinary letter paper, (size eleven by eight and a half inches), into five vertical columns of varying width to suit the entries, and in these columns, reading horizontally from left to right I make the following entries,—in the first column the earliest known date when a full set of the species was found, in the second column the common name of the bird, in the third column the average dates between which the majority of that particular species have a full set, in the next column the number of eggs which is considered a set, and in the last column, under the heading of remarks, anything of special interest, such as the usual

location of the nest, or in the case of rare breeders some of the actual dates and localities where they have been taken.

To start with get as much data as you can from publications referring to birds of regions as near as possible to the ground you wish to collect on, and then you can make additions from time to time from your own observations. By carrying in your pocket a carefully compiled list such as described you can easily and quickly find out what nests to expect at any given date in the season; and when you see a bird whose nesting habits you are unfamiliar with you can get a fair idea whether or not it is time for it to be breeding, and it may save you many a weary hour of searching for a nest before the birds have made it, or when it is too late in the season to find eggs which can be saved for the cabinet. But remember that many birds have two or more broods in a season and if you can not find their first nest you may be lucky enough to find a later one. Many birds ordinarily lay but one set a season but if that set happens to be destroyed some of them lay another clutch, sometimes in the same nest, but more often I think in a new nest built at no great distance from the first one. For this reason it is sometimes possible to get fresh eggs at a much later date than your average dates would indicate and it is well to be on the watch for all such occurrences. Carefully record all data possible about any nest which you find or the actions of its owners, for the number of nests you can discover generally depends directly on how sharp an observer you are.

As a list of this kind is for field use it is well to sew the sheets of paper together at the top, (or along the left side if you prefer), so as to prevent them from being separated or lost in the field.

Most collectors keep satisfactory data on the sets they take because data blanks with spaces for most of the necessary notes are in common use, but many fail to keep notes on the nests from which they do not take eggs. I find that the sets collected for a very small percentage of the number which I find and examine during the season and I have made it a practice to rule papers with blank spaces to keep a record of every nest found. When these are afterwards filled out they show at a glance, (in the order named), the date; name of bird; condition of the nest when found or the number of eggs, if any; locality; date of collection, if the set was taken; number of eggs; incubation; location of nest; and last, under a column for remarks, such items as general character of country, materials of which the nest is made, distance from nearest water supply, amount of shade, or kind of vegetation in the immediate vicinity of the nest.

It may seem that keeping such a list is a formidable task but if you prepare your blank forms in advance it is a very simple matter to fill them out in the field as each nest is found, and your data then will be much more complete than if you depend on your memory, if only for the reason that you do not notice things clearly until you try to describe them.

When you find a nest before the complete clutch has been deposited in it do not handle either eggs or nest, but after glancing into it immediately leave the spot without disturbing the nest or its surroundings, for some birds will desert their nest if even slightly disturbed. If the nest is in grass or bushes where it may be difficult to find it again, especially of in rank vegetation where a few days growth may change the general appearance of the spot, it is well to mark

in your note-book very carefully the distance and direction from the nearest prominent landmark. I also usually break a limb on a tree or bush when possible at a distance of ten or fifteen feet from the nest, leaving the broken branch hanging downward. When you visit the place again the wilted leaves make a mark easily found. Some collectors tie a piece of cotton batting on a twig near a nest to mark the spot when possible, but if you are on ground where any other collectors are liable to roam you may find out later that this habit simply makes easy work for the other fellow and some of your rare sets may be missing. A small broken branch is not nearly so liable to attract the attention of others, and even if it did if they found no nest at the spot they would seldom look farther.

Bear in mind that sometimes a dog or a fox will follow a man's trail through the woods, and for this reason if you are watching a nest on or near the ground it is well not to visit it too frequently and to go no nearer than is necessary to see the contents when you do.

Remember that in years past professional "egg hogs" have done much to bring our favorite study into disrepute, and do not take any more sets than you actually need. This is in no way intended as a reflection on any man who collects a large series of any species concerning which he is making a special study and for which he needs specimens for comparative work, but the average student does not need a large number of sets of the same species, and to collect either eggs or birds in excess of your legitimate needs is not only useless but a criminal waste of our national resources, and will bring you nothing but censure from every naturalist who finds it out.



Great Horned Owl Nest. Note that One Egg Is Half Buried

—Walter A. Goelitz

The ultimate end of all private collections should be that sooner or later, by gift or by purchase, the bulk of the material taken should be absorbed by larger collections and find a place in museums open to the public where it will do the most good.

Prepare your specimens and take good care of them so that if they are finally placed on exhibition they will compare well with their surroundings,

so that you will either feel ashamed of them nor need to apologize for their condition.

If it becomes necessary to blow eggs in which incubation has considerably advanced sometimes it can be accomplished as follows; it is not imperative that all the contents should be removed immediately after the hole is drilled; just blow out what you can, fill the egg with clear water and allow

it to set for two or three days. Then again blow out what you can, and repeat the soaking several times if necessary. This is a slow, and somewhat unpleasant task because of the odor, but if persevered in will many times reward you with a perfect set of eggs thoroughly blown and rinsed through medium sized holes, in spite of the embryo.

Some collectors use caustic soda to dissolve embryos but personally I do not approve of that method because I tried it and decided that it weakened the egg shell so that the result was not all that could be desired.

If an egg has some of its contents stuck on the inside surface where you have difficulty in removing it, but can locate where it is by holding the egg up to the light, try to accomplish it in the following way,—pull a soft long bristle out of an ordinary brush such as is commonly used with a dust pan, slip one end of the bristle inside the egg and gently roll the other end between your thumb and finger, causing the end in the egg to revolve and scrape the inner surface. But take care that the bristle does not get twisted into a knot and break the shell when you withdraw it.

In deciding the size of hole you should drill in any egg a safe rule is to have the hole just large enough to remove all the contents and rinse clean with water. Provided you can do this the smaller the hole the better.

For a collecting box to carry in the field I prefer a flat oblong tin box with rounded corners which will not tear a pocket lining. Some candy firms use a box of this description to pack a pound of candy in, and I have one which is deep enough to hold the eggs of the Red-shouldered Hawk, and is also very light and strong. When using the box in a tree I slip a strong rubber band over it to hold the cover

on securely and I have never had an egg broken accidentally since I used it.

Never use any box with a sliding cover as it is liable to catch on the cotton or other material used to pack the eggs in and create havoc with your specimens.

Sometime you may desire to climb to a nest in a large tree when you have no climbing irons with you and if, as is frequently the case, the lowest limbs are ten or fifteen feet from the ground it may look as though some hard "shinning" is necessary to reach the first branches although the rest of the climb may be easy enough. By cutting down a small tree with plenty of branches and then trimming the ends of these branches off so as to leave a short length of each one attached to the trunk, you can use this as a ladder to ascend the lower part of the big tree and reach the limbs where climbing becomes easy. In order to be prepared for such an emergency I always carry a Marble safety pocket axe weighing about a pound and a half, which is also extremely useful for various other purposes such as cutting trees for a rude bridge over small streams, or for chopping into hollow trees where a nest cannot be reached through the opening used by the birds. In this connection I will mention the fact that our common Flicker often digs its nest hole on the outer side of a decayed limb where you cannot see the entrance from the main trunk of the tree after you climb up, and it often happens that the limb containing the nest is too rotten to support your weight with safety if you try to swing around to the side where the nest hole is, it being especially difficult to reach if the limb slants out at a decided angle to the trunk bringing the nest hole on the under side of the limb. Now most of us would leave the Flicker's eggs alone in such a sit-

uation but as other birds whose eggs are worth more sometimes use deserted Flicker holes it frequently becomes desirable to get at the contents of such a nest. If you take your little pocket axe and chop through the back of the limb, opposite where the nest hole is, you can generally get the eggs without much trouble although this method spoils the cavity so that it will seldom be used again. I have seen nice sets of Sparrow Hawk's eggs procured in this way in situations where almost any other method would have resulted not only in broken eggs but in broken bones also.

Always try to remember every nest hole found in cavities of trees, and every nest of any Hawk or Owl found anywhere, and visit them from year to year for many such nests will be repaired and used again and again.

Whenever you find a nest which you consider rare study the details of the locality where you find it, and then when you happen across another section of country where the surroundings are almost identical you may be lucky enough to find the same species breeding there also. The faculty of being able to glance over a country and determine from its topography what birds are liable to nest in it is a big factor in collecting.

A word about guns for collecting may not be out place for most of those advertised especially for this purpose are too small to be of real service. It is generally useless to try to tell a man what kind of a gun he needs, for his own ideas usually decide that point, but I will say that for the last twenty-five years some kind of a gun for collecting has been a necessary part of my outfit during most of my leisure time; and I have seen and used quite a number of different kinds, ranging in size from a twenty-two cali-

ber loaded with a few pellets of very fine shot, to an eight-gauge which gave good results when loaded with two ounces of coarse shot, and although I have seen times when each of the various sizes and styles of firearms were very useful I have found that for general collecting purposes nothing else can compare with a double-barrelled hammerless twelve-gauge shot-gun of medium weight and of any good standard make. Ammunition for this size can be obtained in many a small store where no other size will be found, which is one thing in its favor if you do much collecting at a distance from home. You can buy shells ready loaded which are suitable for all the various sizes of birds, from a snipe to a swan, and about the only special provision to be made is for shooting very small birds.

For this purpose it is best to get a box of unloaded paper shells from the dealer and some powder, shot and wadding, and then load some shells with a very small charge, using number twelve or dust shot. By shooting at a piece of paper you can easily see what kind of a pattern the various loads make and get a good idea how much ammunition you need to kill a small bird at close range without unnecessary mutilation. In order to get the best results from these light loads the ends of the shells should be crimped over in regulation style to prevent the charge from jarring loose in your pocket. Most sporting goods dealers sell at a very slight cost a hand tool plenty good enough for this purpose, which will crimp the ends over very well even when the shells are only partly filled. If you carry a few of these light loads in your pocket you can slip one into the gun and be prepared for the smallest bird with little loss of time, and you also

retain the advantage of being ready for large ones, whereas if you carry a gun of very small gauge, as most of the so-called collecting guns are made, you will frequently experience keen disappointment because a large bird presents a chance for a shot and your weapon is too small to collect it. On the salt-marshes in summer, with a twelve-gauge gun and these light loads I have collected Least Sandpipers in perfect condition for mounting, and in the woods in late autumn, with the same gun loaded with a solid round ball I have bagged a large ten-point buck deer, thus taking the smallest as well as the largest game which this state afforded without any extra cost except a few specially loaded shells.

An auxiliary barrel can be purchased which will fit inside the twelve-gauge and allow the use of thirty-two or thirty-eight caliber metallic shells, and many collectors use them, but personally I much prefer the lightly loaded shells of standard size. Some use brass twelve-gauge shells which can be reloaded many times, but I found that there were several disadvantages which generally accompanied their use, not the least aggravating of which was the tendency to miss-fire occasionally. If you use new paper shells and throw them away after discharging them, the cost is trifling and you have the least possible amount of trouble and I think the very best results.

Many printed directions advise that after shooting a bird and plugging the bill, nostrils and shot holes with cotton, to wrap the bird in paper before placing it in your coat. If a few drops of blood happen to ooze out of the specimen later they will very likely spread along the smooth surface of the paper and when you unwrap your specimen you will find the blood

smearred on the feather over a much larger surface than you expected. I always carry in the back of my hunting-coat a small sized bath towel, one of the soft variety called Turkish towels by the dry-goods dealers, and I use this to wrap up my choicest specimens in, simply laying a bird on the edge and rolling it up in the towel. Then if any blood drips out the towel absorbs it almost immediately and the feathers are kept much cleaner than by any other method I have tried, thus saving a lot of valuable time otherwise spent in washing and cleaning the plumage when making up skins.

Perhaps the most important item of all is the one which you most often neglect, and that is your note book. As to the style of book to use, just suit yourself, for it is not the book but the notes which you write in it that count.

For my own use I prefer a leather covered loose-leaf book for permanent records and keep it in my desk at home, to avoid the possibility of losing it, and I carry a small note book in my pocket while out collecting so that I can hastily put down notes during the actual work, and then I copy them into my record book during leisure time. Do not trust anything to memory if you wish to be sure of it at any future time, but write it down as soon as you have an opportunity. If you ever attempt to write out a detailed report of your field work, especially after a lapse of time, you will be sure to fervently wish you had kept more and better notes. Although it is most impossible to write a satisfactory record in the few moments you can spare during outdoor work, it is best to put down as much as you can for you will be sure of that at least, even if your regular record is neglected for a few days which is liable to be a common occurrence.

When camping out with a hunting party you will probably return to camp at the end of many a strenuous day with wet feet, empty stomach and a dirty shot-gun to look after, and when these are all properly taken care of and the rest of your camp mates light their pipes and sit up around the camp stove recounting their experiences, if you happen to be the taxidermist of the party with birds to skin which keep you busy for an extra hour or two, your record book is sure to get slighted occasionally. But do the best you can under all circumstances to keep your records, for they may stay with you for years after you have parted with the specimens collected, and they will be of real value to yourself and others of similar tastes as your data accumulates.

There yet remains much work to do in this line before we have a complete account of even some common species. For in spite of all that has been written about our birds, when you become interested in a special line of investigation it is astonishing to find out how many publications you may have to consult before you find the information you wish, if indeed you find it at all. You will probably find a general statement covering the subject as a whole, but definite exact statements which can be applied to the locality in which you are interested are usually few and far between.

When collecting do not allow yourself to become discouraged by poor success, especially when shooting birds if you happen to miss a fine specimen, and have the mortification of seeing it fly away toward the distant horizon. If you allow your temper to be ruffled by such an occurrence it will probably spoil your nerve for shooting for the rest of the

day. Make up your mind to take every good fair shot that chance allows you and if you miss be philosophic about it and keep perfectly cool until another chance is presented. For if you continue to shoot calmly you are bound to get more birds than if you allow excitement or ill nature to disturb you.

Never give up discouraged for the day until it becomes too dark to shoot, for it will sometimes happen after a day of poor success in collecting that a lucky shot just at dusk will reward you with a fine specimen. Even after dark as you trudge homeward you may occasionally get a good shot at an owl perched up on a bare limb where its outline is visible against the sky.

The man who patiently sticks to the work, day in and day out, is the one who will in the end be able to show a good collection, for it takes time and patience to build up even a small collection representing typical examples of the birds of any locality.

Never be afraid to shoot when a bird is within range even if flying through trees at such an angle that you are likely to miss, for it is no disgrace to miss a difficult shot. The man who is always figuring up and telling you just what percentage of his shots are successful is generally waiting for a sure shot or he will not discharge his weapon. The true test to apply to any man with a gun, either the sportsman or the collector, is to allow him all the ammunition he can use and then see what he can show for it when the day is over.

Many birds pursued by sportsman can be hunted successfully with dogs or by the use of decoys, but a collector is bound to find out that many species which he wishes for his needs cannot be procured thus easily and the number of specimens which he gets

depends to a great extent on how resourceful he happens to be.

And now I will say in closing, do not shoot a lot of birds with the idea that you will pick out a few of the best specimens and throw the others away, for if a species is common enough so that you can shoot them that way, you should be able by exercising care to pick individuals which suit your needs, and very few need be taken except those which are preserved.

While I do not think that the speci-

mens taken by collectors in this country have ever made any appreciable difference in the number of birds in any part of it, the carelessness and cussedness of shooters in general has in the past been a dreadful scourge to all forms of wild life in America. Keeping this in mind let your activities be so governed that when the time comes for you to finally put away the gun and the egg drill for good, that your conscience may be perfectly clear.



Great Horned Owl Nest.—Walter A. Goelitz

THE O O L O G I S T

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FOR EXCHANGE—I still have a lot of Bird and Oological Magazines to exchange for Natural History specimens. DE LOS HATCH, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor, ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbell; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

MAMMALS—I want A No. 1 scientific skins of North American Weasels for which I will exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or other mammals or birds. I also want Ridgeway's "Birds of North and Middle America," parts I and II; also North American Fauna, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 28, for which I will pay cash. Alex Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

FOR EXCHANGE—About one hundred mounted birds each with full data; including Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Water Birds, etc. Also several finely mounted Deer heads. Want first class bird skins only. Send your list and get mine. WHARTON HUBER, 225 St. Mark's Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

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WANTED—To correspond with collector who can furnish any of the water birds, shore birds, and waders, all numbers from 1 to 392 desired. Offer good exchange or cash. E. A. WHEELER, East Randolph, N. Y.

Collection of United States Stamps (in part or whole) for sale or exchange for eggs in sets. G. B. REGAR, 1000 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR EXCHANGE—Bausch and Lomb microscope, a fine instrument. Ideal for student doing dissecting. In wooden case. Can use sets or anything useful. EARL WHEELER, E. Randolph, N. Y.

WANTED—Volume 2, complete or in parts, bound or unbound, of The Auk. Will pay a good price for it to fill my file of The Auk. W. OTTO EMERSON, Hayward, R.F.D. No.1, B. 30, California.

WANTED—Two pair of climbers, must be in good condition. State price in first letter. RAYMOND BEARDSLEY, East Claridon, Ohio.

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FOR SALE or Exchange—Many odd numbers and some complete Vols. of Am. Ornithology, Condor, Journal Main Orn. Soc., Oregon Naturalist, Notes on Rhode Island Ornithology, Oologist (Utica), Oologist (Albion), Ornithologist and Oologist, Osprey, Warbler, Wilson Bulletin, and Nature Ornithological magazines. BENJ. ADAMS, Wethersfield, Conn.

WANTED—A good pair, each of Black and Yellow Rails for which I will give good exchange. O. C. HASTINGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

WANTED—First Class sets from reliable collectors. Especially sets containing Cowbird eggs. G. B. REGAR, 1000 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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THE OOLOGIST.

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS
TAXIDERM~~Y~~

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 4. ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 408

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THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or otherwise. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists. B. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—Sets of No. 190, 208, 211, 212, 214, 263, 273, 387, 619, in Exchange or will purchase same. Henry W. Davis, Box No. 844, Atlantic, N. J.

I would like to correspond with active Oologists and Collectors. Write me for information of Birds and Eggs of Michigan. Jame Wood, Taxidermist & Collector, Northville, Michigan. Box 592.

WANTED—To purchase or exchange for sets of 289-, 308b, 310a, 325, 349, 352, 484, 486, 491, 492. First Class only. W. H. Over, Vermillion, S. D.

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EGGS OF THE FRINGILLIDAE—I am prepared to buy or give good exchange for any eggs of the finches and buntings, a group in which I specialize. I will also be pleased to do all I can to help other specialists who will cooperate with me in securing finch eggs. Kenneth L. Skinner, Brooklands Estate Office, Weybridge, England.

WANTED—Egg Cabinet, upright drawer. Cash or Exchange. Send full description. W. B. Purdy, Milford, Michigan.

WOULD like to correspond with all active Oologists with view of exchange. Would like to buy good photographs of birds, nests and eggs, what have you? Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Mich.

BIRDS, Animals, Fish and Game Heads, Mounted Furs and Hides, Tanned and made into Rugs and Robes. Mearl B. Wheeler, Randolph, N. Y.

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ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR SALE—Seven copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1919; eight copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1920, at 4c each, postpaid. A. M. Nelson, Jr., Lake Providence, La.

EXCHANGE—History of the Birds of Kansas-Goss: Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas with descriptive notes of their nests and eggs-Goss; Animal Guide—Reed; 6 1-2 power Army field-glasses: The Oologist for 1910-1911-1912; Want Fishers Hawks and Owls of the U. S.; and good sets. Lieut. L. R. Wolfe, 64th Infantry, Camp Meade, Md.

FOR TRADE—Bird-Lore Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6. Wanted, Bird-Lore, Vol. XVII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6; XVIII, Nos. 5; XIX, Nos. 4, 5, 6; XX, Nos. 3, 5, 6; XXI, Nos. 2, 3, 5; XIV, Index, 1912. Will pay cash or Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 in trade. Fred Matthews, 70 Whittingham St., West Orange, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—European & Asiatic eggs in sets for North American species and skins. Address, C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 4 ALBION, N. Y., APRIL 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 408

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

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

24,034



THE NEW CATALOGUE

The following communication, Dated March 15, 1921, from J Hopper Bowles, Chairman of the Final Committee of Review, selected by the full Committee of twenty-five, who have charge of the new price list, shows that some progress is being made in the production of this Catalogue for which all Oologists are indeed truly thankful.

The Editor stands ready to arrange for the publication of this, as soon as the manuscript is delivered to him, and we had hoped to get it off the press in time to be used for the 1921 exchanges.

—R. M. BARNES, Editor

"I am glad to be able to report that I finished averaging the price lists for the final values of the new egg catalog some days ago, and have sent them on to Messrs. Harlow and Willard for their consideration. We have been very greatly delayed by the slowness in which the committeemen sent in their valuation lists, but that is all over now and I am most enthusiastic over the prospects for the catalog, which I am sure will please all except the few who always want to get rare eggs for little or nothing. We have felt that a good price ought to be put on especial rarities so as to induce collectors to go after them. The whole country is put on an even basis, and not one-sided as has been the case with most catalogs."

—J. HOOPER BOWLES.

NOTES ON THE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

Though the Sharp-tailed Grouse is one of our best known Alberta birds, it was not until the present season 1920 that I had the pleasure of examining two nests of this fine game bird. This season the birds are more numerous than they have been for many years, and I have heard of several other nests being found in the neighborhood.

The Ruffed Grouse is also very plentiful.

After a season or two of great abundance, the Sharp-tails disappear excepting a few birds, and probably migrate to other parts of their range.

This bird is the Prairie Chicken of Alberta, commonly known as "Chicken" and the Ruffed Grouse as "Partridge" to sportsmen.

The Cree name of this Grouse is Pee-hue and this seems to have been extended to include the Ruffed Grouse. This name is simply the call note of the birds, a clear musical whistle, used principally when the flock gets separated in the long grass and brush. They also have a number of other notes, rattling and guttural croaks, used chiefly on clear frosty mornings, and on their dancing grounds. These dancing grounds are usually situated on top of a hill or knoll with short grass growth. Here they wear a network of little paths resembling rabbit runways where they perform the antics known as dancing in the spring mornings and evenings. And here also their enemies take toll. Hawks killing many and Indians and half-breeds more.

Their method is to bend a willow into the shape of a croquet hoop and stick the two ends into the ground, forming an arch over the path and attacking a hanging snare to the center of the arch. Most dancing grounds

close to a trail were decorated with these yellow croquet hoops when I first came to the country twenty-two years ago, but now are seldom seen.

The birds appear rather stupid on the dancing ground and will remain there after a hawk has captured one of their number and devours it a short distance away.

The Sharp-tailed Grouse is a plump, compact bird and my wife described them rather aptly on a recent motor trip when we were continually flushing them along the road by remarking "There goes another fatty." They fly straight away when flushed and make an easy wing shot. When well started their flight is slightly undulating and consists of a succession of rapid wing strokes and sails. They like to perch in the tops of the populars when the leaves have fallen on frosty fall mornings, and many are picked off with 22 rifles.

They are fond of grain, wheat preferred, also different kinds of wild berries, and I have found their crops full of grasshoppers well on into winter when the ground has been free from snow and it would be almost impossible for a human to find a single grasshopper. They also feed in the birches in winter and I have often seen small birches literally full of them.

The first nest examined by me on June 2nd contained fifteen eggs, and was located in a patch of wild roses on a hillside. The nest was a hollow in the ground, lined with dry grass and a few feathers, at foot of rose bushes. This is the nest in the photograph. The second nest visited on June 9th was similar, a hollow in the ground at foot of a rose bush, lined with dry grass and a few feathers, situated in burnt off timber. This nest contained thirteen eggs.

A. D. Henderson,
Belvedere, Alberta.



NEST OF THE SHARP-TAILED GROUSE

—A. D. Henderson, Belvedue, Alberta.

TO PACK A LARGE SHIPMENT OF BIRDS' EGGS

Secure a chicken egg crate and remove all the card-board, then line the crate with a sheet of newspaper, cut to fit, then place a thick layer of cotton in the bottom and a sheet of paper between each layer of eggs and be sure and nail a good stout cover on top when the crate is packed. In 1916 Mr. J. Claire Wood of Detroit, Michigan, sent me over seven hundred sets packed in four crates and only two eggs in the entire lot were broken.

In 1919 I received a shipment of over seven hundred sets packed in small boxes placed in larger boxes and more than ten eggs were broken, mostly in the largest sets, and another lot of over four hundred sets and nearly fifty eggs were broken in this lot, mostly in the best sets. It would be

a good plan to work on half a crate of eggs on this plan, chicken egg crates are not handled so roughly.

W. A. Strong,
San Jose, Cal.

FEEDING PRAIRIE CHICKENS

Many North Dakota farmers have been feeding Prairie Chickens during the past winter as a means of conserving what is considered the most important bird in the state. Spaces about one hundred feet square were kept clean of snow, comparatively close to houses and barns, and table crumbs, screenings and grain scattered thereon daily, and the wild birds were fed as regularly as barnyard fowl. Steward Lockwood, of the faculty of the North Dakota Agricultural College, made an investigation and determined that the Prairie Chicken annually eats many times its

weight in insects.—Western Story Magazine.—W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

AN EARLY 1921 RECORD

February 2nd, 1921, born to Mr. and Mrs. Emerson A. Stoner, Benicia, California, a nine pound girl, Jean Muriel.

THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN CENTRAL IOWA

The year 1921, we think will pass without a Prairie Chicken being seen in Story County, Iowa.

Who of us would, in the 70's, and early 80's, have dreamed it would be exterminated from our prairies?

In the early 70's, I doubt if there was a forty acre tract of prairie land in the county, that did not contain from one to a half dozen nests in the proper season, and I remember of seeing one spring, no less than six nests containing roasted eggs, where a prairie fire had swept over, burning out the old grass; and all these were noted in walking across a section of land in an almost straight line.

In winter, they would congregate in enormous droves, and it was then that the settlers would trap them by the barrel, and sell them to the poultry dealers, to be shipped east.

They used to be considered a good weather barometer too, for after a few days of clear cold weather, and the sky would begin to get gray and threaten another snow and blizzard, they would gather by the hundreds in the trees along the streams and in the groves, and cackle or sing, that I have never heard described by those who write of the bird.

After all, it was not the trapping, the gun nor the prairie fires that caused his destruction, but simply because there are no places left for them to nest undisturbed.

In this locality we will never be able to see them congregate on some

knoll, of an early spring morning, and hear that wonderful "boom," that to one who was "raised up" with them, looks so funny in print by those who try to describe it.

A. A. Cole,
Nevada, Iowa.

Another Swan Murdered

In a local paper dated about the first of January appeared an article stating that two well known ranchmen in San Angelo, Texas, had killed a most wonderful bird that had all the natives guessing as to its identity, it was snow white, long neck, some three feet long, black feet like a goose, black bill like a duck and swam on the water like a duck, with a wing spread of seven feet, and when held up by its bill at full lengths its feet touched the ground. I cut the notice out and sent it to the U. S. Deputy game warden for our state, in hopes that he might enlighten them on the identity of our friend the SWAN, I received a letter in reply and thanks from him stating that he had investigated the case and enlightened them to the extent that they had killed a SIBERIAN SWAN? Would liked to have seen that bird myself having never heard of that specie of Swan around here. Have any of the readers?

Geo. E. Maxon.
Ft. Worth, Texas.

Spotless Kingbirds' Eggs

In the summer of 1916 while a friend and I were out in search for Crows' nests one afternoon, I had a very pleasant surprise in finding a Kingbird nest which held two spotless eggs. This was on June 20th. I left the nest and eggs hoping to get a complete set later. Examining the nest again on June 24th but there were still only two eggs and fearing that something disastrous might happen to

them if I left them any longer I took the two eggs, which I still have in my collection. I have examined a good many Kingbird nests since hoping to find some more spotless eggs but so far these are the only ones that I have ever come across.

Geo. L. Cook,
 Bashaw, Alberta

TEXAS NOTES

"The Belled Buzzard Is Dead"

In 1917, I reported in *The Oologist* about seeing the famous Belled Buzzard. This Buzzard being a Turkey Vulture, flew over my Camp at Lake Worth, Texas. It was noticed several times. Now I pick up a Chicago newspaper and it reports the Famous Belled Buzzard, of War times, is dead.

It was belled with a small bell and leather collar around its neck. When flying and twisting its head, you could hear the tingle of the little bell.

Pyrrhuloxia Observed

In my travels along the trails and roads from San Antonio on to the Mexican border, I found this bird very plentiful, even right around San Antonio they can be seen along the road, in Mosquete trees.

Why So Many Rats?

All over the farm country of Texas, I can hear the farmers and ranchmen say, "Why so many rats?" I just reply, "Well, stop this willful slaughter of hawks and owls, then you won't have to ask, "Why so many rats?" I have been yelling "Protect the Hawks and Owls in newspaper articles for some time. No one paid any attention. Now they yell "why so many rats?" Protect Hawks and Owls and there won't be any rats. The rats are eating up the corn in this part of the country.

R. Graham,
 Fort Worth, Texas.

Inca Dove

August 2, 1920, while taking Bird Notes on the Eckhart Dairyland Ranch, I discovered my first Inca Dove nest, although I have observed plenty of the birds in Bexar County and the surrounding country, I have never discovered a nest. I found this nest in a Mosquite tree, ten feet up, on an overhanging limb. The nest was built of grass, straw and a few feathers. The birds are about eight inches long. The nest was larger than a Mourning Dove's, and contained one half-grown young. The female was on the nest and stayed by her young until I nearly touched her.

I made some close observations of her. She had a black bill, eyes and feet were red, the head and body were checked with black and brown feathers, primaries chestnut, long tail with white feathers mixed with grayish ones.

Ground Dove

I have notice in my travels the Ground Dove, along the roads and trails from here to Mexico. They are small, about six inches long and quick in flight. The tail, unlike other Doves, is short. The feathers are bluish gray, the underneath parts are brown, nearly red. The bill, feet and eyes are red. This Dove is the smallest Dove I ever saw, no longer than a Sparrow. To date I have not discovered a nest.

"Cowbirds"

Cowbirds are found around the Acime Dairy here. There is bunch after bunch, some feeding around the cows, some setting on top of the cows. I have noticed to my surprise that there is on an average of ten female to every male bird.

Bartramian Sandpiper

August 11, 1920, marked the first arrival of this well known Sandpiper. I

heard them as they whistled in the air, now and then one or two of them alighting on the prairies. This bird is being rapidly killed out faster than they are breeding. This is what I prophesied a few years ago. They come in from the North in large bunches, stopping on the prairies to feed on grasshoppers, and the hunters would hunt them from a buggy, as you could get close to them in that way and thousands were slaughtered every year. Now six or seven is considered a large number in this state.

Great Tailed Grackle Very Tame

This extra large Grackle, which is twice the size of the Purple and Boat-tailed Grackles is found to be plentiful in and around San Antonio, Texas, where I have found them breeding. These birds are very tame and will come up close and let you feed them.

Many people call them crows, as they are so large. One old Grackle with his tail pulled out by some boy, was on a lawn, jumping up and down as if he were having a fit. He kept this up until nearly all of the Grackle inhabitants of the park had crowded around him, then they danced around and left. They must have been having a meeting to figure out what went on with the Bob-tailed Grackle's tail.

R. Graham,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

RICHARD C. HARLOW INJURED

A press dispatch in "The Buffalo Courier," March 9, 1921, comes to us which is published below. Mr. Harlow is one of America's leading, if not the leader of Field Oology. No man is better known as a collector, and no collector's specimens stand higher.

We extend to Bro. Harlow our sincere sympathy, having been through the mill several times as the result of our love for this character of speci-

mens, we know whereof we speak.—
R. M. B.

State College, Pa., March 9.—Dick Harlow, coach of the Penn State boxing team and assistant football coach, had a narrow escape from serious injury or possible death today while conducting a search for rare birds' eggs over in the fourth range of the Seven Mountains. Only his presence of mind and great strength saved him when he went over the side of a ninety foot cliff and landed with a crash at the bottom.

Harlow is one of the leading authorities on bird lore in the United States and every summer he has been employed by the Smithsonian Institute on expeditions into northern Labrador in search of rare birds' eggs.

Swing Over Cliff

In order to inspect a nest of ravens, the Penn State coach, who stands over six feet tall and weighs in the neighborhood of 250 pounds, was forced to swing himself over the cliff, slide down a rope, and then swing in under the over-hang to where the nest was located on a six-inch ledge. When about mid-way down the rope, a loose rock dislodged itself up above and came hurling down on Harlow's head. Stunned by the blow, he managed to retain his hold on the rope as he went sliding to the bottom, and thus broke the worst of his fall.

After lying unconscious for about a half hour, Harlow managed to make his way to Coburn, where he found a conveyance to bring him back to State College. One hand was cut to the bone and the other badly seared by the rope, his head was severely bruised, and his body was a mass of cuts and bruises, but fortunately no bones were broken.



A Nest Full of King Rails Eggs, Situated Beside a Railroad Track

—Photo by A. D. Du Bois

A KING RAIL'S NEST IN SANGAMON COUNTY, ILLINOIS

There is doubtless nothing unusual about the occurrence of the King Rail in central Illinois. That is why I was struck by the novelty of a field-note which I found recently in running through an old bird journal. It is my only record of the King Rail in my native county. Sangamon County is a highly developed farming area and embraces no marshes of an extent

which one might consider adequate for the nesting of Rails.

The note is dated May 14, 1908. I had been on a field trip west of Springfield and was "counting the ties" toward home on the B. & O. R. R. track, when I found a marshy spot in the right-of-way, where several Red-winged Blackbirds were nesting in the cat-tails. Upon exploring this little marsh, which was probably fifty by one hundred feet in extent, I flushed a

King Rail. Further search led to the discovery of a nearly completed nest among the cat-tails.

On May 29, I revisited the place with the expectation of finding a set of eggs. The nest was empty and had been overflowed; but to my great surprise I found another nest containing thirteen eggs. This nest was well concealed in a clump of coarse marsh grass near the edge of the little marsh, where the ground was wet though not covered with water. The base of the nest was made up of dead sedges but the superstructure consisted chiefly, and the lining entirely, of green sedges or grasses. The eggs were far advanced in incubation; a circumstance indicating that the nest contained eggs at the time of my first visit and that the empty nest found at that time was a dummy or supernumerary nest.

In order to photograph this "nest-full" of eggs the vegetation was pressed aside and the camera was set up at the foot of the slight railroad embankment. An attempt was made to photograph the bird but I became convinced that no amount of patience would accomplish it without first getting her accustomed to a dummy camera. Although the nest was only a few paces from the railroad rails, whence the passing trains must have presented a terrifying sight, yet this bird found the camera and the man at the end of its thread too dangerous to contemplate.

Near Elkhart, in the county adjoining Sangamon on the north, I had noticed a small marshy creek and, prompted by this new experience with Rails, I made a special trip to investigate it. The cat-tails along the border of the stream were carefully explored (on May 21st) and I found one nest, only partially finished, which was apparently the work of a King Rail.

Alexander D. Du Bois,
April, 11, 1920.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS

A communication from W. Lee Chambers of California, under date of March 7th, advises us.

"I was shocked today to read in 'The Times' that my good friend, John L. Childs, had died suddenly on his way home. He was out to the house Sunday, Feb. 28th and started for home the following Tuesday. He died just before he reached home. We can never tell who will be next"

With the passing of Mr. Childs, American oology loses one of its best men and most ardent devotees. Beginning about 1895 and for the follow ten years there were few, if any, men in North America who gave more attention to amassing a representative collection of North American Oology, and a library covering the Birds of North America.

The corner stone of Mr. Child's collection was Miss Gene Bell's collection of Philadelphia, which was purchased and upon which, up to that time, had been spent probably as much money as upon any collection in America. Mr. Childs entered enthusiastically into enlarging this collection with the view of ultimately building up a complete representation of the eggs of all species and sub-species of North American Birds included in the A. O. U. list. For years he prosecuted this work with energy and brought to it the business acumen which had made the John L. Childs seed and flower business known from one end of the land to the other. Being a man of very abundant means Mr. Childs was not handicapped in this undertaking, and the result is that at the time of his death, leaves what is known as one of the most complete, if not in fact, the most complete collection of this kind in existence.

It was not his purpose to build up a large series, but to acquire one, two or three typical sets of the eggs of each

Chicago.

variety of birds together with a nest in situ, and a pair of each variety of birds mounted, as well as a pair of skins, and in this undertaking he succeeded most admirably. One example of the thoroughness of his method was the sending of guides and a complete equipment into the wilds of Florida after a set of eggs and the nest in which they were laid, of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker. For many years this collection has been noted as containing some of the rarest specimens of North American bird eggs known.

In addition to these specimens Mr. Childs gathered together one of the most expensive and complete libraries on the subject of North American Ornithology in existence.

Some years ago in 1906 he published a complete catalogue of his mounted birds, skins, nests, and eggs, and at another time of his library, which certainly disclosed a wonderful array of these things.

Mr. Childs was a large man physically, with mental equipment fully up to his physique. His disposition was cheery and his mannerisms those of a gentleman, born and bred. In business he was an exceptional success amassing an estate which is counted in seven figures.

The Editor visited at the home of Mr. Childs in 1913 and inspected his specimens and library, the latter containing some of the rarest books on the subject of American birds known. At that time Mr. Childs seemed to take more pride in a volume on the subject of "The Birds of Floral Park," which was the name of the suburb in which his home was located, in the midst of his many nursery, flower and seed producing acres, than in any other single item in his possession.

This volume Mr. Childs was the author of, and it was illustrated from

nature by W. L. Brownell, and was unique in that but one copy of the same ever had come from the press.

Of late years Mr. Childs had not taken so much interest in oology, but nearly every season went to California where under the guidance of his friend Chambers, the old love never failed to shine; and that at these times he enjoyed trips into the mountains and fields as of yore, though it was a very great physical effort to Mr. Childs to travel far on foot. He had too many pounds to carry for that.

During the years 1905-6 he published a monthly magazine of high standard, devoted to his hobby of oology, "The Warbler," files of which are now eagerly sought for by libraries and ornithological students in all places.

By the death of Mr. Childs, North American Ornithology loses one of its most interesting figures and bird students of their most prized ornithologists, and in his death, his personal friends, their associates and family have received an irreparable blow.

—R. M. B.

SPARROW HAWK LAYS IN CAPTIVITY

On May 30th of last year a young man brought me a Sparrow Hawk (*Falco sparverius*) and two of its eggs. He told me that he had seen it enter a hole in a pine tree and climbed up and caught it on the nest.

Well, I got a shoe box and placed Mrs. Hawk in it intending to keep her a few days. You may imagine my surprise when I looked in the box next day to see a nice fresh egg. To make a long story short, she laid three, and then I set her free.

E. A. Wheeler,
East Randolph, N. Y.

"Your valuable publication helps to keep me interested in my old hobby."

A. M. Ingersoll,

"Food Habits of Seven Species of American Shoal-water Ducks"

"Food Habits of Seven Species of American Shoal-water Ducks." U. S. Dept. of A. G. R. Bull. 862. Professional paper Dec. 1920, by Douglas C. Mabbott.

This review of the food habits of the Gadwell, Baldpate, European Widgeon, Green-winged Teal, Blue Winged Teal, Cinnamon Teal, Pin-tail Wood Duck, is an exhaustive compilation of the knowledge, at present available on this subject and the results obtained are surprising in several instances. The total number of stomachs examined was 2888, and, in each specie the different foods consumed are reduced to decimal fractions. It is illustrated by some not overly good plates, but the scientific portion of the work is excellent.—R. M. B.

A LIST OF THE BIRDS OF JAMAICA

This publication is created from "The Hand Book of Jamaica for 1920." Outram Bangs and Frederic H. Kennard are the authors which fact vouches for its reliability, 219 species and sub-species are noted, of which 26 are doubtful records or escapes from captivity. 81 are migrants of winter visitors from the North. 5 are summer visitors, some breeding, but going South in winter and 52 are resident breeding species, not wholly confined to the island of which 5 are now supposed to be extinct. The introduction of the Mongoorse into the islands is supposed to account for these extinctions as well as the near extinction of other species and the great reduction in numbers of many other varieties. As no list of the birds of this island is available since Sclater's list of 1910 the present paper is timely.

—R. M. B.

Henry W. Shoemaker, of McElhattan, Pa., author of "Pennsylvania Deer

and Their Horns, Etc.," member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Vice-President of "Wild Life League of Pennsylvania," who is now located at 71 Broadway, New York City, N. Y., sends us the following publications of which he is the author.

"1. A Pennsylvania Bison Hunt.—1915.

2. Pennsylvania Wild Cats.—1916.

3. Pennsylvania's Grandest Cavern. The History, Legends and Description of Pennsylvania' Cave, in Center County, Pennsylvania.—1919.

South Mountain Sketches.—1920."

These books are a desirable addition to any library having to do with Pennsylvania Natural History. They are written with a purpose and not too technical a style, rare and yet contain a great fund of really scientific information.—R. M. B.

THE RETURN OF THE BIRDS

The first 15 days of February have been like spring, and many of the migratory birds have been seen in small numbers.

I have seen the following:

Feb. 5th. A pair of Red-tailed Hawks, and heard their low cry.

Feb. 6th. Six Robins.

Feb. 7th. Two House Wrens.

Feb. 7th. Fourteen Wild Geese.

Feb. 8th. Nine Robins.

Feb. 9th. Four Red-tailed Hawks.

Feb. 14th. One Turkey Buzzard.

Feb. 15th. Two Mourning Doves.

J. Earl Harlow,
Texico, Illinois

CORPUS CHRISTI BAY, BIRD LIFE

While out at Flower Bluff near Corpus Christi, Texas, on the Bay, I was surprised to see the large amount of water birds. Pelicans, both Brown and White were plentiful, shore birds of all discriptions, not so many Ducks,

many Cormorants, Cranes, Herons. I got some fine pictures while on the bay, also many notes of the birds. The birds are pretty well protected on the bay. A man was fined for shooting a Pelican

We caught lots of fish from the rough waters such as flounders, gar, tarpon, stingeree, shark and catfish, also caught some crabs, shrimps, etc. I almost forgot to tell you the mosquitoes were biting fine. Everything was fine and dandy during the day time, but oh boy! after the wind ceased I thought they would carry wife and I and Tin Lizzie all away.

R. Graham,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

OLD WATER COLOR PLATES

It may be interesting to some reader of *The Oologist*, who own hand-colored plates of birds to know that some of the plates in some old book is not today agreeing with the description given in the text owing to deterioration in the scarlet pigment. Vermilion, where it should be vermilion, it is probably lead color or nearly black, especially is it apt to be so in a very old book. I have a five volume work on birds, one hundred and twenty five years old, with one hundred and twenty-five exquisite, hand colored plates, of the highest type, but in all cases where vermilion comes in the subject is heavy lead color or near black.

Vermilion is composed of mercuric sulphide, H g S. may be pure bright colored portions of the native ore cinnabar, or artificially by subliming mercury and sulphur. Chinese Vermilion, a superior kind, is made by digesting precipitated mercuric sulphide with an alkaline sulphide for some hours.

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.

A NEW OOLOGIST

The Birds seem to be nesting early

in Fort Worth, Texas, this year, as we have received this day an announcement of the birth of Ramon Graham, Jr., March 13, 1921. Weight 8 pounds We hope he will grow up and become as enthusiastic an Oologist as his daddy, and likewise be as thoughtful in furnishing copy for this magazine.—R. M. B.

PERSONAL NEWS

Do you know that *The Oologist* publishes every year more personal news items, relating to the bird enthusiasts of the country, and the oologists than all other bird publications in the United States combined? We do this in the hope of keeping members of the Fraternity in touch with each other.

—R. M. B.

POETRY

We have accumulated quite a considerable number of poetical effusions in the copy box of *The Oologist*, and it is our purpose to display these in our columns probably in the coming July issue.

If any of our readers have any further contribution to make in the future, of copy of the same character, we would appreciate it if they would get it to us reasonably soon.—R. M. B.

OUR PRINTER

A card dated March 11th from St. Augustine, Florida, advises us that "Our Printer," A. M. Eddy, who has printed *The Oologist* from Volume I, to date was on that day at Miami, Florida, and would leave that day for Cuba.

He says among other things "Miami seems to equal California," for which unguarded observation, should he be later caught within the state of California, he probably would be hung to a tree, quartered and buried at the cross-roads, by the outraged citizens of the Golden State.—R. M. B.

BUILDING

The mail brings information that Ralph J. Donahue, of Bonner Springs, Kansas, one of the oologists of that territory, is doing like the other members of the Aves family viz:

Building a nest in the Spring. In other words erecting a neat little home for his bride of a few months.

—R. M. B.

CHICAGO BIRDS

In looking over my field notes for 1920, I thought the following might be of interest to some of the readers of *The Oologist*.

Jan. 25, 1920, Bohemian Waxwing (10) Niles, Ill. (Rare.)

Mar. 23, 1920, Sandhill Crane (6) Orland, Ill. (Rare.)

May 16, 1920, Cedar Waxwing (15) Tessville, Ill. (Early?)

May 23, 1920, Cliff Swallow (1) Taken Beach, Ill. (Rare.)

May 31, 1920, Lesser Scaup (7) Slocum Lake, Ill. (Late.)

June 13, 1920, Hairy Woodpecker, Grass Lake, Ill. Pair breeding.

June 13, 1920, Downy Woodpecker, Grass Lake, Ill. Pair breeding

June 27, 1920, Woodcock (young in down), Niles, Ill. (Late.)

Oct. 31, 1920, Artic, 3-toed Woodpecker, Taken, Tessville, Ill. (Rare.)

George W. Friedrich,
Chicago, Ill.

THE COOPER CLUB

While in California in January, ye Editor had the pleasure of attending a monthly meeting of the Southern Division of the Cooper Club as is his custom while in that territory. It is a pleasure to renew our acquaintance with the best lot of ornithologists that we come in contact with at such times.

The Southern California bird men are not surpassed in personal charm, and ornithological equipment by any we have met anywhere.

A sadness, however, entered our mind in noting the absence of Frank Daggett, Curator of the splendid museum at Los Angeles, and most enthusiastic member of this organization, whom the editor in his many different years visiting in California had learned to admire.

We were pleased to meet Dr. Louis B. Bishop, of New Hazen, Conn., at this meeting. He is spending the winter in Hollywood.

The main subject of discussion at this meeting was some far reaching and fundamental changes in the constitution of the Club. If these are administered in the spirit in which they seem to have been proposed and discussed and adopted, they will be beneficial. However, on the other hand they open a wide door to narrowness and abuse.—R. M. B.

BOOKS RECEIVED**"Territory In Bird Life"**

being a brief review of a new book fraught with absorbing interest to the oologist by H. Elliot Howard. Published by John Murray, London, 21s.

Not since the far-reaching discoveries of Darwin and Wallace were first announced to an astonished world has any new theory been enunciated, at least so far as birds are concerned, so revolutionary as that contained in Mr. Howard's great work.

Mr. Howard tears to pieces the older theories in regard to bird warfare in the spring. It is well known of course that the males of most migrating species arrive in advance of the females and he would have it that each male, on arrival, possesses himself of a small territory from which he assiduously expels all intruders of his own species, and, singing lustily, proclaims himself owner and lord. His song serves another purpose and attracts the females when they, in turn, arrive

from overseas. Later, when the betrothal has taken place, both male and female fight to preserve the sanctity of their small domain, cocks fighting cocks and hens fighting hens. And the object of it all is clear. It is to secure to each pair sufficient food to sustain themselves and their young in order that they may fulfill nature's greatest law—race preservation.

All nature lovers are under a great debt to Mr. Howard whose work is the result of most painstaking observation. To no section is the matter more engrossing than to oologists and for them it will make many things clear that have hitherto been puzzling and invest their work with yet another new aspect of most absorbing interest. Working in the light of Mr. Howard's theory they will be able now to watch and see to what extent their own observations can corroborate and, perhaps, elaborate his.

Kenneth L. Skinner.

MORE HOUSING PROBLEMS

By Geoffrey Gill

Some years ago, while I was still in High School, the Manual Training class had to construct bird houses. These houses, when finished, looked very much like the kennel in which we kept our little fox terrier, Jim, before he met his untimely death under the cruel wheels of a rambling Ford. Of course, the houses were much smaller; and the front door, so to speak, was under the peak of the roof instead of on the ground as in the late Jim's abode. This hole or door was about one and one-half inches in diameter and was well rounded with a file so as to insure an easy passage for the future feathered tenants. These houses were especially adapted for the well-known spring friend of ours, the Bluebird, so the instructor said.

When they were put together they

though any dark color will do just as well. These were polished up and put on shelves for the exhibition at the end of the term in January, and then distributed to their respective owners. There were two or three that remained unclaimed, so I asked for these and after a little persuading on my part I at last carried them home.

One Saturday afternoon, late in April, I went to see a kind neighbor, who had a fairly large garden. After much promising not to do this and not to do that, I finally was given permission to climb a few trees and place my little bird homes. You must be very particular concerning the future site of all your different little wooden bird bungalows if you wish to get the best results, as all birds do not like the same thing. Bluebirds like their nests from ten to twelve feet high, in orchards, but will sometimes build a nest in a house attached to a building if it is properly protected. A House Wren, that tiny bubbling spring of song, is not at all particular and has been known to build its nest and raise its young in the pocket of an old coat that a gardener had left in a tool house. Chickadees prefer swampy woodland at the height of five or six feet. Robins will build in little open porches or shelves placed anywhere from six to sixteen feet high and so it goes with them all. You can't expect to know these right away, but after you have given much attention to the subject it will be easy to study out such matters. When I first put up houses I didn't know these little ins and outs, but just placed them in the trees as best I could.

In the middle of May I visited this place again and peeked up at the little houses now partly hidden by leaves. I passed under each one, and could not see any signs of occupancy

in any of them; but the garden was such a delightful spot that I lingered around, examining the many flowers that were beginning to bloom. I took a seat in one corner of the grounds and gazed around. Imagine my surprise and delight when I saw a bird pick up a small piece of dead grass and fly to a tree in which I had placed one of the houses. Full of expectancy and not a little awed, I stealthily stalked up under the tree and peered eagerly among the branches. Yes, sure enough he was living in the house, for I saw him hop out of the entrance. He looked around, gave a short chirp and flew away. I stayed under the tree, knowing that he would be soon returning with more furniture. I had not long to wait, for he was soon back carrying some feathers from a nearby chicken coop, I suspected. He looked around and boldly entered the door. I watched him and his mate, identifying them as the English Sparrow, carry on this performance for quite a while. I then walked away, fearing they would discover my presence and go away for good. These were my first bird tenants.

It was nearly two weeks later before, happening along that way again, I heard a terrible commotion up in the trees that was fast becoming a riot. My mind flew at once to that ever-menacing enemy of all our feathered neighbors, the cat. I hurried in, jumping over the gate in my haste. There was a small riot, but from circumstances of which I had never dreamed. It seems that a pair of bustling House Wrens had moved into one of my other houses located in an old and weather-beaten crabapple tree. This was where the whole commotion centered. The Sparrows, disliking their new neighbors, were boldly and impolitely trying to drive them away; but the Wrens were just as deter-

mined to stay. They were telling the fact to the whole world in general, and the Sparrows in particular, in very strong bird language. The whole bird population within hearing distance came over to listen. There were saucy Catbirds agreeing with every word every one said. Dainty yellow Warblers nodded their heads. Two or three pairs of Robins and numerous other birds came out. If they were looking for a sensation they certainly saw it. The Wrens were darting at the invaders of their home, and the Sparrows darting at the Wrens, always manoeuvring to get them away from their home so that they could rush in and tear it to pieces; but one of the Wrens always stayed near their front porch, I couldn't be sure, but I think it was Mrs. Wren. The door had been made a great deal too large even for a bluebird, and as the Wrens always like a very small entrance it was way too large for them. Not daunted by this small oversight though, they had cunningly barricaded it with stout twigs until only a small place at the top was left open. This proves that something more than just instinct shows them to build their homes. How did they know enough to make the entrance smaller? They must have some brains, yet greater men than I have said they do everything by instinct.

Much as I disliked doing it, with a few well-directed stones I drove my first tenants away from the immediate surroundings of my new friends. I had studied the Sparrows' characters, and found that they didn't have a very good reputation. They have a bad habit of fighting and driving our own native and more beneficial birds away. With one factor of the excitement out of the way things soon began to become normal again, and I sat down and quietly watched the Wrens

go about their business. I could only see one corner of their home up among the branches and was very much tempted to go up the tree and examine it, but after the excitement they had just gone through I hardly thought it fair or wise.

Four days later, when I thought both of the House Wrens were away, I scaled the tree to examine the barricade. There was such a tangle of branches up there that it necessitated my putting my head within a foot of the door. As I peered into Madame Wren's front parlor, bedroom and kitchenette combined, I was nearly startled off my perch. A living bullet shot from inside and stung me squarely between the eyes, far worse than any bumble-bee's sting that I have encountered. I caught my balance just in time and half jumped and half fell from the tree. The Wrens, both of them now, began furiously scolding me and I soon made myself scarce before I brought the whole bird population after me.

Ever since I have never disturbed nests of any sort and House Wrens especially, for this incident taught me a lesson. I, unlike some landlords, have never had any trouble collecting the rent, although I have a multitude of these tiny tenants since these first two of mine. They have an original but very beneficial way of squaring their debt, and that is by keeping the gardens and trees free from hosts of pests.

On January 24th of this year I was in Stafford Co., Va., in a wild piece of the country between Aquia and Potomac Creek. I sat for a while on a steep hillside watching a pair of Bald Eagles repairing their nest. A movement of the bushes on the opposite hillside caught my eye and pretty soon six wild turkeys came in sight,

a fine big male bird with five turkey hens. I watched them for twenty or thirty minutes until they went over to the top of the hill. The next day I was on the other side of Aquia creek walking down a deep gully that led to the creek which is very wide at this point. Almost on the bank of the creek I jumped two turkey hens and they started to fly straight across. I watched them and saw one hit the ice and start running for the woods. The other bird tired before it reached the ice and fell in the open water, about forty feet short of safety. I got a boat as soon as I could and started after the bird in the water but when I reached her she was dead. She was very fat for this time of the year and weighed $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. If the creek had not been frozen for a quarter of a mile out I don't think the other bird could have made it.

I once saw nine Bobwhites try and fly across this creek and all of them fell in the water. I was in a speed launch at the time and succeeded in saving four of the birds. The side from which I started the pair of turkey hens is not near as wild as the opposite shore and I never heard of turkeys being seen there before. I think this pair belongs to the flock I saw the day before and had come across when the entire creek was frozen or had flown across at a point where it was much narrower. It is hard to tell how many birds die in this manner.

E. A. Sikkem,
Hyattsville, Md.

PRAIRIE HORNED LARK'S NEST SNOWED UNDER

The Prairie Horned Lark is a common resident of our fields and prairies throughout the central part of the state. This species is more or less migratory, but on almost any winter

day when the ground is not covered with snow you may see from three to ten or a dozen in a flock along the road or in the ploughed fields, meadows or pastures. In February you can always look for them in larger flocks. I have often seen them in late February in flocks of fifty or more. On February 5th of this year as I was driving the car to town I saw no less than six bunches ranging in number from seven to eighteen in a flock, but the next day it snowed all day and I have not seen any from that date to the present time (Feb. 10th).

The Prairie Horned Lark is an early breeder here with us, as it often nests early in March. On March 11th, 1909 as I was walking through a pasture which had grown up well to blue grass the fall before I found a nest of the Prairie Horned Lark on the ground in the blue grass. It was composed of grass and weed stems and a very few pieces of corn husks, lined with fine grass.

The snow was not entirely gone, there being long narrow strips of snow scattered all over this 180 acre pasture where it had drifted during the previous storm some two weeks before.

The nest was situated well down on a long south slope near a ditch, and was not more than twenty feet from snow which was three feet deep, the nest contained two eggs so I carefully marked the nest so that I could find it. The day was raw and cold and cloudy and that night it snowed about three inches of very heavy wet snow, and arriving at the nest next day I found it covered with snow and no larks in sight that day. I carefully removed the snow from the nest with my hands and found that the nest contained three eggs, these I packed in my collection box, and then gathering up the water soaked nest I took it

home and dried it and then mounted it on a stand.

This is the earliest record which I have of this species nesting in central Iowa. I have found the nests from March 11th to Aug. 17th, the latter date is my latest record.

By far the largest number of nests found are by hills of growing corn, placed usually on the north side of the plant, and each day that the weather will permit the farmers to cultivate their corn many thousands of their nests are destroyed by the corn plough. Most authors state that the number of eggs laid by this species is from three to five usually four, in fully 75 per cent of the nests which I have found contained three eggs. I have never yet been able to find a set of five out of the hundreds of sets which I have found. There is a great variation in the size and color of the eggs.

See article in December 1920 Oologist by Mr. Fred J. Pierce, on the flight of the Prairie Horned Lark. This is the best article on the flight and song of this bird that I have ever read.

Note—Let each and all of us put our shoulder to the wheel and send in an article to the Oologist. We need the Oologist and it needs us to help. Let us hear more from the fellows in the Northwest and Canada

John L. Cole,
Nevada, Iowa.

The editor seconds the motion. All in favor will vote by sending us the copy showing that you each have "put your shoulder to the wheel."—R.M.B.

"The paper improves every year."
E. W. Kelly.

"I find much of interest in your little magazine and I hope it a very successful year."

Wm. L. G. Edson.

THE OOLOGIST

FOR EXCHANGE—Nice set Golden Eagle 1/2, 1/1. Can use sets of 9, 10, 112, 113, 204, 249, 288, 328, 351, 356 or other rare sets. ROBERT F. BACKUS, Florence, Colorado.

SOMETHING NEW—Solid silver tip to fit over the point of any Blowpipe. Gives a very fine stream for blowing small eggs and can be removed in an instant for larger ones. Price 50 cents. F. M. CARRYL, No. 1 Princeton Street, Nutley, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—One Taylor Smoke torpedo, one Mandalette, one minute Camera. Wanted—Butterflies. W. J. Holland's Moth Book. D. GOLDBERG, R. R. 3, Rockville, Connecticut.

FOR EXCHANGE—I still have a lot of Bird and Oological Magazines to exchange for Natural History specimens. DE LOS HATCH, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

WANTED—For cash or exchange, first class sets, with full data. Send list at once. D. B. Bull, Route A, Box 158, San Jose, California.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbell; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

MAMMALS—I want A No. 1 scientific skins of North American Weasels for which I will exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or other mammals or birds. I also want Ridgeway's, "Birds of North and Middle America," parts I and II; also North American Fauna, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 28, for which I will pay cash. Alex Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

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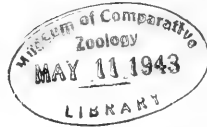
SPRING is now here and the Collecting Season is now on. Let every reader on “The Oologist” select some young man, who would be interested, and send us his name and we will be glad to forward him sample copies of “The Oologist.”

THE OOLOGIST

THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS
TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 5. ALBION, N. Y., MAY 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 409



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or sale
R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

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FOR SALE—One good coyote hide, tanned and made up in floor rug style, with open mouth mount, felt lining, best of workmanship. This fur came from Yellowstone Park and is extra light phase of color customary of furs from that locality. A fine first class piece. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebraska.

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ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR SALE—Seven copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1919; eight copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1920, at 4c each, postpaid. A. M. Nelson, Jr., Lake Providence, La.

EXCHANGE—History of the Birds of Kansas-Goss; Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas with descriptive notes of their nests and eggs-Goss; Animal Guide—Reed; 6 1-2 power Army field-glasses: The Oologist for 1910-1911-1912; Want Fishers Hawks and Owls of the U. S.; and good sets. Lieut. L. R. Wolfe, 64th Infantry, Camp Meade, Md.

FOR TRADE—Bird-Lore Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6. Wanted, Bird-Lore, Vol. XVII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6; XVIII, Nos. 5; XIX, Nos. 4, 5, 6; XX, Nos. 3, 5, 6; XXI, Nos. 2, 3, 5; XIV, Index, 1912. Will pay cash or Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 in trade. Fred Matthews, 70 Whittingham St., West Orange, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—European & Asiatic eggs in sets for North American species and skins. Address, C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 5

ALBION, N. Y., MAY 1, 1921.

WHOLE No. 409

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Lacom, Ill.

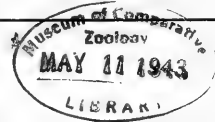
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Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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

24,034



THE NEW CATALOGUE

IT will be good news to the Oologists to know that the Editor received the complete report of the final Committee of Review, selected to pass on the work of the Committee of Twenty-five, who were elected two years ago, to arrange the prices for the New Catalogue of North American Birds' Eggs. Two years is a long time for twenty-five men to be engaged in an undertaking, and the class of men composing these committees is a sufficient guarantee that the work was well done.

We are now endeavoring to arrange with the printers to produce this volume for us, and as soon as the contract is let, we will advise all of the readers of THE OÖLOGIST through these columns of that fact, and will then be able to notify you what the cost will be. This we hope to be able to do this coming month in order that the Catalogue may be used as a basis for 1921 Exchanges.

And while on this subject let us repeat the advice we have given annually for a long time to the Collectors of Oological specimens, not to take any more eggs of the commoner varieties of birds than they need for their own personal collection, as there is no market for such specimens, either by way of sale or exchange.

There is however a very urgent demand for specimens of rarer kinds.—R. M. B.

California Observations

February 8, 1921, Mr. D. Bernard Bull and I went on a trip to the Uvas near Morgan Hill, and we noted the following birds:

294a California Partridge	9
331 Marsh Hawk	1
337b Western Red-tail	3
355 Prairie Falcon	1
360a Desert Sparrow Hawk.....	4
393c Harris Woodpecker	2
407a California Woodpecker	10
413 Red-shafted Flicker	6
458a Western Black Phoebe	1
481 California Jay	4
488b Western Crow	2
499 Bicolored Blackbird.	3
501b Western Meadowlark	16
510b California Brewer's Blackbird	8
529b California Goldfinch	100
554 White-crowned Sparrow	15
557 Golden-crowned Sparrow.....	1
567a Oregon Junco	30
588b Spurred Towhee	7
591b California Towhee	4
622b California Shrike.	
656 Audubon's Warbler	6
733 Plain Titmouse	2
741a California Chickadee	3
741b Varied Thrush	1
761a Western Robin	36
767 Western Bluebird	6

This is the first pair of Crows I have seen in twenty-seven years residence in San Jose.

W. A. Strong.

San Jose, Cal.

Michigan Observations

Having just returned from a short visit to Grand Traverse County, Mich., December 22, to January 3, 1921 I thought that possibly some of the readers of THE OOLOGIST would be interested in the birds I found in that region at this time of the year.

My headquarters were Traverse City. The city is located on the shore

of beautiful West Grand Traverse Bay. Besides the bay it has Boardman lake which divides part of the city and Boardman River winds it way also through its center. The town is sheltered from the west and north-west storms by a range of high hills which is another very good feature.

I really have a very warm spot in my heart for this community as I was born and raised here, spending nineteen years of my life here. And will say that it was truly a great treat to get back to my home town again and travel the same country and spots as I did when a lad.

I found a great many water fowl on the bay and rivers among them were large flocks of American Golden Eye Ducks, Scaup and Buffle Heads, singles, pairs and trios of Mergansers, both American and Red Breasted, hundreds of Herring Gulls, a few Ring-billed Gulls and Caspian Terns and a pair of Red Throated Loons were observed.

I also enjoyed a sight that I will never forget and that was the Herring Gulls feeding at the dumping grounds of the Michigan State Hospital, situated about a mile back from the water. I had often heard of this, but had never had the opportunity to see them before, so shortly after my arrival my sister and I snow-shoed over one afternoon and it truly was a sight any bird lover would enjoy. Hundreds of Gull so tame that one could walk very close to them. And when one of the sleighs with refuse on came to dump some of the birds lit right on the load and started to feed.

American Robins were found while I was there, which is very unusual for that locality at this date. And I also saw great flocks of American Gold Finches in the Hemlock woods in greater numbers than I had ever seen before.

I wish also to say that Grand Traverse can boast of one of the best game and river wardens in the country. Mr. Mark Craw by name, a true sportsman and nature lover and who has his work at heart for the benefit of our fast diminishing wild life. I only wish we had a great many more men like him; men that are liked and respected by their community and not men that are disliked and whom people try to double cross, the way they do the average warden.

I could not spend the time in the field I would like to while there, as I was visiting a sick sister, so my observing was really limited to about three days.

Following is a list of species found:
A.O.U.

- 11 Red Throated loon.
- 51 Herring gull (abundant).
- 54 Ring-billed Gull (rare).
- 64 Caspian Tern (rare winter).
- 129 American Merganser (common).
- 130 Red-breasted Merganser (rare).
- 148 American Scaup (fairly abundant).
- 153 Buffle Head (fairly abundant).
- 151 American Golden Eye (abundant).
- 300 Ruffed Grouse (abundant).
- 393 Hairy Woodpecker.
- 394 Downy Woodpecker.
- 400 Artic Three-Toed Woodpecker (rare).
- 477 Blue Jay.
- 488 American Crow.
- 539 American Goldfinch (abundant).
- 534 Snowflake.
- 567 Slate Colored Junco.
- 726 Brown Creeper.
- 727 White Breasted Nuthatch.
- 755 Black-capped Chickadee.
- 761 American Robin.

Walter E. Hastings.

January 11, 1921,

A Truck Trip

December 4th, 1920, my son and I left New York, with a ton truck, arriving here (Casa Grande, Ariz.) in thirty days. Traveling about thirty-five miles west of Wichita, Kansas, we left the timbered country, and the remaining distance was treeless, except in two forest reserves. The hawks in the treeless country seemed to be fearless of passing vehicles and remained perched on fence posts or telegraph poles. We saw many dead ones along the road, more of the Ferruginous Rough-leg, than of any other.

All or nearly all, had been shot with a rifle by passing autoists. Near the ruins in this valley I picked up a fine male Audubon's Caracara. The only one I have ever seen in this state. Whitefronted geese come into the alfalfa fields here while they are being irrigated, and are not very wild; one flock of nine and another of 28 a few days ago. Yesterday my son flushed a Western Horned Owl on a steep hillside, one egg somewhat incubated on the bare ground between two rocks, no nest whatever. The nesting of many birds here is later than those of last year, perhaps on account of our severe drought.

D. D. Stone.

Oswego, N. Y., R. D. 3.

CASSINA

There is no bird publication that is more welcome to our desk than Cassina. The 1919 issue was issued in October 1920, and arrived December 5th, so you see we are not the only one that is occasionally late, and when so stately and formal a serial as Cassina comes along eleven months

To the D. V. O. C. and its publication Cassina, we wish continued success.

R. M. B.

A MINNESOTA AFTERNOON

Beating about through the woods and brush this afternoon in search for new specimens for my collection and hoping to secure some new phases of bird life, I found myself thinking of your magazine, or perhaps I should say our magazine, and I wondered if a few bird notes would not be acceptable.

With my wife and small daughter I have been camping on the banks of Girl Lake in Cass Co. Even as I write I can hear the call of the Whip-poor-will in the woods and the wild laugh of the loon ringing across the water. It is a veritable paradise for birds. Within one hundred yards of the cabin we have nests of the Robin, Catbird, Kingbird, House Wren, Spotted Sand-piper containing eggs and over one of the windows is a family of Phoebes, while in a small Norway pine close by, the Bronze Grackles are caring for a brood of young. A family of young Baltimore Orioles are swinging in the breezes suspended from the boughs of a nearby birch tree and a mother Yellow Warbler is solicitously watching over small morsels of bird life in a clump of hazle brush. I have been closely watching a pair of Cedar Waxwings in the hope of finding their nest but thus far they have eluded me. The little Spotted Sandpiper is having troublesome times as she placed her nest under a small sumac sprout one or two feet from the pathway by which we travel to the inn and every passerby causes her to leave her treasures with wild cries and flutterings.

Wandering through the woods for a few hours each day I frequently flush Ruffed Grouse, sometimes an old cock who flies away through the trees but more frequently a brooding hen who flutters away with her strange dog-like whinnying cries.

I have added to my collection a set of Least Flycatchers and a set of Loons or Great Northern Diver. It is rather late for Loon to nest but I was fortunate enough to find a belated pair nesting in a lonely place. Large numbers of Great Blue Herons were seen winging their way through the heavens or perching on the top of tall dead trees and they must nest there in considerable numbers.

In a nest nearby there is a colony of Red-wings and the whinny of the Sora is heard together with the pumpings of the Bittern.

That ghost-like creature, the Black-billed Cuckoo is very much in evidence for so shy a bird and the Song Sparrow sings jubilantly from every bush. I spent some time watching a pair of Towhees hoping to locate their nesting place but all in vain.

Large flocks of Gold Finch perch along the telephone wires and violet green tree Swallows flit everywhere. A pair of Killdeer had for some days but noisily proclaiming their tenancy of a small potato field near the cabin and one evening thought I would see if I could outwit them and locate their nest. Crossing the field and their vociferous scoldings I passed into a thick brushy place and then sat down to watch them. They ran up and down past the spot where I had disappeared for some time and always stopped to look in that direction. Finally they gave a short call and in a few seconds four small toddlers ran out from under a bush not over a rod away from me and ran across to their parents. I at once arose and walked out into view and great was the commotion as the old birds took flight with wild cries of alarm and the youngsters ran in every direction seeking cover.

A Great Bald Eagle is occasionally seen whirling in graceful circles over the lake and not infrequently takes

advantage of the industry of his smaller relatives, the Osprey. Kingfishers perch on every small snag, watching the water for their finney prey and both the Black Terns are very common. One could spend the entire season in this locality with great pleasure.

A. S. Peters,
Lake Wilson, Minn.

CAROLINA CHICKADEE

The Carolina Chickadee is the most common bird we have with us in the early spring, and it is somewhat like the Plumbeous Chickadee, both in color and nesting habits.

The average nesting date that we can find a full set of fresh eggs is April 13th although I have found sets as early as March 3rd.

Here in this locality one does not have to go out into the woods to find their nests. All you have to do is to go to the edge of town and pick out a barb wire fence, then start down the line looking at every fence post. Before you have gone very far, ten to one, you have found your nest, because they invariably pick out a fence post to build their nest in. They pick out a post where there is a spot in it that has started to decay, therefore, making the job less laborious, as you will notice by the accompanying photograph. But on the other hand you will find five nests out of a possible twelve placed in a natural or decayed spot of the post which requires no labor at all to excavate. In placing the nest material in the hole they always (in every case) start the foundation off with a one inch bed of pretty green tree moss. Then comes a layer of fine stripes of fibrous bark, followed up with a warm lining of soft hair, usually from a rabbit.

In one instance I saw a Chickadee make ten or twelve trips to an old dead donkey and pull hair from the carcass for the nest which they had

close by. Many a time I have been strolling along a quiet country road and would be attracted by a faint muffled "ra-a-tat-tat" sound being made from some little unseen object, then the thought always strikes me to make for the nearest fence post because I know Mr. and Mrs. Chickadee are making a nest in one of them close by. Then it is only a matter of a minute to locate the nest.

Their eggs are from five to eight in a set, white sprinkled with small specks of redish brown and measures .53x.43. The eggs are most distinguishable from those of the *Parus carolinensis agilis*.

Earl E. Moffat, Marshall, Texas.

The European Starling In Virginia

The winter of 1917 and 1918 was the hardest one we have had in this state since 1888. That season I recorded the Starling in Tidewater, Va., (*Oologist*, Vol. 34, page 111). Last season none were noted in Tidewater during the entire winter, it being quite mild. This year a small flock of eight Starlings were seen in Warwick County on October 11th flying off to one side of a small flock of blackbirds.

Another flock of Starling, twelve or fourteen, were seen this year on December 13th in the same county. Up to that time we had had no cold weather, so I presume these birds have come to stay as a resident. During a late trip in December, as far north as New York, the birds were seen near Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York and now breed near all these cities abundantly. They are gradually extending their breeding range southward from Chester, Pa., along the eastern shore peninsular of Charles, Va., but I have no record of nest with eggs or young as yet.

Maryland and Virginia, towards Cape Harold Bailey, Newport News, Va.



Honduras Turkey-Mounted for United States National Museum by Nelson R. Wood

THE PASSING OF A GREAT BIRD TAXIDERMIST

Nelson Rush Wood

By R. W. Shufeldt.

We have but very few scientific taxidermists of birds in the land—that is, in proportion to our population; Nelson Wood, who died suddenly in Washington on the eighth of last November, was one of them, and, as a taxidermist of representatives of certain groups of birds, as pigeons and fowls, domestic and wild, he had not his equal in this country. At the time of his death he was the taxidermist employed by the United States National Museum—a position he held continuously for over thirty years. During this long service he mounted for the exhibition series of that institution a very large number of birds from all parts of the world; they range all the way from the hummers to the eagles and big vultures, while he paid especial attention to the pigeons, the pleasants, wild turkey, quails, grouse, and their numerous allies. Parrots and toucans were also favorite subjects of his, as were certain passerine forms and the hawks and owls.

Mr. Wood, whom I knew personally for over a quarter of a century and of whose accomplishments I was a close student, was a great observer of birds in nature, and it was such schooling that enabled him to imitate their attitudes so well in his mounted specimens. He mounted pheasants from all parts of the world, and an entire day may be well spent in the United States National Museum, studying his truly marvelous productions in this family. Some of them actually look like living birds, so gracefully and accurately did he pose them.

It is needless to say that the Museum has sustained a most lamentable loss in the death of this man,

combining, as he did, so many accomplishments in the line of his work, and so cultured in each and all of them.

He could imitate to perfection the notes of hundreds of birds and domestic fowls; and when in the woods, he could call every bird within hearing into the trees and shrubbery close to where he stood—even hawks and crows flying far over his head were lured in the same way through his wonderful imitations. So, too, with the barnyard fowls; and he certainly was a puzzle to peacocks, peafowls, ducks, chickens, and geese, when among some assembly of them in a well-stocked barnyard. Without any apparent effort, he could either silence them all, or, by varying their several calls or cacklings, he could have the entire lot in an uproar.

In the Museum there is a fine, mounted specimen of the Honduras Turkey. Not long ago I photographed this bird, and it is reproduced here as a fair sample of Mr. Wood's work in the case of a gallinaceous fowl; it has never been published heretofore.

The California Shrike

This member of the "butcher bird" family is one of the familiar birds in the vicinity of Benicia. This town is on the upper San Francisco Bay about thirty miles by water from San Francisco. Because of the scarcity of underbrush many of the birds of the Bay region are not commonly found here, however, this Shrike is not adverse to the open country, and because of its habit of perching on telephone wires and posts along the country highways it is familiar to all passers-by. From a distance the gray and white colors of the bird call to mind the Mockingbird; however, the Mockingbird has never been observed by me this far north, although it is common in the

vicinity of Los Angeles.

The habits of our California Shrike have been a subject of much interest to observers, and it has the same relish for small birds, mice and grasshoppers and other insects as its eastern relative.

It nests in scrubby trees, frequently in rows of trees along the roadside or in a lone tree in a field. I find locusts, oaks and almond trees are the favorites. The construction of the nest is rather bulky and the interior is lined with any soft material, including feathers, hair, wool, etc. The eggs number five to seven, commonly seven, and are laid during April and the forepart of May.

One of my prettiest specimens of nests is one of this bird taken with seven eggs on May 9th, 1919, along the Benicia-Vallejo road. This nest is especially well rounded and softly lined. It was placed eight feet from the ground in a small lone locust tree in full bloom.

Emerson A. Stoner,
Benicia, California.

Barn Owls at Benicia, Cal.

In the top of a two-story storehouse, built of stone, and which is used by the government for storage of war materials, I found a pair of Barn Owls nesting during the season of 1919. In the tower, which is flat-topped and reached by three flights of wooden steps which wind around within, was formerly a large clock, but during a fire was burned out and never replaced. The fire left several cavities through which the birds might enter, and on the wooden floor which had been rebuilt were deposited five white eggs. These were at the head of the stairs in a corner, without any nest except the remains of birds and mice, bones and feathers and pellets. At

least two bushels of this refuse was littered up in the two corners furthest from the head of the steps. The majority of the feathers were from bi-colored blackbirds. The rump and legs of a Rail which had been freshly killed and partly eaten were under a pipe which ran above the refuse.

I got two sets from this location during 1919, one on March 19th, and the other on April 7th. The latter set was placed about ten feet from the first in another corner. Later I was told a third set was laid which was allowed to hatch.

This season, 1920, all of the openings to this nesting site have been closed, and the birds no doubt by this time have found some other situation in which to rear their young.

Emerson A. Stoner.

Another Attack

Thirty years ago today (March 20, 1891) from a cavity in a large black oak tree in what was known as the Saltenstahl timber one mile west of Mackinaw, Ill., I took a set of five screech owl eggs. About two weeks later I took another set from the same cavity. Both sets are in my collection at the present time.

Today while crossing an old straw stack bottom, I flushed a Killdeer and there lay four slightly incubated eggs. It revived in me a spirit which has lain dormant for the past twenty-five years, and taking the eggs to the house I proceeded to make a drill out of a ten-penny nail, using a straw for a blow pipe.

It was in the days when Charles K. Reed, J. Warren Jacobs, and Frank H. Lattin were making their debut; when Oology and Ornithology apparently had more followers than today, that the writer had his "egg-collecting fever." My collection has been stored away in attics, closets and other dingy

places until it has decreased from about 300 varieties to half the number. Ostrich, Emu, California Vulture, Stormy Petrel, Goshawk, Golden Oriole, and many others which I prized highly have been destroyed or lost.

While I have collected but a few specimens in the past 25 years, I have been a close observer of bird life.

One morning recently while taking a "before breakfast" stroll I observed migratory birds including Canada Goose, Brant, Mallard, Sprig or Pintail, Widgeon, and other ducks, which I could not distinguish. But a sight most pleasing to my eye was a bunch of seven Prairie Chickens one male and six hens. I have often heard the "oom-boom-boom" of the male and occasionally I saw one or two hens. These birds have been on my farm for the past three years. A pair of Mecking birds, have also used a little cedar in my front yard for a nesting place three consecutive seasons.

Charles D. Warner.

Almyra, Arkansas.

John Burroughs

All lovers of nature in America and in fact almost throughout the world, mourn the death of John Burroughs, who was buried April 3rd, 1921, at Roxbury, N. Y., exactly eighty-four years after the day of his birth. He was laid to rest at the home of his birth. His bier was blasted out of a huge boulder lying on the side of Rock Mountain, upon which he played as a boy, and later sat and mused as a man, as he observed the birds and enjoyed the wild flowers, and around which in his youth he hunted the sly fox.

The burial service was simple. There were a few short prayers followed by the recitation of poems left to literature by other admirers of the hills

and valleys. Some of the lines were dedicated to Mr. Burroughs and one of the poems read at the grave had been written on the death of the naturalist by Edwin Markham.

When the coffin had been lowered into a bed of green hemlock branches and moss and flowers covered the mound, the townsfolk and the visitors began winding their way back into the valley by twos and threes. The purple haze of dusk came down as a twilight mantel over the village and then darkness fell, leaving John Burroughs to abide forever in his own native soil.—From his home paper.

H. H. Bailey

Our friend, H. H. Bailey, formerly of Norfolk, Virginia, now of Miami Beach, Florida, is demonstrating in his new home, his usual vim and pep, in bird matters, which has characterized him through life. He just announces the establishment of a new "Museum and Oological Park," which it is expected will cost at least \$250,000.00 and possibly more.

It is to be located on five acres of land in which a large lake is to be dredged out for water fowl, and the grounds are to be laid out and improved as nearly to reproduce natural surroundings for the various species of deer, bear, wild cat, lynx, coons, otter, opossum, weasel, muskrat, skunk, squirrels, etc., as possible.

A flying cage "probably the largest erected in America" will be installed for the display of the larger water birds, Flamingo, Heron, Cranes, etc. A museum building will be erected, thoroughly modern in every way, and Florida fauna will be emphasized, in all the Departments.

all the Departments.—R.M.B.



Wild Mallard Duck's Nest, July 1st, 1920, Four Brothers Island,
Lake Champlain.

Birds Nesting Upon the Four Brothers, Lake Champlain.

Last summer in connection with some botanical work, I had occasion to visit the Four Brothers, a group of small islands comprising about six acres in the middle of Lake Champlain and about two miles from the New York shore. On the first day of July I set out with my daughter and a friend of hers to explore these islands. We went to Willisborough Point to get a boat to take us over to the islands. No one was available to take us in the motor boat, but we were able to hire a row boat for the day.

As we were about to start a small boy at the dock mentioned a man and a camp upon one of the islands.

"Why does a man stay over there?" I asked.

"To protect the gulls," he replied.

This bit of information added one hundred per cent to my interest in visiting the islands, for I had never had the opportunity to visit the breeding grounds of any of the gulls. I had seen occasional birds farther down the lake and had wondered where they might breed.

When we approached the first island we could see a large number of gulls (*Larus argentatus smithsonianus*) flying about the island and uttering their characteristic discordant screams, which did not cease so long as we remained in sight about the islands. As soon as we landed we were challenged by a pair of rough-winged swallows (*Stelgidopteryx serripennis*) whose nest full of young was in the rocky bank behind a lump of clay and rocks. I had no sooner climbed to the top of the bank than a spotted sandpiper (*Actitis macularia*) flew up from her nest, which contained four eggs.

I soon found the camp and made

known my errand to the "Bird Protector," an elderly man, who seemed to be much pleased to find some one with whom he could talk. He gave us several interesting bits of information about the birds. He said he had made a census of the gulls in the spring and determined that there were about three hundred of them. He showed us several nests near our landing place and said that some of the old had little fear of him while they were incubating their eggs. He pointed out a small nest in a stump where he said a "flycatcher" (probably tree swallow, *Tachycineta bicolor*) had reared her young.

"She would sit there quietly and let me talk to her," said he.

A three-fourths-grown gull remained upon the upper bank and allowed the girls to photograph him in several different poses.

As I started to walk around the island, there was a rustle in the low bushes and a mallard duck (*Anas boschas*) flew out and away across the lake. I parted the brush carefully and looked into my first mallard's nest (see the accompanying photograph). There were nine eggs which did not appear to have been incubated long. The "Bird Protector" was much pleased to see this nest. He said he had noticed the birds often but they had led him to believe the nest was in another place nearer the shore.

My time was limited for I had to go to all four islands and allow time to row back to Willisborough Point against the wind. I saw three more spotted sandpipers' nests, each with four eggs, two song sparrows' (*Melospiza fasciata*) nests, one with five eggs, and one with three eggs and a recently hatched bird. There were many gulls' nests, some of which contained addled eggs. The "Bird Protector" showed me one nest of

three upon which he said the old bird sat for a long time but finally gave up and left them. They were very badly addled and weather stained but not cracked as were many of the others.

The young gulls were nearly full grown in size, but they were unable to fly; some of them were so fat that they seemed scarcely able to walk. If they were near the shore when I approached, they would make frantic efforts to get into the water where they seemed to be perfectly at ease. If they could not get to the water, they would skulk along the rocky bank or hide in the grass and weeds. Those I found hidden would allow themselves to be rolled over and handled without showing resistance other than to open their mouths, somewhat like kittens about to spit when they are molested.

These notes may be of interest to show the effect of protection upon the gull colony. A few days ago I found an article by A. H. Jordan in the *Ornithologist and Oologist* for September, 1888. In this article, Mr. Jordan says that the colony had been reduced at that time to fifty pairs by the relentless persecution by farmers and boys who carried away the eggs by the basket full. He did not think a single breed was reared the preceding season.

The Trumpeter Swan

Recently it has been supposed that this, the most magnificent of North American wild fowl, was extinct, and it has approached very close to that abyss. However, recently a small colony of them are reported to have been discovered in a secluded lake in Canada, where they bred last season, and moving pictures of them were taken. It is to be hoped that this is true.—R.M.B.

Exasperating!

C. W. Chamberlain, of Boston, writes that he is just back from a trip to Cuba, Jamaica, Costa Rica, and Panama, "but with not a moment to look at Bird life, save from auto, train or ship," which he says was exasperating. We rather think so!

R.M.B.

Books Received

"Birds of the Isle of Pines," by W. E. Clyde Todd,—*Annals of the Carnegie Museum*, Vol. X, pages 146-296.

This is an exhaustive annotated list of the Birds of the Isle of Pines which has been in preparation for a long time and reviews the present known status of 142 species and sub-species; is accompanied by a bibliography covering the years 1854 to 1915 inclusive, and is illustrated with ten half tone plates and one map.

This paper is a credit to Professor Todd and shows an exhaustive research; not the least interesting portion of it being the bibliography of each species, showing that a very large proportion of the recorded knowledge relating to the birds of this island fauna is derived from A. C. Read's contributions to *The Oologist*. While it would not be strictly accurate to say that there are more references in this paper to Mr. Read's published notes relative to the birds of the Isle of Pines than to all other publications combined, referred to therein, yet such statement would not be very wide of the mark.

We congratulate Professor Todd upon the thoroughness of this production and also our friend Read upon the frequency with which he is quoted therein,

"Insect Behavior"—This splendid volume by Paul C. Howes, so well and favorably known to the readers of THE OOLOGIST, is as its title would indicate, a recitation of the behavior and a study into the life history of many of our common insects, as well as numerous uncommon ones, and some South American species. It contains 176 pages, every one of which teems with interesting facts, and is illustrated with upwards of a hundred splendidly executed half-tone photographs, delineating the specie described.

It is written in the accurate as well as popular method, with which our readers are familiar with in all of Howe's productions, and is a most entertaining volume, deserving a high place in the library of every nature lover.

There are but few observers who are as able to unearth that which is interesting in Nature Life, and present it to the public, in as attractive language as our friend Paul G. Howes.

Long since we predicted in these columns that he would go a long ways as a naturalist and a writer.—R.M.B.

An Albino Quail Found

C. W. Huffman, a farmer, living near Leon, Missouri, for a number of years has claimed the honor of being the discoverer of more freak birds than any other person in that state; his latest being a perfectly white quail which he discovered among a covey on his farm. Huffman ran across the bird while working in his field. He at first thought it was some other bird, but a peculiar whir of the Quail as the bird arose convinced him that it was of that family.

W. A. Strong.

San Jose, Cal.

Early

V. David, of Ft. Worth, Texas, reports a set of Black Vulture eggs, at least one week incubated, taken February 27th, which is certainly early for this species, the earliest we know of.—R. M. B.

Observations From the Cab Window of a Locomotive

Being a bird student for something over twenty-five years, a portion of this time employed as an engine-man for different railroads, in six different states, I take pleasure in relating a few of the many incidents that become my good fortune to see.

Upon a cold night in January, several years ago, the moon shining in fullness with all its glory upon this beautiful world of ours, over a broad expanse of snowy whiteness save the two lines of steel that we were covering so fast, the tall and thickly wooded districts in the near by, a house, barn, and surroundings, that go to make up civilization. This is the picture I see before me, as I look ahead to see that all is clear.

I can see in the distance a dark object which resembles a dog or wolf, but as the keen eye never leaves the object it grows larger and larger as we are now closing in upon it rapidly. All at once it straightens itself up, just as we are about to strike it. With two eyes (to me) as large as the full moon itself, showing fire snapping its bill. It raises and is boosted along the same direction that we were going and exactly with a parallel line with the full moon. I thought to myself (The Owl Moon) fortunately for the great Horned Owl, he was not hurt at all. His business there was his own, the work of a meal, as I noticed next day upon my return trip. He either caught a rabbit or some train

had ran over one and he was making a meal of it. Often have I watched the rabbits start out in front of our engine and run excited in a zig-zag fashion, as though their life depended upon a good hard run, until we ran over them or they crouched down till we had passed over them in safety. You would surely make up your mind they would never bound over the rail, and in winter while the snow covers the track the eye can follow their movements far better than at any other time.

Yes, these are little excitements that one goes through in life, that the average people never think about.

At another time in February also on a night mail run in old Missouri (it was not necessary to show me) for it had to be seen to be appreciated. The engineer and fireman were at outs and had not spoken a word to each other for most a week, as our train was dropping down a long hill at a terrific rate of speed with reverse curves and through a very densely wooded district, hills and hollows for miles and miles, when suddenly with a crash in came the front cab window. An object fastened its claws in the bosom of the engineer's jacket and looking up in his face was a Great Horned Owl, blinking and snapping his bill to the surprise of the engineer. He screeched as I never expect to hear him again. "Take him off of me, take him off" (The Owl thing). Of course the fireman took him off, and this mended differences and a short time afterwards he had the fireman promoted. The Owl thing was responsible for this good deed.

At another time as we were running about fifty miles per hour, through State of Indiana, passing through a very heavy wooded district the sides of the grade were shallow

pools of water, infested with tadpoles and insect life, which proved a good feeding ground for the spotted sandpiper. There were about six birds in all. As we came upon them so sudden they were so surprised and bewildered that they did not fly straight ahead to the openings, but instead almost arose perpendicular to tower the tree tops which were nearly one hundred feet, some of them.

But one poor bird got so bewildered that it tried to alight in the top of a large Sycamore, somehow it lost its footing and tried to catch itself by its bill and consequently it slipped down into a sharp fork of the small limbs of this monster tree, and there it hung itself. I never passed this place for a year afterwards without looking for this would-be suicide. It hung there withered and dried, weather-beaten until at last only the bones and scalp were visible from the cab window.

Again in the spring of 1898 I chanced to see a Great Blue Heron fishing in a narrow but swift running stream that connects to some of the small lakes in Northern Indiana. The Heron was facing up stream standing in about one foot of water. Just as we came along a small fish about ten inches long passed between the Heron's legs. He made a strike for it but landed about one foot behind himself, but got his fish. And in the struggle he was upset. He threw out his wings as he fell in the water the current was strong and caught him and started down stream with his legs sticking straight up in the air! But he never let go the fish. He finally arighted himself and shook the water from his wardrobe and took his ten inch prize to some Sycamore, where his little ones were being reared. These are actual observations

that have come to me in my life in the cab of a locomotive, and on any day of the year one can study bird life from this point of observation all the year round, and always see many sights new to him and learn much about the birds nesting, feeding, flight and various other points of interest to a true lover of Birds.

George W. Morse.

Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Horicon Marsh, Wisconsin

This nationally known marsh, which in years gone by was without doubt one of the greatest wild fowl resorts in North America, has been given over to the drainage man and the farmer, with the result that crops are now raised where wild fowl formerly congregated.

This season, however, the local papers report that "Wild geese are more numerous this spring than ever witnessed before within the recollection of the oldest residents of that section," all of which is another illustration of the good being done by the Bird Treaty Migration Law.—R.M.B.

A DAY AFIELD

The winter has been very mild and birds that usually migrate to more sunny climes, are with us still.

Today, Sunday, January 23rd, I was afield almost the entire day. I saw the following birds in my ramble.

White Tailed Hawk (*Buteo Albicandus*), Red-tailed Hawk, Meadowlark, Song Sparrow, Turkey Buzzard, House Wren, Junco, Quail, Cardinal, Grosbeak, Barn Owl, Cooper's Hawk, Chickadee, Red-naped Sapsucker, Blue Jay, Crow, Flicker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red Headed Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Sparrow Hawk, Wood Thrush, White Breasted Nuthatch, Killdeer.

This has been an unusually mild winter, and it has only snowed twice, and only one day that the thermometer

has been below zero. So the birds have had a good chance to make their living. Anyone that knows the species that usually winter in South Central, Illinois, can tell by the above list how mild it has been. Quails have been very numerous, in fact I have not seen so many left after the hunting season, as I have this winter. I never hunt the little fellows, so I am indeed pleased to find so many left. Now and then I see Mourning Doves. I have seen Turkey Buzzards all winter and House Wrens are very numerous.

J. Earl Harlow,

Jan. 23, 1921

Texico, Ill.

THE CARACARA FOLLOWING THE PRAIRIE CHICKEN

For years F. B. Armstrong of Brownsville, Texas, took many nests of the Audubon's Caracara, and all reports showed them as by no means rare. Dr. Sterging, of Austin, reported them as breeders around Austin, and J. K. Streaker, reported them as rare breeders as far South as Waco, Texas.

In the last ten days I have covered about 1000 miles of territory in a car from San Antonio to Brownsville, thence up to Rio Grande as far as Del Rio, and not as much as one single specimen observed, although a close watch was made for them.

Inquiry was frequently made about these birds, and they seem to have quit South Texas, and the Mexican border. Turkey and Black Vultures are common Cooper's, Red Shouldered and Marsh Hawks are by no means rare, but Caracaras seem to have totally disappeared.

Armstrong took complete sets as early as February 23rd, so it does not seem possible that they could have been over-looked, and especially in breeding season, and the very time you wanted them.

R. L. More,

Vernon, Texas.

FOR EXCHANGE—83 varieties of single eggs. Irving C. Lunsford, Petersburg, Virginia. Box 276.

SWAINSON'S Warbler sets and sets with nests for disposal. What have you to offer? Dr. M. C. Cleckley, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Georgia.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Hawks and Eagles with full data. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

WANTED FOR CASH—First class skins of 740, 430a, 725d, 717, 711a, 709a, 700, 670, 634, 600, 600a, 580c, 579, 576, 571, 525, 482a, 472, 422, 424, 216, and others. Also exchanges. C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Sea-birds with data. Also few first class foreign sets. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

I CAN OFFER for scientific purposes, specimens of Dakota Bird Skins, Eggs in sets with or without nests, fresh skins for mounting. Will sell or exchange for sets of eggs I should want. F. A. Patton, Artesian, S. Dak.

WANT TO EXCHANGE my sparrow hawk series: thirteen sets of Sparrow Hawk, seven sets of Desert Sparrow Hawk and seventeen sets of European Sparrow Hawk. Mighty good material for a few sets only, with higher values. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebraska.

WANT SETS of any common Hawk for analytical purposes. Must be complete sets, fresh and unblown. Keep sets separate and pack carefully. Will give in exchange, Al mounted, Chestnut-colored Longspurs, American Crossbill, Yellowheaded Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Harris Sparrows, Chickadees, or Savanna Sparrows. Send eggs at once, and state your wants. Fair exchange given. Paul G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn. Also have two beautiful mounted scarlet Tanagers.

FOR DISPOSAL—A. O. U. Numbers 6, 30a, 75, 77, 123b, 126, 200, 202, 219, 221, 273, 316, 319, 320a, 412, 413, 444, 461, 462, 465, 567, 475, 499, 506, 507, 510, 511, 511b, 513a, 513, 519, 540, 530, 560, 563, 584, 587, 519c, 593, 595, 598, 608, 616, 619, 624, 633, 652, 659, 673, 681, 683, 697, 725, 735, 751a, 755, 474b, 402, 495. Ten of the above sets contain eggs of cowbird, all with full data. Also N. Pileated Woodpecker 1-5, G. Horned Owl 1-2, Varied Thrush 1-4, Alaska collected. J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis.

EXCHANGE—Photographs of wild birds, birds' nests and eggs, animals, and flowers. Want to buy copy Howard's Insect Book. Wiswell Studio, Rolfe, Iowa.

WANTED—Birds of North and Middle American, Parts 1 to 7 inclusive, state lowest cash price; would also consider exchange. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa.

WANTED—"Birds of Colorado." by Cook, A. O. U. Check list, 1910. Bailey's Birds of Western U. S., and others State price and condition. Albert Lirn, Electro, Texas.

WANTED—Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America. Vols. I, II, IV; Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

SNAPPING TURTLE, 1-18, 1-26, first class, good data. Relics of the Civil, Spanish and World's wars. Old time Foot stove, etc. James O. Johnson, 310 North Main, Southington, Conn.

WANTED—A 22 Cal. long-barrel, standard make revolver; can give good exchange in S. Dak. eggs and skins. State value, make, condition of gun. F. A. Patton, Artesian, South Dakota.

2000 Teachers Wanted for September Schools all kinds. No fee till elected. National Agency, Syracuse.

FIELD COLLECTORS—Parties desiring accommodations during the collecting season (May and June in this locality) should correspond with J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis. Ranch located Rusk Co., at junction Flambeau and Chippewa Rivers. Address Holcombe, Wis., Chippewa Co.

WANTED—I will buy collections of Birds, Eggs, idrB, S ebMI, NST, r TAIN Birds' Eggs, Bird Skins, and Mounted Birds entire. R. M. Barnes.

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WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

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FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbull; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

MAMMALS—I want A No. 1 scientific skins of North American Weasels for which I will exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or other mammals or birds. I also want Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America," parts I and II; also North American Fauna, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 28, for which I will pay cash. Alex Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

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WANTED—A good pair, each of Black and Yellow Rails for which I will give good exchange. O. C. HASTINGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

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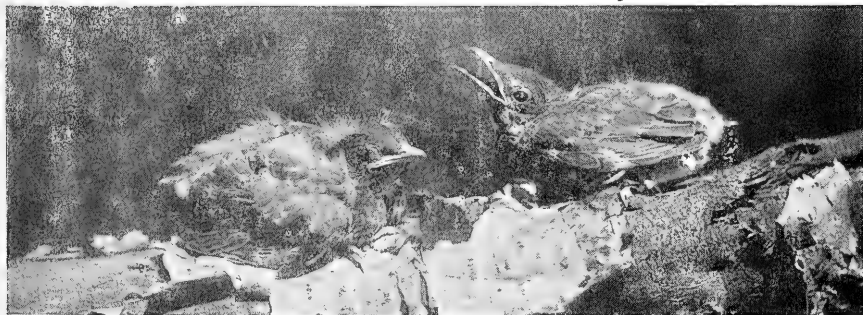
BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXVIII. No.7.

ALBION, N. Y., JULY 1, 1921:

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THE OOLOGIST

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

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

Send me the list of A 1 Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or sale
R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists.
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WANTED—Sets of No. 190, 208, 211, 212, 214, 263, 273, 387, 619, in Exchange or will purchase same. Henry W. Davis, Box No. 844, Atlantic, N. J.

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FOR SALE—Seven copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1919; eight copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1920, at 4c each, postpaid. A. M. Nelson, Jr., Lake Providence, La.

EXCHANGE—History of the Birds of Kansas-Goss; Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas with descriptive notes of their nests and eggs-Goss; Animal Guide—Reed; 6 1-2 power Army field-glasses; The Oologist for 1910-1911-1912; Want Fishers Hawks and Owls of the U. S.; and good sets. Lieut. L. R. Wolfe, 64th Infantry, Camp Meade, Md.

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FOR EXCHANGE—European & Asiatic eggs in sets for North American species and skins. Address, C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

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TAKE NOTICE.

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24,034



Gerard A. Abbott, Louisville, Kentucky, May, 1921

ALONG THE MASON DIXON LINE

After collecting marshes, on the prairies, and among nesting colonies in Harney Valley, Devil's Lake, Northern Minnesota, Florida East Coast, and the Great Lake regions, one finds a great contrast concerning bird life among the knobs, woodlands and brush patches of Southern Indiana and Northern Kentucky.

Had I devoted as much time to the timbered sections of Illinois and Indiana, as I put in during May and June of 1921 about Louisville, Ky., no doubt I would have discovered a greater variety of nesting species in the lower Lake Michigan section.

About Louisville the most common birds are Robins, Meadowlarks, Bronze Grackles, Red-Eye Vireo, Towhee, Crow, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Cardinal, Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Wood Thrush, Red-headed Woodpecker and Chimney Swift.

Other familiar varieties are: Goldfinch, Downey Woodpecker, Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Blue Bird, Chickadee, Indigo Bunting, Maryland Yellow Throat, Yellow Breasted Chat, Summer Tanager, Tufted Titmouse, Killdeer, Quail, Turkey Vulture, Crested Flycatcher, Green Heron, Mourning Dove, Red Winged Blackbird and White Eyed Vireo.

The following are found in limited numbers: Kentucky Warbler, Ruby throated Hummingbird, Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, Kingbird, Kingfisher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Purple Martin, Bewick's Wren, Warbling Vireo, Sparrow Hawk, Mourning Warbler, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Cedar Waxwing, Cow Bird, Cooper's Hawk, Woodcock, Phoebe, Whip-poor-will, Night-hawk, Barn Swallow and Orchard Orioles.

Although some swampy tracts of limited area were visited, there was no evidence of Rails, Bitterns, and Bobo-

links. House and Marsh Wrens, Vesper, Savannah and Lark Sparrows, Dickcissels, Spotted Sandpipers, Bank Swallows, Rose Breasted Grosbeaks, Prairie Horned Larks, Upland Plovers, Prothonotarys, Warblers, Ruffed Grouse, Marsh Hawk, House and Carolina Wrens, Pied Bill Grebes, Coot, Gallimule, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Baltimore Oriole, Scarlet Tanagers, Mockingbirds, and Louisiana Water Thrush were never observed.

Many birds may be recorded as common simply because their chosen environment existed in abundance. For instance, one strip of woods may have its pair of Hummingbirds, Cardinals or Chats, and one might feel competent of finding such varieties in every clump of woods visited. Nevertheless, it is no easier to locate the nest of one of these species where tracts of woodland occur three or four times as frequently as they exist in areas which have been almost, if not entirely denuded of their virgin timber.

Another obstacle which is very troublesome during Kentucky traveling is the immense amount of briars and thorny patches which the ornithologist encounters. Insects such as gnats, mosquitoes, wood-ticks, are not as pestiferous as I have found them in other parts of the country.

The average rural inhabitant is hospitable and does not oppose your invasion of his premises. Kentucky ranks fourth from the last in its proportion of illiterate people, and if the negroes were eliminated the proportion of illiterates would be considerably larger. The black who owns his small track of land, cultivates it, has desirable credit and reputation for payment of his account, and gives his offspring the benefit of public school education. In remote sections of the state many whites are unable to read or write. This applies to any one of the three generations.

Believe, despite anything I have previously read or observed about the Red Bird, that the Kentucky Cardinal possesses the most remarkable vocabulary, and is the sweetest of all Kentucky songsters. They nest in the city of Louisville and are not adverse to selecting brush in close proximity to dwellings.

The Towhee of Kentucky is very charming. His song contains an extra note which I have never recognized among his Illinois or Indiana kinsmen. One day while examining a thick clump of oak sprouts surrounding a stump three feet above the moss covered ground, I surprised a Cheewink from a large, beautiful nest of three eggs. Next day, I found another Cheewink's nest five feet up in a bush, and a few days later, discovered two more built off the ground. One at an elevation of four feet and the other eighteen. Imagine my surprise when a Towhee fluttered away from a nest in the sapling. Eighteen feet up it looked like a Grackle's nest, as I stood under it.

Chat experience was probably more interesting than my study of any one species. They are expert ventriloquists and imitators, and would start calling among the brush to my right, and at a distance of say 60 feet. Within this radius, they would complete a circle about 125 feet in diameter and still remain "invisible." Once or twice he was seen in long flight. Concealing myself and making peculiar noises, their curiosity was aroused and I could entice them to within 20 feet and secure good views. Several times I had the pleasure of studying the female upon the nest. She usually selected a very thick bunch of brush, but one that was exposed so that it was not necessary to penetrate the jungle in order to get a close view of her domicile. I examined eight Chats' nests before seeing a clutch of four eggs. I had found

new nests, revisited some of them when they contained from one to three eggs, and on every occasion a visited nest of the Chat was abandoned, whether the nest did or did not contain eggs. In several instances, occupied nests were not only deserted, but the eggs removed. The nest did not bear any dishevelled appearance, and there was no evidence of any egg shells on the ground. Never before in my experience with bird life has the nest of any species met with such fate, exactly eight consecutive times. Later, I found one new nest containing a black snake. Perhaps these reptiles were doing the robbing.

It was a pleasant experience to find a nest of the Kentucky Warbler. I noticed the male scolding. They breed in damp rather thick woods, but sufficiently open to permit the sun's rays to penetrate a few hours each day. Detected the female as she stepped to the rim of the nest, and ran away among the ferns and foliage. I visited her next day and she made no effort to evade me, but simply hopped from her nest and started to chirp. The third time I did not see her. Some Warblers are very sensitive about having the nest or eggs approached. Several days later, one rainy evening, I approached the spot without the dead leaves cracking under my feet, and had the pleasure of watching her upon the nest for several minutes. She finally vacated, but was getting very tame, and the male would soon join her, but showed no opposition to my presence.

Making my way slowly over fallen logs in a cathedral-like woods where vegetation stood ten inches high, I stepped on the edge of a knob of leaves from which a Kentucky Warbler flew reluctantly. The nest well built, was anchored to a fallen branch. One newly hatched young and three eggs were visible. The pigment was entirely on the large end and would have made as handsome a clutch of

four as this species might be accused of depositing.

Several days later in the same large woodland and under similar circumstances, another nest of the Kentucky Warbler was located, containing five minutely speckled eggs, the nest though bulky was well built, and substantial. It rested entirely upon the surface of the soil among the tall weeds, and a profile view (on a level with the eye) would justify no one suspicision a bird's nest. The external appearance simply resembled a large clump of dead brown leaves. The nests are always well lined with very dark stems, and sometimes a few hairs. The cavity is deep and I am unfamiliar with any bird in the east, other than a Marsh Wren, which constructs so large a nest for its size.

In a patch of burnt over woodland, I heard the nasal call of nervous little Gnat Catcher, and finally caught a glimpse of the bird. It seemed to have confined itself to a strip about a hundred yards long on the edge of the timber, and after scanning the branches of several trees, found the beautiful lichen coated nest in the fork of a little elm.

Found two Mourning Warblers' nests. The first on the edge of a large piece of woods and almost stepped upon the nest before the parent flushed. Was confident that two eggs in the nest were practically fresh. It was with some trouble that I relocated the nest a few days later. The parent sat very close this time, and no more eggs had been added to the nest. Visited the place for a third time on a rainy evening and the female made her exit by running through the flowers and grass blades, and I did not see her rise from the ground. There were still only two eggs in the nest but I discovered a third egg in perfect condition lying on the ground beside the nest.

A week later while going through a growth of brush, amid fallen logs, I placed my foot at the very edge of another Mourning Warbler's nest before she took leave. This contained four beautiful fresh eggs.

Was digging my heels into the hill side while descending an abrupt decline among black oaks when an unfamiliar note came from a tree just ahead which suggested an immature bird begging its parent for a morsel. Closer observation revealed a Tufted Titmouse indulging in one of his various antics. Presently the mate arrived with a mouth full and disappeared in a verticle crevice in the main trunk of the tree. She quickly emerged and both flew away. Within two minutes they returned and she again entered the chasm head first with a quantity of moss and backed out of the cavity. She made seven trips in ten minutes. I returned ten days later, climbed up to the place where the tree trunk seemed to contain a natural fissure and could just distinguish an egg or two amidst the accumulation or moss, bark and hair, six inches below the entrance to the hole. Filling the hollow with cotton, I succeeded after half an hour's chopping, in enlarging cavity so that I could detect a set of four eggs. During this operation both birds appeared and protested mildly at my presence.

Killdeers were quite common, but no nest seemed to contain sets before May 1st, although my Michigan notes indicate that one was apt to find them up there in April.

Kentucky is famous for its magnificent live stock. In the spring of the year many of the pastures are strewn with fodder and the grass closely cropped. A little stream borders one side of the inclosure. These places are sought by the Plovers. I recognized a couple of the hollows which I

(Continued on page 90)

A WORD PERSONAL

As this issue of The Oologist is made up and forwarded to Albion, N Y., for printing, we also make up the August Issue and send it forward likewise the later containing the Index of Volume XXXVII of The Oologist.

As this work leaves our desk we close the lid and start again for Hollywood, California, where the mother of the Editor lies ill, and we will not again be at our office in Lacon before about September 1st, so do not worry if your correspondence addressed to us is not promptly replied to.

The getting out of these two issues has about completed our copy box and we truly hope that upon our return, to find the mail filled with good things, written by the friends of The Oologist and its readers for the benefit of the later

In closing we cannot refrain from extending our thanks to friend Abbott, for the splendid contributions appearing in this issue.

Sample copies of The Oologist will be continued to be mailed from Lacon, Illinois, on postal card request, and be sure and write addresses plainly.—R. M. Barnes.



A Young Oologist. Near Audubon's Old Home. May, 1921

—Photo by G. A. Abbott.

was certain they were going to use for nesting sites, and in a week's time my "hunches" were confirmed. One Killdeer was found nesting in a place I had never thought of before. The orchard fruit trees were old and had been planted on a gravelly slope. Bountiful rains season after season, had washed crevices of considerable size and drowned some of the trees which stood there dead but solid. On one of these mountain-like chasms jutting out twenty feet on either side of the original surface of the hill side was a darkly mottled set of Killdeer resting among an arrangement of pebbles in what I would have guessed to be typical place for the "Whiskered" Nighthawk.

The conduct of the Summer Tanager is rather different from that of the Scarlet. The latter seems to announce its presence through the metallic and somewhat pleasant call note of the male. Several times in Kentucky I have heard and seen the mother Summer Tanager calling and her note is least melodious and uttered with apparently no mate in evidence.

At the end of a small oak bow and well hidden by a cluster of leaves, I found a nest of this species containing three handsome eggs. The nest was well built, but very little difference existed between the inner and outward dimensions. The nest seemed to contain really no foundation whatever. The same material, for instance, was used for both inward and outward construction. Considering the circumference of the entire nest, the cavity was very large but the entire composition of the nest would not go far in the make-up of a nest of the Towhee which is sometimes placed in similar situations.

Gerard Alan Abbott.

FEATHERS IN THE BLUE GRASS

It was the morning of May 1st, 1921, temperature about forty, and I was on the geological uplift between Louisville and Lexington, just a few days prior to the running of the great Kentucky Derby and a pedigreed steed was getting its workout on the dirt roads. Robins, Meadowlarks and Cardinals were in evidence on all sides.

The other day while walking around in a hilly pasture among the broken cornstalks left by the stock which had wintered there I imagined I saw a spot which a Killdeer had appropriated, but on which she had left no eggs. Today her four pyform products are resting on their points in this untidy looking pasture, so guess I haven't lost my trained eye even though a nomad has been for the last five years.

Along the creek that skirts the slope, Mocking Birds, Brown Thrasher and Cat Birds are all singing. This large unused field looks likable to Plover and I hear the "Dee Dee" flying along the base of the rock formation, endeavoring to gain a few rods on the intruder. Under the shadow of a good sized boulder she left exposed four scrawled specimens. Yes sir! my ear is still keen.

Phoebes are at home under the bridges that span this picturesque stream and I have been standing under two Mourning Doves as they suspiciously eye me from their crude nests in the thorny trees. Grackles and Blue Jays are making constant pilgrimage to the cedar clumps where they are apparently house keeping. I can see the yellow shafts of the "High Holder" protruding from the cavity in the telephone pole. Red-headed Woodpeckers are inspecting the rail fences and I surprised a little Downy excavating her 1921 model. She was absolutely unconcerned about my presence when I insisted upon being noticed. Across the valley on the ad-

jacent incline is another pasture strewn with fodder and a likely looking place for some more Killdeer, and sure enough, I find her nest with three fresh eggs. A King Fisher is patrolling the stream. There is a Red Eyed Vireo delivering his Sunday speech in the orchard. Four Green Herons are sauntering about the dwarf evergreens and I noticed one of their nests about fifteen feet up. A Sharp Shin Hawk has alighted on the top of another evergreen and is looking at me with fixed glance. I hear the first Kingbirds of the season and a newly arrived Crested Fly Catcher is revisiting the old orchard.

The humming of a distant motor suggests the appearance of an aeroplane and I look up straight into the face of an old Turkey Buzzard who looks almost as large as a DeHavilland as he volplanes over the gully.

One of my old school day poems was, "In the Stub of the Old Orchard Tree." Four little Blue Birds and the anxious parents are perched on the fence close by. Fifty yards away in the cavity of another old apple tree a little chickadee disappears and her babies can be heard, as I recline under the pippin, to make a few notes.

Peabody birds are still singing in the brush heaps where a Chewink sings periodically and a little Field Sparrow trills. Swifts are flying low as they do on cold days. I hear the Martins and occasionally an old Crow calls. In the little pine below the road is a Chipping Sparrow's nest with four little eggs. Just think of it! Young Chipping Sparrows, Bluebirds and Chickadees, while the Killdeers are just laying and White-throated Sparrows continue to loiter. Half a mile above the stream in a little patch of cat tails Red Wings and Song Sparrows are sharing the mire. Juniper berries are enjoyed by the Wax Wings and these fellows certainly look pretty

with their crest erect, each carrying a morsel.

I am wondering how to "dope" it out. A Killdeer running through the orchard. A most unusual place for one and there is nothing on either of the four sides of the large orchard to justify this. Consequently, some part of this arrangement of apple trees must mean a great deal to him. Almost every old fruit tree holds a nest. The orchard has not been trimmed or sprayed in years and insect life is abundant. I perceive a Plover stealthily wending its way among the uneven lumps of gravel and, sure enough, I have found four darkly blotched eggs in a saucer of pebbles surrounded by old apple stumps and decayed branches. Behavior and opportunity seem different in old Kentucky.

GERARD ALAN ABBOTT.

ABBOTT STILL FINDS 'EM (On the Ground)

In my new location here I saw a Kentucky Warbler on her nest last Saturday, also a Mourning Warbler left her nest when I got too close. Discovered a clutch of four Henslow's in southern Indiana and found two nests of my favorite Woodcock among the hills near the Indiana shore of the Ohio. Presume you knew that John Lewis Childs and John Burroughs, two old naturalists, passed away the other day under similar circumstances. Their demise was only a few weeks apart, and both were enroute to New York state from their sojourns in sunny California. I called upon Senator Childs at his Long Island home last summer, and he had aged considerably. I regret it very much, but I will not be able to get into the Northwest this season. I hope to make it next year, even if I have to start on "shanks' horses" 90 days before the Bartramian whistles and the Willett swerves.

Gerard A. Abbott,

May 24, 1921.

Louisville, Ky.

TEXAS NOTES

Monday, May 31st, a friend and myself visited the upper part of Lake Worth, figuring that we would secure a set of Green Heron eggs. We found three nests of young birds which looked to be from one to two weeks' old. Two of the nests were in willow saplings and the third in a young cotton-wood which was growing in a willow thicket.

We also found two nests in willow trees which were deserted. Under each tree where the nests were we found four broken eggs. It seems that these birds showed very poor taste in selecting their nesting sites. This also probably accounts for my taking a set of Green Heron eggs in July of last season.

Referring to the early set of Black Vulture eggs I wrote you about: About the middle of March I took another set of Black Vulture eggs which were so far incubated that it was impossible to blow as a first class set of eggs. Even the white feathers were formed on the embryo.

V. Daniel.

AN UNUSUAL QUAIL. BOB WHITE

A cousin of the editor was plowing corn not far from Lacon, Illinois, about the middle of June, when a male Bob-white Quail came from the bushes at the edge of the field and ran up close to the man and team and followed them about insisting on keeping as close to the man as possible for sometime.

Finally my cousin reached down and picked the Quail up. It seemed perfectly willing that such a performance should take place. He placed the Quail on his front finger and started talking to the bird, and kept this up for some time, finally whistling "Bob-

white" at him to which the bird promptly responded in kind.

My cousin and the bird exchanged Bob-white whistles while the bird sat clutching his finger for sometime, then he set the bird down behind the corn cultivator and it stayed there until he drove on with his team, then coolly trotted back into the bush. Truly a most remarkable occurrence but one which actually took place.

—R. M. Barnes.

A PECULIAR ACCIDENT

The precarious existence which birds lead was illustrated by an unusual incident which a neighbor related to me, not long ago. It occurred the last week in May, 1921. This neighbor was living in a camp on the edge of a woods. The camp was beneath a group of pines.

On the morning of which I speak, he happened to notice something fluttering from a pine branch, not much higher than his head. At first glance he thought it was a bat, but on closer approach he found it to be a Robin. It was tied by one leg to the limb of a tree and there it hung unable to move, except to beat its wings. Upon examination a string was found to bind the leg of the bird to the limb as tightly as if tied in a hard knot by human hands. Only by cutting the string could the Robin be released. It flew away, apparently uninjured. The string was about a foot long and had a bow knot tied in it. The bird had undoubtedly been flying with it to its nest, and because of the length of the string, the entanglement occurred, which so nearly resulted in the bird's fatality. This shows that strings put out for birds in nesting time should be short and they should never be double as this one was.

Nina G. Spaulding,
Jaffrey, N. H.

A NEW "BIRD"

It is reported that a new Bird Publication devoted to Photography and Nature Work is soon likely to be launched upon the troubled waters of Amateur Journalism.

LIST OF BREEDING BIRDS OF TARRANT COUNTY, TEXAS

By Ramon Graham and Jake Zeitlin,
Ft. Worth, Texas

After several years of careful study in all parts of the county we have found the following birds breeding in Tarrant County, Texas. These birds were all observed in 1915-16-17-18 and 19.

Name of Bird

Green Heron
Kill-deer
Bob White
Mourning Dove
Turkey Vulture
Black Vulture
Cooper's Hawk
Harris's Hawk
Red Tailed Hawk
Krider's Hawk
Red Shouldered Hawk
American Barn Owl
American Long-eared Owl
Barred Owl
Screech Owl
Great Horned Owl
Road-runner
Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Belted Kingfisher
Southern Downy Woodpecker
Pileated Woodpecker
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Flicker
Whip-poor-will
Poor-will
Night Hawk
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Scissor-tailed Flycatcher
Kingbird

Crested Flycatcher
Phoebe
Blue Jay
American Crow
Cow Bird
Red-winged Blackbird
Meadowlark
Orchard Oriole
Purple Grackle
Bob-tailed Grackle
English Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow
Field Sparrow
Cassin's Sparrow
Cardinal
Painted Bunting
Summer Tanager
Purple Martin
Rough-winged Swallow
White-eyed Vireo
Bell's Vireo
Blue-winged Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
Mocking Bird
Carolina Wren
Bewick's Wren
Tufted Titmouse
Plumbeous Chickadee
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Blue Bird
Blue Grosbeak
Dickcissel

NOTES FROM GEORGIA

To the Readers of The Oologist:

Thinking it may be of some interest to the readers I will tell you how well the bird life is holding its own here in Milton County, Cobb County and Forsyth County. The following birds are on the increase rapidly: Wood Thrush, Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Blue Jay, Cardinal, Summer Tanager, Carolina Wren, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Mockingbird, Hooded Warbler, Black and White Warbler,

Kentucky Warbler, Pine Warbler, Catbird, Southern Downy Woodpecker, Flicker, Field Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Purple Martin, Chimney Swift, Towhee, Crested Flycatcher, Wood Pewee, Yellow Breasted Chat. All of the above species breed here. Now I will give the names of the species that breed here that are holding their own as they have been for the past twelve years: Blue Grosbeak, American Crow, Oven Bird, Bobwhite, Chuck Wills Widow, Screech Owl, Cooper Hawk, Barn Owl, Great Blue Heron, Scarlet Tanager, Green Crested Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Now I will give the names of the species of the birds that are on the decrease; they are the following species and breed here: Red-tailed Hawk, Red Shouldered Hawk, Sharp Shinned Hawk, Broad Winged Hawk, Sparrow Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Little Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Snowy Heron, Black Vulture, Pileated Woodpecker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Whip-poor-will.

I will now give the names of the species of birds that breed here that are now nearly extinct in the counties named; they are the following species: White Breasted Nuthatch, Brown Headed Nuthatch, Bachman Sparrow, Kingfisher.

These are the birds that spend the winter here and leave here when spring opens up. The following are the birds that are on the increase that winter here: the Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, White Throated Sparrow, Vesper Sparrow, Slate Colored Junco, Winter Wren.

Birds that migrate through here in March, April and May were the most plentiful here this spring, they have ever been since I have been collecting bird skins and eggs, and these species are the following: Myrtle Warbler,

Cerulean Warbler, Black Throated Green Warbler, Cairn's Warbler, Black Throated Blue Warbler, Bay Breasted Warbler, Orange Crowned Warbler, Canada Warbler, Blue Winged Warbler, Spotted Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Bobolink.

D. V. Hembree,
Roswell, Ga.

CARQUINEZ STRAITS, CALIFORNIA NOTES

Judging it was about the time for Jays' eggs, on April 9th, 1921 I took a one-day collecting trip along the south shores of the Carquinez Straits, Contra Costa County, (California) in search of their nests. My home is on the north shore, but owing to the fact that there is little brush on my side of the straits, I embarked for the opposite shore on the "Contra Costa," which, by the way, is the largest ferry boat constructed, and which, with the "Solano," carries entire trains across the straits enroute to and from San Francisco. From the boat, a full view is obtained of the opposite side of the straits, a range of hills rising from the water's edge to a height of seven hundred feet, which on the water side are largely covered with trees and brush. On the way over on the ferry I called the mate's attention to a large dog swimming across the straits, and volunteered that the animal could not swim the entire distance, about one mile, to the other shore. Even then the creature was dropping below the surface for a few seconds, and then rising again to continue its way. I was quite surprised when the mate enlightened me by advising that this was not a dog, but a sea-lion, which animals, he says, come up the bay from the ocean at this season to eat the salmon and other fish. After leaving the ferry at the little town of Port Costa, the opposite terminus, I sighted my

first nest in a pine tree growing along the side of the reservoir back of the town. It was a Brewer Blackbird's, a rather bulky nest made of dried grasses, and within reach of my hand on the first limb. No eggs as yet had been deposited as it was just the beginning of their season. No doubt there were other nests being built higher up in the same tree as these birds usually nest in colonies, and quite a number of these birds were loitering about the reservoir.

My next find was the nest of the Swarth's California Jay (*Aphelocoma californica cocleptica* Swarth). This was located fifteen feet up in the crotch of a buckeye tree, and contained an incomplete set of three fresh eggs. The buckeye seems to be a favorite tree in this locality; the center part of these trees being quite bare, the nests are placed at the end of the limb where the leaves are closely bunched and conceal the nest fairly well. The next nest I came to was also of the Swarth's California Jay. This was ten feet up in a buckeye, and the bird being loath to leave, I walked back and forth beneath the nest observing her before she flew off of the five fresh eggs. This nest was built of sticks and lined with horse-hairs and fine strips of bark, and was not far from a paved highway which wends its way through the hills, overlooking the water, to Martinez. Not far from the Jay's nest in the opposite end of a large clump of poison oak brush was the nest of the California Shrike, three feet up. Seven young Shrikes, some five or six days old, opened their large yellow mouths to greet me, or rather possibly they were the ones that expected to be greeted with some insect, or morsel of bird or mouse. However, I carried no food of this character, so dropped a few bits of bread from my sandwich down their throats and left

them, while the parent birds flew off to a distant telephone wire, quite relieved at my departure.

I now spent some time looking for a cavity in which a Sparrow Hawk might be nesting, as a pair of these birds seemed quite anxious at my presence in a certain section of the hills; however, I found no nest of this species until later on in the season. Occasionally a few Quail would flush from the underbrush. When these birds are on the ground beneath the brush they prefer to keep their distance by running rather than by taking flight. Several times I stopped to admire that diminutive little creature, the Anna Hummingbird, as it would sit perched on the topmost twig, preferably a dead or leafless one, of some low bush or tree. Some individuals are not at all shy and would allow me to approach within three feet of them. In a deserted Woodpecker's hole from which I collected a set of Plain Titmouse last season I find the nesting materials of this bird, but no eggs as yet. The nest is freshly built and composed of grasses with a few feathers and a piece of squirrel's tail for lining. Five eggs were laid in this hole during the week following this visit.

As it was now getting towards dusk I began to wend my way to the ferry to return home. As I hurried by a low bushy buckeye, I tossed into it a piece of dried cow dung and out flew another Jay of the subspecies, *ocleptica*. The four eggs were of the reddish brown type, which to my experience are not so common as the green. When I blew these last eggs at home that evening, two of them proved to be well advanced in incubation while the other two were infertile.

Emerson A. Stoner,
Benicia, Cal.

NOTES ON BIRDS OBSERVED IN LOWNDES COUNTY, ALABAMA

On a morning in May, 1920, between 7 a. m. and 9 a. m., I observed twenty-three species of birds in the grove in front of the home at which I was a guest. During the morning, prior to 12 noon, I observed two more species

The trees in this grove are: willow oak, water oak, post oak, and what is locally known as white oak, (though it is not the true white oak), locust, magnolia, crepe myrtle, elm, cedar, chinaberry, mock orange, and the bearing and non-bearing mulberry. In addition there are two Virginia creeper vines and one large wistaria vine which covers nearly 100 feet of one corner of the yard. There are less than two acres in the space enclosed in which these trees are located. To the right of the yard in front of the house is an orchard containing the ordinary Southern fruit trees such as apple, (two or three varieties), peach, plum, pear, and cherry. The vegetable garden is located to the south of this.

The home is about one-half mile from the Pintlala Creek, in the extreme northern part of Lowndes County and is in the corner of a large plantation of about 2,000 acres which is for the most part of the typical Black Belt character, devoted to stock raising.

Except along the creek and on some of the rolling elevations there are few trees on the plantation.

The birds noted were:

Mocking Bird, several nests in the neighborhood.

Brown Thrasher, nesting in the corner of the yard.

Shrike, nesting in the orchard.

Blue Bird, several birds seen, though did not find nest.

Song Sparrow, several birds seen.

Chimney Swift, had nested in the residence chimney.

Swallow, not positively identified, either Tree Swallow or Rough-winged.

Cardinal, nesting in plum thicket south of vegetable garden.

Redhead Woodpecker, several seen.

Cat-bird, two seen

Yellow Bellied Sap Sucker, three birds seen.

Purple Martin, one bird seen.

Blue Jay, nesting in grove.

English Sparrow, only two or three pairs noted during two days spent at the home. Not thought to be nesting there.

Baltimore Oriole, two birds seen.

Brown Creeper, noted several times, possibly same bird.

Black Vulture and Turkey Buzzard, both noted flying from adjoining plantation fields.

Yellow Billed Cuckoo, one bird seen.

Yellow Warbler, three birds seen.

Hooded Warbler, two birds seen

House Wren, quite common about the residence.

Kingbird, two birds seen.

Yellow Throated Vireo, (?) identification not positive.

Meadow Lark, several seen in orchard.

I was very much interested in the extreme freedom with which the Warblers, Vireo and Creeper as well as one bird which I thought to be a Fly Catcher, inhabited the neighborhood.

They are never molested in their frequency of the premises, the people living there being quite interested in birds. However, no effort has especially been made to encourage them, except that during the winter months they are allowed to feed with the chickens, when chops and cracked food are scattered in the poultry yards. They have noted for the past two years that the English Sparrow has been perceptibly noticeable by his absence.

On former occasions I have noted, on the same plantation, during the spring of the year, in addition to these, the White Crane, Screech Owl, (which, for a number of years up to this current one, nested under the eaves near a room I have occupied during five or six visits), Indigo Bunting, Chuck-Wills-Widow, and occasionally a Whip-poor-will, as well as several of the Hawks, Crows, Kingfisher, Bob-white, Mourning Dove, Killdeer, Barred Owl and Bartramian Plover.

Peter A. Brannon,
Montgomery, Ala.

NEWSPAPER ORNITHOLOGY

Isaac E. Hess sends us a clipping giving an account of the nesting of a Whip-poor-will in a tree in his home town, all of which he dissents from and merely forwards it as a fair sample of the curious notions that somehow breaks into the public press.

W. E. English sends a clipping from the Ventura California Post, giving very lurid and specific account of the killing of an eleven year old Mexican boy of that place. Its truthfulness, I hope will be investigated by the Bird Students of that vicinity.

The Carnegie Museum at Pittsburgh has a number of rare and unusual single skins from Labrador to dispose of. Anyone interested had better write them at once.

The Philadelphia Public Ledger reports that work was stopped on repairing a church steeple in Bloomsburg, in that state, because the workmen were so harassed by hundreds of Sparrows which were nesting there, and that before the men could complete the repairs they had to kill the birds off by burning sulphur. *Passer domesticatus*

must be vicious in that territory or the correspondent sending in the item may have discovered some one who was violating the 18th amendment.

R. M. Barnes

HOT WEATHER ORNITHOLOGY

A New Specie of Hawk

It may be of interest to some of the bird students of The Oologist to know that a new specie of Hawk has been discovered here in Connecticut. It surely is new to me for I never heard of one by that name before. One surprising thing about it is that it should be discovered and named by a fellow that perhaps never knew that such a book as The Oologist or other bird magazine ever existed.

While in Danielson, Conn., not long ago I saw a dead Hawk on exhibition in a store window. It was lying on its back and from where I was I could not identify the specie. As I was to meet a party for the theatre, and was then late, I moved on, intending after the theatre to go in the store and examine the bird, but when I returned the bird was gone and the store was closed.

The next day I happened to meet a friend ornithologist, Mr. B., and asked him if he had seen it, and he said he had not but would investigate. About two days later I received a letter from him stating he had stopped at the store and inquired about the Hawk.

"Oh, yes," says the clerk, "that was my Hawk; I shot it myself while out hunting." In answer to what he had done with it he said he had given it to a fellow that wanted to get it stuffed up (mounted). "Well," says Mr. B., "what kind of a Hawk was it, a broad wing or red shoulder?" "Oh, no," says the clerk, "it was neither one, it was just an old Buck Hen Hawk."

A. J. Potter,
East Killingby, Conn.

NESTING OF THE GREAT HORNED
 OWL IN THE VICINITY OF
 ROCHESTER, N. Y.

I surprised myself completely during the spring of 1920 by locating five nests of the Great Horned Owl. This seems to me to be an unusual record for so old and well settled a locality. In addition to these nests I found single birds in four other widely separated places, but thorough searching failed to disclose nests or evidence that they were mated individuals.

Although I made several attempts in late February and early March I was unsuccessful in getting to the better localities by machine because of the excessive snows, and it was not until March 23 that I discovered the first nest on which Mrs. Owl was brooding. Not having my climbers along it was necessary to return the next day to take photographs and to collect a set of two slightly incubated eggs. The nest was a last year's hawk nest placed forty-five feet up in a three limb fork of a large white oak, which stood in an open wood one-eighth mile from a house and about three miles from Rochester.

Four days later, March 27, I found a second nest of two newly hatched young seventy feet up in a cavity of an immense oak in a fifty acre patch of timber to the south of this city. I could not flush the female by clubbing the trunk or by throwing sticks at the hole. Finally I climbed a tall maple from the top of which I could see partially into the nesting hole. By yelling and whipping the branches I finally impressed Mrs. Owl with the fact that I wished her to leave so I could learn what the objects of her solicitude were.

The third nest was found March 30th in company with Mr. Ernest H.

Short in a cedar swamp near the latter's home. The two horns of the sitting bird were seen protruding above the walls of a cavity in the broken top of an arbor vitae or white cedar twenty feet above the ground. The bird refused to respond to rapping the stub but left as I started the climb. Two young about four days old occupied the nest.

The next nest was the prize of all. It was located May 1st in a large hardwood timber containing a scattering of hemlock and pine. It was a mass of old sticks resting on several horizontal limbs sixty-five feet up in the top of a hemlock which was twelve feet in circumference at the base and had no branches until within fifteen feet of the nest. Although I knew there were no young my curiosity prompted me to investigate at closer range so I made the ascent. It was inspiring to sit away up there in company with two nearly full-sized Owls who were not in the least pleased with the visit and accordingly showed their disfavor with much hissing and snapping of beaks. Across a field could be seen farm buildings which I imagine helped to tide the birds over the frugal winters, although the only food remains under the nesting tree were pheasant feathers, rabbit hair and pellets containing mice skeletons. Two owlets shrank to the outermost edge of the nest and I was afraid to reach for them for fear they would back off for a long drop to death. Upon reaching the earth again I found the latter fear to be partially groundless for several rods from the nest tree I almost stepped on a third owlet dozing in the sunlight.

On May 15th I climbed to an open nest forty feet up in a hickory tree. It contained a pad of Horned Owl feathers and the remains of eggs. From the abundance of feathers I

feel sure that a brood was reared and launched from this nest.

WALTER A. GOELITZ.

BIRDS KILLING THEMSELVES

On page five of the January number, current year, is recorded an instance of how the Prairie Hen is often killed, being its own executioner. The writer of this item has noted three instances of birds destroying themselves. The first was that of a Blue Crane flying against a telegraph wire. In its flight the head of the bird was above the wire, while its body was below it, and the long neck of the Crane was wrapped once entirely about the wire, and it hung suspended from the same, till the body decomposed and dropped to the ground. A Meadow Lark was seen to dash against another wire of the same kind, and instantly fell to the ground lifeless.

In another case two Mourning Doves were in flight, one of the same passed above the wire, the other flew so as to come directly in contact with it, and its head was severed instantly from its body, and its quivering carcass, a few seconds later picked up from the ground where it fell. No doubt many other kinds of birds that habitually fly in the open plains, fall victims to telegraph wire and barbed wire fences and thus destroy themselves. The Quail, not infrequently dashes against Quail not infrequently dashes against meet their deaths from the fact that their flight is rapid and the shortness of the tail, the steering apparatus of all birds in flight, does not allow of a speedy change of direction, and the calamities result.

H. H. Barker,
Harvey, Iowa.

In order to reduce my collection of 500 hand colored lantern slides of birds, their nests and their young, I will sell a limited number at cost, or will exchange with other collectors or photographers who have subjects new to my stereopticon collection. Gerard Alan Abbott, 6th Floor Louisville Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky.

EXCHANGE—Nearly complete set of Maine ferns and lilies, also Philippine and West Indies ferns for sets or singles of eggs. What have you? Alvin H. Trundy, West Farmington, Maine.

FOR DISPOSAL—My entire Oological Collection, including sets and sets with nests of American, European, African, Canadian Birds' eggs, entire or in part. Send two cent stamp for lists. Dr. M. T. Cleckley, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

EXCHANGE—Desire to correspond with parties having skins B. T. or G. T. Grackles to exchange or sell on other skins. Delos Hatch, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED—A set of re-loading tools for a 44 barrel shot gun, also want bird skins, mounted birds, bird books. O. M. Greenwood, Manchester, Iowa.

WILL EXCHANGE Mounted Birds for Bird Skins. I will also Mount your Bird Skins you want mounted, at low prices. D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Ga.

UNUSUAL NOTICE—Two sets of Goldfinch, taken by me in Wyoming, were transferred, in 1915, to Mr. Barnes, with my entire collection. I want these sets back and will give one dollar each for them. Send lists of singles you have to spare. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kan.

GAPS IN MY "MAYNARD SERIES"
Can you fill them, cash or exchange?
15, 16, 20, 21. Any Albatrosses 86, 113, 144, 177. Any Swans, 197. Any Cranes, 230, [243]. Any Godwits, Any Curlews, Any Golden Plovers, 281, 283, 286, [288], 288a, 292, 293, 297a, 308, (dark), 312, 319, 327, 328, 362, 381, 405, 417, 419, 486, 487, 496, 496a, 515, 563, 642, 657, 681, 687, 707, 710, 710a, 713, 727, 731, 743, 746, 751, 754, 758a, [764]. Of the rarer things, I can use eggs in almost any sound condition. Please send lists. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas. *

Maynard Series

The following are offered, cash or exchange, in series: 6, Loon, 44, 51, 59, 69, 70, 77, 140, 143, 190, 219, 221, 387, 406, 412, 44, 447, 495, 498, 498e, (Montana Red-wing), 501, 501b, 507, 511a, 529, 530, 540, 552, 560, 561, 581c, 588a, 595, 596, 608, 612, 613, 624, 652, 683, 719, 721.

Maynard Series

The following, a few singles, each: 49, 74, 80, 120, 120c, Hooded Merganser, 146, 150, 154, Canada Goose, 199, 210 [285], 305, 309, 310b, 331, 333, 337, 339, 373a, 407a, 457, 466, 540a, 593, 617, 622a, 627, 633.

Sets Offered

31a, (Pallas Murre), [56], 58, 63, 75, 78, 80, 120, 127, 210, 226, 360a, 373g, 513, 513a, 540, 562, 615.2, 629a, [694], 698.

P. B. PEABODY,
Blue Rapids, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE—83 varieties of single eggs. Irving C. Lunsford, Petersburg, Virginia. Box 276.

SWAINSON'S Warbler sets and sets with nests for disposal. What have you to offer? Dr. M. C. Cleckley. 457 Greene St., Augusta, Georgia.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Hawks and Eagles with full data. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

WANTED FOR CASH—First class skins of 740, 430a, 725d, 717, 711a, 709a, 700, 670, 634, 600, 600a, 580c, 579, 576, 571, 525, 482a, 472, 422, 424, 216, and others. Also exchanges. C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Sea-birds with data. Also few first class foreign sets. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

I CAN OFFER for scientific purposes, specimens of Dakota Bird Skins, Eggs in sets with or without nests, fresh skins for mounting. Will sell or exchange for sets of eggs I should want. F. A. Patton, Artesian, S. Dak.

WANT TO EXCHANGE my sparrow hawk series: thirteen sets of Sparrow Hawk, seven sets of Desert Sparrow Hawk and seventeen sets of European Sparrow Hawk. Mighty good material for a few sets only, with higher values. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebraska.

WANT SETS of any common Hawk for analytical purposes. Must be complete sets, fresh and unblown. Keep sets separate and pack carefully. Will give in exchange, Al mounted, Chestnut-colored Longspurs, American Crossbill, Yellowheaded Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Harris Sparrows, Chickadees, or Savanna Sparrows. Send eggs at once, and state your wants. Fair exchange given. Paul G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn. Also have two beautiful mounted scarlet Tanagers.

FOR DISPOSAL—A. O. U. Numbers 6, 30a, 75, 77, 123b, 126, 200, 202, 219, 221, 273, 316, 319, 320a, 412, 413, 444, 461, 462, 465, 567, 475, 499, 506, 507, 510, 511, 511b, 513a, 513, 519, 540, 530, 560, 563, 584, 587, 519c, 593, 595, 598, 608, 616, 619, 624, 633, 652, 659, 673, 681, 683, 697, 725, 735, 751a, 755, 474b, 402, 495. Ten of the above sets contain eggs of cowbird, all with full data. Also N. Pileated Woodpecker 1-5, G. Horned Owl 1-2, Varied Thrush 1-4, Alaska collected. J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis.

EXCHANGE—Photographs of wild birds, birds' nests and eggs, animals, and flowers. Want to buy copy Howard's Insect Book. Wiswell Studio, Rolfe, Iowa.

WANTED—Birds of North and Middle American, Parts 1 to 7 inclusive, state lowest cash price; would also consider exchange. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa.

WANTED—"Birds of Colorado." by Cook, A. O. U. Check list, 1910. Bailey's Birds of Western U. S., and others State price and condition. Albert Lirn, Electro, Texas.

WANTED—Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America. Vols. I, II, IV; Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

SNAPPING TURTLE, 1-18, 1-26, first class, good data. Relics of the Civil, Spanish and World's wars. Old time Foot stove, etc. James O. Johnson, 310 North Main, Southington, Conn.

WANTED—A 22 Cal. long-barrel, standard make revolver; can give good exchange in S. Dak. eggs and skins. State value, make, condition of gun. F. A. Patton, Artesian, South Dakota.
2000 Teachers Wanted for September Schools all kinds. No fee till elected. National Agency, Syracuse.

FIELD COLLECTORS—Parties desiring accommodations during the collecting season (May and June in this locality) should correspond with J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis. Ranch located Rusk Co., at junction Flambeau and Chippewa Rivers. Address Holcombe, Wis., Chippewa Co.

WANTED—I will buy collections of Birds Eggs, Bird Skins, and Mounted Birds entire. R. M. Barnes.

WANTED—First Class sets from reliable collectors. Especially sets containing Cowbird eggs. G. B. REGAR, 1000 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE CHEAP—My entire Oological Collection of United States, Canada, Africa, and Australia in sets, singles and sets with nests. Send two cent stamp for lists. Dr. M. C. Cleckley, 457 Greene Street, Augusta, Ga.

FOR SALE or Exchange—A beautiful collection of sea shells from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, also Marine Curiosities, Saw-fish saw, Polpoise and Sea-turtle heads for cash or sets, and sets with nests. Send for lists. Dr. Cleckley's Mureum.

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SOMETHING NEW—Solid silver tip to fit over the point of any Blowpipe. Gives a very fine stream for blowing small eggs and can be removed in an instant for larger ones. Price 50 cents. F. M. CARRYL, No. 1 Princeton Street, Nutley, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—One Taylor Smoke torpedo, one Mandelette, one minute Camera. Wanted—Butterflies. W. J. Holland's Moth Book. D. GOLDBERG, R. R. 3, Rockville, Connecticut.

FOR EXCHANGE—I still have a lot of Bird and Oological Magazines to exchange for Natural History specimens. DE LOS HATCH, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

WANTED—For cash or exchange, first class sets, with full data. Send list at once. D. E. Bull, Route A, Box 158, San Jose, California.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbell; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

MAMMALS—I want A No. 1 scientific skins of North American Weasels for which I will exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or other mammals or birds. I also want Ridgeway's "Birds of North and Middle America," parts I and II; also North American Fauna, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 28, for which I will pay cash. Alex Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

FOR EXCHANGE—About one hundred mounted birds each with full data; including Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Water Birds, etc. Also several finely mounted Deer heads. Want first class bird skins only. Send your list and get mine. WHARTON HUBER, 225 St. Mark's Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR EXCHANGE—Full sets of the following: 12, 13a, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 31a, 32, 83, 81, 82, 82-1, 86, 86f, 86-1, 89, 90, 93, 101, 103, 104, 105, 105-1, 105-2, 106, 107, 108, 108-1, 114, 114-1, 115, 116-1, 116, 194a 1-4, 194f 1-4, 355 1-5, 357 1-4, 348 1-7, 364 3-3, 389, for sets of equal value or will sell. E. A. WHEELER, E. Randolph, N. Y.

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All communications about either of above papers should be addressed to:

KENNETH L. SKINNER

Brooklands Estate Office,
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WANTED—Ornithological publications; Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4 index; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6-index. Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete; Vols. Birds of Eastern North America, Maynard; Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition, McIlwraith. For Exchange or sale: Economic Value of Predaceous Birds etc., A. K. Fisher, 3 col. pl. by Fuertes, 1908. Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard, Henshaw, 50 col. pl. by Fuertes, 1913. Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer. A. K. Fisher, ill. 3 pl. by Ridgway, 1895; Birds as Weed Destroyers, Judd, ill. 1 pl. by Ridgway, 1898. H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine.

WANTED—A good pair, each of Black and Yellow Rails for which I will give good exchange. O. C. HASTINGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

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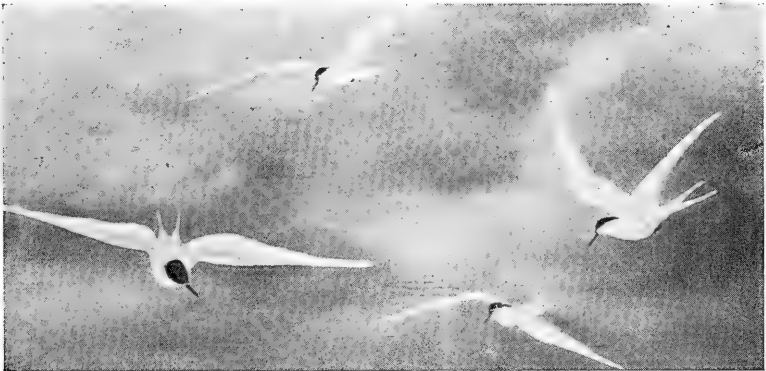
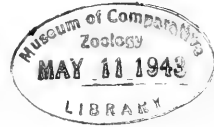
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BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS
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BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

Send me the list of A I Bird Skins that you have to dispose of by exchange or sale
R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Ill.

ENTIRE COLLECTIONS—Will pay spot cash for entire collections of North American birds eggs. Send lists.
E. R. BALES, M.D., Circleville, Ohio.

WANTED—Sets of No. 190, 208, 211, 212, 214, 263, 273, 387, 619, in Exchange or will purchase same. Henry W. Davis, Box No. 844, Atlantic, N. J.

I would like to correspond with active Oologists and Collectors. Write me for information of Birds and Eggs of Michigan. Jame Wood, Taxidermist & Collector, Northville, Michigan. Box 592.

WANTED—To purchase or exchange for sets of 289-, 308b, 310a, 325, 349, 352, 484, 486, 491, 492. First Class only.
W. H. Over, Vermillion, S. D.

DATA BLANKS—I will send 500 standard data blanks with your name printed on them for \$1.25. No less than 500 done. Edw. S. Coombs, 243 Franklin St., Boston, Mass.

WANTED—Sets with down and nest feathers, Ducks & Geese, especially Nos. 131, 139, 137, 140, 149, 153, 157, 162, 166, 169, 169a, 173, 174; cash. Bunyard, 57 Kidderminster Rd., Croydon, England.

EGGS OF THE FRINGILLIDAE—I am prepared to buy or give good exchange for any eggs of the finches and buntings, a group in which I specialize. I will also be pleased to do all I can to help other specialists who will cooperate with me in securing finch eggs. Kenneth L. Skinner, Brooklands Estate Office, Weybridge, England.

WANTED—Egg Cabinet, upright drawer. Cash or Exchange. Send full description. W. B. Purdy, Milford, Michigan.

WOULD like to correspond with all active Oologists with view of exchange. Would like to buy good photographs of birds, nests and eggs, what have you? Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Mich.

BIRDS, Animals, Fish and Game Heads, Mounted Furs and Hides, Tanned and made into Rugs and Robes. Mearl B. Wheeler, Randolph, N. Y.

FOR EXCHANGE—I have the largest exchange list of North American Birds' eggs in existence, and will be glad to exchange with reliable collectors for specimens they need, and I am willing to purchase for cash those that I want and for which I do not have duplicates, that the owner of the specimens that I need are willing to exchange for. Send me your list of duplicates. R. M. BARNES, Lacon, Illinois.

BIRDS EGGS—Duplicate sets for Exchange by the University Museum, Vermillion, S. D.: 3, 77, 190, 202, 212, 214, 221, 273, 305, 316, 331, 360, 367, 373, 412a, 444, 447, 461, 477, 488, 497, 498, 501.1, 538, 539, 563, 604, 605, 622a, 552, 704, 705, 725d.

WE HAVE EGGS and Skins of South Dakota birds to exchange for eggs and skins desired in the University Museum. W. H. Over, Vermillion, S. D.

ARTISTIC BASES—Made to order. Something far above the ordinary. Cannot be duplicated anywhere. Write for description and prices. L. W. Speer, Taxidermist, Sac City, Iowa.

FOR SALE CHEAP—A large collection of Sea Shore Shells and Marine curiosities valued at \$100. Best offer gets it. Send two cent stamp for list. Dr. M. C. Cleckley, 457 Greene Street, Augusta, Ga.

ALL PERSONS having A-1 skins in pairs of any of the North American Jays send list. I will pay the highest price for those that I need. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR SALE—Seven copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1919; eight copies of The Oologist magazine, year 1920, at 4c each, postpaid. A. M. Nelson, Jr., Lake Providence, La.

EXCHANGE—History of the Birds of Kansas-Goss: Catalogue of the Birds of Kansas with descriptive notes of their nests and eggs-Goss; Animal Guide—Reed; 6 1-2 power Army field-glasses: The Oologist for 1910-1911-1912; Want Fishers Hawks and Owls of the U. S.; and good sets. Lieut. L. R. Wolfe, 64th Infantry, Camp Meade, Md.

FOR TRADE—Bird-Lore Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6. Wanted, Bird-Lore, Vol. XVII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6; XVIII, Nos. 5; XIX, Nos. 4, 5, 6; XX, Nos. 3, 5, 6; XXI, Nos. 2, 3, 5; XIV, Index, 1912. Will pay cash or Vol. XII, Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6 in trade. Fred Matthews, 70 Whittingham St., West Orange, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—European & Asiatic eggs in sets for North American species and skins. Address, C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

THE OÖLOGIST.

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ALBION, N. Y., AUG. 1, 1921.

WHOLE No. 418

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

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December-issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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

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THIS ISSUE

We give much space in this issue to the late John L. Childs, who is well known to the readers of *The Oologist*, as one of America's great collecting Oologists.

We have had the privilege of examining a list of the Childs' collections and truly they are wonderful. It is our understanding they are to be dispersed and it is to be hoped that in so doing the high standing for business fairness and integrity and fair dealing which Mr. Childs maintained during his entire life, will be adhered to.

As a lawyer of nearly forty years of active practice, we can truly say that some of the things that have come under our observation, which persons have resorted to get possession of the property of one who has died, were not creditable. We truly hope that no such blotch will be visited upon the name of Mr. Childs, but that all dealing with reference to the disposition of his specimens will be open and fair and that any one desiring to acquire any of these will be compelled to and will be willing to meet open and fair competition, for we are very sure that such would be Mr. Childs' method were he alive.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS—AS I KNEW HIM

I first became acquainted with John Lewis Childs in person on my return from the West Coast in 1906, though I had known him through correspondence previously. About this time he was very active in completing his egg and skin collection, and desired to secure several species of North American birds that I had taken on my Mexican trip, such as the Red-billed Tropic bird, Brewster's and Blue-footed Booby, Texan Kingfisher, etc. He seemed so pleased to secure these from me, that I asked him to visit me, and in the fall of 1907 he came down and spent two weeks with us. I was then living on my farm on James River, some eight miles from Newport News, Virginia. He was run down from over work when he arrived, but after a few days, picked up to such an extent that he insisted on splitting the big chunks of pine wood for the kitchen fire, and helping to bring in the logs for the king heater and open fire place in the den, where we gathered daily to look at my collection and talk over special birds, sets of eggs, and incidents of the collecting of same. He dropped in as a member of the family so completely that first visit, that we were always glad to have him visit us at any time, and every year since then, he has been with us for a visit. One year he wanted to take a set of Turkey Vulture eggs himself, so after one egg was laid in a hollow poplar stump by one of my regular old 'standbys,' I telegraphed him and he came down at once. We drove the dayton carriage to within a few feet of the tree and he had great fun prying Mrs. Buzzard off the eggs with a stick and out of the stump, before he secured the two eggs. The incident will always remain in my memory, and never have I been looking over his egg collection with him, but that he

recalled that set of Buzzards.

Mr. Childs was very fond of children, and early each morning when visiting us, would have all four of mine in bed with him, telling them stories. Probably one of the last letters written by him just before leaving Los Angeles was one to my youngest boy, telling him how he enjoyed the visit to us and wishing he could have had him with him on his trip to the West.

Mr. Childs last visit to us was during the holidays of 1920-21, arriving December 27 and remaining until January 5. It was his first trip to the lower peninsula of Florida, though he had visited the state before many times, and so carried away was he with this section and its nearness to New York, which made it easy for him to run back and forth, that he decided while here to locate a test farm and a winter home here. At the time of Mr. Childs' death, the writer had an option on the greater part of Mr. Childs' collections, which were to be joined with his in the starting of the new Miami Beach Museum of National History. While Mr. Barnes has stated in his obituary of Mr. Childs in the *Oologist*, page 414, April 1921 that "the cornerstone of Mr. Childs' collection was Miss Gene Bell's Collection of Philadelphia," this was somewhat misleading, for Mr. Childs had disposed of nearly all of the collection early in the game, and had built up almost a new collection entirely. The old timers in the *Oologist* game will easily recall the disrepute the Gene Bell collection got into, and Mr. Childs and I often discussed certain sets and their collectors, while we were visiting each other. He destroyed several sets on my recommendation, for he knew that I had met personally and seen practically all the best private collectors and their collec-



John Lewis Childs and His Friends in Florida

tions, and had collected from coast to coast.

Mr. Childs was a great friend of John Burroughs, and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Burroughs at Mr. Childs' home, where we were both visitors at the same time. The following data gives a good sketch of Mr. Childs' life. The photos are, no doubt, the last pictures taken of Mr. Childs before his death. They were taken on a picnic to Royal State, Palm Beach, Florida, New Years Day, 1921. The single picture of Mr. Childs we called "Uncle John pawning his overcoat," and he was much pleased with it and the 'title' he wrote. The other photo taken the same day shows Mr. Childs with both hands on the arms of my oldest son; next to him with gray head and mustache, the well known veteran Conchologist, Dr. Chas. Torrey Simpson; the writer with arm linked in that of Dr. Simpson; and the writer's wife and other three children and Mr. Dorlan, wife and child. It was a merry party and how he enjoyed the beautiful over-loaded fruit groves of Redlands, Princeton, Homestead and Perrine. Mr. Childs marvelled as others do, how such fine fruit could grow on such stony land. The visit did him "worlds of good," he wrote soon after returning to his home, but ere long, he wrote me, "he was feeling badly again and was starting for California in hopes to wind up his business there and eliminate that tedious trip yearly in the future." We who saw him last, cannot but feel that had he not taken that long trip in his poor physical condition, he would have been alive today. We shall miss his visits greatly, and the whole family feel like I do, that a loving, big-hearted friend has left a place that cannot be filled. While in California he wrote me, "he was discouraged over Mr. Burroughs' health,"

and it was a strang coincident that both he and Mr. Burroughs should die in the train enroute home from California.

Harold H. Bailey,
Miami Beach, Fla.

JOHN LEWIS CHILDS

John Lewis Childs, the widely known florist and nurseryman of Floral Park and Flowerfield, N. Y., died suddenly Saturday, March 5, while on a New York Central train, between Albany and New York, on his return from a visit to California. His death was not discovered until the porter of the Pullman car went to arouse him as the train arrived in New York.

Mr. Childs was born at Jay, Me., May 13, 1856, and received a public school education in that town. In 1874 he went to Long Island, taking a position at East Hinsdale, near Hempstead, with a florist, and rooming over a store in the village. Here a year later he leased a few acres of land and started the nucleus of what was to become ultimately an enormous seed and plant business. His first seed catalogue contained eight pages and there were only 600 copies printed. Subsequently he bought a large tract of land adjacent to East Hinsdale, at what is now the incorporated village of Floral Park, and founded the settlement which became the village, giving to it its name and making his headquarters in it. Fifteen years from his starting in business, his name, through his far-reaching advertisements, was known throughout the world. He used whole pages in magazines and periodicals of all sorts and published the *Mayflower*, a horticultural publication which eventually attained a circulation of over half a million. This, with his catalogues, was printed in a well equipped printing plant which



John Lewis Childs. "Uncle John Pawning His Overcoat."
From H. H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida

he installed at his Floral Park establishment and operated until about a year ago, although he had previously disposed of his magazine.

When Floral Park became a village, Mr. Childs served as its first president for three years. He took great interest in village affairs, and through his efforts it has become a place of considerable importance. Much of the property, however, eventually went into real estate operations, and part of it passed into Greater New York at the time that city was extended. He had anticipated this eventuality, and had purchased about 800 hundreds acres of splendid land at what he named Flowerfield, between Stony Brook and St. James, in Suffolk county, Long Island, where all field-grown stock is now produced, both horticultural and agricultural, including vast plantings of gladioli, cannas and dahlias, under the supervision of Isaac S. Hendrickson, the wholesale manager. While the stock was grown at Floral Park, the first commercial plantings of *Gladiolus* America were made, and this variety disseminated.

Mr. Childs took considerably interest in politics and was a member of the New York State Senate in 1894-5. He was twice defeated for Congress on the Republican ticket. In educational circles he was quite prominent, for many years being president of the board of control of the State Normal and Training School, at Jamaica, New York city, and for twenty years president of the board of education of Floral Park. At the time of his death he was a member of the advisory board of the Orphan Asylum Society of Brooklyn.

THERE IS SOMETHING IN THE STUDY OF BIRDS' EGGS

By J. Warren Jacobs

In the title of this article is the answer to many declarations expressing the thoughts of persons of varied

tastes and conceptions of what constitutes the worth of human existence upon the earth, more especially, as it touches upon a criticism of the work of the oologist. These declarations, or expressions of thought, are quoted verbatim, or as near as possible, the exact words as they were delivered by persons in a discussion of my oological studies, or the collection of eggs as a result of that study.

True, similar exclamations came from persons in many walks of life, but the cases here cited are only examples of viewpoints of different individuals. It is also true that other persons, of more or less selfish or unselfish tastes, grasp the meaning of the work of the oologist and its necessity, and show appreciation and understanding from an unbiased standpoint. From the broad-minded, unselfish individual does the oologist hear words of intelligent appreciation, bringing to his own heart an inspiring desire to do more and better work in his chosen branch of ornithological science.

But it is the adverse criticism with which I am dealing, and one element specializing in ornithology, I feel constrained to mention first, because it would seem that the last to criticise the scientific oologist should be the collector of material for determining species. Luckily, this element, among scientific ornithologists, is small, and therefore, these remarks are given with due respect to this fact.

"There is nothing in eggs!" This expression came from a man, professionally connected as Curator of Ornithology in one of the great scientific institutions of the country, and he added: "We are devoting our entire time to investigating the birds themselves." But that man is striving to secure series of birds' skins numbering hundreds of a single species. He has reached out and gathered in stacks of such material, and pored over the tabulations and

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dissections of feathers and hairs until his own head has become as bare (outside) as a wind swept sand rock standing alone in a prairie expanse.

"There is nothing in eggs, if you don't sell them!" This declaration came from a man who can see not the least reason for existence, except to hoard up money. He has done not one single act for the good of the world, except, as it would appear to some, hoard up gold and hold a record of membership on a church roll. All this may stand for "something" in this world, but just as likely, to find a different landing for him in eternity.

"Of what account is all this work? I'd rather have as many hens' eggs which could be eaten!" And this declaration came from a lady who sees in any work, only worthy good when that work will buy pleasures and gratification for the present.

"I could not fool my time away with eggs!" And so this declaration came from a man who delights to lay in the mud "fooling" his time away fishing; and again, squandering his precious hours in roaming the fields and woods, gun in hand, to satisfy his craving to kill birds and animals; and all this he does in the name of "Sport." Afterward he loafs his valuable hours away gloating over his success!

All may be right from their own viewpoint; but nevertheless, the thought associates these remarks in my mind with the old adage: "Where ignorance is bliss, 'tis folly to be wise!"

Yes, all may be right from their own "viewpoint," but certainly the authors of such remarks and declarations do not control all the "viewpoints." If they did, certainly there would be quite a "narrowing" down of the fine point of "view." Other individuals, possessing normal eyes and ears, well balanced minds, and clean consciences, also claim ownership to

"viewpoints;" and of a generous and liberal character, emanating from just and unselfish hearts with a willingness to do things for the betterment of their fellowmen, and to the everlasting good of the world!

There is "something" in eggs, else the student of classification of birds could find no material for devoting his "time to investigating the birds themselves." There is "something" in eggs, else the oologist would not become a thorough student of the "birds themselves" in following up his chosen hobby, not only involving a knowledge of the eggs of birds, but of the "birds themselves."

There is "something" in eggs, even though it be not of golden wealth laid by the goose of the fabled story. And he is a living goose, who, in cherishing the golden egg, turns a deaf ear to the enbling thoughts and life giving inspirations of a Grand and Just Creator! He worries his life away in a grasping greed for gold, which buys only death, and that, too, without one redeeming act to leave for the good of mankind! There is little else in living solely for the possession of gold, than worry. There is "something" instinctively divine in possession of that which is without greed and avarice, and that which associates itself with the untainted wealth of blessings bestowed upon those who breathe the inspiration direct from Nature and Nature's God! Accruing interest on gold is a life worry of its possessor! Accruing interest in his studies is a life pleasure of the oologist!

There is "something" in eggs beside the creation of an insatiate desire to eat them. Not only is there a present pleasure in the studies of the oologist, but the keen perception of discovery leads to future expansion of faculties, inspiring greater interest in the workings of the beautiful world of Nature,

and the laws governing the same.

There is "something" in the time applied to a study of eggs, and the accompanying observations gleaned from the "time" consumed in their collection. A "fool" and his time soon part; and there is no greater evidence of this than can be found in the man with an incentive to kill and destroy for the desires of immediate pleasures. But "time" is conserved for the good of mankind by the student who collects a toll from Nature and preserves that toll for future investigation and research. In the truly scientific and studious oologist do we have this standard.

"AN OUTRAGE"

What can we legitimate collectors do in regard to the collecting permit question? Here in Pennsylvania as is the case in some other states it is almost impossible to secure a permit. It seems in so many states the so-called sportsman, who delight in killing every game bird they can flush, so control the Game Commissions and Wardens that the collector who takes a set of eggs of a game bird becomes a felon of the blackest dye while for a dollar any one can get a permit to shoot as many as he can carry. Here in Pennsylvania between October 20th and November 30th a gunning license costing one dollar permits the holder to kill in one day 8 Quail, 4 Ruffed Grouse, 4 Hungarian Partridge, 6 Woodcock, 25 Ducks, 8 Geese, 8 Brant, 25 Wilson Snipe, 15 in all Plovers and Yellow Legs, 50 Sora, 25 other Rails, Coot and an unlimited number of black birds as well as quite a list of four-footed game. 178 game birds without the Blackbirds. When we collect a set of eggs the bird will lay again; when a bunch of sportsmen find a covey of birds they follow it up till they get them all. And yet we are told that the collectors exterminate

the birds. I, of course, do not approve of the collector who takes or buys big series of a species. What good can a drawer full of Eagle eggs do anyone? Surely one set of Bald Eagle eggs should be enough for anyone, with the Golden Eagle, laying an egg that is often beautifully marked, a reasonable series showing the variations is proper.

Everywhere we hear of the wonderful good it does so many men to roam the woods in the Fall with a dog and gun. We grant this but does it not do the naturalist's soul some good too, to roam the fields and streams and to climb the hillsides and to wade the swamps seeking out the nests of birds. If it is right for the sportsman to shoot and take home and eat the bodies of what birds he can retrieve leaving the wounded to crawl away and die, should it not be permitted to the collector to take home and preserve the eggs from a very small percentage of the nests that he finds? It looks like class legislation clear and clean, to me.

James R. Gillin.

BOOKS RECEIVED

"The Passenger Pigeon in Pennsylvania," by John C. French, I Vol. 1919. This is a most interesting resume of the information existing at the time of its publication relative to the habits of this interesting bird in 1919. It is illustrated with numerous cuts and plates and many likenesses of persons who furnished in whole or in part the information contained in the book. It has chapters by such well known authorities as Samuel N. Rhodas, Dr. B. H. Warren, Henry Shoemaker, and others. This is an item that we have wanted to add to our library for some time and Col. Shoemaker has our thanks for this copy,—R. M. B.

A BIOGRAPHY OF THE AMERICAN CROW

Much has been written about the Crow; much still remains unwritten. This paper is offered with the hope that it will add something to already existing knowledge of the Crow's habits, and while I admit that many of the notes given below on the Crow's life and character are already well known, I believe the reader will accept these as necessary to make the biography complete. All of the material used in the article is based entirely on original observations of the writer.

I believe the American Crow and the Robin share the distinction of the being the two best known American birds. Where is the person that is not familiar with both of them? The Robin's cheery carol greets you on spring mornings; the Crow's rasping voice can be heard echoing from woodland and field at all seasons of the year. There is seldom a time when the country-dweller cannot see the black form of the Crow flying about in some portion of the landscape or hear him calling to his brethren. The unobserving person cannot see anything interesting about this black bird, cavorting about the blue sky, but to one who has watched the Crow in his various moods and pursuits, he is very interesting, and at times an amusing character.

The Crow has a host of enemies. Chief among these is the farmer, and you can rarely find a farmer who has a good word to say for the Crow. The farmer can hardly be blamed, though, for when he sees his corn, upon which he has expended many hours of hard labor to plant, and which is just nicely sprouting, being pulled up and eaten by Crows, it is enough to make any sensible farmer angry, surely.

It is a common habit among Turkeys and other domestic fowl to hide

their nests in some undreamed of, far away place and proceed to lay their eggs there, quite safe from the egg-collecting farmer's wife. Crows are very expert in spying out these nests, and in a very short time the outraged hen will find her secret being proclaimed to the whole countryside in the loud tones of the Crow. Many Crows flock to the spot and alight in nearby trees and in other convenient places, expectantly waiting for the hen to leave her nest. Some do not alight, but circle about near the nest, excitedly cawing. When discovered in time, a well-made scare-crow will usually safeguard it from attack, for, while the Crow usually regards scare-crows as objects not to be taken too seriously, he invariably draws an imaginary "dead-line" around them and does not dare to venture any nearer than this line for a long time—usually not until several months have passed. A dead Crow, hung in a conspicuous position near the nest, will usually give the same results.

The Crow is usually misunderstood, however, and it has been proven many times that he is not as black as he is often painted. The Crow's love for sprouting corn, together with his habit of stealing domestic and wild birds' eggs and young occasionally seem to be the chief arguments in his disfavor, and when one puts these aside and looks at his numerous virtues which loom up large in proportion to his sins, he appears a respectable, useful and law-abiding citizen, worthy of a nesting site on every farm.

From my own experience as a farm-dweller, I have found the Crow to be of value to the farm and not an entirely undesirable resident. I have watched numbers of them follow the plow day after day in the spring, in rather a conscientious manner, picking up the injurious Junebugs, white grubs, (and perhaps cut-

worms) which will appear later to retard and destroy the growth of the corn; at such times the Crow's usefulness is apparent. Also, after the fields are cleared of oats and hay, the Crows come in numbers to eat countless bugs, grasshoppers and kindred insect pests.

The vast amount of Crows' stomachs examined by the United States Biological Survey, for the purpose of determining the amount of good done by the Crow, has shown very clearly that the Crow does far more good than harm. The facts discovered in this way by this institution show, that in way of insect food (which forms a large part of the Crow's diet), a large per cent taken consists of injurious white grubs, grasshoppers, wireworms, caterpillars, weevils and May beetles; a very small per cent consists of beneficial insects and some of the less harmful other varieties. The Biological Survey has published (through the U. S. Department of Agriculture) many splendid bulletins containing information relating to the Crow's food; the most exhaustive study is Department Bulletin 621, "The Crow and Its Relation to Man." (1918).

Crows are very fond of carion, but this seems to be usually eaten in winter or when other food is scarce. They show a preference for the carcass of a skunk after the hide is removed. I know of one farmer who hung one of these in an apple tree near his house last winter, and in a very short time he shot several Crows. I have also known them to attack the entrails of a dead bull snake in the first stages of decomposition.

It is bordering on the impossible for a hunter to pursue his game through woods where Crows are constantly patrolling the woods, and, carefully as the hunter may stalk along, he will soon be assailed from above with an army of Crows, all cawing to

the full extent of their vocal capacities, telling the pursued game of his exact whereabouts. They swoop low to the ground near the hunter; they circle about overhead, each one seemingly trying to outdo the other in noise and acrobatic evolutions, and the bored hunter gets no peace until he has left the woods. If you wonder why he doesn't shoot them, it may be well to say it is almost impossible to hit one on the wing, and if he should fire his gun, the Crows are smart enough to circle higher, out of range, and, instead of withdrawing, their frenzy of excitement increases. This fate also befalls anyone trying to hunt Crows. Their wariness, together with their remarkable powers of observation, enable them to hold their own in numbers, despite the fact that men and boys throughout the land are continually hunting them. There is one exception, however, young Crows, even when nearly as large as their parents, are very stupid and I have seen them when they had to be chased out of a tree with a stick before they would fly.

Being a very intelligent bird, a Crow, if captured when young, is soon tamed, makes a desirable pet, and will readily adopt itself as one of the family. It can be taught to say many things, rivaling the Parrot in the imitation of the human voice. I once knew an old Crow that had lived a decade or two with a family living in town. He lived in a tree near the house and tapped on a door or window when he wanted to come in. He could imitate the human voice perfectly as to be deceiving, and said a variety of things, a favorite expression being, "Hello, Jim Crow! How's your Pa?" The wild Crow can say but one word which is known to all, and it is astonishing to note how easily he can use it to express excitement, alarm, anger, pleasure or triumph, as the situation demands.

They are exceedingly noisy during the spring months and great flocks congregate in some bit of woodland where they hold important discussions, judging from the attitudes of the speakers. They do not usually sit still during these debates for some are always flying about; they will often swoop down at each other from high in the air, uttering a harsh, croaking sound, and the rush of air through the wings can be heard quite a distance. An outpost is usually stationed at some vantage point to give warning when danger approaches. These flocks, which sometime number 200 or more in this part of Iowa (Buchanan County), assemble in spring, fall, and sometimes in winter. A number of years ago Crows were more plentiful than now, according to the opinions of some I have talked with, and flocks of several thousand were sometimes seen. They are less abundant in winter as a rule, which is probably due to them migrating to some extent. They are extremely hardy and brave the severest winters. You will often see them floundering about in the air during some of our worst blizzards.

Hawks and Owls are always in great disfavor with Crows and they never let an opportunity to pester them pass unnoticed. Owls usually do not resort to flight when discovered by Crows, but take refuge in some convenient tree. The Crows come in large numbers and fly about the unfortunate bird as if to attack it at once, but I am of the opinion that they do not care to get too bold and make an attack. The uproar caused by the Crows when thus engaged can usually be heard at least a half mile away, and one would imagine that a thousand Crows were cawing, instead of only a few dozen.

(Continued in next issue)

In order to reduce my collection of 500 hand colored lantern slides of birds, their nests and their young, I will sell a limited number at cost, or will exchange with other collectors or photographers who have subjects new to my stereopticon collection. Gerard Alan Abbott, 6th Floor Louisville Trust Bldg., Louisville, Ky.

EXCHANGE—Nearly complete set of Maine ferns and lilies, also Philippine and West Indies ferns for sets or singles of eggs. What have you? Alvin H. Trundy, West Farmington, Maine.

FOR DISPOSAL—My entire Oological Collection, including sets and sets with nests of American, European, African, Canadian Birds' eggs, entire or in part. Send two cent stamp for lists. Dr. M. T. Cleckley, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Ga.

EXCHANGE—Desire to correspond with parties having skins B. T. or G. T. Grackles to exchange or sell on other skins. Delos Hatch, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED—A set of re-loading tools for a 44 barrel shot gun, also want bird skins, mounted birds, bird books. O. M. Greenwood, Manchester, Iowa.

WILL EXCHANGE Mounted Birds for Bird Skins. I will also Mount your Bird Skins you want mounted, at low prices. D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Ga.

UNUSUAL NOTICE—Two sets of Goldfinch, taken by me in Wyoming, were transferred, in 1915, to Mr. Barnes, with my entire collection. I want these sets back and will give one dollar each for them. Send lists of singles you have to spare. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kan.

GAPS IN MY "MAYNARD SERIES"
Can you fill them, cash or exchange?
 15, 16, 20, 21. Any Albatrosses 86, 113, 144, 177. Any Swans, 197. Any Cranes, 230, [243]. Any Godwits, Any Curlews. Any Golden Plovers, 281, 283, 286, [288], 288a, 292, 293, 297a, 308, (dark), 312, 319, 327, 328, 362, 381, 405, 417, 419, 486, 487, 496, 496a, 515, 563, 642, 657, 681, 687, 707, 710, 710a, 713, 727, 731, 743, 746, 751, 754, 758a, [764]. Of the rarer things, I can use eggs in almost any sound condition. Please send lists. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

Maynard Series

The following are offered, cash or exchange, in series: 6, Loon, 44, 51, 59, 69, 70, 77, 140, 143, 190, 219, 221, 387, 406, 412, 44, 447, 495, 498, 498e, (Montana Red-wing), 501, 501b, 507, 511a, 529, 530, 540, 552, 560, 561, 581c, 588a, 595, 596, 608, 612, 613, 624, 652, 683, 719, 721.

Maynard Series

The following, a few singles, each: 49, 74, 80, 120, 120c, Hooded Merganser, 146, 150, 154, Canada Goose, 199, 210 [285], 305, 309, 310b, 331, 333, 337, 339, 373a, 407a, 457, 466, 540a, 593, 617, 622a, 627, 633.

Sets Offered

31a, (Pallas Murre), [56], 58, 63, 75, 78, 80, 120, 127, 210, 226, 360a, 373g, 513, 513a, 540, 562, 615.2, 629a, [694], 698.
 P. B. PEABODY,
 Blue Rapids, Kansas.

FOR EXCHANGE—83 varieties of single eggs. Irving C. Lunsford, Petersburg, Virginia. Box 276.

SWAINSON'S Warbler sets and sets with nests for disposal. What have you to offer? Dr. M. C. Cleckley, 457 Greene St., Augusta, Georgia.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Hawks and Eagles with full data. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

WANTED FOR CASH—First class skins of 740, 430a, 725d, 717, 711a, 709a, 700, 670, 634, 600, 600a, 580c, 579, 576, 571, 525, 482a, 472, 422, 424, 216, and others. Also exchanges. C. W. Chamberlain, 36 Lincoln St., Boston, Mass.

WANTED FOR CASH—First class sets of Sea-birds with data. Also few first class foreign sets. Karl A. Pember, Woodstock, Vermont. 5-21t3

I CAN OFFER for scientific purposes, specimens of Dakota Bird Skins, Eggs in sets with or without nests, fresh skins for mounting. Will sell or exchange for sets of eggs I should want. F. A. Patton, Artesian, S. Dak.

WANT TO EXCHANGE my sparrow hawk series: thirteen sets of Sparrow Hawk, seven sets of Desert Sparrow Hawk and seventeen sets of European Sparrow Hawk. Mighty good material for a few sets only, with higher values. Fred Dille, Valentine, Nebraska.

WANT SETS of any common Hawk for analytical purposes. Must be complete sets, fresh and unblown. Keep sets separate and pack carefully. Will give in exchange, Al mounted, Chestnut-colored Longspurs, American Crossbill, Yellowheaded Blackbird, Mourning Dove, Harris Sparrows, Chickadees, or Savanna Sparrows. Send eggs at once, and state your wants. Fair exchange given. Paul G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn. Also have two beautiful mounted scarlet Tanagers.

FOR DISPOSAL—A. O. U. Numbers 6, 30a, 75, 77, 123b, 126, 200, 202, 219, 221, 273, 316, 319, 320a, 412, 413, 444, 461, 462, 465, 567, 475, 499, 506, 507, 510, 511, 511b, 513a, 513, 519, 540, 530, 560, 563, 584, 587, 519c, 593, 595, 598, 608, 616, 619, 624, 633, 652, 659, 673, 681, 683, 697, 725, 735, 751a, 755, 474b, 402, 495. Ten of the above sets contain eggs of cowbird, all with full data. Also N. Pileated Woodpecker 1-5, G. Horned Owl 1-2, Varied Thrush 1-4, Alaska collected. J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis.

EXCHANGE—Photographs of wild birds, birds' nests and eggs, animals, and flowers. Want to buy copy Howard's Insect Book. Wiswell Studio, Rolfe, Iowa.

WANTED—Birds of North and Middle American, Parts 1 to 7 inclusive, state lowest cash price; would also consider exchange. John L. Cole, Nevada, Iowa.

WANTED—"Birds of Colorado," by Cook, A. O. U. Check list, 1910. Bailey's Birds of Western U. S., and others State price and condition. Albert Lirn, Electro, Texas.

WANTED—Ridgway's Birds of North and Middle America. Vols. I, II, IV; Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen Street, Ottawa, Ontario.

SNAPPING TURTLE, 1-18, 1-26, first class, good data. Relics of the Civil, Spanish and World's wars. Old time Foot stove, etc. James O. Johnson, 310 North Main, Southington, Conn.

WANTED—A 22 Cal. long-barrel, standard make revolver; can give good exchange in S. Dak. eggs and skins. State value, make, condition of gun. F. A. Patton, Artesian, South Dakota.
2000 Teachers Wanted for September Schools all kinds. No fee till elected. National Agency, Syracuse.

FIELD COLLECTORS—Parties desiring accommodations during the collecting season (May and June in this locality) should correspond with J. F. Hansman, Holcombe, Wis. Ranch located Rusk Co., at junction Flambeau and Chippewa Rivers. Address Holcombe, Wis., Chippewa Co.

WANTED—I will buy collections of Birds Eggs, Bird Skins, and Mounted Birds entire. R. M. Barnes.

WANTED—First Class sets from reliable collectors. Especially sets containing Cowbird eggs. G. B. REGAR, 1000 Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR SALE CHEAP—My entire Oological Collection of United States, Canada, Africa, and Australia in sets, singles and sets with nests. Send two cent stamp for lists. Dr. M. C. Cleckley, 457 Greene Street, Augusta, Ga.

FOR SALE or Exchange—A beautiful collection of sea shells from Florida, Georgia and South Carolina, also Marine Curiosities, Saw-fish saw, Porpoise and Sea-turtle heads for cash or sets, and sets with nests. Send for lists. Dr. Cleckley's Museum.

THE OOLOGIST

FOR EXCHANGE—Nice set Golden Eagle 1/2. 1/1. Can use sets of 9, 10, 112, 113, 204, 249, 288, 328, 351, 356 or other rare sets. ROBERT F. BACKUS, Florence, Colorado.

SOMETHING NEW—Solid silver tip to fit over the point of any Blowpipe. Gives a very fine stream for blowing small eggs and can be removed in an instant for larger ones. Price 50 cents. F. M. CARRY, No. 1 Princeton Street, Nutley, N. J.

FOR EXCHANGE—One Taylor Smoke torpedo, one Mandellette, one minute Camera. Wanted—Butterflies. W. J. Holland's Moth Book. D. GOLDBERG, R. R. 3, Rockville, Connecticut.

FOR EXCHANGE—I still have a lot of Bird and Oological Magazines to exchange for Natural History specimens. DE LOS HATCH, Oakfield, Wis.

WANTED FOR CASH—"Bendire's Life Histories, Vol. 2", "Bent's Life Histories." ROSWELL S. WHEELER, 166 Athol Ave., Oakland, Calif.

WANTED—To correspond with parties in Southern States who could get me fresh skins suitable to mount of Dark Faced and Black Fox Squirrel. O. S. BIGGS, San Jose, Ill.

I am always willing to purchase "Bulletin of the Cooper Ornithological Club," Vol. 1. Complete or old numbers. W. E. CHAMBERS, Eagle Rock, Calif.

I have stones, gems and eggs from over the U. S. What have you to trade? Give exact description. ROBERT HATCHES, Victor, Colo.

FOR SALE—Live Opossums. Also fresh skins of Opossum, Fox and Gray Squirrels for mounting. Want several volumes of the Condor. ALBERT LANO, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

WANTED—For cash or exchange, first class sets, with full data. Send list at once. D. B. Bull, Route A, Box 158, San Jose, California.

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—The Museum, complete by Webb; Wild Wings, by Job; Names and Portraits of Birds, by Trumbell; Birds of Alaska, by Nelson; Birds of Connecticut, by Sage; Birds of Wyoming, by Knight; Birds of Colorado, 3 Parts, by Cooke; The Oologist, 35 Volumes; The Ornithologist & Oologist, Vols. 7-18; Bird Lore, Vols. 17, 18, 19, 20; 50 Singles; American Ornithologist, Vols. 1-2. C. M. CASE, 306 Blue Hills Ave., Hartford, Connecticut.

MAMMALS—I want A No. 1 scientific skins of North American Weasels for which I will exchange skins of Mountain Beaver or other mammals or birds. I also want Ridgeway's "Birds of North and Middle America," parts I and II; also North American Fauna, Nos. 23, 25, 27 and 28, for which I will pay cash. Alex Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6 and index. Ornithologist and Oologist Vol. VI and VII complete, Vol. XII, 10. The Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete file. H. H. JOHNSON, Pittsfield, Maine.

FOR EXCHANGE—About one hundred mounted birds each with full data; including Hawks, Owls, Eagles, Water Birds, etc. Also several finely mounted Deer heads. Want first class bird skins only. Send your list and get mine. WHARTON HUBER, 225 St. Mark's Square, Philadelphia, Pa.

FOR EXCHANGE—Full sets of the following: 12, 13a, 14, 15, 16, 20, 21, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 31a, 32, 83, 81, 82, 82-1, 86, 86f, 86-1, 89, 90, 93, 101, 103, 104, 105, 105-1, 105-2, 106, 107, 108, 108-1, 114, 114-1, 115, 116-1, 116, 194a 1-4, 194f 1-4, 355 1-5, 357 1-4, 348 1-7, 364 3-3, 389, for sets of equal value or will sell. E. A. WHEELER, E. Randolph, N. Y.

THE OOLOGISTS' RECORD

A quarterly subscribed to by the leading oologists of the world. Published 1st March, 1st June, 1st September and 1st December.

Subscription \$1.25 per annum.

(All subscriptions run for the full calendar year).

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Issued as a supplement to the above for the purpose of promoting interchange amongst collectors direct. New subscribers are only admitted on the recommendation of an existing subscriber and no dealers are eligible. Most of the leading collectors in the U. S. A. subscribe.

The O. E. and M. can only be taken by those who already subscribe to the Oologists' Record, the extra subscription for the former being 60 cents per annum, i. e. \$1.85 for the two papers.

All communications about either of above papers should be addressed to:

KENNETH L. SKINNER

Brooklands Estate Office,

Weybridge, England.

WANTED—Ornithological publications; Bird Lore, Vol. I, 3-4 index; II, 1; III, 1-2-3; VII, 1; X, 6-index. Warbler, 1st series complete. Wilson Bulletin complete; Vols. Birds of Eastern North America, Maynard; Birds of Ontario, 2nd edition, McIlwraith. For Exchange or sale: Economic Value of Predaceous Birds etc., A. K. Fisher, 3 col. pl. by Fuertes, 1908. Fifty Common Birds of Farm and Orchard, Henshaw, 50 col. pl. by Fuertes, 1913. Hawks and Owls from the Standpoint of the Farmer. A. K. Fisher, ill. 3 pl. by Ridgway, 1895; Birds as Weed Destroyers, Judd, ill. 1 pl. by Ridgway, 1898. H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine.

WANTED—A good pair, each of Black and Yellow Rails for which I will give good exchange. O. C. HASTINGS, 207 Denver Ave., Bridgeport, Conn.

THE O O L O G I S T

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1921

Summer is now here and the Collecting Season is now
on. Let every reader of THE OOLOGIST select some young
man, who would be interested, and send us his name and
we will be glad to forward him sample copies of THE
OOLOGIST.

THE OOLOGIST

THE OÖLOGIST.

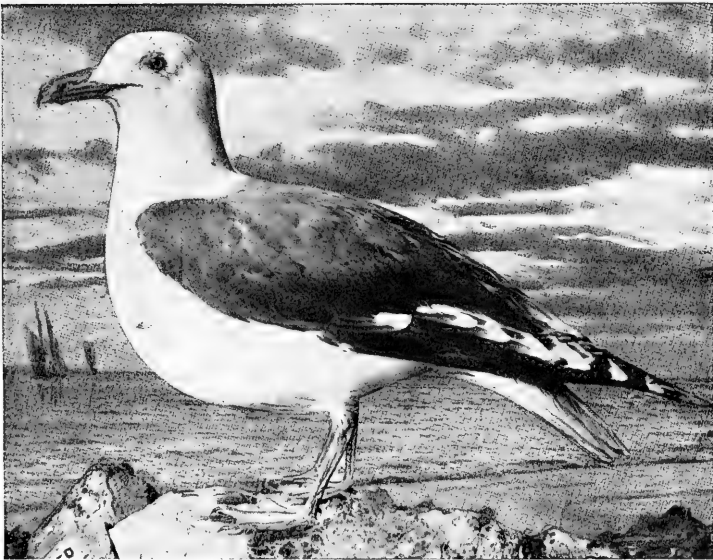
BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERM Y

VOL. XXXVIII. No.9.

ALBION, N. Y., SEPT. 1, 1921.

WHOLE No. 413



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

I will purchase for cash entire collections of North American Bird Skins, mounted birds and birds eggs or odd lots of the same, which I still need to complete my series. Send list and prices. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ills.

WANTED—Sets of eggs containing abnormal specimens, such as runts, monstrocities, abnormally marked or unmarked, albinistic and malformed specimens. Those with good data only wanted to further my studies of oological abnormalities. Write me when you have anything of this nature. Best cash price given. J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Penna.

WANTED—One large upright egg cabinet with large drawers, also want best Burr Drills, have stamps to trade for eggs. Arthur Blocher, Amboy, Ills.

FOR SALE ONLY—A-1 Mounted Birds. Group of: 3 solitary sandpipers, \$10. Rare hybrid of black duck and mallard \$25; Scarlet tan. \$3.50; Mourning dove \$3.50; Savanna Sparrow \$2.50; Chest. Col. Longspur \$3; Snow Bunt. \$2.50; Hooded Merganser \$5; Wilson Snipe \$3. Books—N. A. Early Tertiary Bryozoa, Canu and Bassler, 1920, 2 parts. Text 870 pages, Plates 162 pages; Paper covers new, pages uncut \$10. INSECT CASES—8x10½x2½ Glass tops. Need fresh paper linings, 6 for \$4. Have 12. SHELLS—Collection of 345 species from all over world. Many rare ones. All correctly identified price \$10. PAUL G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

Fine pair of skins, Band Tailed Pigeon, Male and Female for best offer eggs in sets, or skins of Warbler's family. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

I have following species in good sets to exchange: 295, 325, 327, 346, 352, 355, 419, 421, 482, 498d, 513a, 585b, 594a, 602, 639, 641, 697, 759a. Thos H. Jackson, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE—My entire egg collection at once. Sets 85, 185, 264, 330, 343, 352a, 355, 356a, 357b, 416, 417, 478b, 568, 717a, etc. Singles 55, 60, 254; Ducks, Geese, etc. Also few fine skins. Oologist Vols. XI, XII; Condor Vol. XX; Nidologist, Vol. II, Nos. 4-8; Vol. III, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 9. Robert F. Backus, Florence, Colo. Box 362.

PHOTOS WANTED—A few striking pictures (glossy) for illustrative purposes, of a Gt. Horned Owl's nest with young; Gt. Blue Heron colony; also Horned Owl and Herons separate. Send descriptions or prints. State price. R. Fuller, R.F.D. 1, White Plains, N. Y.

WANTED—Correspondence with parties desiring to exchange good specimens, ornithological publications, photographs, etc. B. S. Bowdish, Demarest, N. J.

FOR SALE For Cash—Auk. Vols. XI to xxi, complete; Vol. xxii, Nos. 1, 2, 4; Vol. xxiii to xxv complete, Vol. xxvii and xxix complete. Forestry and Irrigation, Vol. xiv Nos. 4, 6 to 12; Conservation xv No. 1 to 9, 11 and 12, Bluebird, Vol. ix No. 3. Louis S. Kohler, R.F.D. 2, Patterson, N. J.

FOR SALE—Mounted Texas Horned Frogs .65 cents each. Skinned ready to mount, 40 cents. Add one to your collection. Sent postpaid. Ramon Graham Taxidermy and Tanning Co. Box 215 Polytechnic, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—Copy of Jones Birds of Ohio, 1903. State price. Locally collected arrow-points in exchange for Bird-lore, Wilson Bulletin, Oologist, etc. Een. J. Blincoe, Bardstown, Ky.

WANTED—The following pamphlets by Theodore Roosevelt: Notes on some of the birds of Oyster Bay, Long Island, 1879; The Summer Birds of the Adirondacks in Franklin County, New York, by Theodore Roosevelt and H. D. Minot about 1877. R. W. G. Vail, No. 1 Madison Ave., New York City.

FOR SALE—South American Butterflies in papers, for trays and other fancy work, mixed, \$1.80 per dozen. If wanted spread add 5 cents per fly. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn.

WANTED—The following Government Bulletins by W. W. Cooke: Distribution and Migratory of North American Warblers, Distribution and Migratory of North American Shorebirds, Distribution and Migration of North American Rails, Distribution of American Egrets. Some new facts about the Migration of Birds, Migratory Movements of Birds in Relation to the Weather. Cash or exchange in other bulletins. Write at once to Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE—Personally collected sets of the following species: A. O. U. 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 70, 74, 80, 198, 199, 319, 320a, 329, 342, 387, 421, 488, 498g, 513a, 563, 573, 593, 604, 612, 622a, 633, 703a, 704, 705, 706, 707, 731, 736, 761 and 766. What have you? Many species desired in my collection. J. R. Pemberton, 729 Kennedy Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I have a fine collection of Indian relics I wish to dispose of for cash the collection consists of about four hundred fine arrow and spear points, skinning stones, hatchets, pendants, knives, hammer stones, and a number of very fine other specimens, the entire collection numbers about five hundred pieces in all, have complete data with every piece, \$100 will take the lot. Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Michigan.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 9. ALBION, N. Y., SEP. 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 413

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

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December-issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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

24,034



This is the first issue that the present management has ever put out this magazine without any illustrations, the reason for this is that during our absence in California our engraver has failed to furnish the same and rather than delay the issue it is put out without illustrations, however, this will not continue to be the case.

R. M. BARNES.

THE NEW PRICE LIST

We are pleased to announce that the New Catalogue of Prices of North American Birds' Eggs, will be ready for distribution January 1st, 1922. This catalogue will fill an acute necessity. It has been sixteen years since a catalogue appeared that contained prices upon which the working Oologists of America as a whole were willing to base their exchanges. In 1919 an election was called to be participated in by all the active Oologists in North America, who selected a committee of twenty-five well known Oologists to revise the prices. Then a committee of three to pass finally on the prices agreed upon by the larger committee. Two full years were occupied in this work and it is now ready for the printer.

The catalogue will be published by the undersigned and its general arrangement will be as follows:

1. An introduction.
2. A history of Birds' Egg Catalogue.
3. A history of this Catalogue.
4. Prices in this Catalogue.
5. Directions for collecting and preparing eggs.
6. Copy of Standard Data.
7. Illustration of proper way to mark eggs.
8. Illustrations showing proper cabinet arrangements of collections.
9. Report of the Committee of Twenty-five to revise prices.
10. Names and prices adopted for each species.
11. Advertisements.

The size of the catalogue will be the same size as The Oologist, which it will in general respect as to make-up resemble. Advertisements of approved character will be accepted at the rate of \$10.00 per page, \$5.00 per column and proportionate rates for half and quarter columns. Classified advertisements of not over fifty words will be accepted in limited numbers at one cent per word.

As this will be without doubt the standard price list of North American Birds' Eggs, for many years to come, and will be used by all museums throughout the world it is an unusual opportunity to secure desirable publicity. Those wishing advertising space should send in their application early. The catalogue will be printed on paper suitable to write on with pen and ink and will be used by many as a record on which to keep track of their own collection.

The book will retail at \$1.00 per copy in paper covers, those desiring a cloth bound copy can procure it for \$2.00. The first edition will be about 500 copies. Send us your subscriptions and copy for advertisements now, on the blanks published in this issue.

R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

PILEATED WOODPECKER

The Pileated Woodpecker appears to be breeding only in the lower part of this county. I have seen birds in different parts of the county, and in two instances found cavities made by them. Owing to the fact that the timber is being cut so rapidly these birds will soon be driven entirely out of the county.

They are known as "Woodcock" and "log cock" in this locality.

On May 2, 1919, I took a set of four eggs, only slightly incubated. This cavity was sixteen feet from the ground in a dead pine. The entrance was about five inches in diameter and the cavity was about two feet deep. The female bird was flushed from the nest and kept up a continuous calling while I was getting the eggs. The tree fell down, cause unknown unless the base was rotten, a few days later.

On the same date, and in the same piece of timber, I took a set of three, slightly incubated Red-bellied Woodpecker, which is rare in the county. It was in the dead top of a twenty foot oak, with a cavity ten inches deep and an entrance two and one half inches in diameter. Both birds were assisting in incubating.

H. M. Harrison,
Camden, N. J.

MEMORIES

I was pleased to see the bird lists in The Oologist. I have been making out a list of the birds that I have taken personally in the last fifty years. I trust to memory, and I think the list should be longer.

I shot my first Hawk in the Berkshire Hills, nearly seventy years ago. I collected my first eggs at Black Hawk, Iowa. At that time there were a thousand birds, where there is one now. There were one hundred species breeding on my egging ground. I think there were four species that I

did not get. There were seven species of Hawks breeding within five minutes walk of my house, and five species of Owls. The species marked with a star I have collected the eggs of.

I wish the collector of today could go back fifty years. I think the most beautiful Hawks, are the Swallow-tailed Kite, one never tires of watching their flight. Once I saw a pair building their nest. We found them in Honduras, but doubt if there is one now even in Iowa.

- Western Grebe*Ia.
- Pied-Billed Grebe*Ia.
- LoonIa.
- Black TernIa.
- Double-crested CormorantIa.
- American MerganserIa.
- Red-breasted MerganserIa.
- Hooded Merganser*Ia.
- Mallard*Ia.
- Black DuckIa.
- GadwallIa.
- WidgeonIa.
- BaldpateIa.
- Green-winged TealIa.
- Blue-winged TealIa.
- Cinnamon TealOre.
- ShovellerIa.
- PintailIa.
- Wood Duck*Ia.
- RedheadIa.
- Canvas-backIa.
- American Scaup DuckIa.
- Buffle-headIa.
- Ruddy DuckIa.
- Blue GooseIa.
- American White-fronted GooseIa.
- Canada GooseIa.
- White-faced Glossy IbisCal.
- American Bittern*Ia.
- Least Bittern*Ia.
- Great Blue HeronIa.
- Green Heron*Ia.
- Black-crowned Night HeronIa.
- King Rail*Ia.
- Sora*Ia.
- Yellow RailIa.
- Virginia Rail*Ia.
- Wilson's PhalaropeOre.
- American AvoceteOre.
- Black-neckedIa.
- American Woodcock*Ia.
- Wilson's SnipeIa.
- Pectoral SandpiperIa.
- Marbled GodwitIa.
- Greater Yellow-legsIa.
- Yellow-legsIa.
- Solitary SandpiperIa.

Willet	Ore.	Downy Woodpecker*	Ia.
Spotted Sandpiper	Ia.	Gairdner's Woodpecker*	Ore.
Golden Plover	Ia.	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker*	Ia.
Killdeer*	Ia.	Red-breasted Sapsucker	Ore.
Ringed Plover	Ia.	Pileated Woodpecker	Ia.
Snowy Plover	Ore.	California Woodpecker	Ore.
Bob-white*	Ia.	Red-bellied Woodpecker*	Ia.
Mountain Partridge*	Ore. and Cal.	Flicker*	Ia.
Valley Partridge*	Cal.	Red-shafted Flicker*	Ore.
Sooty Grouse*	Ore.	Northwestern Flicker*	Ore.
Ruffed Grouse*	Ia.	Whip-poor-will*	Ia.
Oregon Ruffed Grouse*	Ore.	Nighthawk*	Ia.
Prairie Hen*	Ia.	Western Nighthawk*	Ore.
Sage Grouse	Ore.	Ruby-throated Hummingbird*	Ia.
Wild Turkey	Ia.	Allen's Hummingbird	Ore.
Band-tailed Pigeon	Ore.	Calliope Hummingbird*	Ore.
Passenger Pigeon*	Ia.	Kingbird*	Ia.
Mourning Dove	Ia.	Arkansas Kingbird*	Ore.
Ground Dove	Fla.	Crested Flycatcher*	Ia.
Turkey Vulture*	Ia.	Ash-throated Flycatcher*	Ore.
Black Vulture	Fla.	Phoebe*	Ia.
Swallow-tailed Kite*, 29 eggs.....	Ia.	Say's Phoebe	Ore.
Marsh Hawk*	Ia.	Black Phoebe	Cal.
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Ia.	Olive-sided Flycatcher*	Ia.
Cooper's Hawk*	Ia.	Wood Pewee*	Ia.
American Goshawk	Ia.	Yellow-billed Flycatcher*	Ia.
Red-tailed Hawk*	Ia.	Traill's Flycatcher*	Ia.
Western Red-tailed*	Cal.	Prairie Horned Lark*	Ia.
Red-shouldered Hawk*	Ia.	Ruddy Horned Lark	Ore.
Large Hawk taken near Pomona,		American Magpie	Ore.
Cal., with egg not identified, prob-		Blue Jay*	Ia.
ably Harris Hawk.		Steller's Jay*	Ore.
Swainson's Hawk*	Ia.	Black-headed Jay	Ore.
Swainson's Hawk in black phase.	Cal.	California Jay*	Ore.
Broad-winged Hawk	Ia.	Northern California Jay*	Ore.
Golden Eagle	Ia.	Oregon Jay	Ore.
American Osprey	Ia.	Rocky Mountain Jay	Ore.
Bald Eagle	Ia.	American Raven*	Cal.
Prairie Falcon	Ia.	American Crow*	Ia.
Fuck Hawk*	Ia.	Northwest Crow*	Ore.
Pigeon Hawk	Ia.	Cobolink*	Ia. and Ore.
Richardson's Merlin	Ia.	Cowbird*	Ia.
American Sparrow Hawk*	Ia.	Yellow-headed Blackbird*	Ia.
Desert Sparrow Hawk	Cal.	Red-winged Blackbird*	Ia.
American Barn Owl*	Ia.	Northwestern Red-wing*	Ore.
American Long-eared Owl	Ia.	Bicolored Blackbird*	Ore.
Short-eared Owl	Ia.	Meadowlark*	Ia.
Eurrowing Owl*	Ore.	Western Meadowlark*	Ore.
California Pigmy Owl*	Ore.	Hooded Oriole	Cal.
Road-runner	Cal.	Orchard Oriole*	Ia.
Barred Owl*	Ia.	Baltimore Oriole*	Ia.
Saw-whet Owl	Ia.	Bullock's Oriole*	Cal.
Northwest Saw-whet Owl	Ore.	Rusty Blackbird*	Ia.
Screech Owl*	Ia.	Brewer's Blackbird*	Ore.
Kennicott's Screech Owl*	Ore.	Purple Grackle*	Ia.
Great Horned Owl*	Ia.	Boat-tailed Grackle	Fla.
Western Horned Owl	Ore.	Evening Grosbeak	Ia.
California Cuckoo*	Ore.	Western Evening Grosbeak	Ore.
Yellow-billed Cuckoo*	Ia.	Rocky Mountain Pine Grosbeak	Ore.
Black-billed Cuckoo*	Ia.	Purple Finch	Ia.
Belted Kingfisher*	Ia.	California Purple Finch	Ore.
Hairy Woodpecker*	Ia.	Cassin's Purple Finch	Ore.
Harrie's Woodpecker*	Ore.	House Finch*	Cal.

American Crossbill	Ia.	Cape May Warbler.....	Ia.
White-winged Crossbill	Ia.	Yellow Warbler*.....	Ia.
Redpoll	Ia.	Black-throated Blue Warbler.....	Ia.
American Goldfinch*	Ia.	Myrtle Warbler	Ia. and Ore.
Western Goldfinch*	Ore.	Audubon's Warbler	Ore.
Arkansas Goldfinch*	Ore.	Magnolia Warbler	Ia.
Pine Siskin	Ore.	Cerulean Warbler	Ia.
Snowflake	Ia.	Chestnut-sided Warbler	Ia.
Lapland Longspur	Ia.	Bay-breasted Warbler	Ia.
Harris Sparrow	Ia.	Black-poll Warbler	Ia.
White-crowned Sparrow	Ia.	Blackburnian Warbler	Ia.
Gambel's Sparrow	Ore.	Black-throated Gray Warbler*	Ore.
Oregon Vesper Sparrow*	Ore.	Black-throated Green Warbler.....	Ia.
Western Savannah Sparrow*	Ore.	Townsend's Warbler	Ore.
Grasshopper Sparrow*	Ia.	Pine Warbler	Ia.
Bell's Sparrow	Cal.	Oven-bird*	Ia.
Sage Sparrow*	Ore.	Water Thrush*	Ia.
Rusty Song Sparrow*	Ore.	Kentucky Warbler	Ia.
Clay-colored Sparrow	Ore.	Mourning Warbler	Ore.
Merrill's Song Sparrow.....	Ore.	Macgillivray's Warbler*	Ore.
Gambel's Sparrow	Ore.	Maryland Yellow-throat*	Ia.
Lincoln's Sparrow	Ore.	Pacific Yellow-throat*	Ore.
Swampy Sparrow	Ia.	Yellow-breasted Chat*	Ia.
Lot Sparrow	Ia.	Long-tailed Chat*	Ore.
Townsend's Lot Sparrow.....	Ore.	Wilson's Warbler	Ia.
Slate-colored Lot Sparrow*, Breeds		Pileated Warbler	Ia.
.....	Ore.	Canadian Warbler	Ia.
Towhee*	Ia.	American Redstart*	Ia.
Oregon Towhee*	Ore.	American Pipit	Ia.
Canon Towhee*	Cal.	American Dipper*	Ore.
Green-tailed Towhee	Ore.	Sage Thrasher	Ore.
Cardinal	Ia.	Curved-billed Thrasher	Cal.
Rose-breasted Grosbeak*	Ia.	Cactus Wren*	Cal.
Black-headed Grosbeak*	Ore.	Rock Wren*	Ore.
Western Blue Grosbeak.....	Cal.	Seattle Wren*	Ore.
Indigo Bunting*	Ia.	House Wren*	Ia.
Lazuli Bunting*	Ore.	Parkman's Wren	Ore.
Dickcissel*	Ia.	Winter Wren	Ia.
Western Tanager*	Ore.	Western Winter Wren.....	Ore.
Scarlet Tanager*	Ia.	Short-billed Marsh Wren*	Ia.
Purple Martin*	Ia.	Long-billed Marsh Wren*	Ia.
Tree Swallow*	Ia.	Brown Creeper	Ia.
Violet-green Swallow*	Ore.	California Creeper*.....	Ore.
Bohemian Waxwing	Ia.	White-breasted Nut-hatch*	Ia.
Cedar Waxwing*	Ia. and Ore.	Slender-billed Nut-hatch	Ore.
Northern Shrike	Ia.	Red-breasted Nut-hatch *.....	Ore.
White-rumped Shrike*	Ore.	Tufted Titmouse	Ia.
California Shrike	Ore.	Plain Titmouse	Ore.
Red-eyed Vireo*	Ia.	Chickadee*	Ia.
Warbling Vireo*	Ia.	Oregon Chickadee	Ore.
Blue-headed Vireo	Ia.	Chestnut-backed Chickadee*	Ore.
Western Warbling Vireo	Ore.	Mountain Chickadee	Ore.
Yellow-throated Vireo*	Ia.	Bush-Tit*	Ore.
Anthony's Vireo*	Ore.	Golden-crowned Kinglet	Ia.
Bell's Vireo*	Ia.	Western Golden-crowned Kinglet.....	Ore.
Black and White Warbler.....	Ia.	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Ia. and Ore.
Blue-winged Warbler	Ia.	Blue-gray Gnatcatcher*	Ia.
Golden-winged Warbler	Ia.	Western Gnatcatcher*	Cal.
Nashville Warbler	Ia.	Townsend's Solitaire	Ore.
Orange-crowned Warbler	Ia.	Wood Thrush*	Ia.
Lutescent Warbler*	Ore.	Wilson's Thrush	Ia.
Tennessee Warbler	Ore.	Russet Backed Thrush	Ore.
Parula Warbler	Ia.	Olive-backed Thrush	Ia.

Dwarf Hermit Thrush	Ore.
Western Robin*	Ore.
Varied Thrush	Ore.
Bluebird*	Ia.
Western Bluebird*	Ore.
Mountain Bluebird	Ore.

George D. Peck,
Salem, Ore.

The foregoing list is truly remarkable. To have collected 392 varieties of North American birds, and the eggs of 145 of them is wonderful.

We have often wondered why more Oologists did not give their brethren information as to the number of different varieties of eggs which they have taken. If they would all do this, we wonder who would be at the head of the class. We have personal acquaintance with one collector who has taken more than 300 different varieties named in the A. O. U. List.—Editor.

BIRDS OF NORTH HERO ISLAND, VERMONT

By Chandler M. Brooks

During the summer of 1920 I had the great privilege of spending my vacation at Camp Abnaki, North Hero Island, Vermont. While I was there many of my leisure moments were spent studying birds.

Camp Abnaki is the Vermont State Y. M. C. A. Boys' Camp. Its situation is very fine because it affords an opportunity for studying both land and water birds. During my stay at the camp I took many hikes to different parts of the island and, by the time my vacation was over, I was quite familiar with the surrounding region.

North Hero Island is one of the largest islands in the northern part of Lake Champlain. It is about ten miles in length and varies in width from a few feet to over a mile. North Hero is an agricultural island, but it has quite a few patches of woods. Red and white oaks, beeches, Carolina and big-toothed poplars, quaking aspens and red and white cedars are common. Along the shore of the lake white, gray and yellow birches grow. Most

of the woodland is in the southern part of the island, near the location of our camp, and, consequently, most of the birds are found there.

The following birds are the ones I saw during my stay on North Hero Island, from June 28th to August 21st, 1920.

Herring Gull. Common. Not found nesting on this island, but breed abundantly on other islands in Lake Champlain.

Wild Ducks, sp.?

Great Blue Heron. Common. Seen many times fishing in shallow bays.

Spotted Sandpiper. Frequently seen running along shore of lake.

Bob-white. Not very common. A few small flocks observed out in the open fields.

Marsh Hawk. One seen flying from field below camp.

Red-shouldered Hawk. I saw several flying and one was found dead near a wheat field.

Screech Owl. Fairly common. Seen flying late in the evening and often heard at night.

Belted Kingfisher. Not as common as in many such favorable sections. Observed a few when I was out on the lake in a boat.

Downy Woodpecker. One built its nest in an old tree near camp.

Northern Flicker. Common. Nesting near camp.

Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Saw only two during the summer.

Kingbird. Built its nest in a white oak tree on our camp-grounds. The old birds carried many kinds of insects to the young.

Crested Flycatcher. Three were seen feeding in some oak trees. The call of this species was heard several times.

Least Flycatcher. Quite common.

Blue Jay. This common bird was occasionally seen.

Crow. Common. Seen several times feeding in corn fields.

Starling. Not very common on the

island, but are becoming more so every year.

Bobolink. Quite common. Nesting in hay-fields on parts of the island.

Cowbird. These birds were very abundant, especially so during the month of August. They were in flocks which sometimes contained two or three hundred individuals. I found a Song Sparrow's nest which contained a Cowbird's egg. When the eggs hatched the Cowbird grew so much faster than the Sparrows that it soon began to crowd them from the nest.

Red-winged Blackbird. Nested in swamp near our lake.

Meadow-lark. A pair of these birds had their nest in our base-ball field, but it was destroyed by a mowing machine.

Baltimore Oriole. Common. They were nesting, but I did not succeed in locating the nesting sites.

Bronzed Grackle. Frequently seen.

Goldfinch. This species was observed a number of times.

Vesper Sparrow. I saw a few along the roads.

White-throated Sparrow. Very common in July, but few were seen in August. Males in full song in early part of summer. One morning, while on a camping trip to Pinnacle Mountain in southern Canada, I heard a White-throat singing at four o'clock, some time before the other birds had awakened.

Chipping Sparrow. One of these birds had a nest in a small elm tree near my tent. Boys would hang their towels on the try to dry in the sun, but the old birds were so quiet that none of the boys knew that there was a bird's nest there. The old birds soon hatched their young and they flew away.

Song Sparrow. Three nests of this species were found, all of them being in red cedar trees, and two of them were not more than three feet from the ground.

Towhee. Common. Often seen scratching in the leaves.

Purple Martin. These fine birds were very common and nearly every farm-house on the island had a Martin box. All these boxes seemed to be occupied by the Martins. Only one was observed that had been taken over by the English Sparrows.

Cliff Swallow. They built their nests very close to a door through which several hundred boys passed each day.

Barn Swallow. Abundant. One barn that I visited had a fine colony living there. The thing that interested me the most was the way the birds got into the barn. A bird would come at the barn, at top speed, and dart through a hole about as big as a silver dollar.

Tree Swallow. Very common. Evidently nesting near camp, though I found no nest locations.

Cedar Waxwing. Seen feeding on service berries (Amelanchier). One pair had a nest in a red cedar tree near a path. The old birds did not seem to be afraid of the boys as they passed by.

Warbling Vireo. Seen and heard many times. Fed mostly in poplar trees.

Yellow Warbler. A few were seen.

Maryland Yellow-Throat. Common. In a swamp, near our camp-grounds, this was a common species.

Myrtle Warbler. One was seen in August in a red cedar tree.

Redstart. Seen feeding about the cedars.

Catbird. Common. One nest was found in a red cedar tree.

Brown Thrasher. Though it was seen frequently, I would not call it a common species on the island.

White-breasted Nuthatch. A few noted.

Chickadee. Fairly common.

Hermit Thrush. Very common.

Their songs could be heard at almost any hour of the day.

Robin. Several Robins built their nests on the beams of the Long House.

Bluebird. Common. Observed nesting in hollow limb of an old tree.

MORE HONECKER FRAUD!

We have recently examined at the request of Ward's Natural Science Establishment, Rochester, New York, two eggs. One an alleged Ivory Billed Woodpecker, with a data reciting it was collected by Louis Honecker, near Memphis, Tennessee, May 1st, 1874, being one of a set of five eggs taken from a nest from an elm tree, 31 feet from the ground to which is added this very sufficient statement, "I sold 4 eggs and the male skin for \$25.00, 12 years ago. Jos. F. Honecker, 811 W. 3rd Ave., Spokane, Wash."

The other being an alleged egg of the Carolina Paroquet purporting to have been "Collected by Louis Honecker, near Memphis, Tennessee, being one of a set (the data is blurred having been changed from 4 to 3) but all were broken except this one in 'decenting' the sycamore tree 32 feet from the ground" to which is added this significant statement "no description of nests given. I sold the skin of the female paroquet 12 years ago at \$15.00. Jos. F. Honecker, 811 W. 3rd Ave., Spokane, Wash."

It is needless to say that an inspection of these specimens, shows that neither of them are what they purport to be.

Just how this fraudulent gentleman manages to keep out of the penitentiary as the result of prosecution for using the United States' mails to carry on his fraudulent practice passes all understanding.

R M. Barnes.

WILD DUCK SPEED

The Mallard jog along at the rate of 120 miles per hour. Black Ducks hit it up to 70 miles, Eiders 80 miles, and the Golden Eye hustles about at the rate of 90 miles per hour.

Who can tell me how a Woodpecker gets out of the hole he is making in a tree for a nest? Does he back out before he gets it large enough to turn around in, especially when it extends down ten or fifteen inches before the enlargement at the bottom, besides the hallway, before it turns down. Does he cling to the sides and work head down?

How do ducks breathe when they dive and feed deep under water?

How does the sentinel make himself heard immediately in a flock of thousands of birds, when most of them are calling and feeding and making a deafening noise?

Who can tell me why the most plentiful birds, everything considered, are usually the ones who lay only one or two or three eggs at a setting?

Geo. W. H. vos Burgh.

SOME SUMMER BIRDS OF THE WISCONSIN WOODS

During the summer of 1920 a friend and I spent six weeks, from August 20th to October 1st, in a small lumber camp in Langlade County, Wisconsin, about 286 miles northwest of Chicago. I was working during the week and it rained five out of the seven Sundays I was there so my observations were not as extensive as I had hoped for; however, I made a list of some 46 birds, a few of which were new to me.

The country there was hilly and most of it covered with second growth timber of maple, poplar, beech, bass-

wood, elm and hemlock. Some of the land was clear but most of my time was spent in the wooded area. There were also some burnt over areas covered with a tangled mass of raspberry and blackberry bushes which hid many fallen, half-burned logs and trees and made traveling in such places full of unexpected falls.

About a mile and half east of camp was a small lake fed by springs and with probably an under-ground outlet. Still farther east, about three miles, flowed the Wolf River. To find the lake from the camp seemed easy but to find the camp from the lake was another thing, as we found out. The first time we tried this we had to hike to the river to get our bearings. About a mile of this was through berry bushes where we made a meal off the last of the raspberries but left a good deal of our clothes in exchange. We reached camp about nine that night. The second and last time the setting sun found us still climbing hills expecting to see camp over each new crest. Fortunately we had some matches so built a large fire and spent the night taking turns sleeping and watching the fire while the Owls asked us or each other "Who" we were. In the morning after some more climbing, we found an old, blazed section line, which eventually took us to camp about ten o'clock, hungry, but none the worse for our adventure

A list of birds seen follows:

1. Ruffed Grouse. These birds seemed rather plentiful, due, perhaps, to the closed season which has been and still is in effect.
2. Cooper Hawk. Saw two of these birds about a brush pile trying to catch some White Throats.
3. Red-shouldered Hawk. Quite a few noted flying over the woods.
4. Barred Owl.
5. Screech Owl.
6. Great Horned Owl. The Screech Owl was only heard a few times but the other two could be heard every

night. It seemed as if five or six would get together and each try to out-do the other in making noise.

7. Black-billed Cuckoo. A few seen near the clearing.

8. Hairy Woodpecker.

9. Downy Woodpecker. Both very common in the open and partly cleared woods, especially about old brush piles.

10. Yellow-bellied Sapsucker. Only a few seen in the woods.

11. Northern Pileated Woodpecker. Saw many signs but few birds during the first part of my stay. During the later part, however, I saw five or six birds every day. Their call reminds one of the Flickers only it is much louder. The lumber-jacks call them "Log cocks" and claim it a sign of rain when they call. They did seem to call more on cloudy days.

12. Red-headed Woodpecker.

13. Northern Flicker. Both common in the clearings. None seen in the woods, however.

14. Ruby-throated Humming bird. One seen around some wild trumpet vine near the river.

15. Kingbird. Common in the clearings.

16. Wood Pewee. A few seen in the woods.

17. Blue Jay.

18. Crow. Fairly common everywhere.

19. Meadowlark.

20. Bronzed Grackle. A few noted flying over. Probably more common in the clearings.

21. American Crossbill. I was rather surprised to find a large flock of these birds about one of the camps. A number of times I was able to get within a few feet of them and found many immature birds. I could get no information from the men about camp but believe they may have bred there.

22. Goldfinch. Common about the weed grown clearings.

23. Pine Siskin. Saw a number of these birds. They were very tame

and came close to camp; probably bred there.

24. Vesper Sparrow. Common in the slashings.

25. White-throated Sparrow. These birds were migrating and large flocks were seen every day.

26. Junco. Also very common about brush piles.

27. Towhee. Seemed to be fairly common.

28. Rose-breasted Grosbeak

29. Scarlet Tanager. Fairly common about the edge of the woods. I saw many interesting phases of the plumage change in the Tanagers.

30. Cedar Waxwing. Large flocks seen about the lake.

31. Red-eyed Vireo. Frequently heard singing in the woods during the first part of my stay.

32. Black and White Warbler. Rather common about the edge of the woods.

33. Golden-winged Warbler. Only one seen.

34. Northern Parula Warbler. Small flock seen.

35. Black-throated Blue Warbler.

36. Black-throated Green Warbler. The later very common and in each flock a few Black-throated Blues.

37. Palm Warbler.

38. Redstart. A few of each seen.

39. Catbird. Some noted in the clearings.

40. Winter Wren. A few seen in the woods.

41. Brown Creeper. Common in the open woods.

42. White-breasted Nuthatch. Common about the edge of the woods.

43. Chickadee. Very common.

44. Golden-crowned Kinglet. Only a few seen.

45. Bluebird. A few noted flying over.

46. Robin. Common everywhere.

A number of other birds were seen but did not properly identify them. Some ducks seen on the lake may

have been Mergansers.

The picture shows two limbs which rubbing against each other, had grown together and their ends rotting off, form a circle.

Colin Campbell Sanborn.

Chicago, Ill.

ORNITHOLOGICAL QUESTIONS

What is an oologist?

Who was the first oologist?

Do Vultures carry disease?

Can Owls see in daylight?

Does vibration affect birds' eggs?

Do Kingfishers eat Salamanders?

Does the Osprey ever take dead fish?

Why does the Crow fly in a straight line?

How many eggs constitute a set of the Cowbird?

Are there any Labrador Duck's eggs in existence?

How many birds are named after States? Cities?

Do egg-collectors destroy more birds than cats?

What a wondrous bill has the Pelican. Why?

What is the average length of a Kingfisher's burrow?

Why does the Chippy line its nest with horsehairs?

Can the Crow (or any other passerine bird) be taught to talk?

Why are the Bobolinks called Reed and Rice-birds?

What specie of birds sing (not call out) at night?

Does the Whip-poor-will ever fly about during daylight?

Does the Pileated Woodpecker ever lay more than four eggs?

Does the Blackburnian Warbler ever nest in deciduous trees?

Do birds shun pestilent places or localities affected with plagues?

How many Great Auk's eggs are there known to science?

When and where was the last Heath Hen killed in the Middle Atlantic States?

Why are the city House Sparrows darker colored than their country relations?

How many varieties of North American birds' eggs are unknown to science?

Why does the Crested Flycatcher adorn her nest with a snakeskin? Is it feminine vanity?

Why does the Song Sparrow build a larger nest in a bush than on the ground?

Why does the Rough-winged Swallow nest in a circular burrow and the Bank Swallow in an elliptical one?

Who destroy more bird-life, the gunners or egg-collectors?

Why does the law allow gunners to murder thousands of game-birds annually and refuse to permit an Oologist to collect their eggs?

Richard F. Miller.

It appears to be quite the fad at present for prominent men to issue a questionnaire for the purpose of testing the knowledge of their fellow man, and sometimes, witness; the recent performance of Thomas A. Edison, the questionnaire is issued for the purpose of estimating whether an applicant for employment has the proper mental foundation. We assume that one or the other of the above causes moved our friend Miller to issue the foregoing. Whatever may have been the moving cause, we wonder how many Oologists and Ornithologists would grade in answering the above questions. They are certainly an interesting array.—Editor.

A BIOGRAPHY OF THE AMERICAN CROW

(Continued from August issue)

They often interrupt Hawks when they are peacefully engaged in hunting their dinner, and while the Hawk usually seeks relief by flight it will occasionally give battle. These encounters often last for five or ten minutes; the combatants swoop at

each other, right themselves and repeat the blows. When there are several Crows, the blows are dealt chiefly by them, and the Hawk does not have much chance to retaliate. Some of these bouts appear rather playful for a time, but the persistency of the Crows show that they are in earnest. After the Crow has pursued his hated enemy for a long ways, and he has decided that the glory of victory belongs to him, you will see him returning home flying in wide circles, in an exact imitation of the Hawk he has just chased. The Crow seldom sails, except when about to alight, and when "showing off" in this amusing manner. Once in a while the battle has a different conclusion; another Hawk appears upon the scene, and the Crows, exhibiting cowardice, beat as hasty a retreat as their wings will allow. The Kingbird, in a moment, can make a Crow (and Hawk as well) flee as fast as his wings can carry him. I believe the Crow is really a coward at heart.

On several occasions I have seen Crows pursue small animals. One spring morning, as I was riding along a country road near Buffalo Creek, I saw two Crows chasing a gray tree-squirrel. The squirrel seemed to be getting the worst of it, for when he scampered up a tree the Crows easily followed him, picking him in a lively fashion; when he ran along the ground or dodged behind logs the Crows were at his heels, and in spite of all his maneuvering to shake them off, they were still hot in pursuit when lost to view. I could only conjecture what the Crows' motive was; perhaps they were having a little fun at the squirrel's expense; maybe when they saw this likely-looking squirrel, thoughts of a dinner entered their heads; or, it is possible they were doing it in a spirit of revenge, for the squirrel is a notorious nest robber.

At another time, when driving along

the same road, I chanced to look ahead and there I saw a Crow that was seemingly doing some kind of a dance. He was looking interestedly into the grass, and at short intervals would spring up into the air several inches. As I neared the place, the Crow flew away and I discovered a young brown weasel vainly trying to escape over a bank too high for him, which bordered the road. The Crow acted as though he would like to capture the weasel but not knowing just how to go about it. I have also known Crows to chase rabbits in the winter.

In concluding, it may be well to add a few notes on the Crow's nesting. In this portion of the Mississippi valley, where the trees ordinarily grow to a height of from 35 to 50 feet, the Crows build their nests in the topmost branches of them, where they naturally command a good view of the surrounding country. Near my home there is a grove of tamaracks where formerly Crows nested in large numbers. They no longer nest there, and a farmer told me that the Green Herons, which nested there at the same time, drove them out, but whether this is the real or merely the imaginary cause of their departure, I am unable to say. The Green Herons do not nest there any more either, and I think this may be due to tree squirrels, which also reside there, robbing their nests and thereby discouraging them. The Crow's nest is a huge mass of coarse sticks, with a nest, bowl-shaped cavity in the middle, which is lined with bark and grass roots. The eggs are an uncertain green in color with brownish-black markings. The young, during the first stages of their development, are very uninviting objects; they are naked except for a few pin feathers, and the mouth seems to be the most conspicuous part of them. The parents are

very quiet when near the nest, and you usually learn of its proximity by the old birds flying quickly out of the tree when alarmed at your approach.

For centuries the crow has been accepted as mankind's enemy; he has been classed as a base villain and as a black-hearted marauder, but I sincerely believe that in spite of all that has been and will be said and done, he will live on in undiminished numbers, enjoying man's society—often at his expense—until the end of time.

Fred J. Pierce,
Winthrop, Iowa.

Delos Hatch, of Oakfield Wisconsin, that grand old man of Oology, celebrated his 79th birthday recently with two social affairs and he still lives in spite of the two big feeds, something of course he could not do at his age except for the fact that he has always been a through going Oologist.

R. M. Barnes.

Mr. J. R. Mann, of Arlington, Mass., has passed away at his home. He was for many years a subscriber and a firm friend of *The Oologist*.

NOTES

This summer I noted what I have termed the swinging song of the Humming bird. In this evolution the bird described a half arc varying from 15 to 50 feet in diameter and in a plane perpendicular to the earth. This flight is performed very rapidly for one or two minutes with an incessant twitter the while.

I noted this evolution during a week's time only, and am at loss to know why I have never seen it before, and can find no reference to similar actions in books at hand.

Lyle De Vern Miller,
East Claridon, Ohio.

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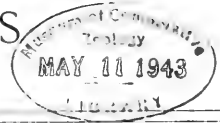
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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY



VOL. XXXVIII. No. 10.

ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 1, 1921.

WHOLE No. 412



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

I will purchase for cash entire collections of North American Bird Skins, mounted birds and birds eggs or odd lots of the same, which I still need to complete my series. Send list and prices. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ills.

WANTED—Sets of eggs containing abnormal specimens, such as runts, monstrocities, abnormally marked or unmarked, albinistic and malformed specimens. Those with good data only wanted to further my studies of oological abnormalities. Write me when you have anything of this nature. Best cash price given. J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Penna.

WANTED—One large upright egg cabinet with large drawers, also want best Burr Drills, have stamps to trade for eggs. Arthur Blocher, Amboy, Ills.

FOR SALE ONLY—A-1 Mounted Birds. Group of 3 solitary sandpipers, \$10. Rare hybrid of black duck and mallard \$25; Scarlet tan. \$3.50; Mourning dove \$3.50; Savanna Sparrow \$2.50; Chest. Col. Longspur \$3; Snow Bunt. \$2.50; Hooded Merganser \$5; Wilson Snipe \$3. Books—N. A. Early Tertiary Bryozoa, Canu and Bassler, 1920, 2 parts. Text 870 pages, Plates 162 pages; Paper covers new, pages uncut \$10. INSECT CASES—8x10x2½ Glass tops. Need fresh paper linings, 6 for \$4. Have 12. SHELLS—Collection of 345 species from all over world. Many rare ones. All correctly identified price \$10. PAUL G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

Fine pair of skins, Band Tailed Pigeon, Male and Female for best offer eggs in sets, or skins of Warbler's family. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

I have following species in good sets to exchange: 295, 325, 327, 346, 352, 355, 419, 421, 482, 498d, 513a, 585b, 594a, 602, 639, 641, 697, 759a. Thos H. Jackson, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pennsylvania.

FOR SALE—My entire egg collection at once. Sets 85, 185, 264, 330, 343, 352a, 355, 356a, 357b, 416, 417, 478b, 568, 717a, etc. Singles 55, 60, 254; Ducks, Geese, etc. Also few fine skins. Oologist Vols. XI, XII; Condor Vol. XX; Nidologist, Vol. II, Nos. 4-8; Vol. III, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 9. Robert F. Backus, Florence, Colo. Box 362.

PHOTOS WANTED—A few striking pictures (glossy) for illustrative purposes, of a Gt. Horned Owl's nest with young; Gt. Blue Heron colony; also Horned Owl and Herons separate. Send descriptions or prints. State price. R. Fuller, R.F.D. 1, White Plains, N. Y.

I would like to get all the subscriptions that you have for all magazines before Christmas. Watch for my advertisement in November. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

FOR SALE For Cash—Auk, Vols. XI to XXI, complete; Vol. XXII, Nos. 1, 2, 4; Vol. XXIII to XXV complete, Vol. XXVII and XXIX complete. Forestry and Irrigation, Vol. XIV Nos. 4, 6 to 12; Conservation xv No. 1 to 9, 11 and 12, Bluebird, Vol. IX No. 3. Louis S. Kohler, R.F.D. 2, Patterson, N. J.

FOR SALE—Mounted Texas Horned Frogs .65 cents each. Skinned ready to mount, 40 cents. Add one to your collection. Sent postpaid. Ramon Graham Taxidermy and Tanning Co. Box 215 Polytechnic, Ft. Worth, Texas.

WANTED—Eggs of Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 102, 109, 110, 112, 113, 257, 270, 272. Wandering Albatross. *Mazagucus conspicillatus*. For exchange, 92.1, 96, 96.1, 111. *Puffinus Carniepes Oestrata* Solandrik *Phaethon rubicandus*. Roland Archer, Rycroft, Lyndhurst, Victoria, Australia.

WANTED—Cash or Exchange: Bent's Life History of N. A. Birds; also Chimney Swallows nest in good condition. Offer Bendire's V. L. newly bound, etc. Harold E. Meyers, Medina, N. Y.

FOR SALE—South American Butterflies in papers, for trays and other fancy work, mixed, \$1.80 per dozen. If wanted spread add 5 cents per fly. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn.

WANTED—The following Government Bulletins by W. W. Cooke: Distribution and Migratory of North American Warblers, Distribution and Migratory of North American Shorebirds, Distribution and Migration of North American Rails, Distribution of American Egrets. Some new facts about the Migration of Birds, Migratory Movements of Birds in Relation to the Weather. Cash or exchange in other bulletins. Write at once to Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

FOR EXCHANGE—Personally collected sets of the following species: A. O. U. 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 70, 74, 80, 198, 199, 319, 320a, 329, 342, 387, 421, 488, 498g, 513a, 563, 573, 593, 604, 612, 622a, 633, 703a, 704, 705, 706, 707, 731, 736, 761 and 766. What have you? Many species desired in my collection. J. R. Pemberton, 729 Kennedy Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

I have a fine collection of Indian relics I wish to dispose of for cash the collection consists of about four hundred fine arrow and spear points, skinning stones, hatchets, pendants, knives, hammer stones, and a number of very fine other specimens, the entire collection numbers about five hundred pieces in all, have complete data with every piece, \$100 will take the lot. Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Michigan.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 10. ALBION, N. Y., OCT. 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 412

Owned and Published Monthly, by R. M. Barnes, Albion, N. Y., and Laxon, Ill.

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December-issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

Entered as second-class matter December 21, 1908, at the post office at Albion, N. Y., under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

24,034



THERE will undoubtedly be a very great revival of interest in Oology following the publication of the new price list, January 1, 1922. We wish each Oologist would select a likely young man or boy in their territory and interest him in THE OÖLOGIST and in the New Price List. Oology is due for a boom in 1922. The great war is over and sources of supply for specimens long closed are again open. Many younger collectors are beginning again and a general renewal of interest is apparent. Why not put your shoulder to the wheel, dear reader? You cannot collect alone and exchange with yourself. There are many deaths among Oologists. Others grow old, and a few, very few, lose interest. The way almost all eminent Ornithologists have begun is by collecting birds' eggs. The young collector of today will some day be in charge of the great collections in our Museums, with a high scientific rank and a liberal salary. Do you want to start one of your young friends on this road?—Editor.

THE BARN SWALLOW

By H. H. Johnson, Pittsfield, Maine

I just wish you brother ornithologists could step into my barn some bright sunny morning about the middle of May. Billy Swallow is almost beside himself with happiness. He is so full of song he is nearly bursting. His song is full of life and gladness, a rollicking, joyous song. You see he has arrived at the old homestead where he was born, to spend the summer. Billy is one of about twenty-five pairs of Barn Swallows which inhabit this barn each summer, "lo these many years." The barn loft is an auditory and the horse-fork rope a platform; unlike the Song Sparrow he does not hold to one position while singing, but faces all directions; first to the right then to the left he throws his voice, possibly thinking to impress some demure, but lovely lady, at his back, he turns around, all the time singing; but this is not enough, Billy cannot contain himself thus, so up and around and around the loft he dashes, singing his very best the while. You must not think he is alone in this, for he is but one of several others giving this grand serenade. After a grand full-voiced chorus there may be a pause, a silence, then some joyous one starts a solo of love soon joined by a full voiced chorus, and the part is gone all over again. But at last the loft is too small to hold the joy they must express, so out through the big barn doors they dash each in a different direction to express to all out doors the joy of living; he dives, skims, sideslips, abruptly rises, performing many acrobatic stunts of the wing, he still pours forth this rollicking song. This barn has been the summer home of Billy and his ancestors for more than seventy-five years. Some years more Swallows return to nest than others, since there is a season occasionally

when the nests are not all occupied; others, every old nest is repaired and new ones built, but twenty-five pairs would be about the average. The greater part of them raise two broods each season. Each brood consisting of from four to six young the first hatch and four to five the second. The mortality is not great among those of the first broods; sometimes we have a cold rain or hail storm which chills the young who are yet weak of wing and unable to reach shelter in time and they die of exposure. Of the second brood there are more deaths since these arrive during my haying operations, then the barn is mowed full of hay to the very peak of the roof; while I try to give the parents a chance to reach their young, which they will do though we be working within a few feet of the nest; sometimes a nest is forsaken, or a cat may reach the nest from the hay. This they are unable to do when the first brood is hatched, the hay not then in the barn. An average number of 150 to 200 young Barn Swallows live and migrate from this barn each year; still the number returning each spring does not increase. What becomes of the others? In the spring the male arrives first, about the last of April (April 26, 1920) but within a few days the females are present and then commences the full voiced chorus I have mentioned above. I am unable to tell from their actions if they are paired on arrival or do so afterward. Everything is as happy and joyous as need be; no fighting as you see among the male Tree Swallows and Bluebirds.

Nest building and repair of old nests commences; old nests loosen and fall, but I have never known of a new nest or one which had been repaired to do so. In gathering mud for nest building or repairs the Barn Swallow picks his mud; he tries to get that which is the right consistency, then tempers it by

working the mud in its bill mixing it with saliva if need be, forming it into small balls which show to a certain extent even after being made a part of the nest. The frame of the roof of my barn is similar to many others in this state; it consists of one rafter to each beam, these rafters being connected by what are called ribs. These ribs are made of round poles smoothed on one side. The rafters are 6x6 and are notched every four feet to receive the ends of the ribs which are laid with the smooth side next to the roof boards; each rib then makes a shelf and on this shelf are built the nests of the Barn Swallow, which may be built any where along the twelve foot length of the rib, but a favorite site is where the rib joins the rafter. There is not only a platform to place the nest on, but one side of it may be fastened to the rafter making it doubly secure; thus built nests will last for years with only slight repairs each season. The nest building or repair of nest done, then the lining which consists of some dead grasses but mainly of feathers of the barnyard fowl, and at this point the Barn Swallow comes nearer quarreling with his neighbor than at any other time. A nice soft fluffy feather floating in the air is an allurement no Swallow can withstand. I have set feathers floating just to see the Swallows dive to catch them before the feathers could drop back to the ground. Once caught the Swallow starts for home whether it be nest building time or not; if there be a little wind blowing the feather soon gets away. Billy wheels to gather in his prize but some other Swallow who has kept near has it, and he too starts for the nest. This last Swallow may or may not be able to bring the feather safely to the nest, but it often changes possession several times before it is finally placed in a nest. If it be past nest building

time the feather is used as a plaything in much the same way by the Swallows, until they tire of the game, then it is allowed to fall to the ground. The nest completed and duly lined with nice soft feathers there is a little vacation coming to Billy while the female deposits the eggs. Incubation commenced he must spend some of his time on a roosting platform built of mud and near if not adjoining the nest.

The song has changed somewhat now, it is "sweeter, dearer far than ever." In about fourteen days I notice halves of egg-shells on the barn floor. Eggs commenced to hatch June 9th, 1920. Billy must go to work again, and a faithful worker he is, doing his full share of feeding those small blind, but hungry children. How fast they grow; soon they fill the nest full to overflowing. Sometimes one is pushed or crowded out, falls to the floor and is killed. At this time the nest being so full of bouncing babies that in feeding them the parents can only cling to the side of the nest. In obtaining food it is mainly secured on the wing, though I have noted several times Barn Swallows alighting on plowed ground and picking up something which I thought to be insects; it could not have been nest building material as the ground was dry. Flying insects and millers comprise the greater part of their food; a small white miller being their favorite. This miller is very plentiful in standing grass; these I drive up in quantities when I am cutting the same for hay, then I am followed by numbers of Barn Swallows (no other Swallows do this) who are catching these millers. The Swallows are so used to the noise of the machine and the movements of the horses that they course back and forth, in front and behind, all but hitting us at times in their eagerness to catch one more miller; this they do

without the least show of fear. There would be a line of Swallows with full mouths going to the nest and another line returning for more millers. Should one be near enough and it were quiet you could hear the click of the bill when the miller was caught. Sometimes grasshoppers have been thick and I have driven them up in quantities but I have yet to see a Swallow try to catch one. Soon these baby Swallows, wing feathers grown, are large enough to fly. One will see them trying out their wings in the nest, sometimes nearly lifting themselves right out when they do not intend to do so, then such a scramble to get back that some other is almost pushed out. Billy and his wife urge them to fly, telling them how smart they are; just to try it down to this beam or that long rope which sways a little but makes such a nice place to nest. Thus soon there will be five or six young Barn Swallows in a line on the rope, rather winded to be sure, there they will rest and be fed more millers; shortly to be enticed through the doorway to the green fields to find a resting place on the top-rail of the fence. "Did you ever see such children, so quick to learn." Sometimes those whose undeveloped muscles fail, fall to the ground and I pick them up and place them on some object to rest and the parents will soon come to feed them. In a few days they have gained that power of wing that they take place with many others on the telephone wire and only to be distinguished from the old by the lack of the fork in the tail. In ten or twelve days after the young are out of the nest the Barn Swallows commence to repair the nest for the second brood. The eggs, four (usually) are deposited in a few days; incubation commences and in ten to fourteen days are hatched. The male Barn Swallow sings but little now, he is far too busy

feeding the young. The care of the first brood having fallen to the male when the female deposits the eggs and incubation commences. The second brood remain in the nest about ten days, the same length of time as the first. This year, 1920, the first brood was out of the nest in seven days after hatching; twelve days thereafter repairs were being made on nests for second brood; sixteen days and more and the second brood were hatching, and in ten days thereafter the second broods were out of the nest flying. By the time the second brood are hatched those of the first hatch are taking full care of themselves and the male does his full share of feeding the young of the second brood. When the young are first hatched the old bird removes the excrement; taking it out in their bills and dropping it on the ground a rod or two away from the barn, but soon this work in addition to the feeding becomes too much for them to do and there is much fouling by excrement below the nest, though the nest itself is kept clean by the care the young use in dropping it outside the nest. After both broods become strong of wing the flocking commences and there is much sunning of both young and old, on the roof of the barn. The Swallows lying on their sides, feet on the down-side, with one wing outstretched on the uphill side of the barn roof; thus they will remain until of one accord all take wing for a short flight soon to return for another sunbath and rest. The young having gained strength enough for a sustained flight, migration commences. This takes place the last of August. About twenty miles to the south of this place there was at one time a Swallow Roost, where the Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and others of this race gathered in large numbers before further migration to the south. At sunset the Swallows gather in a

row of willow trees which are growing beside the river at this place, vast numbers of them; some assert more than thirty thousand. There they perform various evolutions; curves, spirals, countermarches, twists and turns before retiring to roost. They leave this roost each morning a little before sunrise, arising in flocks or companies at intervals of two or three minutes. The Swallows remain at this roost until the middle of September. (Auk Vol. XII, p. 48) The Barn Swallow suffers to some extent from parasites. I have found the young with large white maggots of some fly I supposed partly imbedded in the ears, nostrils and sides of the neck; when thus attacked the young fast loose strength and soon die. That insect-eating birds are of immense value to the farmer is well known and their protection is now believed to be absolutely necessary to the welfare of agriculture.

Furthermore, the health of the farmer and his family may be protected to a large extent by insect eating birds. The Barn Swallows' food consists principally of insects which fly, the common house-fly being a part of its food. That this fly often brings disease germs into the house can but be admitted.

Wilson (American Ornithology, Vol. II, pp 412) reports the Barn Swallow as feeding on house-flies. Beal (Department of Agriculture Bulletin No. 619) Food Habits of the Swallow, says "Diptera (flies) are evidently the choice food of the Barn Swallow; consisting of about 39.49 per cent of its food." It is known also that the Barn Swallow eats the Cotton Boll Weevil, Rice Weevil, Hessian Fly and other destructive insects. Its food is taken usually as it courses in swift flight over our field and the surface of the

ponds and rivers, but one cold morning this spring I found the Barn Swallow fluttering along just clearing the ground, almost alighting at times. Apparently the insects had been driven into the grass by the damp mist. How the Swallow delights in one of our warm summer rains, as a chance to take a bath; one may see numbers of them on the telephone and telegraph wires pruning and shaking out their feathers. They also bathe by dips into the surface of the water in their flight over the river; they relieve their thirst while in full flight in the same manner.

I have written of the Barn Swallow building their nests in my barn, which is the common habit of this bird in New England. They have also been found to build in various other sites especially in the unsettled portions of the United States. Coues finds them breeding in Dakota on the ground in little holes in the perpendicular face of a cutbank. Dr. Cooper finds them nesting in caves on the Pacific coast as also does Ridgway in Nevada, using the tufa-domes, a remarkable rock formation about Pyramid Lake. Brewer in 1870 writes of the rocks of Newport and Nahant as the Barn Swallows primitive breeding ground. Howe, (Birds of Rhode Island, 1899) states they continue to nest in the crevices of the vertical walls of the chasm called Purgatory.

Most writers describe the eggs of the Barn Swallow as white spotted with cinnamon, or rufous brown; occasionally lilac or lavender clouded spots about the larger end. In the fresh egg, unblown, the yolk gives it a creamy tinge, caused by the thinness of the shell. In a partly incubated egg this creamy tinge is changed to a purple shade caused by the growth of the embryo.

FREAK SPARROW EGGS

I have noticed other articles in our paper about freak eggs so every nest I came to I looked in hopes I would find some freaks and I was awarded. I happened to look in an English Sparrow's nest and although their eggs are common I always look for freaks, oddities, etc. I found in this nest three eggs so minutely dotted with black as to almost obscure the ground color. They were almost pure black and I counted them successfully and they are in my collection. They were dotted even more thickly than a Jenny Wren's egg.

Phoebe.—In my collection this spring I came across a Phoebe's nest with four spotted Phoebe eggs and one Cowbird egg. The Phoebe eggs were dotted quite thickly all over with reddish-brown. This is the first set of freak Phoebe-Cowbird I know of.

American Crow.—I even looked in all Crows' nests in the hopes of finding freaks, also Hawks' and Owls' eggs. I found a set of eggs in one nest that were almost pure blue, that was the ground color and they were almost unspotted; they only had a couple of black spots on each egg, so that brought the ground color out in bold relief. I think this would be a good plan for everybody to follow; look in every nest and you will be rewarded like I was.

Arthur Blocher,
Amboy, Ill.

Congratulations, Brother Bailey

As The Oologist is our only egg publication, I think it only right that you publish the fact that the nest and eggs of the new Seaside Sparrow from Cape Sable, Florida, *Thryospiza mirabilis*, was discovered by the writer last month, May 1921, on a trip to the Cape Sable region, Munroe County, Florida. The nest, with three eggs, which were incubated, were photographed in Situ, and the parent birds also secured; all in the presence of a reliable witness. It was a man size job, and I spent the best part of four days at it. Two trips being made by auto, 150 miles each, to say nothing of the miles of walking and hunting through hundreds of acres of marsh grass, waist high, and mosquitoes by the millions, and rattlesnakes as big as a man's upper arm. However, it's all in the day's work of a bird crank.

The description of this bird was given by Mr. A. H. Howell in the Auk, Vol. XXXVI, pages 86 and 87, 1919, who discovered it in February, 1918.

As the writer contemplates publishing a bulletin shortly, figuring several rare Florida Birds and new records, further details of this record will be given then. My companion and witness to this record was Gaines T. Wilson, who shared the hardships of the two trips, and who deserves a share of the honor.—Harold H. Bailey, Miami Beach, Florida, June 10th, 1921.

CORRECTION

H. M. Harrison, of Camden, N. J., called our attention to the fact that his article in The Oologist, Vol. XXXIII, No. 9, entitled "Pileated Woodpecker," refers to Dorchester County, Maryland, and not Camden County, New Jersey—R. M. Barnes.

R. L. Moore, of Vernon, Texas, in answer to R. F. Miller's questionnaire reports a set of five Pileated Woodpeckers in his collection taken by John A. Donald, in Wise County, Texas, April 14th, 1893, fresh.—R. M. B



Nesting Site of Gila Woodpecker at Mesa, Arizona
—Photo by E. M. La Baron.



Nest and Eggs of Inca Dove at Mesa, Arizona
—Photo by E. M. La Baron

AN OSPREY THAT SWALLOWED AN EAGLE

In July 1920 an Osprey (*pandion haliaetus*) was brought into our Chamber of Commerce by the engineer in charge of a large irrigation system near here. For some weeks it had been seen daily hunting over the lake. As no birds of the species have been known to nest within at least fifty miles of the lake it was without a doubt a long way from home. That morning he found it perched on the roof of a small chicken house in his yard and fearing it might have some sinister designs on his young chickens, had picked up a stick and walked towards it to drive it away. But it would not fly as he expected, so he struck it and knocked it off the perch to the ground where it lay without movement. Thinking he had killed it he went forward to pick it up when it jumped up and running and fluttering, started down hill towards the lake a few hundred feet away. Not wishing a supposedly badly injured bird to suffer, he rushed to the house for his gun and shot it before it reached the water, where it seemed to be bound. Knowing that our Chamber of Commerce is always on the lookout for interesting attractions for our rooms he decided to "clean" it and bring it in to us. The "cleaning" was a very thorough job as far as removing the interior mechanism of the bird went, and then it had been rolled in a newspaper and tossed in the back of the flivver for a six mile drive over a rather rough road to town. The result can better be imagined than described.

A good two hours working finally got the beautiful white underparts fairly presentable. Most of the feathers were dyed a deep red when it came to

me and thoroughly dried. My would-be taxidermist told me that the stomach of the Osprey had been absolutely empty but that he had found in the "crop" an "Eagle," a ten dollar gold piece, of the vintage of 1908, as bright as if it had just come from the mint.

I suppose the most of us naturalists and hunters and fishermen do not often have to complain of the gold we have to carry; but this poor fisher was out of luck, for he was not able either to digest it or, for some reason, to eject it and it had in all probability caused an obstruction that prevented the passage of food to the stomach and the bird when first seen was probably weak and doxy from hunger, though strangely enough, when I made the skin I found it was not in the least emaciated and apparently was in very good condition.

Many people who see the bird, now occupying a case in our exhibition room, ask me where he got it. I wish I knew. Perhaps there might be good hunting in that neighborhood. Gold "Eagles" have been decidedly scarce out here since Uncle Sam commandeered the visible gold supply a few years ago.

We know where this one went all right, for it was turned in to the Chamber of Commerce for dues and eventually for Uncle Sam

All we have is the Osprey itself. It bears a placard which is the affidavit of the donor, duly certified to before a notary, that the facts are as stated. But in spite of that it is very hard to make people believe, sometimes, that it is not a mere "fish-hawk story" instead of the fact that we know it to be.

C. S. Sharp,
Escondido, Cal

ON THE GREAT LAKES

During the month of September, 1920, I made several trips on an ore boat up the Great Lakes, and was surprised at the number of birds that becoming tired or otherwise lit on the boat usually far out of sight of land. The birds did not appear to be fatigued and evidently found it a good place for insects being constantly gleaning the deck for them. They were noted to be the most numerous during the early morning, having presumably lit on the boat at night.

The mate informed me of the capture previous of a pair of Blue Herons, which took refuge on the ship during a storm.

Sept. 6th. Pair of Barn Swallows flying high over the St. Mary's River.

The 7th. Soo Locks. Junco's and Horned Larks. The Horned Larks (Sub. Sp.?) were of a decidedly more yellowish cast than any I have ever seen before. Anyone wishing to create a new sub-specie of 'alpestris' would do well to investigate this region. For myself they are simply Horned Larks.

The 8th. This morning away out of sight of land in Lake Superior, a female Redstart came aboard and remained all day. My first hand bird recorded as a passenger.

The 9th. Lake Superior. While in sight of land a Downy Woodpecker lit on the forward spar but soon left for the mainland about ten miles away.

The 10th. Whitefish Bay. A fine male Rusty Blackbird, and also a male White-throated Sparrow, making themselves at home. At 10 a. m. we entered the Soo Locks, noted two Crows and a Song Sparrow, from the boat. How fine the rapids looked to the north of us as we were lowered 20 feet to the water level of the Soo River. These rapids were a favorite fishing place of the Indians who came from great distances to spear the

whitefish which were ascending the rapids during the spawning season.

This is certainly a beautiful region; one I would like to visit during spring. The shore line is irregular, dotted here and there with light-houses and a background of Jack Pines to complete the panorama.

The 11th. St. Mary's River. Up to this time only the Herring Gull had been noted and they were very common, one or more being constantly about the ship.

Ring-black Gulls now became equally common though they were only noted at the Lake Huron entrance. Their more slender build together with their long narrow wings with a conspicuous black-tip called my attention to them at once. All were in the dark plumage and more timid than the Herring Gulls. Their marked bills were noted on several occasions as they swung in near the boat.

As we were clearing the river and entering L. St. Clair, thousands of Common Tern and a few Black's were noted congregated on a sandbar. They made a fine sight as we steamed by until our boat had left them behind—a white streak on the blue horizon.

The 20th. Soo River. Pintail Duck. Other ducks seen but not identified.

The 22nd. Lake Erie. Pine Warbler.

The 24th. Lake Erie. Nashville Warbler.

The 25th. Lake Huron. This morning found 2 Hermit Thrush, 3 White-throated Sparrows and a Palm Warbler on board, and the following morning 3 Bobolinks and a pair of (Prairie) Horned Larks.

The 26th. Arrived at Byng Inlet at 10 o'clock. While going up the inlet we were at times but a few yards from the shore. The following birds were noted from the boat: Myrtle W., Tree Sparrows, Crows, Blue Jays, Goldfinches and, of course, the ever

present Herring Gull. As we neared the inlet I never saw anything approaching the number of Gulls which had congregated about the rocky harbor. There were literally a thousand or more in all phases of plumage and the scramble they would make when quantities of food were thrown over board. Contrary to my expectation of the Gulls of Georgian Bay, no Ring-billed Gulls were noted though they may abound in the Perry Sound region. The inhabitants informed me that the Gulls nested on islands not far away.

This concludes my notes for the season, and one in which the charm of the lake will not soon be forgotten.

Lyle De Vern Miller,
East Claridon, Ohio.

TEXAS DUCK MIGRATION NOTES

No. 2

Just as soon as the wind ceases to blow from the south and it gets still, look out for a good flight of Ducks at this season of the year, because they will come in and settle quietly ahead of the norther. Now, Mr. Wise Hunter, if you wait for the norther to arrive you are liable to get but a few Ducks. But if you are a wise bird you will look at the weather reports and see when the next norther is due, and then come out a day ahead and Ducks you will get plenty of birds if you are a good shot. During November our first Ducks were Scaup and Baldpates; few Ruddys and a surprising four or five Red Breasted Mergansers; also the beautiful Hooded Merganser showed up with the cold weather. Few Wood Ducks as usual. Two White Geese; several small bunches of the cute little wise Buffleheads which were the first observed on the lake to date. A bright, shiny thing was sighted on the water by a hunter and upon getting

close he took the silencer of his motor boat and started to turn in another direction. He said, "Oh, it's a milk can." But as he said this the milk can flew like a streak of lightning. It's nothing more than the wise little Bufflehead. He's so pretty and shiny on the water that you would think he was a tin can floating. But that's his good luck. The Mallards came in good flights for a few days, big bunches were observed in the timbered and open waters of the lake. Many big brave and beautiful Drakes were left at the lake on account of not being a fast flier. A bullet goes faster than they think. If old Mr. Mallard don't use what Duck Ology he has, he is blown up, because a hunter will pick a Drake every time. Ain't it the very devil to be a Drake of any kind of Duck.

1919
Ramon Graham,
Texas.

NOTES FROM KANSAS

In Iowa, as the writer has often observed, the Chimney Swallow never plunges head long into the chimney, when it goes to roost, but always checks its flight for an instant, hovers over the gaping hole and then drops with fluttering wings into the dark abysmal place. They do not go, in singled nor in pairs but as there is room without a confusion of wings, seldom more than a half dozen at once. The reason is obvious. A multitude of birds and an unchecked flight would prevent the perching and the precise balance that the bird must secure to settle and maintain its precarious hold on the smooth chimney walls.

W. H. H. Barker.



Gambel's Partridge in Captivity at Mesa, Arizona
—Photo by E. M. La Baron



Inca Dove at Nest of Mesa, Arizona.—Photo by E. M. La Baron

Birds Freezing

Winter set in in earnest this year of 1919-20 early in December and since then we have had many snow storms, high winds and severe cold. Below zero nights are common.

A few days ago, Jan. 17th, a Cardinal was found frozen on a front porch here in town. The Cardinal is a rare bird here at any time as we are too far north.

A flock of imported Quails were liberated near here last fall and in spite of the fact that they are being fed and watched two of them recently got separated from the flock and were afterwards found frozen in the snow along a fence.

It is a hard winter on the birds and no doubt many of the weaker ones have perished of cold and hunger.

At present the snow is two feet and more deep in the woods and it is very hard to get around. There is but very little bird life. Only a few of the common winter birds with an occasional flock of Pine Siskins. In early December while hunting white rabbits I saw several flocks of Cross-bills but have not seen any lately.

In the open places in the ice on the rivers there are quite a few flocks of American Mergansers and Golden Eyes.

R. B. Simpson.

"Sense or Instinct."

I have read that birds and animals did every action by instinct given them. This looks like more sense than instinct to me. I went out early in the morning of February 27th and motored up the lake for a mornings fishing for croppie. The waves were choppy and it was a cold frosty morning. So when I landed at Williams Bayou, I at once rustled some leaves

and wood together and built a fire. I quickly warmed my hands and feet, then took a row boat from behind my motor boat and rowed out a short distance from the bank. I put out my lines and glanced over at the burning fire that I had left. A Tufted Titmouse hopped down near the fire. A small saplin stood on the windward side of the fire. The Titmouse, after examining where the heat was coming from, sat peacefully in the small saplin until he was good and warm. As the sun peeped up from over the rocky hills he sang a song of the coming spring and was answered by a Cardinal that had spent the night close by. It looked to me that this bird used sense instead of instinct. I wonder if when this bird was born that it had instinct to take advantage of a fire when it was cold.

Ramon Graham,

Texas Notes, 1920.

"THE ROAD RUNNERS CURIOSITY"

I was in the front room of our home at the edge of town and heard a noise outside which sounded like someone walking up to the door. I jumped up to put on my shoes and to my surprise right on our front porch was a full grown Road Runner.

It seemed unalarmed and walked away, going into a sweet potato patch next door. It acted like it wanted to look into the house to see the baby, and it was very tame and took its time in leaving. I think this is unusual for these birds to visit right in town.

Mrs. Ramon Graham,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Bulletin No. 10, The New York State College of Forestry. The Palisades Interstate Park: A Study in Recreational Forestry, by P. M. Silloway.

Guide to the Summer Birds of the Bear Mountain and Harriman Park Sections of the Palisades Interstate Park, by P. M. Silloway.

The Relation of Forest Animals to The Welfare of New York State, by Dr. Charles C. Adams.

The New York State Wild Life Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt, by Dr. Charles C. Adams.

The Roosevelt Wild Life State Memorial. By Dr. Charles C. Adams.

Delights of The Wild Forest Trail. By Dr. Charles C. Adams.

These publications are a part of those gotten out by the State of New York and Roosevelt Memorial Associations and are descriptive, of the Fauna and Flora, of that territory. The names of the authors are sufficient guarantee of the readability and activities of the contents. Dr. Adams being a well known naturalist and writings of our friend Silloway on birds have been standard for lo these many years.

R. M. Barnes.

"Report of the Chief Game Guardian, Province of Saskatchewan, Canada, for 1921"

It has been a pleasure to examine closely this report of 53 clearly printed pages, which discloses 102 prosecutions for violating the Game Law, two of which were for killing Swan, where the parties were fined \$20.00 instead of \$200.00.

It also discloses the dissimulation of 49,200 pieces of printed matter relative to game, birds, laws, etc., and recites the seizure of 203 illegally killed birds and fur bearing animals, besides over 6,000 pounds of moose meat. It

tells of lectures attended by almost 12,000 school children, besides giving a list of specimens secured by the scientists of the United States Biological Survey; reviews the legislation on subject and makes recommendations with reference thereto, discusses the duck sickness with which the wild fowl of Canada were afflicted and then refers generally the status of the geese, swans, cranes, big game and fur bearing animals, besides setting forth the reports of the several assistant game guardians, as well as giving a tabulated resume of the 666,000 fur bearing animals taken in that year. This report is a credit to the compiler, and the Department issuing it.—R. M. B.

"Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology, Vol. II, 1-2, 1921"

This issue is a credit to W. Leon Dawson, the editor. It is well illustrated and contains much information of interest to the Oologist.

The first article being by the editor, "A candid examination of the right to collect bird eggs," leaves little to be said further on that subject. It is fair, exhaustive, logical and thorough. This is followed by other articles, and communications on the same subject; all of which is brought about largely by the publication in the English Press of a silly fulmination against the Museum of Comparative Oology, entitled "Another New Threat to Bird Life," without any signature, perhaps because no reputable scientist or man of standing would sign such a thing; also because of another similar article appearing in the illustrated London News, over the signature of W. P. Pycroft, of the British Museum.

If the readers of The Oologist could walk with the editor into the library of our new museum here and take from the shelves the Catalogue of Bird Eggs, in the British Museum, published a number of years ago, being

five full volumes and sit down at our desk with pencil and tablet, and figure up the number of eggs owned by the Museum, we opine, that by so doing they would arrive shortly at the conclusion that those connected with the British Museum living in a house covered by so much glass of this kind, to say the least should be the very last ones to commence throwing stones. The few thousand eggs in the Museum of Comparative Oology, and the accumulations that are likely to be received by it, will not justify criticism, from the British Museum, with its vast accumulations of thousands upon thousands of specimens of this class of scientific material.

Again if the Trustee of The British Museum could go through The Museum Museum could go through the Museum of Comparative Oology, as we did, and see and realize the splendid equipment and infinite care bestowed upon the specimens there, and their present state of perfection and preservation, and compare the same with the neglected and unsightly slipshod manner in which oological specimens of the British Museum are treated, we are reasonably sure that Brother Pycroft, would receive a more or less gentle suggestion from sources in authority to give more attention to the specimens under the care of that great institution, and spend less time carping, growling at and criticizing a younger and smaller institution that has fairly won its place in the Sun of public confidence and usefulness though it be smaller than that great mother of all museums.

There are people, however, of small caliber connected in more or less subordinate capacities with all great institutions who seem to imagine that they have grown big and because of such connection with such institution

they are thereby authorized to direct human affairs, of which they know little or nothing, even as far away as the other side of the globe. It may be that this gentleman who is so free in his criticism and so ready to attack that which he has never seen and of which it is clearly evident that he has little or no reliable information, belongs to this class.—R. M. B.

RESULTS

Paul G. Howes

It is gratifying that the birds are coming back; that civilization is not to exterminate them all, and that the widespread and general sympathy for real rigid bird protection is bringing great results that are truly great in every sense of the word. Witness this: A few years ago, it would have been impossible to find Black-crowned Night Herons meeting anywhere near Stamford where I live. My house stands less than three hundred yards from the water of Long Island Sound with a clear view of all its beauties. At low tide three years ago an occasional Heron of the species in question flew in for the purpose of feeding, but they were scarce at best. Since that time they have increased very remarkably until they now are common birds, as of yore. Several stayed all winter last year, owing to the mild season and the culmination came during the spring of 1921, when I found a breeding colony, a real old time rook-

ery, and near by were fifteen nests of the Green Heron to boot! For the good of the birds that nesting place will remain an ornithological secret for the present, at any rate.

Late in the summer (end of July) I visited the place and found two fine American Egrets in company with other Herons. This is my second record of this bird and a mighty pleasing one.

In 1911 I recorded the breeding of the Killdeer at Long Ridge, Connecticut, nine miles from my house. Last year (1920) a pair bred in the same field that I found the nest in. They raised their young successfully. This spring they were back there and undoubtedly bred, while a second pair nested on the sands a few hundred yards from my house.

At Long Ridge, a pair of Black Duck have returned to a certain swampy thicket on my brother's farm for two seasons. They spend the summer and undoubtedly breed, but so far I have been unable to locate the nest. Their actions and the fact that in the fall there is a small flock of the Ducks, substantiates this supposition very strongly. I have no doubt but what I will find the nest next year, as the birds return to the identical spot in the spring.

For the first time in many years a pair of Red-headed Woodpeckers raised their young near my house this year. On August first the two old ones and four noisy young were living in some dead oaks near by. This is good news indeed!

Here is the biggest surprise of all. In June I was calling on a friend in Stamford. Near the house at which I was calling stood another one with large columns supporting the spacious porch on which several people were sitting. These columns were hollow and so placed that from the top near the porch roof an entrance could be

gained to the inside of any one of them. As I sat on the porch of my friend's house I heard a loud squawking noise coming from one of the columns of the other house, and as I turned to look in that direction, a female Sparrow Hawk arrived with a garter snake and was greeted by four half grown young that piled from the column to be fed on the ledge. The birds paid no attention whatever to the people on the porch nor the automobile that entered the driveway. As far as I could see the entire family of Hawks were as tame as Robins. I have never seen anything like it before.

These few observations give a fair index to the ultimate results of bird protection. The laws that we have today, mean that in twenty years conditions will be as they used to be. We devastated Easterners won't have to go to the far northwest to see Gulls and shore birds and the other ones that make the heart leap when they lay their eggs.

As for the smaller birds, they are undoubtedly increasing also. Orchard Orioles breed commonly in the sapling maples along the streets where new houses have been built. They seem to prefer these little trees that have been transplanted and have been set back in the process. Again I have noticed that the Warblers are easier to find than they use to be and the Martins are coming back occasionally.

I have been convinced that Gulls breed near Stamford for some time past, because more of them stay each summer when the time for departure northward comes. Since the breeding season I have been informed of a place not ten miles from my house where many nested this year. Next spring we shall see. I look forward to the coming of the greatest of all seasons with keener joy than ever.

THE NEW PRICE LIST

We are pleased to announce that the New Catalogue of Prices of North American Birds' Eggs, will be ready for distribution January 1st, 1922. This catalogue will fill an acute necessity. It has been sixteen years since a catalogue appeared that contained prices upon which the working Oologists of America as a whole were willing to base their exchanges. In 1919 an election was called to be participated in by all the active Oologists in North America, who selected a committee of twenty-five well known Oologists to revise the prices. Then a committee of three to pass finally on the prices agreed upon by the larger committee. Two full years were occupied in this work and it is now ready for the printer.

The catalogue will be published by the undersigned and its general arrangement will be as follows:

1. An introduction.
2. A history of Birds' Egg Catalogue.
3. A history of this Catalogue.
4. Prices in this Catalogue.
5. Directions for collecting and preparing eggs.
6. Copy of Standard Data.
7. Illustration of proper way to mark eggs.
8. Illustrations showing proper cabinet arrangements of collections
9. Report of the Committee of Twenty-five to revise prices.
10. Names and prices adopted for each species.
11. Advertisements.

The size of the catalogue will be the same size as The Oologist, which it will in general respect as to make-up resemble. Advertisements of approved character will be accepted at the rate of \$10.00 per page, \$5.00 per column and proportionate rates for half and quarter columns. Classified advertisements of not over fifty words will be accepted in limited numbers at one cent per word.

As this will be without doubt the standard price list of North American Birds Eggs, for many years to come, and will be used by all museums throughout the world it is an unusual opportunity to secure desirable publicity. Those wishing advertising space should send in their application early. The catalogue will be printed on paper suitable to write on with pen and ink and will be used by many as a record on which to keep track of their own collection.

The book will retail at \$1.00 per copy in paper covers, those desiring a cloth bound copy can procure it for \$2.00. The first edition will be about 500 copies. Send us your subscriptions and copy for advertisements now, on the blanks published in this issue.

R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

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To R. M. Barnes,
Lacon, Illinois.

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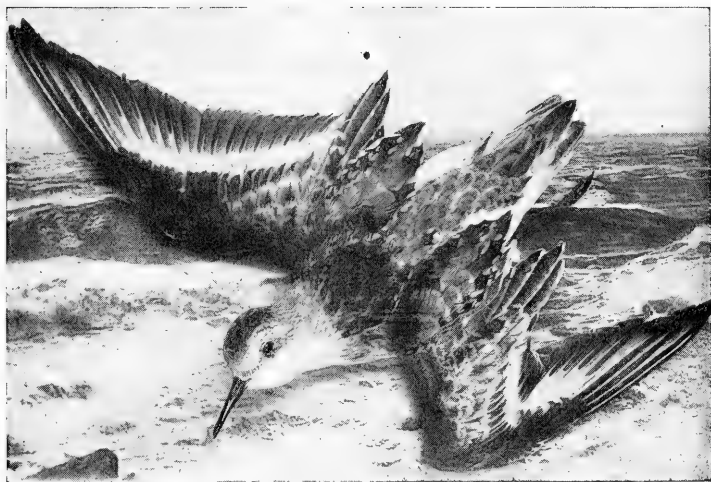
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THE OÖLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS

TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y., Nov. 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 413



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

EGGS

I will purchase for cash entire collections of North American Bird Skins, mounted birds and birds eggs or odd lots of the same, which I still need to complete my series. Send list and prices. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ills.

WANTED—Good set with data of Falco peregrinus anatum. Cash or exchange. H. Kirke Swann, Thorncombe, Lyonsdown, New Barnet, London, England.

WANTED—One large upright egg cabinet with large drawers, also want best Burr Drills, have stamps to trade for eggs. Arthur Blocher, Amboy, Ills.

I have following species in good sets to exchange: 295, 325, 327, 346, 352, 355, 419, 421, 482, 498d, 513a, 585b, 594a, 602, 639, 641, 697, 759a. Thos H. Jackson, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pennsylvania.

EXCHANGE—Texas birds eggs in sets. Bird and animal Skins, Curios. Natural history specimens. Ramon Graham, 3722 Ave. J. Poly, Ft. Worth, Texas.

In order to buy material for my Maynard Series, I will sell, at very low figures, many selected singles for this series; of some a large number; of rarer ones, just a few. (Details about the series later). P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

WANTED—Eggs of Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 102, 109, 110, 112, 113, 257, 270, 272. Wandering Albatross. *Mazagucus conspicillatus*. For exchange, 92.1, 96, 96.1, 111. *Puffinus Carniepes Oestrata* Solandrik Phaethon rubicandus. Roland Archer, Rycroft, Lyndhurst, Victoria, Australia.

FOR SALE—My entire egg collection at once. Sets 85, 185, 264, 330, 343, 352a, 355, 356a, 357b, 416, 417, 478b, 568, 717a, etc. Singles 55, 60, 254; Ducks, Geese, etc. Also few fine skins. Oologist Vols. XI, XII; Condor Vol. XX; Nidologist, Vol. II, Nos. 4-8; Vol. III, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 9. Robert F. Backus, Florence, Colo. Box 362.

WANTED—Sets of eggs containing abnormal specimens, such as runts, monstrosities, abnormally marked or unmarked, albinistic and malformed specimens. Those with good data only wanted to further my studies of oological abnormalities. Write me when you have anything of this nature. Best cash price given. J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE—Personally collected sets of the following species: A. O. U. 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 70, 74, 80, 198, 199, 319, 320a, 329, 342, 387, 421, 488, 498g, 513a, 563, 573, 593, 604, 612, 622a, 633, 703a, 704, 705, 706, 707, 731, 736, 761 and 766. What have you? Many

SKINS

BIRDS and ANIMALS mounted, Skins tanned. Write for price list. Ramon Graham, Taxidermist, 3722 Ave. J. Poly, Fort Worth, Texas.

EXCHANGE—I can offer Western bird skins for first class skins that I need. Will also exchange A-1 Mammal skins. Send list. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

I will Exchange Mounted Birds for Bird Skins and Eggs or Sell Mounted Birds and Bird Skins for cash. D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Georgia.

WANTED—Five perfect skins of all the Hawks. Cash only. Address K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

Fine pair of skins, Band Tailed Pigeon, Male and Female for best offer eggs in sets, or skins of Warbler's family. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

NOTICE—I am moving to Tuscon, Ariz., and will be glad to hear from all collectors who wish to write me, at my new address. James Wood, Northville, Michigan.

WANTED—Fine perfect skins of hawks and ducks, shoveller, and Blue wing teal especially; Cooper's and Red tailed hawks. Make best cash offers. K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

WANTED—Birds' Eggs and Skins. Can offer Shells, Minerals, Corals, Curios, Butterflies, Biological Specimens, Stamps, Half-tones, Cuts, Scientific and Medical books. Ernest H. Short, Rochester, N. Y. Box 173.

SKINS WANTED—A-No. 1 Skins of the following birds wanted: Golden-winged, Virginia's, Nashville, Sennett's, Olive, Black-fronted, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Sycamore, Grace's, Golden-cheeked, Palm, Connecticut, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers; also Water Thrush, for which I offer skins of Western Birds. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

FOR SALE ONLY—A-1 Mounted Birds. Group of 3 solitary sandpipers, \$10. Rare hybrid of black duck and mallard \$25; Scarlet tan. \$3.50; Mourning dove \$3.50; Savanna Sparrow \$2.50; Chest. Col. Longspur \$3; Snow Bunt. \$2.50; Hooded Merganser \$5; Wilson Snipe \$3. Books—N. A. Early Tertiary Bryozoa, Canu and Bassler, 1920, 2 parts. Text 870 pages, Plates 162 pages; Paper covers new, pages uncut \$10. INSECT CASES—8x10½x2½ Glass tops. Need fresh paper linings, 6 for \$4. Have 12. SHELLS—Collection of 345 species from all over world. Many rare ones. All correctly identified price \$10. PAUL G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

Species desired in my collection. J. R. Pemberton, 729 Kennedy Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

THE OÖLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 11. ALBION, N. Y., NOV. 1, 1921. WHOLE NO. 413

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

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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

24034



THE new Catalogue printing is progressing nicely, and our printers inform us that it will surely be out by January 1st, 1922. We have already passed on the copy for the preliminary matter and are expecting every day that part of the copy giving the list of the Birds and Prices for eggs. Those desiring copies should file their application early, and those desiring advertising space must act with promptness. No such opportunity for desirable publicity has been offered to the Oologists of this country without the recollection of the writer. This catalogue will eventually reach every Scientific Oologist in the United States and Canada, and many in Foreign lands, and will be for years to come the standard reference book on this subject in all of the Museums of the world,—there is no doubt about that.—R. M. Barnes.

FLORIDA SUNSHINE

As far into my short past as I can see I have always been interested deeply in birds and mammals. I have always waited patiently until spring when they would be allowed by old man weather to return to their and my old rendezvous along the stone walls, pastures, swamps, woods and hillsides up amongst these Connecticut hills and ridges.

I have fished the swift trout brooks more than once and caught nothing; at other times a good string, but at all times their cheery song and presence has been most welcome.

The young fellow of today is rare that likes to go into the woods and study birds, and give up good times of going to shows and having all kinds of pleasure. I have few friends but plenty of sympathizers, alas it is too bad to be known as a "bird crank," "fiend," "odd stick," etc. Therefore it is a pleasure to have friends interested like yourself even to write to. You know, misery loves company.

Now therefore, in the spring of 1919 when my friend, Mr. W. W. Worthington of Shelter Island, N. Y. wrote and asked me if I cared to go to Florida and assist him and study the birds a little I sure thought an offer had come down from heaven.

I went over and paid him a visit, went salt water fishing the first time of my life, and inspected the boat we were to use in Florida. It was a skiff only 14 feet long with cockpit. It had collapsible hoops over the pit at night and to cover the sail.

I saw Mr. Worthington's wonderful mounted collection in the Shelter Island Library and was much impressed with it, with its originator also, and planned to have a like collection some day myself. A piece I read in "The Oologist," of June 1918 came to my mind at once. It is titled "An

Appreciation," and I am sure this short story written by Mr. S. S. Dickey is meant for the same kind of men as Mr. Worthington.

From him I learnt much on our trip and he was unconscious of the larger part of it. I also learned that science is based on facts, cold facts.

We were to leave the first of November so I left Long Island in week, and went home to work very hard that summer to buy my outfit, etc.

We kept up a perpetual correspondence throughout the summer and made all our plans. We were to go to New Berlin at first and wait for our boat to come down by express.

I took "The Wyandotte" at New London, the 29th of October and went over to Long Island and found Mr. Worthington had everything assembled and had spent much time, painstaking time, getting things ready. He also built our boat, a handsome piece of work.

We left Greenport, Long Island November 15th with what stuff we could carry and dog, our mascot, "Rags," a very small dog that liked a boat. We finally arrived at the wonderful Pennsylvania Station and as we were loaded down pretty heavy and had a dog we were the subject of many curious eyes, but I imagine we did look "kinda-seedy."

The rest of that day we saw New York City, bought our tickets on the Clyde Line, and visited the New York Museum of Natural History which is some Museum. When night came I had the worst headache of my life and sure was glad to get to "roost."

We left New York at about 10 a. m. the next day and soon were past the Statue of Liberty, and headed southward, to that birds' paradise Florida.

I never got seasick but was glad when we got to Charlestown, S. C. We visited the old slave market, St.

Michael's Church, etc., and here I saw a large palm for the first time. Most of the city looked very old and dirty and darkies were very plentiful.

My first view of Florida the next day was palm trees fringed along the sand, and the jetties and yellow water at the mouth of the St. John's River. On the way up to Jacksonville I saw my first eagle (bald) perched on a spot near the river, also Florida Cormorants, and several little Blue Herons, immature and mature. We left the steamer "Apache," that night and put up in a hotel.

The next morning we had a good breakfast and began to get enthusiastic. We got aboard the small passenger boat and went down to New Berlin. We stayed here from Nov. 19 to Dec. 15 waiting for our boat to come down from the North.

During all our stay at New Berlin, we were with Mr. Alfred Lucas, a Florida "Cracker," but one of the most generous open hearted fellows I ever saw. His life was a continual torture with four brawling yelling children. Worthington would buy cane syrup that they would all clean up at once, and then all start yelling in agony with the toothache. "It was truly the pigs in the parlor and the hens in the pantry" here. I couldn't quite relish those monstrous Southern cockroaches that were so plentiful here.

The water was sulphurous and tasted exactly like rotten eggs smell, which was sure some disappointment to me as I thought I was going to send some nice highly scented Florida water (like you buy in bottles at a good price) home to my mother. Anyway we drank rainwater as long as it lasted. They say this sulphur water is good for people's kidneys but I would rather take pills.

I found that some of these "Crackers" were a little superstitious

In the grub-line while at New Berlin,

I had my first corn "pone," "grits," mullet and shrimp. The little white beans we eat up North they called "Yankee beans" down here. They also drank black coffee strong enough to "float a flatiron," and then I began to see why the Lord gave these people a good kidney remedy—aged egg water. We also had some frankfurts, once in a while, that were sure peppery.

I was surprised at seeing the large bushes they call myrtle, while ours are smaller and are called bayberries. Our berries are twice as large though. Here I saw my first orange tree. It was a small undeveloped one, however, loaded with green fruit.

Every day or two a flotilla of submarine would go up river to Jacksonville, also Ford eagles, with an occasional hydroplane. The steamships and there were some huge ones too, were very plentiful and one could almost reach out and touch them, the river was so narrow.

We found birds quite plentiful here. All night the Wayne Clapper Rail would keep up his noisy racket with an occasional Night Heron flying over.

I saw but one Virginia rail. Great Blue Herons were quite plentiful along the creek shores at dusk, also their small brothers. The natives called them "Poor Johns" and wanted some to eat!

Worthington's Marsh Wren (*Telmadodytes palustris griseus*) were quite plentiful here along with the long and short bills. Laughing gulls were common with an occasional different specie. While the tide was out the mud flats were covered with Killdeer Plover, a few sandpipers and other birds.

All kinds of fish, shrimp and crabs were quite plentiful at New Berlin, but I suppose they are the same in all Southern waters.

Our boat arrived in Jacksonville about the 15th of December and we went up there intending to row down, a good 15 miles I guess but the water and wind were too much for us, so we got aboard the small passenger boat going our way and towed the skiff.

On the morning of the 17th we were up bright and early ready to row or sail to our destination, Moss Bluff, on the Ocklawaha river about 200 miles off. We rowed all day long and when night overtook us we were just above Arlington about three miles across from Jacksonville.

We camped for the night on the shore, under a big magnolia tree and slept on a Spanish moss bed right out doors, and it was certainly a cold night too. I never was so tired in my life; just "flopped" down on to that hard bed and dreamed I was on a feather one upon the Ocklawaha with all kinds of birds singing merrily all around me.

In the meantime we had been waiting for some powder to come down from the North, but it never came, so we were stranded in Arlington, for a month. (Couldn't buy powder in Florida.)

Our quarters while there was an old real estate office, I was the "Chief cook and bottle washer" and certainly did a lot of experimenting. Every morning I fried what Worthington called griddle cakes but in this section we call them "flippers," b'gosh.

We didn't see many birds while here. Every Sunday the woods were full of darkies with modern shot guns who kept wild life down pretty well I guess.

There was a large gang of convicts here repairing the roads with shells.

I climed my first orange tree at Arlington. It had one huge yellow fruit at the very top that I couldn't dislodge with a club, so I decided to climb it.

While climbing this tree I decided if

I were a Florida orange grower I would keep my trees well pruned. I wouldn't have liked to fall in a bunch of trees like that one.

After a few minutes which seemed years I got my "paws," on to that orange and prepared to land, and devour him, but Lord when I got a piece into my mouth I thought is was some kind of a decoy orange loaded with vinegar and alum. I found out after it was a wild one.

While walking in the woods near Arlington I came upon a dead cow, which was covered with black vultures. They were sure a dirty lot and reminded me of our Crows up North, but they (vultures) of course were very much larger and tamer, almost bold.

I saw several specimens of mistletoe in the treetops, also nice holly trees while here. There was a small turpentine "still" at Arlington and it was interesting to watch the darkies at work around it. It smelled nice around there, too.

There were quite a lot of moving picture actors in action around Arlington, roses were plentiful also, but there was plenty of cold disagreeable rain and wind. Every morning it sure was some chilly; a damp penetrating chill that I never have felt up North. We had to pile a lot of blankets on us at night to keep warm.

Finally got some powder from Birmingham, Alabama.

We left Arlington January 16th and proceeded upstream propelled by "elbow grease."

The Clyde boat "Osceola," passed us going down stream in a few hours and it seemed to me that we were leaving civilization behind, but I thought we had to do that to see many birds.

We rowed hard all that day against a heavy wind and water and night found us opposite a resort named

Orange Park probably 12 or 13 miles below Jacksonville. We camped that night in the most dreary, dismal, muddy place that I had ever been in my life so far, and it poured all night which made it worse, although we were under the canvas hood of our boat.

Early the next morning we rowed over to Orange, (I guess the river was three miles wide here), and bought some provisions.

In about two hours our first favorable wind came up and we sure did travel all that day under our leg-omutton sail.

That night we landed near Colee which was a better camping site, but with considerable dead goats laying around the woods and we were much aroused by "Rags," stirring one up.

The next day we sailed two hours but had to row all day after that. We were quite a while finding our way out of a large bed of water hyacinths at a sharp bend in the river but finally got through.

We reached a negro settlement that night near a place called Fairview, a very pretty place, but we were bothered all night with "razorbacks." They were sure hungry and I was very cautious in not leaving any of my long limbs exposed to their ravenous mouths!

The next day (Jan. 19th) at half past ten we reached Palaka and bought some fresh bread. This was quite an enterprising little town

After racing hard all day we reached and camped at a spot Worthington thought was Mosquito Landing, near Buffalo Gap. That night we were aroused by the hardest looking specimen of a "razorback," I ever saw. We couldn't drive him away and he was some savage too.

It was here that I first saw the remains of a shell bank, so common in parts of Florida. There were also

several deep holes dug, I guess by Indian relic hunters.

The next day we reached Welaka, after a hard row nearly all day. We stopped here for our mail and then started out again and camped about a half mile up the Ocklawaha, the mouth of which is in sight of Welaka on the St. Johns. We had to chop down several bushes and then sleep in the boat drawn up on the mud. Talk about mosquitoes!

The next day we started out and rowed up the Ocklawaha for about 10 or 12 miles against a whirlwind current, in a scalding sun, and were burnt as red as bricks. When night came we were all in, and couldn't sleep with mosquitoes. We couldn't use our mosquito bars right and it was slow torture. I covered myself with my blanket and let my nose stick out, but as I have a rather prominent nose it soon was the target for their operations.

I believe the Ocklawaha is the crookedest river in the world, there are very few dry camping places along it. We expected to be held up by the water hyacinths but the currents took them into other eddies than ours.

There was plenty of water lettuce, too, but we failed to see any gallinules. We expected to find plenty of limpkins on the Ocklawaha with anhingas and other water birds but failed to see even one.

The natives claim that limpkins have left the Ocklawaha of late years. I saw plenty of Hens, a few wood ducks, large turtles and some snakes, but I guess it was too late for "gators." "Wards" Heron was quite plentiful and the Owls and other wild life made an awful racket after dark.

The river is full of bass and they leap and splash all night but don't make half as much noise as the mosquitoes!

There is some good semi-tropical

scenery along the Ocklawaha and you see several stately palm and cypress towering above the lower trees and vegetation, where coons, otters and other animals and reptiles roam galore.

The river water is clear as a crystal and you can see all the way to the bottom where it bubbles up in some places.

The small passenger boat from Silver Springs to Palatka, passed us on several occasions and we were pretty crowded sometimes as the Ocklawaha isn't much wider than a mill canal.

I think we rowed against the swift current for about 35 miles, and after awhile became completely exhausted and a little nervous in thinking we would never get to Moss Bluff. And we never did!

One morning after a record horrible night's sleep we crawled out of our blankets in the boat, in a good place for malaria, and Worthington was as red as a wild Indian, and I guess I was the same. I forgot to say I felt like a wild man and he looked like one. We looked at the "Ocks" little, old current for a while and then I saw changes rapidly coming over Worthington's face and I knew in an instant what was on his mind but never once did I open my "peeper."

After a while he sprung "Let's go back down to Welaka and get a shack?" I held back a while and then answered very reluctantly, "Just as you say."

Now, I can't blame Mr. Worthington as he is an old man and did his share of the rowing and we might have become mad-men in rowing against that ever increasing swift current to Moss Bluff, a good 60 or 70 miles off, still in the first place if we had known what the "Ock" and surrounding country was, we would never have been there. Anyway gas is the stuff.

We might have camped and rested

but it was all a wet, muddy, treacherous swamp and our grub was getting low, so we evacuated at once and leaped (not slow leaping either) aboard our skiff pushed out into the current and went down it like a shot.

First Worthington would take up a paddle and steer and then I and when we were losing velocity we would take up the oars and soon gain momentum.

I will have to confess that we wished we had never seen Florida, but since then the old Florida fever has come back on me and away I go again the first opportunity.

We hired a shack from a "Cracker," near Welaka and stayed there until February 11th. There was a grape fruit grove right over the fence and an orange one not far away, that I made look sick. No wild one either!

The owner of the grapefruit grove got a little suspicious and Worthington advised me to rid the neighborhood of parings in haste one day, which I did after much exertion.

While in Welaka I saw a fine shell mound, a solid mass 20 feet thick. I guess the contents are a species of snail as I haven't studied conchology much. There was an orange grove planted on top of some of them.

We had Northern people for company in Welaka and were happy as there were a few birds around there, but after a while it got to be pretty wet weather.

Just before coming North we had an awful season of rain that lasted ten days and nights. It poured into our shanty and as we had a lot of stuff and outfit we had to work some to keep things dry. Natives said it was the worst spell in years and I guess it was as it washed away the ground and made small brooks where there were none before. The St. John's rose rapidly and just a little more would have carried off our shanty.

During those ten days of solitude we got pretty discouraged with Florida, and I decided to brave the month of March up in Connecticut, and go home I "sprung" it this time and became a "squealer," but Worthington agreed to go too, so we sacrificed our outfit, took the "Osceola" from Welaka the night of February 11, at twelve o'clock and took the trip down to Jacksonville.

On February 13th we took the Clyde liner "Mohawk" and came to New York City.

I don't suppose this story I have written will ever appear in print, as it

is the first I have ever written, and I imagine is pretty crude, but if it should I hope Mr. Worthington will not see it, as I imagine it would not digest very well with him, but with me it is only a kind of confession.

I wrote it in answer to the appeal for more copy, by the Editor of our nice little representative paper, "The Oologist," which I hope to take all my life and if I can "The Oologist" will probably last a good many years as I am not far past a score.

Harold N. Vars,
Plainfield, Conn.



Nest and Eggs of Texas Meadow Lark.—Photo by E. J. La Baron

SAVE THE FLAMINGOES

Editor Oologist:

You will see by the enclosed that I have interested the authorities at Nassau, the capital of the Bahama Islands, in the preservation of the Flamingo, and the White Crowned Pigeon. Our American Consul there, writes me.

"I have taken the matter up with the Governor and other officials and all are much interested." So we can hope for the best. Mr. Lathrop, our Consul there, and his wife are much interested in birds, and I found him most courteous in his efforts to assist me in every possible way, when on the Islands collecting. There is a great deal of work yet to be done by Naturalists (Note I do not use the word Ornithologists), on the Islands, and one's first trip only leaves the desire to return for a more lengthy stay, especially during the breeding season of the birds. All of which goes to show that collectors are not bent on exterminating the breed, as some would have us.

Harold H Bailey,
Miami Beach, Florida.

Extract from a letter dated July 26, 1921, addressed to the American Consul at Nassau, by Harold H. Bailey, director of the Miami Beach Zoological Park and Museum of Natural History. Mr. Bailey is an ornithologist of repute whose book on the bird life of the state of Virginia is a standard.

"The Islands are more than attractive to the ornithologists, and as many of the Bahama forms are taken sparingly on the Florida Keys, generally blown across during stormy weather, specimens are necessary to the U. S. collections for comparison, etc. I do hope that some time in the near future I shall be able to return and do more work there, especially in the interior of Andros, which is little known and explored as yet.

It seems a pity the Bahamas government cannot afford to appoint a regular warden for each one of the Flamingo breeding colonies, four all told, and pay such wardens for six months each year—which would allow the eggs to be laid, the young reared; and old birds to moult, in perfect safety. As it now stands, I was informed that while the government puts a heavy fine on one molesting them, there is no one appointed to protect them, and it is therefore impossible to stop the taking of eggs and young, and old birds when moulting, by the local inhabitants, and spongers as well. A warden should camp near the breeding grounds to make it successful. At present there are many families living near these nesting grounds, and spongers systematically taking eggs, young and old birds, covering a period of five months or even longer, for by robbing the colonies, the breeding season is prolonged owing to many birds laying a second or third time after being robbed of eggs or young. As you probably know, this is a different specie of Flamingo than one found down in Egypt and so commonly seen at Cairo and along the canal, and so much commented on by tourists when visiting that section. It is more than probable that unless their breeding colonies are protected in the Bahamas, our native bird will soon become extinct. As Nassau becomes the harbor for yachting parties in large numbers after the completion of their new harbor basin, these birds if they could be incessant, or even made to hold their own, would offer great inducements to the tourist to spend both time and money in the Islands. I believe your British government could establish a small breeding colony of penned up birds, say twenty-five pair, in a fenced enclosure on most any of the islands, and not only save these birds from extinction but make it pay from many

angles. It also seems a pity that the famous White-crowned Pigeon of the Bahamas should be shot for sport and food, just at the time it is laying and with small young in nests. At the time of my visit there last month, the majority of these pigeons had nests just ready for eggs, many with fresh eggs, and a few newly hatched young. It would be impossible for the majority of these young birds to be large enough to take care of themselves by the time your shooting season opens while if the season opened September 15th these young would be strong of flight, and the old birds through the moult also. As it now stands, it is killing the breed off rapidly to shoot the old birds as they return to the keys to feed their young, the young of course dying from starvation and exposure. This practice nearly exterminated the "Egrets" in this country, and if the sportsmen could try postponing the "open season" for one year, I think he would see that there would be more birds for all; and he would get his sport in a really humane way. I am sure the officials will be interested in bird protection over there, for the Canadian U. S. Bird Treaty put through some time ago, showed that all countries are alive to their bird assets, both from an agricultural standpoint and means of attracting sportsmen. Anything you may be able to do or suggest will, I know, be appreciated, and if I can supply any assistance or information to the officials at Nassau, please call on me."

SWAN KILLING NOT PROFITABLE

There appeared a note in the January 1921 issue by Ye Editor of some one having a Swan in his possession and offering same for sale, and thought

steps should be taken to bring the law breaker to justice.

There appeared in one of the Ft. Worth papers an article trying to describe a most wonderful bird that had been killed by a well known ranchman from San Angelo, Texas. From its description it could have been nothing else but a Swan. So cutting the article out I sent it to the Federal Warden for the state. He identified same for them. He also told them what it would cost them for killing the mysterious bird. They had a picture made of themselves holding the Swans up by their necks and a smile of satisfaction on their faces. But the warden (Mr. Geo. Shupee, San Antonio, Texas), got the picture to try and identify the bird so of course the rest was easy. I don't think that any one else will shoot any more Swans from that section. From the number of violations from west Texas I think that there must have been quite a number of Swans passing through this season.

Geo. E. Maxon,
U. S. Deputy Game Warden,
Ft. Worth, Texas.

MILLER'S QUESTIONS

I was much impressed with the interesting list of questions prepared by Mr. Richard F. Miller, which appeared in the September issue of *The Oologist*, and would like to suggest that if Mr. Miller would place a list of answers in an issue, it would be interesting to have his opinion on some of these questions, and instructive to myself as well as some other young ornithologist I presume, who are subscribers to this most esteemed paper.

Byron C. Marshall,
Imboden, Arkansas.

NEWSPAPER ORNITHOLOGY

An Investigation of Newspaper Report
That Eagle Kills Boy

On page 97 of the present volume of *The Oologist* attention is called to an article in the *Ventura California Post* reporting the death of a Mexican boy due to the attack of an Eagle. Our editor adds that he hopes the truthfulness of the report will be investigated by some bird student in the locality.

I have made an investigation of the story, which also appeared as a leading news item on the first page of our Oakland paper and probably was published in still other papers. The result of my inquiry into the matter is interesting and also contains a moral, viz: not to study ornithology from a newspaper.

The following account was given in the paper referred to in the edition of June 8th: "Juan Gonzales, aged eleven, was killed by an eagle on a stock ranch, twelve miles north of Ventura last Sunday. The boy climbed a tree to look at the bird's nest and was attacked before he could escape. His skull was punctured in three places by the bird's beak."

Being very skeptical as to the truth of such an account, I wrote a letter to Mr. L. P. Hathaway, coroner of Ventura County, enclosing a copy of the newspaper clipping and asking him to verify the death of the boy. Mr. Hathaway replied as follows: "Dear Mr. Stoner: Regarding the story of the horrible work of eagles in Ventura County, will say, on June 1 a Mexican boy employed on Ranch Sespe between Fillmore and Santa Paula, appeared at the office of Dr. Merrill in Santa Paula, with his little son who was ill; had been ill for some time. Dr. Merrill informs me that in taking the 'history' of the case he asked the parent or parents if the lad had

suffered injury within the past few weeks. They said the only chance he had had of being injured was when he fell from a tree several weeks ago, blackbirds had flapped about his head when he attempted to interfere with their young, and frightened, he had fallen a short distance.

Dr. Merrill made an effort to locate bruises or breaks, but it was not until he had bathed the lad and shaved his head for the removal of cooties, that he could determine as to outward appearances; he informs me there were no bruises and no "holes in the skull" or even in the scalp, or indications that there had been any.

The illness was then diagnosed as 'peritonitis' because, the possibility of outward injury eliminated, this seemed the only result that could be arrived at. The lad died on June 2nd and the death certificate was 'peritonitis.'

A Spanish vaquero heard the blackbird end of the yarn, proceeded to imagine the wounds on the head, and the business manager of the vaquero's employer brought the embellished story to Ventura. It needed further embellishment and a willing newspaper reporter did the rest."

Thus it is that many of our large birds are condemned unjustly. I have read newspaper accounts in which an eagle is reported to have carried off, or attempted to carry off, young children. I believe there is no case, however, which is authentic, or has been verified, even of an eagle seriously harming a human being.

A large percentage of our population has little knowledge of bird life and its value, with the result that prejudice against a large bird, especially the raptors, is easily aroused, and reports such as the one quoted above must be considered detrimental to bird conservation.

Emerson A. Stoner,
Benicia, California.



Young Lesser Snow Goose Hatched July 4th, 1921 and Raised at the Editor's Home as a Pet. Taken Sept. 28th, 1921, with Another Young "Geese" Some Older.—Photo by Lizzie Lynch.

PINK CROWS' EGG

In the issue of Dec. 1, 1919 of *The Oologist*, I noticed an article on Pink Crows' eggs, by my old friends, J. R. Mann, of Arlington Heights, Massachusetts. Back in the 90's there was a set of these eggs taken each year for three successive years, in the same locality, and same grove, the first two sets were taken by L. Halliday and Fay Kenrick, of Bedford, Massachusetts, the two referred to by Mr. Mann, the third set, was taken by Kenrick and my self and is now in my collection, though the first two sets had five eggs each and mine has but four, I consider it the best set of the lot on account of the markings. The ground color of all is white the entire surface covered with very minute dots of light brown giving them the pink appearance in addition to this the second egg has a few spots of darker brown, the third many more spots, and the fourth with still more spots had also a few blotches of dark brown and light lavender. I have taken more than a hundred crows' nests in my time, but the only other rarity I ever found was one set of five, four of which was of the ordinary greenish color the fifth white with about a dozen small brown spots and three black ones on the larger end.

W. B. Holbrook,

40 Mystic St., Arlington, Mass.

We have two pink colored Crows' eggs in our series.—Editor.

DO RED SHOULDERED HAWKS MIGRATE?

This week I witnessed about 200 Red Shouldered Hawks, in one bunch, flying over my house or rather they were sailing round and round. They were quite low; when first they passed, they came over, going northwest and in about an hour they came back over quite high, going faster, about an

hour before sundown. This time going straight. They roosted close here as the next day they came back, as my wife saw them. Some of them lit in trees, in the lot the chickens were all cackling. My daughter tried to scare them out but they were not very easily scared.

This bunch of Hawks came through Sept. 26 and 27, 1921. Once before this, in the year 1919, in January, I saw some three or four hundred very high, come over town. Everybody was talking Hawks. This bunch roosted five miles from Dardanelle, in pine timber. A man saw them when lighting, got his gun, slipped up near enough to shoot and killed six at one shot. Now, do they bunch up and migrate? I saw some here all winter. They are quite plentiful here, as I took eight sets of eggs here this season.

They always build near the same place each season if not killed and you can get a second set in a month of the same kind.

G. E. Pilquist,

Sept. 29, 1921

Dardanelle, Ark.

The Red-shouldered Hawk is a regular migrant.—Editor.

THE RUBY-THROAT'S SONG

The peculiar "swinging song" of the Ruby-throated Humming Bird, described in the September issue of *The Oologist*, by Lyle De Vern Miller. I have also noticed for the first time this past summer. I noted same upon two different occasions at the same spot, and at about a week's interval. The flight I observed, was precisely as described, only instead of the incessant twitter, there was an occasional shrill squeak uttered during the performance.

I likewise wondered at not having seen mention made of this peculiar performance of the Hummer, but concluded it must be a freakish trick of this midget, performed for its own

amusement, although of course a better investigation of this habit might prove my conjecture wrong. At least it is a marvelous attainment in the art of flight.

Byron C. Marshall,
Imboden, Arkansas.

THE BROWN CREEPER

In winter when the snow lies deep and the bitter winds howl through the leafless trees bird life is scarce. Here and there small troops of birds may be found especially if there is good hemlock cover or thick brush.

These little flocks consist of a few Chickadee and Kinglets and several Nuthatches and Creepers. Little mites but just the same hardy little fellows that refuse to leave in spite of the cold and snow. The little Creepers so harmonize with the trunks of the trees over which they search for food that they easily escape detection.

Starting near the ground they zig-zag their way up the trunk seeming to spend considerable time on each tree but still keeping up with the flock.

Early in April the little Creepers are sometimes quite common for a few days and at such times are frequently seen around trees in town. As a summer resident the Creeper is not often met. An occasional pair may be found in the mountains in well timbered swamps. In such suitable localities its rather weak and squeaky but still pleasing song can be heard.

The creeper at all times seems to be rather tame and unsuspecting and pays but little attention to the presence of humans. The only way in which I could ever discover this bird's nest was by watching the old birds and detecting them in the act of nest building.

In this locality the time to do this is along about the 20th to 25th of April.

During an ordinary season is about the time to keep a sharp watch on any Creepers seen or heard in a suitable place.

I have found that the male sings more or less regularly and a pair may be located by hearing the song where otherwise they might easily be passed by and overlooked. The female works quite steady when she has started to build and the male accompanies her on many trips.

With one exception the nests of this bird have been in old hemlock stubs, the exception being in a birch tree. An old big stub is selected, one on which the bark hangs loose or is partly fallen off. For a nesting site the birds select a place where they can get under the bark through a break or crevice or under where a piece has fallen off and where the bark stands away a couple of inches from the trunk.

Here three or four inches back under from the opening the birds fill up the space, building a perfectly loose nest of fine pieces of dead wood or rotten wood with an occasional small twig and lined with cobwebs or fine vegetable materials.

If the nest is taken out very carefully so as not to fall apart and is placed in a small box and packed in to carry home and reaches the egg cabinet in good shape it forms a pretty and odd addition to the collection. The one exception that I found that was not in an old hemlock stub was in a birch. This birch was a very large old fellow on which considerable of the bark had curled or rolled up. In one of these rolls a pair of Creepers had built their nest.

In height they have ranged from six to 35 feet from the ground and about May 8th or 10th is the time to expect a full set. Eggs-5-6.

I have found the female to be a close siter and too much or hard

pounding on the loose bark is liable to jar the nest loose and break the eggs.

It is liable to be some job to get at a nest that is 15 or 20 feet up if the bark is real loose.

A fine nest and set of 6 in my collection that I took in a swamp near here where these birds annually nest or did nest, I had to take from a rope. Simply couldn't get up because of the loose condition of the bark, so was compelled to stretch a rope between two trees and in this way I went out the rope and tied myself onto the rope at the nesting site and secured the outfit 30 feet from the ground

R. B. Simpson,
Warren, Pa.

ONE SNOWY OWL SAVED

Some time ago the "Forest Castle," a whale-backed steamer bound from Liverpool to New York, was crossing the Grand Banks of Newfoundland. The seamen and passengers, always on the lookout at sea, and apprehensive of icebergs in this region, caught sight of a white speck moving in the air toward them. As this enlarged they saw that it was a bird which was flying directly toward the ship. In a few moments a great white Owl fell upon the deck exhausted. The sailors picked it up, and under their care it revived.

This bird had evidently taken refuge from a long flight upon an ice-berg upon which it had been carried too far out to sea to be able to return to the land. But it kept a sharp lookout, and when the smoke from the "Forest Castle" appeared on the eastern horizon it put forth all its strength in a desperate effort to fly to the steamer, realizing, apparently, that this would mean its safety. The Owl was in a half-famished condition and it was barely able to reach the vessel. But its prompt decision and vigorous effort

availed to save its life.—The 'Class-mate. W. A. Strong, San Jose, Cal.

We have recently been offered a series of 38 skins of the 'Snowy Owl, recently brought down from the Arctic by a returned explorer.—R. M. B.

THE CHESTNUT-SIDED WARBLER

The Chestnut-sided Warbler is a common migrant in Northeastern Ohio, but up until the season of 1919, had never found it breeding here.

I was watching warbler migrants on May 11th in an opening in a large beech wood, a bright sunny morning, when my attention was called to a Chestnut-sided Warbler, that seemed to dislike my presence. Presently he flew to the crotch of a beech bush but a few feet from the ground followed closely by the female with nesting material in her beak.

The nest had just been started and on June 8th contained three eggs with one of the cow-birds and were very heavily incubated.

The female was very tame and left the nest upon my touching her with my hand several times. The male made no disturbance and persistent beating on the nesting bush failed to arouse the female. It would surely never had been found but for the chance observation in early May.

Later in the season I saw a female feeding young in another wood. As the migration season was cold and rainy, I concluded that as the prime factor in causing them to remain and nest here.

Lyle De Vern Miller,
East Claridon, Ohio.

CHRISTMAS

How many of our readers are going to send The Oologist to some likely young boy interested in Birds as a Christmas present? This will be one way of materially adding to our subscription list as well as widening the influence of your only Exchange Medium.—R. M. B.



Black Throated Blue Warbler, Nest and Eggs, 18 Inches from the Ground in Laurel. June 10, 1920.—R. B. Simpson, Warren, Pennsylvania

MARSHALL COUNTY, IOWA, RAP-
TORES

During my three years collecting in this locality I have observed the following: Great Horned Owl, Snowy Owl, Barred Owl, Pigeon Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Marsh Hawk, Turkey Vulture, Long Eared Owl, Screech Owl (Both phases), American Barn Owl, American Sparrow Hawk, Cooper Hawk, Red Shouldered Hawk.

And I have found the following nesting here, the Great Horned Owl 2-3, 2-11, 1-2 and several containing young birds. This season I found three nests of this species the first contained three fresh eggs which I collected. The second contained one fresh egg which was destroyed and a new nest made in which two more were laid. The third contained one much incubated egg. Short Eared Owl, one deserted nest and young bird nearby. Long Eared Owl 1-6 from old Crow's nest of 1921. Screech Owl, several sets of five and 1-10. American Barn Owl 1-5, from large cavity in elm tree, 1921.

American Sparrow Hawk, 1-3; 2-5; 1920, 1921.

Red Tailed Hawk, 1-2, 1920.

Cooper Hawk, 1-5, 1918; 1-4, 1919.

Marsh Hawk, 2-5, 1919, 1920.

Red Shouldered Hawk, several nests found each season collected 1-2, 2-3, 1-4.

I have seen several Barred Owls but never in pairs but believe they nest here occasionally.

I saw a pair of Pigeon Hawks this summer, often in our chicken pens. I regret to say, but found no nests.

The Marsh Hawks and Red Shouldered Hawks are quite common here.

Mr. Metcalf while acting as Game Warden in this locality discovered a nest of the Turkey Vulture containing two young of which I am told he still has some pictures.

Lawrence Allen,
Albion, Ia., Marshall Co.

BOOKS RECEIVED

BIRDS OF SOUTH DAKOTA, Bulletin No. 9. Series XXI March 1921, University of South Dakota, Wm. H. Over and Craig S. Thoms. This Bulletin of 142 pages is a catalogue of 322 species and sub-species of Birds that have been found within the boundaries of that state. It is illustrated with one colored frontispiece and 52 half tones and includes the following parts:

Part I. Bird Study. Within which is included essays on the importance of Bird Study.

Bird Houses

Bird Baths.

The Food Box

How Birds Work for Us.

Bird Enemies.

Protective Coloration.

Changes of Plumage.

Bird Migration.

Part II. List and description of Birds of South Dakota, concluding in Part III with a Bibliography of a list of publications, "That the reader will find most helpful in the study of Birds of South Dakota."

The entire Bulletin being well put together mechanically, and all of the contents will be of much benefit to those engaged in studying birds of that territory. Messrs. Over and Thoms are to be congratulated, in its production.

R. M. Barnes.

First annual report of the Division of Ornithology, Department of Agriculture, of Massachusetts, by Edward Howe Forbush, 1921.

This is a well gotten up report of the activities of Ornithologists, of that state, occupying forty-seven pages, and discussing numerous matters of interest for Bird Lovers. Not the least of which is the statement that it is supposed that the Heath Hen Colony on Martha's Vineyard is increasing, but that a definite census could not be

taken, that all the birds which had been distributed on the main land had died, that the extinction of this splendid bird can be prevented only through The Martha's Vineyard Colony. It is to be hoped that they will be amply and thoroughly protected.—R. M. B.

Hunting Down Stock Killers, by W. B. Bell, Assistant Biologist, in Economic Investigations, Bureau of Biological Survey. Separate P. P. 290-300 Year Book of the Department of Agriculture 1920.

This interesting paper deals with the destruction of Beans, Bob-cats, Lynxes, Mountain Lion, Coyotes and Wolves, gives a tabulated statement showing the destruction of 128,513 animals and contains much interesting information on this subject.

Conserving Our Wild Animals and Birds, by Edward A. Goldman, Assistant Biologist, in charge of Biological Investigation, Bureau of Biological Survey. Separate 160 P. P. 160-174 Year Book Department of Agriculture 1920.

This paper is brimful of interest to those desiring to save some remnant of our wild life and is well illustrated by numerous half tones which disclose the fact that approximately five million people armed with modern weapons such as repeating and automatic shot guns and rifles, take the field every year against the helpless wild animals and birds. There is no question what the ultimate result will be unless there is an awakened and militant public sentiment developed and maintained in favor of protecting these helpless and innocent beings with which our land was populated by Nature.

Farm Help from the Birds by W. L. McAtee, Assistant Biologist in Economic Ornithology, Bureau of Biologi-

cal Survey. Separate P. P. 254-270.

This paper lives well up to the McAtee Standard, which is of course well known and high. It ought to be in the hands of every farmer in the United States, being as it is brimful of information, which the farmer should have.

LIFE HISTORIES OF NORTH AMERICAN GULLS AND TERNS, U. S. National Museum, Bulletin 113, by Arthur Cleveland Bent. All those who have had the pleasure of examining Mr. Bent's Book on the Diving Birds know well what to expect from the above title and will in no way be disappointed in examining and using this production.

It is typically Bent like in thoroughness, splendidly written, well illustrated numerous half tones, and fifteen full page colored plates of the eggs of the various Gulls and Terns. Its 345 pages are a well of information on the subject of which it treats, for which the entire bird Fraternity of students are and will be for many years under obligation to the author. Every page discloses the careful pains taking attention of the student and the amount of information assembled is truly remarkable.

It is to be hoped that this contribution is to be followed by many others of similar character.—R. M. B.

"SQUARE EGGS"

The Philadelphia Inquirer says that the officers of The National Geographic Society are more or less mystified over a book recently published. It contains a description of an alleged yachting expedition in the South Seas, on one of the Islands of which the voyagers are alleged to have discovered a bird laying square eggs, and our correspondent who sends us the clipping adds the comment "This man has Honecker beat."—R. M. B.

SOME MISNAMED BIRDS

The Titmouse is a bird.

The Meadow Lark is an Oriole.

The Bee Martin is a Flycatcher.

The Mouse Hawk is a Shrike.

The Water Turkey is a Darter.

The Robin is not a Robin but a Thrush.

The Water Thrush is not a Thrush but a Warbler.

The Upland Plover is not a Plover but a Sandpiper.

The Rain Crow is not a Crow, but is a Cuckoo.

The Quail is not a Quail but is a true Partridge.

"Renit is a name given to the giant of domestic Pigeons."

The Black and White Creeper is not a Creeper but a Warbler.

The Carrion Crow is not a Crow but a Vulture.

And the Turkey Buzzard is a Vulture. (Buzzards are a genus of large hawks.)

The Ruffed Grouse is a misnamed Pheasant in the North, and Partridge in the South.

The Nighthawk is not a Hawk, neither does it fly at night, but it is a Caprimulgidae bird, erroneously called Goatsucker.

The Sea Swallow is not a Swallow but is a Tern.

Compiled by R. F. Miller.

We have in store for The Oologist two very nice treats. First, an exhaustive article which will appear in the December Oologist, on the subject of The Preparation of Mammal Skins, by one who is regarded as one of the best along this line, Alex Walker.

Also a very exceptional series of half tones made from photographs taken by Dr. Prill. The subjects are unusual and the photographs are A 1. These will begin in the January issue.

R. M. B.

Statement of the ownership, management, circulation, etc., required by the Act of Congress of August 24, 1912, of The Oologist published monthly at Alton, New York, for October, 1921.

State of Illinois,)
County of Marshall.—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared R. Magoon Barnes, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the owner of The Oologist and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, embodied in section 443, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and the business managers are:

Publisher, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

Editor, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.
Managing Editor, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

Business Manager, R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

2. That the owner is R. Magoon Barnes, Lacon, Ill.

There are no stock, bond or security holders. It is not incorporated and owes no one.

R. MAGOON BARNES.

Sworn to and subscribed
before me this 19th day
of November, 1921.

FAY BALL, Notary Public.

Copy Wanted—If your December Oologist should be a little late, charge it to lack of copy. This issue practically cleans out our box all non-illustrated articles. Immediately upon receipt of this, set yourself down at the table in your library and send for the benefit of the Bird Lovers, who read The Oologist, something of your 1921 activities.—R. M. Barnes.

BOOKS

FOR SALE—Part 1, Bendire's Life Histories N. A. Birds. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—"The New Nature Library," and other second-hand Nature publications with no pages missing. State best price. Byron C. Marshall, Imboden, Ark.

Please send me all your Christmas Subscriptions for all magazines. I give prompt attention to renewals as well as new subscriptions. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

WANTED—Oologist IV, 6, and all numbers of 1919 and 1920; Check-list of North American Birds, 1910; also Bent's Diving Birds. M. Nice, Norman, Oklahoma.

WANTED—Cash or Exchange: Bent's Life History of N. A. Birds; also Chimney Swallows nest in good condition. Offer Bendire's V. I, newly bound, etc. Harold E. Meyers, Medina, N. Y.

WANTED—A copy of Lawrence's "Catalogue of the Birds found in Costa Rica," (Annals New York Lyceum of Natural History, IX, pp. 86-149). W. E. Clyde Todd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

WANTED—Vol. I, II, Ridgeway's Birds of North and South America, and Auk I to VI. For disposal, Auk 33 to 36 and odd numbers. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Ontario.

I would like to get all the subscriptions that you have for all magazines before Christmas. Watch for my advertisement in November. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. III, Numbers 1 and 2; give cash or exchange. Desire for the Miami Beach Zoological Garden and Museum of Natural History, rare specimens of Birds, mammals and eggs. Address the Director, Harold H. Bailey, Box 5, Miami Beach, Florida.

FOR SALE For Cash—Auk, Vols. XI to XXI, complete; Vol. XXII, Nos. 1, 2, 4; Vol. XXIII to XXV complete, Vol. XXVII and XXIX complete. Forestry and Irrigation, Vol. XIV Nos. 4, 6 to 12; Conservation XV No. 1 to 9, 11 and 12, Bluebird, Vol. IX No. 3. Louis S. Kohler, R.F.D. 2, Patterson, N. J.

EXCHANGE—I have the following magazines to exchange for best offer in 1st class sets: "Auk," Vols. XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII. "Wilson's Bulletin," Vol. XXXII. "Bird Lore," Vol. XXII. "Condor," Vol. XXII. "Oologist," Vol. XXV. "Bay State Oologist," Vol. I, Nos. 1 to 6 (complete). "Birds," Vols. I, II. "American Ornithology," (C. K. Reed), Vols. I, II, III, IV. All in fine condition. Make me an offer. B. S. Griffin, 22 Currier Avenue, Haverhill, Mass.

FOR SALE—Mounted Texas Horned Frogs, .65 cents each. Skinned ready to mount, 40 cents. Add one to your collection. Sent postpaid. Ramon Graham Taxidermy and Tanning Co. Box 215 Polytechnic, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Red-backed, Gray, Dusky, Two-lined salamanders, finely mounted in solution by most approved museum method; any species, \$1.50. Spotted salamander mounted as above, \$4.50. Unopened copy "Insect Behavior," 114 illustrations, by Paul G. Howes, \$4.00. Other books and mounted birds; see last May Oologist. Paul G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

WANTED—The following Government Bulletins by W. W. Cooke: Distribution and Migratory of North American Warblers, Distribution and Migration of North American Shorebirds, Distribution and Migration of North American Rails, Distribution of American Egrets. Some new facts about the Migration of Birds, Migratory Movements of Birds in Relation to the Weather. Cash or exchange in other bulletins. Write at once to Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE—Conn Bantam Saxophone; Conn Cornet Flute; Conn Piccolo; Buescher Slide Trombone; E Flat Clarinets; B Flat Clarinets. All triple silver plated except clarinets, and in plush lined cases. Clarinets in solid leather cases. Dr. A. E. Payne, Riverhead, New York.

FOR EXCHANGE—Photographs, size 5x7; nests and eggs Nos. 194, 125, 221, 325, 554a, 761a, 297a, 289, 761, 273, 721a, 501.1, 701, 292, 554a, 263, 619, 478, 531e, 725c, 225, 120c, 141, 132, 135, 542b, 554b, 567a. Birds: Sea Gulls on the Pacific, West Horned Owl, Pelican Colony, Malheur Lake Res., Young Pelicans, Young Turkey Vultures. Will exchange for eggs in sets or Bird-Skins. Must be first class with full data. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

FOR SALE—South American Butterflies in papers, for trays and other fancy work, mixed, \$1.80 per dozen. If wanted spread add 5 cents per fly. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn.

PHOTOS WANTED—A few striking pictures (glossy) for illustrative purposes, of a Gt. Horned Owl's nest with young; Gt. Blue Heron colony; also Horned Owl and Herons separate. Send descriptions or prints. State price. R. Fuller, R.F.D. 1, White Plains, N. Y.

I have a fine collection of Indian relics I wish to dispose of for cash the collection consists of about four hundred fine arrow and spear points, skinning stones, hatchets, pendants, knives, hammer stones, and a number of very fine other specimens, the entire collection numbers about five hundred pieces in all, have complete data with every piece, \$100 will take the lot. Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Michigan.

THE OOLOGIST

THE NEW PRICE LIST

We are pleased to announce that the New Catalogue of Prices of North American Birds' Eggs, will be ready for distribution January 1st, 1922. This catalogue will fill an acute necessity. It has been sixteen years since a catalogue appeared that contained prices upon which the working Oologists of America as a whole were willing to base their exchanges. In 1919 an election was called to be participated in by all the active Oologists in North America, who selected a committee of twenty-five well known Oologists to revise the prices. Then a committee of three to pass finally on the prices agreed upon by the larger committee. Two full years were occupied in this work and it is now ready for the printer.

The catalogue will be published by the undersigned and its general arrangement will be as follows:

1. An introduction.
2. A history of Birds' Egg Catalogue.
3. A history of this Catalogue.
4. Prices in this Catalogue.
5. Directions for collecting and preparing eggs.
6. Copy of Standard Data.
7. Illustration of proper way to mark eggs.
8. Illustrations showing proper cabinet arrangements of collections
9. Report of the Committee of Twenty-five to revise prices.
10. Names and prices adopted for each species.
11. Advertisements.

The size of the catalogue will be the same size as The Oologist, which it will in general respect as to make-up resemble. Advertisements of approved character will be accepted at the rate of \$10.00 per page, \$5.00 per column and proportionate rates for half and quarter columns. Classified advertisements of not over fifty words will be accepted in limited numbers at one cent per word.

As this will be without doubt the standard price list of North American Birds Eggs, for many years to come, and will be used by all museums throughout the world it is an unusual opportunity to secure desirable publicity. Those wishing advertising space should send in their application early. The catalogue will be printed on paper suitable to write on with pen and ink and will be used by many as a record on which to keep track of their own collection.

The book will retail at \$1.00 per copy in paper covers, those desiring a cloth bound copy can procure it for \$2.00. The first edition will be about 500 copies. Send us your subscriptions and copy for advertisements now, on the blanks published in this issue.

R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

Subscription Blank

To R. M. Barnes,
Lacon, Illinois.

No.

Please enter my subscription for copies of The American Oologist's Exchange Price List of North American Birds' Eggs in binding. Enclosed find \$..... to pay for same. Delivery prepaid.

Paper covers--\$1.00 per copy.
Cloth covers--\$2.00 per copy.

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Mail same to me at
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To R. M. Barnes,
Lacon, Illinois.

No.

Please find herewith ^{Draft} _{postal note} for \$..... to pay for the new Price List, of North American Birds' Eggs. Copy of advertisement herewith.

Advertisements
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Fill in the above blanks, sign the same and return to R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Illinois, with remittances specified.

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THE OOLOGIST.

BIRDS--NESTS--EGGS
TAXIDERMY

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 12. ALBION, N. Y., DEC. 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 416



THE OOLOGIST

BRIEF SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

EGGS

I will purchase for cash entire collections of North American Bird Skins, mounted birds and birds eggs or odd lots of the same, which I still need to complete my series. Send list and prices. R. M. Barnes, Lacon, Ills.

WANTED—Good set with data of Falco peregrinus anatum. Cash or exchange. H. Kirke Swann, Thorncombe, Lyonsdown, New Barnet, London, England.

WANTED—One large upright egg cabinet with large drawers, also want best Burr Drills, have stamps to trade for eggs. Arthur Blocher, Amboy, Ills.

I have following species in good sets to exchange: 295, 325, 327, 346, 352, 355, 419, 421, 482, 498d, 513a, 585b, 594a, 602, 639, 641, 697, 759a. Thos H. Jackson, 304 N. Franklin St., West Chester, Pennsylvania.

EXCHANGE—Texas birds' eggs in sets. Bird and animal Skins, Curios, Natural history specimens. Ramon Graham, 3722 Ave. J. Poly, Ft. Worth, Texas.

In order to buy material for my Maynard Series, I will sell, at very low figures, many selected singles for this series; of some a large number; of rarer ones, just a few. (Details about the series later). P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

WANTED—Eggs of Nos. 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 102, 109, 110, 112, 113, 257, 270, 272. Wandering Albatross. Mazagucus conspicillatus. For exchange, 92.1, 96, 96.1, 111. Puffinus Carneipes Oestrata Solandrik Phaethon rubicandus. Roland Archer, Ryecroft, Lyndhurst, Victoria, Australia.

FOR SALE—My entire egg collection at once. Sets 85, 185, 264, 330, 343, 352a, 355, 356a, 357b, 416, 417, 478b, 568, 717a, etc. Singles 55, 60, 254; Ducks, Geese, etc. Also few fine skins. Oologist Vols. XI, XII; Condor Vol. XX; Nidologist, Vol. II, Nos. 4-8; Vol. III, Vol. IV, Nos. 1, 2, 9. Robert F. Backus, Florence, Colo. Box 362.

WANTED—Sets of eggs containing abnormal specimens, such as runts, monstrosities, abnormally marked or unmarked, albinistic and malformed specimens. Those with good data only wanted to further my studies of oological abnormalities. Write me when you have anything of this nature. Best cash price given. J. Warren Jacobs, Waynesburg, Penna.

FOR EXCHANGE—Personally collected sets of the following species: A. O. U. 63, 64, 65, 67, 69, 70, 74, 80, 198, 199, 319, 320a, 329, 342, 387, 421, 488, 498g, 513a, 563, 573, 593, 604, 612, 622a, 633, 703a, 704, 705, 706, 707, 731, 736, 761 and 766. What have you? Many

SKINS

BIRDS and ANIMALS mounted, Skins tanned. Write for price list. Ramon Graham, Taxidermist, 3722 Ave. J. Poly, Fort Worth, Texas.

EXCHANGE—I can offer Western bird skins for first class skins that I need. Will also exchange A-1 Mammal skins. Send list. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

I will Exchange Mounted Birds for Bird Skins and Eggs or Sell Mounted Birds and Bird Skins for cash. D. V. Hembree, Roswell, Georgia.

WANTED—Five perfect skins of all the Hawks. Cash only. Address K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

Fine pair of skins, Band Tailed Pigeon, Male and Female for best offer eggs in sets, or skins of Warbler's family. Dr. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

NOTICE—I am moving to Tucson, Ariz., and will be glad to hear from all collectors who wish to write me, at my new address. James Wood, Northville, Michigan.

WANTED—Fine perfect skins of hawks and ducks, shoveller, and Blue wing teal especially; Cooper's and Red tailed hawks. Make best cash offers. K. B. Mathes, Batavia, N. Y.

WANTED—Birds' Eggs and Skins. Can offer Shells, Minerals, Corals, Curios, Butterflies, Biological Specimens, Stamps, Half-tones, Cuts, Scientific and Medical books. Ernest H. Short, Rochester, N. Y. Box 173.

SKINS WANTED—A-No. 1 Skins of the following birds wanted: Golden-winged, Virginia's, Nashville, Sennett's, Olive, Black-fronted, Cerulean, Bay-breasted, Sycamore, Grace's, Golden-cheeked, Palm, Connecticut, Mourning, and Wilson's Warblers; also Water Thrush, for which I offer skins of Western Birds. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

FOR SALE ONLY—A-1 Mounted Birds. Group of 3 solitary sandpipers, \$10. Rare hybrid of black duck and mallard \$25; Scarlet tan. \$3.50; Mourning dove \$3.50; Savanna Sparrow \$2.50; Chest. Col. Longspur \$3; Snow Bunt. \$2.50; Hooded Merganser \$5; Wilson Snipe \$3. Books—N. A. Early Tertiary Bryozoa, Canu and Bassler, 1920, 2 parts. Text 870 pages, Plates 162 pages; Paper covers new, pages uncut \$10. INSECT CASES—8x10½x2½ Glass tops. Need fresh paper linings, 6 for \$4. Have 12. SHELLS—Collection of 345 species from all over world. Many rare ones. All correctly identified price \$10. PAUL G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

species desired in my collection. J. R. Pemberton, 729 Kennedy Building, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

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THE OOLOGIST.

VOL. XXXVIII. No. 12 ALBION, N. Y., DEC. 1, 1921. WHOLE No. 416

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

TAKE NOTICE.

SUBSCRIPTION, 50 CENTS PER YEAR

Examine the number on the wrapper of your Oologist. It denotes the time your subscription expires. Remember we must be notified if you wish it discontinued and all arrearages must be paid. 378 your subscription expires with this issue. 377 your subscription expired with December issue 1918. Other expirations can be computed by intermediate numbers at the rate of one number per month.

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

THE OLD YEAR AND THE NEW

With this issue The Oologist closes the year of 1921, and Volume XXXVIII. The past year we have been laboring under more than ordinary difficulties with our little publication. Our individual business has demanded more of our time. Our law business has increased appreciatively. The installation of our new museum concerning which the readers of The Oologist will hear more later, has taken more of our time than we have anticipated, and our appeals for copy have apparently fallen on less responsive ears than heretofore.

The Oologist for 1922 will continue along the same beaten path that it has traveled since we took it over in 1909, whether this be for better or worse, we leave our readers to judge.

There is coming a decided revival in oological interest in this country, that is apparent already. There is a disposition on the part of those responsible to relax the unnecessarily stringent laws and regulations with which the egg collector has been surrounded of late and oology is surely assuming its proper place in the Sun of Science.

There is but one recognized oological organ which at all times represents the interests of oologists, and through which they may have an inter-change of mutual ideas; and that is the little magazine. We trust that everyone interested in this hobby will see to it that its sphere of influence will be expanded, and that can only be done by increasing its circulation.

We wish all Oologists a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Prosperous and Successful New Year.

R. M. BARNES.

THE MAYNARD SERIES

P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas

My overtures in the pages of *The Oologist* in regard to representative collections of single eggs, would seem to have induced no small interest, not only among the "rank and file," but among really advanced Ornithologists. My subsequent correspondence has brought to light the fact that there are probably thousands of single eggs packed away, doing nobody any good. This, to some of us, must seem a crying shame. If only one might develop, and utilize, some half-divine power of stirring people up and making them do things, what a wonderful influence one might exert in this wayward world!

And now, having given no small thought and attention to this whole matter, it seems to me more and more feasible and valuable. Students of bird-life who may perhaps hesitate to rob the entire contents of the nest, even in case of common birds, might find a real delight in stealing an egg or two of especially interesting coloration or markings, and thus, by exchange, building up gradually a wondrously representative group of eggs of the species available to him. And if he got the whole length of taking all the eggs in the nests of certain rare birds he might in collaboration with others like-minded with himself, gradually broaden the scope of his colorations.

In order to heighten, if possible, the interest of some of the younger readers of this magazine, I wish, here, to describe a type of egg that appears to be quite rare, yet which is quite common enough and pronounced enough, to be fittingly called a type. Eggs of this character are capped heavily with some warm tint, either of dull-brown or dull-green. This color gives the impression as of having been laid on with an air-brush and the tints are so exquisitely graduated, yielding, on

about the middle of the eggs, to the immaculate ground-color, as to surpass the utmost skill of any artist that ever lived. Of such eggs are the example of Crested Flycatcher and Red-wing eggs, already described in the *Oologist*; an egg of the Brown Thrasher, and several others. Most notable and most exquisitely beautiful of the entire series is the egg of a Prairie Falcon, recently acquired.

This specimen is wholly immaculate, rather creamy-white, on the lower third. The entire apex, for nearly half the longitudinal diameter, is very heavily covered with protuberances. (These end where the color ends). This utterly solid color, as in all other eggs of this type, is most finely graduated until it gives place to the immaculate area, near the lower third of the egg. Now, of course, large collections have ample material for covering all ordinary types of eggs in a given species. But, for the most of us, men of limited means and time, I can imagine no possible way in which a working cabinet of eggs can be so readily acquired as through the manipulations of a Maynard Series.

While not yet ready to publish my complete list of the larger series (especially), I might strike a responsive cord in the sensibilities of not a few of *Oologist* readers by stating that I have carefully developed two modified series—a "Student" and a "Teacher" series. In these and especially in the more simple, elementary series, I have tried to avoid, so far as possible, all rare eggs. Should the interest I have been trying to stimulate become a really substantial thing, I should be glad, by courtesy of the editor of *The Oologist*, to publish the A. O. U. numbers of these two series in some later issue of our good magazine. (The Teacher Series covers ninety-two species, which is quite



How the Blue Bird Comes To Its Nest. No. 1. In the Air

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

enough to keep at least the younger students among us a-guessing for quite a spell).

Elsewhere I am offering a few of the quantities of eggs accumulated during the past fifteen years, and especially of late, at ruinously low prices. This is largely because I am not out after money, but am simply selling in order to buy. This, to the minds of some of us, is absolutely legitimate. To illustrate:

Through the generosity of one of the best known ornithologists in America, I am to publish, next year, the results of some seventeen years of study of the Nesting Habits of the Yellow Rail. My trips afield in this quest, have cost from forty to sixty dollars per season. Now, does any one suppose that a plain country parson could afford all this, unless rich men "paid the freight?" What I have learned about a bird whose nestings are known to not over a half-dozen men in all of America, will be published and circulated throughout the known scientific world. All this is due far more to the altruistic spirit of a few rich collectors than it has been to the persistence, the industry and the acquired acumen of just an ordinary collector, like myself. So then, the ethic of egg-traffic, where that traffic is strictly legitimate, is just as healthful and as productive of fine results as any other domain of buying and selling. Did I not honestly feel thus about the situation I should certainly despair of ever reaching, before I am too old, the goal I have persistently set before myself, namely, the final accumulation of a series of eggs that shall fairly represent in shape, size, ground color, texture and markings every essential variation occurring in the eggs of the entire North American ornis (including, of course, the extra limitals).

In closing, I must say just a word about two of the latter: the Red-

spotted Blue-throat and the Chaffinch, (or, more exactly, the Brambling). The wonderful markings and vermiculations of these eggs cannot possibly be imagined. They must be seen.

P. B. Peabody.

A VALUABLE FACTOR IN THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF GROUND NESTING BIRDS

One of the greatest destroyers of the ground nesting birds is the underfed or vagrant dog and cat. The greatest loss sustained by the sheep growers is caused by the inroads which vicious dogs make in raiding these unsuspecting gentle herds. Sheep are considered more important by a majority of merchants than birds. Dog law enforcement has not been considered a duty which should involve the game departments of the various states. Virginia offers a splendid exception to this custom. The state's experience with enforcement of a dog law by the game department through its wardens, have developed such beneficial results that other states should concern themselves about adopting similar measures.

The adoption of the necessary precautionary measures are not difficult, but the application of the laws and their enforcement, is invariably secondary consideration.

Prior to 1918, the Virginia Commissioner of fish and game was making little progress through the enforcement of a dog law which was then on its statutes. Another measure known as the Baker Law was adopted and went into effect subsequent to its passage in 1918. Prior to 1918, the maximum revenue by the state of Virginia during any one year through the issuance of dog laws was \$70,000. The returns for the first year after the enforcement of the Baker Law aggregated \$264,000. The remarkable efficiency



How the Blue Bird Comes To Its Nest. No. 2. Arrived but Wings Extended.

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

of the measure resulted in remodeling this law.

In a bulletin of the American Game Protective Association, Commissioner F. N. Bilisoly reports, "Up to this time, we have destroyed in Virginia 10,000 vagrant dogs. The result is that there are in Virginia more Quail than during any period in the last twenty years. In addition we have restored the sheep industry in Virginia which is a large and important one. This year our dog tax collection will amount to \$300,000."

The elimination of stray cats and tramp dogs which destroy the eggs of Quail, Grouse, Larks, Ducks, Plover, and other magnificent game and seed-eating birds has been appalling. Only the sportsman or naturalist appreciates the significance of eliminating these destructive creatures. Curtailing the havoc wrought by the sheep killing dog amounts to more than important tariff on wool.

Tariff is designed to make sheep raising profitable by making the price of wool and woolen goods higher. Restoration of the sheep raising industry by enforcement of dog laws, makes it possible for farmers to put millions of now idle acres to work at a profit. Eradicate sheep killing dogs, and both wool and mutton can be procured at a low cost.

The combined effect of the sheep killing dog and the prohibitive protective tariff on wool would be to the consumer the reverse of the effect of the enforcement of dog laws. The sheep raiser has a much better chance to profit without the dog as a limiting factor, than with the high tariff as precaution against competition.

However, there is a preponderance of evidence which greatly convinces us that dog law enforcement will be of little consequence to any community if it is left to the county authorities for enforcement. Gerard Alan Abbott.

BIRD HOUSES FOR 1922

Having a few minutes of spare time we went through again "The American Bird House Journal, Volume 5, No. 1, issued by J. Warren Jacobs, of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, and it occurred to us it would be a good notion to call our readers attention again to this valuable publication, if they proposed to endeavor to coax the Martins to nest on their premises next season, it would be a good idea to take up with Mr. Jacobs and his concern the question of procuring suitable quarters for these feathered friends during the fall and winter and before the spring rush comes on.

We have no doubt that orders placed at this time so as to give winter employment to the winter mechanics would be acceptable to those that might be otherwise unemployed and in all probability would receive special terms.

At any rate the readers of The Oologist should in placing their orders for this kind of construction remember one of their own guild who has been as kind to The Oologist as has J. Warren Jacobs—R. M. Barnes.

SOME NOTES ON THE PREPARATION OF MAMMAL SKINS

By Alex. Walker

In a recent number of The Oologist, the editor solicits notes from those who might offer some hints and suggestions useful to ornithologists and oologists. It has occurred to me that a few remarks relating to the collecting of mammal skins may also be of interest to readers of this magazine.

The collecting of mammals by amateurs has not been as popular in the past, as the collecting of birds, but partly due perhaps to the active work of the U. S. Biological Survey along this line, and the dissemination of



How the Blue Bird Comes To Its Nest. No. 3. Wings Folding.

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

knowledge pertaining to animal life, through the agencies of government publications and such periodicals as The National Geographic Magazine greater interest has been taken in this branch of Natural History. The result is an increased amount of study and collecting by nature students.

A collection of birds, birds' eggs or mammals should not be a mere accumulation of skins and egg shells, gathered without due regard to the quality of the material or the data which accompanies, or should accompany it. It would seem that the collector who requires a mass of such material is indifferent to the true purpose of the material, and the collection itself is little less than an array of objects of various shapes, colors and sizes.

System and exactness are as important in the collecting of mammals as in the collecting of birds and eggs. It is just as disappointing for a collector to send out well prepared mammals and receive in exchange a poorly prepared, indifferently labeled lot with damaged skulls, as it is to receive a lot of eggs, poorly prepared and with insufficient data.

We can do little better than follow the example of the U. S. Biological Survey and the large museums which maintain a corps of field assistants. With these institutions the careful measuring, cataloging and labeling of the specimen is required, and is as important as the preparation of the specimen itself. Without entering into a lengthy discussion of the methods of preparing skins, I will mention some of the more important items, particularly with regard to labeling.

As in collecting birds, every specimen should be catalogued, and the catalog number should appear on the label. The following data should always be entered in the catalog and on the label, viz: Locality, date, sex,

measurements and name of collector. The name of the specimen is of the least importance.

The three measurements are usually recorded in millimeters and are taken as follows: *Length*, from tip of nose to end of tail bone, not end of hair; *Tail*, length from rump to end of the vertebrae; *Toe*, length of hind foot from heel to end of longest claw. These measurements should appear on the back of the label, as should the catalog or collection number.

Probably most bird or mammal collections of any size, contains skins taken many years ago, and the ink with which the writing was done has faded almost beyond recognition. For this reason it is advisable to use a permanent ink such as Higgens' Eternal ink, which always remains black. The labels should be standard in shape and size; rectangular, about one-half inch wide by two and one half or three inches in length. A few collectors still use the old style tag labels.

The skinning of the specimen is purely mechanical, and the method of stuffing may be a matter of opinion on the part of the operator, but the method of operation is not material so long as the desired results, viz, a smooth, rather firm and well proportioned skin is obtained. Some prefer to stuff with cotton. Personally I use cotton only for the smaller mammals up to the size of a mole. For larger species I use tow, and for rabbits, muskrat and others of like size I obtain a firm smooth body by forming excelsior around a center stick and covering same with a thin layer of tow.

After the skin is stuffed it will be put into shape and pinned in a tray to dry. Here again, the collector, if he wishes his specimen to be standard in all respects, will take pains in certain details. The front feet should be drawn somewhat under the body and pinned in place; the back feet pinned,



How the Blue Bird Comes To Its Nest. No. 4. At Rest and Ready to Enter.

—Photo by Paul G. Howes.

soles down, close up and parallel to the tail. A mammal with its legs spread far away from the body like a squirrel on the trunk of a tree, may be just as satisfactory a subject in the hands of a taxidermist who wishes to mount it, but if it is to be used as a study skin in the cabinet of a collector, it will literally stand away from its fellows by reason of its extended feet, and so not only take up unnecessary room but appear out of harmony as well.

To be uniform in appearance and take up less room in the cabinet, mammals of the same size should be shaped so as to be approximately the same thickness. This is easily accomplished by pinning them in trays of the desired depth and placing another tray on top so as to press the skins down to the proper thickness. Mammals the size of a rabbit or small skunk should not be over two inches thick, and some collectors do not wish even the larger species to exceed that thickness. If a strip of board, the depth of the tray, is pinned close up on each side of the specimen while it is drying, the result will be a specimen uniform in thickness and width, while a number of such skins in a cabinet tray will take up the least amount of room. It is probably unnecessary to remark that the label should be tied on the right leg before the specimen is pinned out to dry.

Since the skull as well as the skin of a mammal is studied, and very often required in order that the specie may be determined, it is obvious that it should be retained with as much care as the skin. Disconnect it from the body and remove the greater part of the heavy flesh, carefully, so as not to injure the bones. The brains are easily removed through the natural opening in the back of the skull by the use of a brain spoon. Tie the skull tag, numbered (with water proof ink)

to correspond with the number on the skin label, and drop it in water for a day to soak out the blood. Then hang it on a wire in a safe place to dry.

Mammals are usually exchanged with the skulls roughly cleaned and dried. The final cleaning is an art by itself if done properly, and though quite simple requires more space to describe than I wish to take. For a good method the reader is referred to "An easy method of Cleaning Skulls," by A. Brazier Howell; (Journal of Mammalogy, 1919, Vol. 1, page 40.)

In this note I have outlined some of the things that enter into the make up of a good mammal skin with full scientific value, which will not only be a credit to the collector but of greatest value to the one who eventually uses it in scientific study.

Birds have been collected by the cord, and while they are very interesting, the mammalogist today has a greater opportunity for research. Much has yet to be learned of mammals of localities where birds have received considerable attention.

Blaine, Oregon,

The half tone illustrating this paper will appear in the January issue of the Oologist.—R. M. B.

BIRDS

In 1918 I put up a house to see if I could attract a pair of Blue Birds. I had noticed it seemed that was what they were looking for, as they immediately accepted it and started to build a nest and she soon had four eggs which she hatched and raised.

As soon as they brought them out of the nest the male bird took them and disappeared, the female began to repair her nest and soon had four more eggs. It was then quite hot and her house was an old railroad semaphore lamp. She was hardly ever on the nest in the day time and I thought the

eggs were all spoiled as I did not see how they could hatch, and was surprised one day to see her fly up to the nest with something in her mouth. I soon investigated and found she had one bird which she raised. The other eggs were spoiled. I think she set nights and the heat from the iron lamp kept the eggs warm as the sun was very hot.

I thought she deserved a better house so when they came back in the spring of 1919 she had a new home and she took up maternal duties at once. She laid five eggs and hatched and raised them all. The male took them and was gone for a few days but was soon back as he has a steady job fighting English Sparrows, and I believe he is the best fighter I ever saw, and I don't believe there are enough Sparrows in the county to discourage this pair. She soon had five more eggs in the nest and hatched and raised them all. Spring of 1920 I had them a new house and I think she is like some of the women, always likes the new things as she soon got busy and had five eggs. She raised five birds and immediately repaired her nest and laid four eggs. She raised them all. They are both very tame and I have often gone up to the nest when she was sitting on it and have had my face within six inches of her and she did not seem to mind it.

The male works as hard in feeding and taking care of them as the female. I was watching them feeding one day. She had just taken a worm in and came out; the male was sitting there waiting with a worm. She flew at him and took it in to the little ones. He did not seem very mad as he was soon back with another worm.

Every fall about the time to migrate, they gather up their young birds and pay us, or their home, I cannot say which, a visit and usually stay around a day or so. Fall of 1920 we heard

Blue Birds and on looking out saw a very pleasant sight there in an old dead peach tree that I left for the birds to sit in, were the pair and ten young birds. We had not seen them for some time before. They do this every year, and I wonder if all of them return to take a last look at their home before leaving for the winter; also if all Blue Birds hatch two litters a year. I do not think so, as I remember when a boy there was one built in an apple tree in an orchard and I only remember her hatching one litter a year. I am hoping to see my birds back before long and will report their success this year if they come back. I think twenty-four birds from twenty-seven eggs in three years a pretty good record.

Last spring in May 1920, I observed one male, Bachman Warbler No. 640, the only one I ever saw, also a Solitary Sandpiper No 256, which I think is quite rare here. I know of one Pileated Woodpecker being shot near here in fall of 1919, and the same party observed one last fall in the same piece of woods. I think they breed there as it is an ideal place for them on edge of large swamp, and plenty of dead trees. I am going to see if I can locate their nest this spring. They are rare here.

There were several Redpoll, No. 528, here last winter. I have never seen any here before and think it was on account of unusual amount of snow we had last winter. They used to come in my yard to feet, and were quite tame. I am sure they do not come down here every winter. I cannot find any this winter, and so far I have not seen any Tree Sparrows here this winter, but usually see them. We are having a very warm winter.

R. L. Keesler,
Harrisville, Pa.

SNOW AND EGGS

Raymond Fuller, White Plains, N. Y.

It is not generally realized by those who have not made wild birds an active hobby of theirs how early some of them lay eggs. The few following instances of snow-covered birds' nests which have come under my personal observation may be put completely in the shade by Canadian naturalists; but for New York state the species mentioned may be fairly representative of the total reasonable probabilities.

In 1906 I found a typical thorn-apple (haw) nest of the white-rumped shrike on April 9, whose six exquisite eggs were cozily cottoned in a light fall of snow coming the night before. The parents were anxiously about, and three days later Mother Shrike was seen brooding her charges as though nothing had interrupted.

A great horned owl eerie to which I laboriously scaled several Februaries ago could truthfully be said to have had its two white billiard-ball eggs resting upon a hard coating of ice which had formed beneath the sitting bird's body. It is a mystery how most of these owls' eggs are prevented from freezing—the enforced supposition is that from the moment of laying they are never deserted a minute; though it is well known that both parents brood them by turns. Below-zero weather is usual for the incubation period of the great horned owl; sleet storms and heavy falls of snow common occurrences.

The only woodcock's (Philohela minor) nest I ever discovered was mantled with a thin feathering of March snow, but two of the expected four eggs having been laid. This plover nests very often in mid-March, and the sitting mother's back must not infrequently be whitened.

A hole in a tall fence post that chanced unfortunately to face the

northwest came in for a generous filling of flaky snow one April within my memory. I knew that blue birds had laid eggs already in the cavity, so investigated. Sure enough, the pale blue jewels were completely buried, the nest was half full. The parents left in despair, for it was several days before the weather moderated sufficiently to have melted the snow inside the post.

Twice I have climbed to red-shouldered hawks' platforms following April blizzards, to find the nest fringed with snow but the eggs sheltered by the sitting parent were dry and warm. April 16, 1907, however, a domicile in a small beech, which held one handsome rufous-blotched egg, had received no maternal protection from the "quick change in the weather," and so this egg was as cold an object as one would expect to dig out of a half inch of preserving snow. I have found it a well-established red-shouldered custom to sit on the nest very closely and bravely during damp drizzly days; while on warm ones they will much more readily fly when the tree trunk is struck. But until the full set is laid they appear to have slight regard for the fractional part—hence the snow and rain which descend on partial clutches.

What I regard as a record for northern New York is the finding of a prairie horned lark's nest holding four eggs upon March 29. Although the nest site (the ground in a pasture) was fairly dry, remnants of disappearing snowdrifts lay all around and pasture hollows were full of slushy ice. This may be a common surrounding for Alaska or Athabaskan birds, but I doubt if any other United States bird ever builds next door to melting drifts south of the St. Lawrence.

**KINGFISHER AND MOURNING
DOVES WINTER AT WINTHROP
IOWA**

The winter just past, unlike the greater per cent of its predecessors, was an unusually mild one. The great amount of warm weather apparently induced a pair of Mourning Doves and a Belted Kingfisher to remain with us through the cold season.

As soon as this locality began to put on the appearance of winter, a pair of Mourning Doves appeared near the farm buildings, selected our corn-fodder stack as a home, and stayed there or nearby in a grove the greater part of the winter.

A Belted Kingfisher remained along one section of Buffalo Creek, near my home, throughout the winter months. We knew it was there, even when not seen, for it very frequently gave its rattling notes, which can be heard a considerable distance. While there were open places in the creek most of the winter, it seemed to be completely frozen over at certain periods, and it is difficult to understand how the Fisher subsisted at those times. This is the first time I have known the Kingfisher to winter here.

Fred J. Pierce,

March 8, 1921.

Winthrop, Ia.

WISCONSIN NOTES—1920

I heard Prairie Chickens during the summer in two different places, knew of one large brood in July, but they are none too plenty. Heard one Bob White. Now and then a Bartramian Sandpiper nests here; found a nest in June, four eggs ready to hatch.

The Black-billed Cuckoos were, with the exception of one bird heard, minus, during the latter part of the season. Jack Snipe lingered here late in April. Night Hawks quite common.

Seen two Black Tern one day in May, at least ten miles from any body

of water of any considerable size. A fine family of five Marsh Hawks hatched near here. Noted Great Horned Owls, Screech Owls and Short-eared Owls; three of the latter flying about near a marsh just at dusk, one evening.

I was told by a hunter that ducks and other water birds game, were very scarce this season, but he thought the closed spring season was a benefit to all concerned.

One time, some 24 years ago, I was out hunting in central Minnesota and saw a flock of a thousand or more Pine Grosbeaks. They were sitting in some low bushes, and I walked in among them for a considerable distance. They showed no fear even when I fired my 32 caliber revolver.

I have seen small flocks of these aristocrats of the north here at my "home town," also Evening Grosbeaks and White-winged Crossbills.

Geo. W. S. vos Burgh.

WAXWINGS

In the January 1920 Oologist there appeared an article by Colin Campbell Sanborn asking for notes of the migration of the Waxwings. I have a camp on the lake here and am out in the woods or my boat every day and have a very good opportunity to study wild life. I have taken a good many notes on the migratory birds but this year have observed only seven Waxwings. I have been in conversation with Mr. Graham here about them and he tells me that that is seven more than he has seen. In past years they have come through here by the thousands, generally with the migration of Robins, and could be found in every hackberry tree in the city, nearly. I would like to ask if anyone else from the south has noticed the decrease of Waxwings and Robins this year.

Geo. E. Maxon.

GREAT HORNED OWL

In the February issue of *The Oologist* 1918 the editor advised that it was the month to look for Owls. I followed this advice and will never forget the experience we had. The day was cloudy but rather warm. We were prepared to start for the woods when all of a sudden a tornado was sweeping through part of this locality tearing down trees, roofs of buildings and doing lots of damage, and for a minute or two we did not know what was going to become of us. After the wind had somewhat gone we started back home and found the damage in our section was very slight so we again started for the woods. It was considerable colder, and after driving seven miles we stopped at a farmhouse, and being a little late in the afternoon we put the horse in the barn and decided to wait until morning.

Early the next morning we started for the woods in search for Owls' nests. We made quite a hike and it was in the afternoon before we had any success. The woods had mostly large, tall burr oak trees. We now came to a tree where a Red-tailed Hawk had nested two years ago and as we approached the tree, all of a sudden a Great Horned Owl started from the old Hawk's nest and in a few minutes about fifty Crows took after the Owl.

The tree was a large oak and the nest was in a very risky place, and the wind being rather strong so it was impossible to climb the tree, for to try to get to the nest would mean failure, and right here I agree with Mr. Ramon Graham in *The Oologist* of May 15, 1917, page 90. The Owls and the nest is there but hard to get at, so we waited several days and on a beautiful morning on March 16, 1918 we again started for the Owl's nest. It was a warm March day. We soon got to the woods and upon reaching the tree the Owl again flew off the nest. I now un-

strapped my collecting outfit which contained 150 feet of one-half inch rope, one pair of climbers, collecting box, camera, bird glasses, and fine cord. We now took the fine cord, tied a weight on the end of it and threw it over the first branch. We now tied the half inch rope on the twine and pulled it over the branch and then began climbing the tree with the aid of the rope. It took considerable time for after the first branch was reached the rope was thrown over the next branch and so on until the nest was reached. It was a hazardous undertaking for the branches were untrustworthy, but we finally reached the nest. Oh joy, two eggs! The two eggs were removed and placed in the collecting box.

The eggs were badly incubated. With time and patience we have in our collection a good set of Great Horned Owl's eggs.

It was the last set that was personally taken by Wm. H. Pahrman who is now somewhere in France.

Chas. F. Pahrman

The half-tone illustrating this article appeared in Vol. XXXVII at page 106.

—R. M. B.

RED SHOULDERED HAWK

On April 10, 1916 I started for the woods in search of Hawks and after about two hours walk I came to a farmhouse. The farmer was very friendly and after telling him that I was searching for Hawks' nests he began telling me that in a woods about a quarter of a mile away there were a pair of Hawks that had nested there for the past ten years. He said I would find the nest pretty well in the timber for he had seen the birds there a few days ago. I thanked him very much and at once started for the place where the Hawks were.

After I had gotten into the woods pretty well I noticed one of the birds

circulating above the tree tops and when I got to the place where I had seen the bird I at once discovered a nest about forty feet up in a red oak tree. I now took my bird glasses from my belt and looking at the nest I could see some feathers on the outside of the nest, I put on my climbers and fastened my egg box and folding hand camera to my belt and began to climb the tree.

On reaching the nest I found four white eggs variously blotched and spotted with different shades of brown. The nest was made of sticks lined with fine rootlets, grass, etc. I now climbed about three feet above the nest and took a picture of the nest and the eggs. I now took the eggs, one at a time, rolled them in cotton and put them in my collecting box, and when I got to the bottom of the tree I also took a picture of the tree which contained the nest.

I was glad to get this set of eggs for Red Tailed Hawks are somewhat rare in this locality.—C. F. Pahrman.

EGG COLLECTING

Dr. William Rounds

Among the many interesting articles in the October number of the Oologist your review of Vol. 2, 1-2, 1921 Journal of the Museum of Comparative Oology has furnished me food for thought. Since I have not seen the Journal and, therefore, cannot be accused of plagiarism am venturing an individual opinion upon that branch of Ornithology in which we are most interested. Prof. Clifton F. Hodge in his book Nature Study and Life mentions interest in flowers as falling along three lines: First, a fondness for the exotic products of the conservatory to be worn for a few hours at theatre or ball and then cast aside. An attachment as fleeting as the bloom,

Second: The interest of the botanist

who desires to be able to classify more species than his colleagues. Laudable in itself this ambition is only dangerous as it tends toward egotism.

Third: The love of the gardener for the plants of his culture and tending. A love which is almost parental in its watchful solicitude.

We may easily find oological types that conform to each of these three classes.

First: The careless collector to whom egg-taking is the result of an evanescent fad; whose identifications are faulty, whose data blanks are incomplete and to whom a note book is unknown. So far as possible he should be shown the error of his ways. That he is taxing wild bird life without adequate return in the form of acquired knowledge and that his unidentified specimens are as valueless as a string of party-colored beads. In this connection, and because many of these collectors are immature boys, I believe that bird protection organization issuing descriptive leaflets in color should include color reproductions of the egg (natural size where practicable or, if reduced, show fractional reduction). That this may be accomplished is shown by color illustrations of eggs of North American Diving birds, U. S. National Museum Bulletin 107. Am making above suggestions because of the tendency of educational leaflets to omit or slight reference to nesting habits or egg descriptions. Presumably this oversight is due to the thought that illegal and careless collecting can best be inhibited by secrecy. But the American boy, out-of-doors, is challenged by mystery and, if robust and red blooded, is a constant investigator of the unknown. We will do more toward bird protection by taking him into our full confidence.

The second type of flower devotees

finds his counterpart in the scientific collector (usually a man of means and education), whose sets represent various fauna carefully and accurately assembled by personal endeavor, exchange with reputable, licensed collectors and by purchase. We are indebted to such for kind identification of freak specimens and much oological advice and their collections (as previously noted in the Oologist) are usually given or bequeathed to some museum where they serve public education. They are to be congratulated without envy.

By sequence we come to the gardener and his proteges and it is within this classification that the writer must list himself. In my early collecting, done many years ago in Southern Vermont, I was encouraged by my father but he made certain stipulations which I have endeavored to observe. One of these was to take no unidentified egg. This has meant many a half holiday spent in patient ambush every hour of which was worth while since it made me acquainted with other and varied forms of life. Another was to glean by study and observation the habits and economic status of my bird friends. A direct result of this was the earning (with pennies as the unit of exchange) of Stearns and Coues New England Bird Life, 2 Vols., a quaint publication still valued. From its pages I derived much pleasure and information but from my walks afield and close observation much more. Since opportunities for exchange were few his further counsel was to take no duplicates unless because of some special interest. But at the forefront of his advice was this thought. "All scientific study carries an obligation to the instructor. The birds have sacrificed a setting to your information and it is incumbent on you to make their subsequent nestings safe by the erection of nesting boxes, establishment of feeding sta-

tions and by protection against their natural enemies." Under such tutelage I came to love the birds and, because oology is a logical stepping stone to a more accurate and wider knowledge of bird life, I am glad to be counted among its students.

TEXAS NOTES FOR 1921

Ramon Graham reports the following:

In the last two months I have mounted over three hundred Texas Horned Frogs, for myself and parties desiring them for souvenirs of Texas. Lots of them were full of eggs but to my surprise I found thirty-one eggs in one frog. I think this is a large amount of eggs for one frog to lay and if they all hatch this country will never be out of the little bug eating frogs. These frogs are a great help to gardeners around here, as they will soon eat every bug or insect that is in the gardens. One gardener reported that the bugs had attacked his water melons and that a spraying outfit did not hurt them, so he got the kids busy catching horned frogs and put them in the garden and inside of a week all the bugs were gone and he made a good watermelon crop.

While collecting over the prairies through north Texas I have come upon many Terrapins or dry land turtles. These turtles never go about the water and live together on dry land. They spend the summers in the open and in winter they go in holes. I have tried to find their eggs but to date have had no luck.

While collecting along the Mexican border I have run across many of these curious animals. They remind me of an opossum and feed mostly at night. Their food consists of bugs, ants, insects and it is claimed that they rob wild turkeys' nests but this has not been proven to me. I do not think they hurt the Wild Turkey sup-

ply. These animals have a shelled back and tail; the under parts is skin with hair. They have feet shaped like a chicken. The dogs have a tough time killing these animals. We have one dog that would run up to them and turn them over and catch him in the belly and shake him to death. These animals raise from four to eight young in April.

Mrs. Ramon Graham of Ft. Worth, Texas, reports finding a brass pin sticking one half way through the wall of the gizzard of a Mallard Duck she was cleaning which also contained a few water grass seeds and some long stringy grass, as well as fifteen small pebbles of different kinds and colors.

She and her husband have in confinement a White Pelican, that when it sleeps on the ground sits down and turns its head down toward the tail, buries its bill and sides of its head under the large feathers on the back between the wings leaving nothing but the top of the head and side of the head down to the lower part of the eyes exposed.

The books says that these Pelicans have white eyes but the dealers in taxidermist's supplies send yellow eyes for mounted Pelicans, but this kind of bird has black eyes.

She also reports the method adopted by the soldiers in camp, in Florida during the war to catch the Brown Pelican which is a common bird there, as follows:

The Pelicans and water birds were plentiful and we enjoyed them as they would fly by and dive after fish. One day we thought we would have some fun with them, so we caught some nice looking fish and tacked them to a board and set the board in the water out some distance from shore. It began to float with the waves and some Pelicans flew over it. All at once one made a dive, then another and they hit the board that had the fish on it,

This stunned them and we went out and caught them. They made fine pets and soon became as tame as chickens. One soldier was asked how they thought of such a trick and why did they do it. He spoke up and said, "Well, the law won't let us shoot one and we wanted a pet or mascot, so the idea came to our heads after watching the big birds dive after fish."

"THE TURKEY AND THE BLACK VULTURE"

By Geo. E. Maxon, U. S. Deputy Game Warden, Fort Worth, Texas

About the latter part of March or the first of April is a time that I always look forward to. For on that date I can usually be found in the field after the Black and Turkey Vultures. In this location I consider the bird men lucky, when it comes to Vultures.

Just north of Ft. Worth, about 18 miles, with 18 miles of paved road can be found as pretty Vulture breeding grounds as has been my good fortune to find.

And each year finds me searching the crest of the old familiar hills in quest of Vultures. The hills have a very peculiar formation, for situated about five feet from the crest of the hill, a strata of rock sticks out, anywhere from six inches to two feet thick. Time has helped also to make it an ideal nesting grounds. In some places where the earth has been washed out too far to support the ledge, it has broken off and forms natural caves under the rocks for several yards in some places.

Each year I motor out to the breeding grounds and make my start from the same location. Starting at ledge at the smallest hill it is a very easy job to walk along the top of the ledge and watch ahead of you for Mrs. Vulture to flush. Only on one occasion

have I found it necessary to flush the bird off the nest by hand. As a general rule I have found it, the bird will sneak away from the nest at the least sign of danger, but will always return to circle over its nest. But upon the occasion of which I speak, Mr. Ramon Graham and myself were making a tour of the ledges and had arrived at a little ravine that ran up the side of the hill, with a water falls over the crest of the hill. Being an extremely hot day, we decided to rest a while in the shade of the rocks. We had been sitting there for at least ten minutes, when Mr. Graham remarked, "What's that?" Turning I heard the same sound that he had, coming from under the rock that we had been sitting on. We both listened and both agreed that it was young Vultures, for the sound was the identical hissing sound of the young Vulture. But upon investigation found quite a different scene. Mrs. Vulture was sitting calmly at home and refused to leave. We pried her up far enough to see that she has two eggs under her. At the sight of the eggs we knew for sure that it was her move. Mr. Graham caught hold of her wing and pulled her out from under the rock and tossed her to the breeze, but the top of the first rock was as far as she had any idea of going. So we left her sitting there while we collected the eggs. Mr. Graham has the set in his collection today. The first and only pure white set of Vultures I have ever collected.

This trip can be made in an afternoon and in the right month will net all the sets that any real ornithologist and not egg hog, can use. It is also a good location for Horned and Barred Owls, and I have several good sets that I highly prize that came from there.

I have been out of the egg game for several years fighting the Huns but I

expect to make the same rounds this year and have hope of the same success of previous years.

The accompanying photo shows a set of Turkey Vulture in bed of oak leaves under shelf of rock. Photo by Geo. E. Maxon.

The photo referred to appeared in *The Oologist*, Vol. XXXVII, Pg. 144.—R. M. B.

It is sad but true that we are entirely out of copy and it looks like the January issue of *The Oologist* would have to be delayed, awaiting the arrival of more copy unless it is given a boost by some of our friends and subscribers right away.

MAYNARD SERIES—To stimulate interest I offer of this series, Eggs at less than one-fourth list; 29 eggs for One Dollar; for Two Dollars, 27 additional eggs of the series. The Fifth and Tenth Dollar orders will receive, each, additional eggs of Fifty Cents cash value. For a Three Dollar order I will add an egg, each, of Vulture, Hummer, White-necked Raven and Canada Goose. A list of the Student Series Maynard, with every Dollar order. Each Dollar order contains 2 eggs of 50-cent value. P. B. Peabody, Blue Rapids, Kansas.

FOR SALE—Mrs. Jane Knox, of Jackson, Minnesota, has for sale Nests and Eggs of N. A. Birds (Davis), Birds of Minnesota (Hatch), Review of N. A. Birds in Smithsonian Institute (Baird), Bird Migration (Cook), Birds of the Northwest (Coues), Ornithology (Cours), Text Book of Zoology (Parker & Haswell).

I have just had placed with me a wonderful collection of 400 Indian Arrow Heads and Tomahawks. These were collected among the hills of Kentucky, and I have been asked to dispose of them in either small or large lots and for most any fair offer. If you are interested and wish to make any proposition involving oological specimens, bird photographs, or other Natural History specimens I shall be glad to hear from you. G. A. Abbott, Lancaster, Ky.

BOOKS

FOR SALE—Part 1, Bendire's Life Histories N. A. Birds. Alex. Walker, Blaine, Oregon.

WANTED—"The New Nature Library," and other second-hand Nature publications with no pages missing. State best price. Byron C. Marshall, Imboden, Ark.

Please send me all your Christmas Subscriptions for all magazines. I give prompt attention to renewals as well as new subscriptions. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

WANTED—Oologist IV, 6, and all numbers of 1919 and 1920; Check-list of North American Birds, 1910; also Bent's Diving Birds. M. Nice, Norman, Oklahoma.

WANTED—Cash or Exchange: Bent's Life History of N. A. Birds; also Chimney Swallows nest in good condition. Offer Bendire's V. I, newly bound, etc. Harold E. Meyers, Medina, N. Y.

WANTED—A copy of Lawrence's "Catalogue of the Birds found in Costa Rica," (Annals New York Lyceum of Natural History, IX, pp. 86-149). W. E. Clyde Todd, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, Pa.

WANTED—Vol. I, II, Ridgeway's Birds of North and South America, and Auk I to VI. For disposal, Auk 33 to 36 and odd numbers. Hoyes Lloyd, 406 Queen St., Ottawa, Ontario.

I would like to get all the subscriptions that you have for all magazines before Christmas. Watch for my advertisement in November. Miss Fay Ball, Lacon, Illinois.

WANTED—Bird Lore, Vol. III, Numbers 1 and 2; give cash or exchange. Desire for the Miami Beach Zoological Garden and Museum of Natural History, rare specimens of Birds, mammals and eggs. Address the Director, Harold H. Bailey, Box 5, Miami Beach, Florida.

FOR SALE For Cash—Auk, Vols. XI to XXI, complete; Vol. XXII, Nos. 1, 2, 4; Vol. XXIII to XXV complete, Vol. XXVII and XXIX complete. Forestry and Irrigation, Vol. XIV Nos. 4, 6 to 12; Conservation xv No. 1 to 9, 11 and 12, Bluebird, Vol. IX No. 3. Louis S. Kohler, R.F.D. 2, Patterson, N. J.

EXCHANGE—I have the following magazines to exchange for best offer in 1st class sets: "Auk" Vols. XXXV, XXXVI, XXXVII. "Wilson's Bulletin," Vol. XXXII. "Bird Lore," Vol. XXII. "Condor," Vol. XXII. "Oologist," Vol. XXV. "Bay State Oologist," Vol. I, Nos. 1 to 6 (complete). "Birds," Vols. I, II. "American Ornithology," (C. K. Reed), Vols. I, II, III, IV. All in fine condition. Make me an offer. B. S. Griffin, 22 Currier Avenue, Haverhill, Mass.

FOR SALE—Mounted Texas Horned Frogs .65 cents each. Skinned ready to mount, 40 cents. Add one to your collection. Sent postpaid. Ramon Graham Taxidermy and Tanning Co. Box 215 Polytechnic, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Red-backed, Gray, Dusky, Two-lined salamanders, finely mounted in solution by most approved museum method; any species, \$1.50. Spotted salamander mounted as above, \$4.50. Unopened copy "Insect Behavior," 114 illustrations, by Paul G. Howes, \$4.00. Other books and mounted birds; see last May Oologist. Paul G. Howes Laboratory, Stamford, Conn.

WANTED—The following Government Bulletins by W. W. Cooke: Distribution and Migratory of North American Warblers, Distribution and Migratory of North American Shorebirds, Distribution and Migration of North American Rails, Distribution of American Egrets. Some new facts about the Migration of Birds, Migratory Movements of Birds in Relation to the Weather. Cash or exchange in other bulletins. Write at once to Fred J. Pierce, Winthrop, Iowa.

MISCELLANEOUS

FOR SALE—Conn Bantam Saxophone; Conn Cornet Flute; Conn Piccolo; Buescher Slide Trombone; E Flat Clarinets; B Flat Clarinets. All triple silver plated except clarinets, and in plush lined cases. Clarinets in solid leather cases. Dr. A. E. Payne, Riverhead, New York.

FOR EXCHANGE—Photographs, size 5x7; nests and eggs Nos. 194, 125, 221, 325, 554a, 761a, 297a, 289, 761, 273, 721a, 501.1, 701, 292, 554a, 263, 619, 478, 581e, 725c, 225, 120c, 141, 132, 135, 542b, 554b, 567a. Birds: Sea Gulls on the Pacific, West Horned Owl, Pelican Colony, Malheur Lake Res., Young Pelicans, Young Turkey Vultures. Will exchange for eggs in sets or Bird Skins. Must be first class with full data. A. G. Prill, Scio, Oregon.

FOR SALE—South American Butterflies in papers, for trays and other fancy work, mixed, \$1.80 per dozen. If wanted spread add 5 cents per fly. A. J. Potter, East Killingly, Conn.

PHOTOS WANTED—A few striking pictures (glossy) for illustrative purposes, of a Gt. Horned Owl's nest with young; Gt. Blue Heron colony; also Horned Owl and Herons separate. Send descriptions or prints. State price. R. Fuller, R.F.D. 1, White Plains, N. Y.

I have a fine collection of Indian relics I wish to dispose of for cash the collection consists of about four hundred fine arrow and spear points, skinning stones, hatchets, pendants, knives, hammer stones, and a number of very fine other specimens, the entire collection numbers about five hundred pieces in all, have complete data with every piece, \$100 will take the lot. Walter E. Hastings, South Lyon, Michigan.

THE OOLOGIST

THE NEW PRICE LIST

We are pleased to announce that the New Catalogue of Prices of North American Birds' Eggs, will be ready for distribution January 1st, 1922. This catalogue will fill an acute necessity. It has been sixteen years since a catalogue appeared that contained prices upon which the working Oologists of America as a whole were willing to base their exchanges. In 1919 an election was called to be participated in by all the active Oologists in North America, who selected a committee of twenty-five well known Oologists to revise the prices. Then a committee of three to pass finally on the prices agreed upon by the larger committee. Two full years were occupied in this work and it is now ready for the printer.

The catalogue will be published by the undersigned and its general arrangement will be as follows:

1. An introduction.
2. A history of Birds' Egg Catalogue.
3. A history of this Catalogue.
4. Prices in this Catalogue.
5. Directions for collecting and preparing eggs.
6. Copy of Standard Data.
7. Illustration of proper way to mark eggs.
8. Illustrations showing proper cabinet arrangements of collections
9. Report of the Committee of Twenty-five to revise prices.
10. Names and prices adopted for each species.
11. Advertisements.

The size of the catalogue will be the same size as *The Oologist*, which it will in general respect as to make-up resemble. Advertisements of approved character will be accepted at the rate of \$10.00 per page, \$5.00 per column and proportionate rates for half and quarter columns. Classified advertisements of not over fifty words will be accepted in limited numbers at one cent per word.

As this will be without doubt the standard price list of North American Birds Eggs, for many years to come, and will be used by all museums throughout the world it is an unusual opportunity to secure desirable publicity. Those wishing advertising space should send in their application early. The catalogue will be printed on paper suitable to write on with pen and ink and will be used by many as a record on which to keep track of their own collection.

The book will retail at \$1.00 per copy in paper covers, those desiring a cloth bound copy can procure it for \$2.00. The first edition will be about 500 copies. Send us your subscriptions and copy for advertisements now, on the blanks published in this issue.

R. M. BARNES, LACON, ILLINOIS.

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