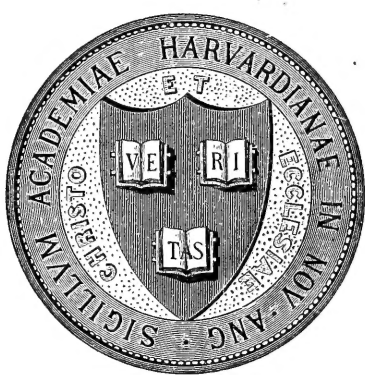


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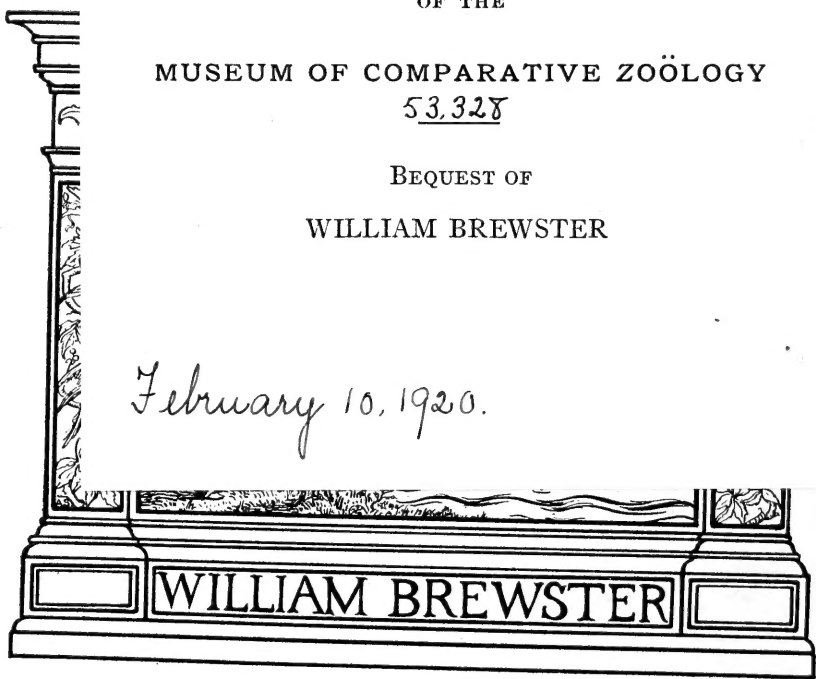
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WILLIAM BREWSTER

February 10, 1920.



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THE SUNNY SOUTH OÖLOGIST.

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GAINESVILLE, TEXAS, MARCH, 1886.

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[For the Sunny South Oologist.]

THE WAXWINGS.

(*Bombycillidae.*)

The Waxwings are a small but very interesting family of birds, only two species are known to visit Canada, or perhaps the whole of North America. These are the well-known "Cherry-bird," and the Northern, or Bohemian Wax-wing. These species are also sometimes called Chatterers, but this is a strange misnomer, as they are among the most silent of our birds, their only notes being a kind of wheezy whistle. The term "Wax-wing," however, has been applied to them from the fact that the wings are provided with a curious horny appendage of the color of red sealing-wax. The young are without these wing-ornaments, and have a streaked plumage. If taken young from the nest, and provided with proper food, they are easily raised, and become pleasing pets. The Cherry-bird usually visit this country about the first day of June, but the northern chatterers visits us only in the winter season.

THE CHERRY BIRD.

(*Ampelis Cedrorum.*)

This beautiful and widely diffused species is, as its name implies, very partial to ripe cherries and other small fruit, and it is therefore no friend to the market-gardener. It is also in some places called the Cedar bird, from its fondness to low cedar-groves, where it often resorts for the purposes of shelter, nesting, and feeding on the berries of the soft-wood. In its nesting habits it resembles the King-bird, but it exhibits none of the warlike propensities that characterise that species, but, on the contrary, apart from its fruit-loving nature, it is one of the most peaceful and innocent of creatures. Its love for ripe cherries is however so strong that it will risk its life almost anytime, in order to obtain these tempting dainties, and at such times it has little dread of the sound of the shot gun, or fear of a scare crow. Be-

sides cherries, it also feeds on strawberries, raspberries and currants; and when these are in season it is a continual source of annoyance to the small fruit grower. It frequents most of the temperate regions of North America, being found from Mexico to the northern regions of Ontario, and is noted for the silky softness and beautiful shading of its plumage, gentleness of disposition, innocence of character, extreme sociability, love of freedom, and constant desire of wandering. Its flight is easy, sometimes lofty, and it moves about in companies of from four to eight, and when about to alight often makes several turnings before doing so. Both sexes are alike in color of plumage, the head of each being ornamented with a crest. The Cherry bird is migratory, coming to us about the first of June, and though nesting in July and August, generally departs again soon after the harvest is over in September, and though it feeds much on fruit and berries, it also destroys great numbers of insects, especially caterpillars, which infest fruit trees; this, in some measure, making compensation for the mischief it commits among the products of the garden. After feeding they will sometimes sit in little clusters on a projecting branch, dressing their plumage; and this social trait in their character is taken advantage of by wanton sportsmen, who, by shooting at them at such times, makes sad havoc in their numbers. During their sojourn in Canada they frequent gardens, orchards, beaver-meadows, low grounds where there is a second growth of willow and black-ash, low cedar groves, and the margins of the woods in the old settled districts, but they do not penetrate into the woods, and are seldom observed in the immediate backwoods. Their favorite nesting places are orchards, or among low second growth black-ash, or maple, and the nest is usually placed in a fork, or on a branch, and composed of a variety of materials, as wool, bit of rags, bramble, stalks of fine dry weeds, grasses, fibers of bark, ravelings of rape, and

rootlets, the eggs four to six, are of a slate or inky-white color, dotted with purplish-brown; they measure 86x65, in general, but they vary both in size and form. The bird itself is between six and seven inches in length, and its general color is reddish-olive, or dusty-brown; the chin, frontlets, and a line above each eye are black, the lower parts are yellow, and the wings and tail are dusky gray.

THE NORTHERN WAXWING.

(*Ampelis garrulus.*)

This bird is not a summer resident of Ontario, but when driven from its haunts in more northern latitudes, by the severity of the winter season, it sometimes visits this country in quest of food. Then it associates in small flocks; and approaching the habitations of man, either in town or country, and feeds on the berries of mountain-ash, and the seeds of evergreens. On one occasion I noticed a pretty large company feeding on the stalks of mullens, that protruded through the snow. On these occasions it may be caught in grain-baited traps, like the snow-birds. Its native home appears to be the fine regions of British Columbia, and other northern mountain regions, where it feeds on the cones of pines and other evergreens, and small fruits. Its disposition is sociable, and it loves the company of its own species. Its general color is ashy-brown; head and throat marked with black; the tail has a yellow band, and the wings are marked with white and red. Its length is seven and one-half inches. The nest and eggs of this species are said to differ with those of the Cedar-Waxwing only in size, and the breeding habits are much the same.

L. W. KELLS, Listowel, Ont.

For the Sunny South Oölogist.

COLLECTING AMONG THE SEA-BIRDS OF MAINE.

For some time I had been looking forward to a trip, with a friend who is an ardent collector, among the sea-birds that frequent our coast in large numbers during the summer months. Our start, made early in the morning to gain time, was quite unsuccessful, for when about two miles from home the wind

suddenly died out and left us envying a few fishing boats that were nearer the shore and had a fine breeze. For two hours we were "as idle as a painted ship upon a painted ocean." At last the long wished for breeze arrived and we sped merrily upon our way. At noon we arrived at our first stopping place, Fisherman Island. This is a small rocky island one quarter of a mile long, and a breeding place of the common Terns, who resort here in large numbers to lay their eggs and rear their young.

The birds made themselves known long before we landed, hovering over our heads, uttering their shrill cries, now and then darting at us as though in anger and well aware of our object. On landing all the birds arose in the air and made such an uproar with their cries that it was almost impossible to hear any one speak in an ordinary tone of voice. Here we picked up forty-two sets of Tern's eggs, also a number of single eggs of the same and two sets of Spotted Sand-piper. The eggs on this island are kept picked up quite clean by the fishermen who live on the mainland three miles distant, and who use them for cooking, although they have an oily taste peculiar to sea-birds.

To illustrate how they are kept picked up, not a young bird was found on the whole island, although the birds had been laying three or four weeks, and but few of the eggs were incubated, none so but that they could be blown. This place is quite a resort of Bank Swallows, but all the nests examined contained young. Our next stopping place was to be Marblehead Island, a round island rising out of the sea like a ball floating on the water, and difficult to land on as there is no beach and a heavy swell. As the wind had died out again we took the small boat and rowed out. Here we found thirty-one sets of Tern's eggs, and what we least expected, three sets of Black Guillemot. This was quite a surprise to us for we had no knowledge of the birds breeding within twenty-five miles of here, although they breed abundantly on some islands that distance from here. The eggs are placed in the most out of the way places imaginable, under an overhanging rock on the cliffs in almost inaccessible places. While searching

here we found a dead Guillemot among the rocks, and fully identified it but the bird was not in a fit state to skin, much to our disappointment, as these birds are hard to obtain, being expert divers and swimmers. On our way back to our sail-boat we shot several Terns for skins. We then continued our way out to sea, as we intended to visit several islands before we returned among which were Little Green, where the Petrels, Terns, Guillemots, and Laughing Gulls breed, and Metinic, where there is a Heronry. But we were to be disappointed as it will soon be seen. That night we stopped at Dix Island, far-famed for the granite it has produced, but the quarries are now deserted except by the red-and-buff shouldered Blackbirds who breed here in large numbers. Our resting place was the soft side of the pine boards that formed the seats of the boat, and wrapped in our blankets were soon asleep and dreaming of the fun that was to come. The next morning was cold and stormy but after breakfast we started on our way. In a short time a drizzling rain commenced, so we decided to return home and make the attempt on a more favorable day. When near home it cleared up, so we kept on up the bay and stopped at Jobs Island. Here we spent the day exploring, and collecting specimens. We also ascended to the nest of a fish hawk which contained two young about half grown; these were returned to the nest unharmed much to the satisfaction of the old birds who were flying around the nest in great distress.

The next morning was rainy, so we returned home early in the day, well satisfied with the result.

V. E. PISTON.

Rockland, Me., Jan. 15, 1886.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist.]

CHUCKWILLS WIDOW.

(*Anthrostomus Carolinensis*.)

The Chuckwills widow is one of our rare summer residents; arriving about the first week in May, perhaps sooner in extreme cases in other localities.

I can always mark its arrival by its plaintive note, which can be heard just as the sun sinks behind the horizon, and is kept up alternately till a late hour. The sound of its

note is exactly similar to its name only the "Chuck" being rather short. Its nesting place is generally on oak ridges. Its nest is nothing more than a slight depression in the ground near an old decayed log or brush. Both the male and female are hardly discernable from the Whippoorwill both in color and size only the former being a size larger.

I relate here a few incidents of one of my collecting trips last summer, which I hope will be interesting to my fellow collectors.

On May 25th, I was out collecting and came upon a nest of the above species. At the time I thought I had found my desired treasure; but to my great disappointment I soon observed two little downy creatures of a light brownish color that had just rolled out of the shell; I did not know at the time exactly what to do, but meditating a few moments upon the subject a new plan entered my mind; so I concluded to destroy the young and to watch the parent birds. I watched the place where they had their previous nest daily for about a fortnight. So on the aforesaid date (June 7) about 12 o'clock M., I started to the locality in which I had found the previous nest. It was only 500 yards from my father's residence so I was soon upon the spot. I searched in every nook and corner until at last I thought it was all in vain, so I retraced my footsteps toward home; but just as I turned I espied the male perched on a decayed log. I knew the female must be near; so I commenced to search dilligently in every direction, and as I neared a small swamp I came upon the female; as soon as she flew, I rushed to the spot, and to my great delight, I descried my long sought for treasures—"a set of two of the most beautiful specimens of oology."

It was one of the happiest events of my collecting life as far as I have experienced. Their color is of a clear crystal white, marked over the entire surface with blotches of dark purplish brown and light lavender, with occasional marking of umber. Taking it altogether, I think that the eggs of the foregoing species are the most beautiful I ever saw. They depart for their Southern home about the last week in August; the exact date I am unable to say.

F. D. FOXHALL, Oxford, N. C.

— THE —

Sunny South Oölogist.

A Monthly Devoted to the Interests
of Ornithologists and Oologists.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY
EDWIN C. DAVIS,
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS.

We request all of our readers to send us descriptions of their collecting trips, or any items of interest relating to birds, their nests or eggs.

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1 column.....	3.50	5.50	8.00
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☞ All advertisements must be in by the 18th of each month, to insure insertion in the next issue.

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Entered at the post-office at Gainesville as second-class matter.

All copy for the April number of the Sunny South Oologist must reach us before March 15th.

Our advertisers are all reliable, and you will get value received for any amount of money sent them.

Don't fail to read the great offers to subscribers and "club getters" on the outside page of cover leaf.

I will make liberal offers to "club getters," from time to time. Read them this month, and begin work at once.

Advertisers will find it to their interest to advertise in the Sunny South Oologist, as it has a very large circulation.

All subscriptions will commence with this number. When remitting please state whether you have received a copy or not.

Look out this month for nests of the owl and hawks. Some of the owls have already begun nesting as early as February.

We had to leave out several interesting articles this month, but will take particular pains in having them in our next issue.

Mr. J. A. Powell of Waukegan, Ill., will please accept our thanks for a package of Canadian Porcupine quills. They are real curiosities.

We depend upon you all in making this little journal an interesting monthly, and will gladly publish anything relating to birds sent in by our friends.

A very large eagle was killed near Gainesville a few weeks since, measuring seven feet 6 inches from tip to tip. A rare bird for Cooke county.

We will not take postage stamps in payment for subscriptions or advertisements under any circumstances. Send by Postal Note or Money Order.

Mr. W. O. Emerson of Haywards, Cal., reports finding the nest of a Humming Bird containing eggs on February 22d, in that locality. The earliest on record.

Our columns are open to all, old and young, and we will expect you to send in descriptions of your "collecting trips," and anything interesting about birds, their nests and eggs.

Two Barn Owls took charge of the cupola of the court house of Gainesville, in the spring of 84, and succeeded in laying four eggs. But they were soon routed, and one of them captured by a few of our mischievous boys.

Mr. H. G. Spaulding, publisher of "The Michigan Philatelist," and late of Manchester, Mich., has removed his office to Battle Creek, Mich., and will, after March 1st, issue the "Collector's Science Monthly" from that place. Read advertisement.

Mr. Oliver Davis informs me that his "New Key" will be delayed somewhat by the destruction of fire of the illustrations at the photo-engravers on Arch street, Philadelphia, on the morning of the 25th of January, by fire. The drawings were burned, and he is now having them made over again.

We expect to enlarge our monthly as soon as we are convinced it will pay us to do so. Now if you want a *real live Oologist paper*, and one which will always be brimming full of reliable knowledge, show your willingness to help us by sending 50 cents, and receive the Sunny South Oologist for one year.

Hundreds of bright colored parrots were seen near Brownwood, Texas, last summer (supposed to have come from Central America), something which has never happened before. There were also a great many more crows than usual. Many of the superstitious people of that place consider it an omen of bad luck.

Ralph S. Tarr, (in the January number of "Tidings from Nature") speaking of the English Sparrow says: "In the southern and western states, beyond the Mississippi river, this bird has not been observed." In making a correction here, I will state that we have the little "tramp" by the thousands in all of the principle cities and towns of Louisiana, and I think I encountered them as far west as Las Vegas, N. M., this past season.

AUDOBON AND THE SNAKE.

A very amusing anecdote is told of Audobon, which happened while on his collecting tour through the Sunny South some years ago. He and his friend were watching a woodpecker fly to and from a series of holes excavated in the trunk of an old tree. The bird at last stayed in the holes longer than usual, so Audobon concluded to climb the tree, and, if possible, capture the bird by closing the openings of the holes. When he had reached the supposed hole, he was in the act of putting in his hand, when a large black snake poked his head out. At the moment he was so frightened that he let go all holds and fell headlong to the ground. His friend, seeing him fall, rushed to his assistance, and on inquiring if he was hurt (which accidentally he was not), received this answer: "No, I am not hurt, but if you want to see a frightened snake, just climb that tree and look into that hole."

KIND WORDS.

"I sincerely hope your paper will be a success, and may it come to stay."

FRED. M. DILLE, Greeley, Col.

"I wish you success in your undertaking."

J. A. SINGLEY, Giddings, Texas.

"Your magazine is just the thing we have needed in the south for many a year, and I wish it all manner of success."

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"I sincerely wish your paper all success and prosperity."

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GEO. H. SELOVER,
Lake City, Minn.

CORRESPONDENCE.

While out collecting last season I found a nest of the Cardinal Grosbeak containing two fresh eggs, and a young bird fully fledged. When I approached the nest the bird jumped from it to the ground.

PHIL SCHWARZ, Gainesville, Texas.

While on a collecting tour last spring I found a nest of the Mocking Bird containing five eggs of the "Mocker," and four of the Lark Finch, all fresh. How is this for an omelet?

J. H. B.

Can you tell me what kind of a bird it is that flies around my orchard? It resembles the Mocking Bird very much, only is smaller. I have had three canaries killed by it in the past month; the bird was very bold, and came on the inside of the house to kill the last.

Mrs. L. C. H.

I think it is the white-rumped Shrike you speak of, for I have before heard of their killing canaries in this neighborhood.

Will you please tell me the name of the eggs I found last season? The nest was placed in the top of a peach tree and constructed of green grass well woven together and lined with cotton; it contained five eggs of a greenish-white color, streaked and spotted with brown and black.

JAMES L. LONG, McKinney, Texas.

From your description they must have been the eggs of the Orchard Oriole.

July 12th, 1885.—About a week ago I made a visit to "Crane Island" in Lake Minnetonka, and found the trees on one part of the island "loaded" with great Blue Heron's nests, and the other part with some species of Cormorant; but as it was very late in the season no eggs could be obtained. Turkey Buzzards, Cranes and Pelicans also breed there sparingly. "You bet" I won't fail to be on hand next season and "rake in" the eggs. There is an island near this called

"Eagle Island," where a pair of Bald Eagles have nested for more than ten years. Three days ago while passing this island in a boat I saw the female sitting on the nest, and I think this is the second brood for this year, for 'about a week since a boy killed a young one on the island. If all is well, Burch Moffett and myself will go over to-morrow to determine for ourselves.

GEO. G. CANTWELL,
Minneapolis, Minn.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist,]

THE AMERICAN GOLDFINCH.

(*Astragalinus tristis*.)

This bird is one of the commonest in most parts of the country, and is familiar to every one. In various sections the names "wild canary," "thistle bird," etc., are applied to it. In color this species is a bright golden-yellow, except the shoulders and head, which are black. In winter it is so changed in color as to be almost another bird, being brown and black, and altogether a very sober looking bird. This bird remains in most of the northern states all winter, flying about the cities in flocks of three or four dozen, living mostly on the seeds of different small shrubs and weeds. It is a very late breeder, very seldom beginning to build before the first of July. During that month the nest is made, eggs are deposited, and generally the young are hatched; sometimes they are very late, as in 1885, one nest was found on the 27th of August, containing four fresh eggs. The eggs are a pure white when laid, but in being incubated or blown, become a beautiful light blue which will not fade. They are from four to seven in number; usually five. If a nest and a set of birds are taken, the birds almost always build another in the same place, and another set is deposited, generally containing four eggs. The nest is composed of the outside covering of the last year's thistles, and carefully and thickly lined with the soft down of the same; it measures about three inches by two and one-half outside, and two by one and one-half inches inside. It is placed in a tall thistle or small bush from three to fifteen feet from the ground,

and is securely fastened. Sometimes a colony of a dozen pairs will nest in a patch of thistles a few rods square. This species nests in company with the Indigo Bunting. The writer once found a nest of the Goldfinch five feet up in a thistle, while three feet below was the nest of the Indigo bird, both containing eggs. This bird is not much of a singer, having only a few notes, and none at all during the nesting season or in winter.

GEO. H. SELOVER, Lake City, Minn.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist]

COLORADO BIRDS.

Black Billed Magpie.

(*Pica Rusticata Hudsonica.*)

Persons tarrying in Colorado even for a short time we presume have seen more or less of this saucy bird with the long tail, and many are the amusing anecdotes thereof that the tourist or camper might tell.

The mountains are the favorite resort of the Magpie, and no hill, valley or ranche seems complete unless the discordant prattle of our "Colorado parrot" can be heard at any hour. I have been awakened at unreasonable hours of the night by their call, and on the clear moonlight nights, which are a feature of Colorado's phenomena, they hold on all sides loud rehearsals of their "chinese medleys."

During the breeding season, and in few numbers, these birds venture out on the plains, but the mountains are their home the year round, summer and winter alike, only in the latter season they move about, and congregate in large numbers.

Habits and food similiar to the common crow, but in cunning and prowess I consider them superior to their cousins. Bold and daring, yet very wary; living wholly upon decayed and refuse animal matter; with their sense of smell highly developed they are somewhat in their way a benefit to mankind.

The song which is always the same though not unpleasant, is very monotonous as a steady diet, yet as from the Longcrested Jay when very near and unobserved I have heard a very low, plaintive and beau-

tiful song, but never heard one sing that way except in their wild and natural element.

When taken young they make great pets and are easily domesticated. Several instances are on record where they have been taught to talk by splitting their tongue (I would not vouch for this myself however.)

In general appearance the magpie is very striking especially on the wing, they are of a lustrous black with green, purple and violet iridescence on the tail and wings. Large spots of white stand out on the body and wings and the tail, which is larger than the body 12 inches or more, and of fantastic shape, stands straight out behind.

The nest is a very large structure made out of the coarsest of sticks and lined inside with fine roots all firmly bound together with adobe. Always roofed over and with two door-ways on opposite sides, while setting on the nest, his lordships long tail can be seen pointing out one door-way, but he must "exit" out the other.

These immense nests can be seen from great distances and are placed at all heights from six feet in the small saplin to 40 feet in the large pine tree. In a single black pine whose branches spread over an immense area, I have seen four inhabited nests. During the breeding season they are quite retired and not noisy when their nest is approached and eggs taken. Eggs vary from 5 to 9 in number the usual and most common number being 7—but I have taken as high as 11 in different stages of incubation from a single nest. They are of pale greenish or occasionally a dull yellowish white ground, very thickly spotted with brown of various shades, more particularly around the larger end, size 1:20x90 to 1:40x1:00.

Some authoriites have stated that they never build in a pine tree; this is incorrect, as over three-fourth of the nests built here are in pine trees. The same nest answers year in and year out.

The breeding season is early. On the plains they breed at least a month earlier than in the mountains, and fresh eggs can be taken the latter part of April.

On the whole the magpie is a very good citizen; he goes along about his business, does not pick on the smaller birds; is on

good terms with all domestic animals, and rids the earth of a great deal of decaying animal matter.

If he should leave us and join his yellow billed brother in California we would miss him very much and could forgive his numerous trick and deceitful ways, yet at the same time we hope the "yellow bill" will not come here, for we have enough of them now.

FRED M. DILLE, Greely, Col.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist.]

THE SOLITARY VIREO.

(*Laniviseo Solitarius*, Viell Baird.)

The Solitary Vireo is not equally distributed over North America, or the United States of North America, but its range extends from the Atlantic to the Pacific; but the bird takes on some different characters in the Southern Rocky Mountain region, and is known as the Plumbeous Vireo. This Vireo is more abundant on the eastern and western portion of the United States than in the interior. I have not found any record stating that it is common west of the Mississippi River, and east of the foot hills of the Rockies. The Texas record is interesting as showing its rarity in Texas. Dr. J. C. Merrill noted it at Brownsville, Texas, on August 27, 1877, and it is the only record I find of the fall flight (in Texas.) Mr. Geo. B. Sennett found only one specimen during his two visits to the region of Hidalgo in the spring. Mr. Sennett's example inclined toward both the type and sub species. Mr. N. C. Brown visited Kimball Co., Texas, twice and got one February 3, 1883. (Auk Vol. 1, No. 2, page 122.) Lieut. McCauly saw it "occasionally" on the upper Red River (of Texas,) and Mr. Nehrling reports it as "rare during migrations," near Houston, Texas. Dr. Woodhouse does not report it at all. The only note I have of its occurrence in Cook County, Texas, is May 7, 1877, and this specimen was not preserved.

G. H. RAGSDALE.

Gainesville, Texas,

January 27, 1886.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist.]

WATER OUZEL, or AMERICAN DIPPER.

(*Cinclus Mexicanus Swains.*)

This is one of our most common birds; one of the few that do not fear our stormy winters, but may be seen around their favorite haunts at any season in the year. In appearance this bird is more like the wren than any other common bird, although in some respects it very much resembles the Sand Piper. When at rest on the water's edge, it balances and nods, at the same jerking its tail in a way that is very much like the actions of the latter under similar circumstances.

The Dipper is a very unsocial little fellow, and not only has he very positive ideas in regard to his right to some certain portion of the stream, around and in which he lives, but he is not slow to forcibly resent any intrusion by a weaker brother, into his chosen domain. I have seen many of them, either in pairs or singly but never saw more than two together.

The food of the water Ouzel consists mainly of aquatic insects, which it procures under the water at the bottom of some clear mountain stream. He is capable of moving about under water with the greatest of ease, and may be seen, in some clear pool, to half fly, half scramble along the bottom with great rapidity, clinging with its feet to the small plants and stones over which it passes.

The song of the bird is much like that of the Brown Thrush; and although it is not so loud nor strong, surpasses it in clearness and sweetness of tones. In the spring one can scarcely cross a stream without hearing the bell-like notes of encouragement with which it cheers its mate.

The nest, which is generally in the form of a more or less perfect sphere, the symmetry depending in a great measure upon the advantages of the situation. The lower part of the nest is composed of small sticks, and the upper part, or dome, of moss and fine grasses. The entrance, which is placed low down on one side, is

large enough to admit the hand. Sometimes the nest is placed among the roots of a fallen tree, or under an overhanging bank; sometimes it is built on the side of a projecting rock, but under all circumstances, it is very near some clear, dashing stream. The eggs, generally three, occasionally four or perhaps even five, are of a clear white color; their shape is rather elongate and pointed, measuring a fraction over an inch in length, by somewhat less than three-fourths of an inch in breadth.

GORDON D. PEARCE.

Estes Park, Colorado.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist.]

THE BLUE GROSBKAK.

(*Guiraca cœrulea*.)

It don't always pay to be too positive. I have taken many nests of the above species and until the season of 1885 never found one that did not contain the essential(?) cast of snakeskin. From this I reasoned that it would *always* be found in the nest of this species. My "positiveness" was staggered, when on May 11th, 1885, I found a nest without the Snake-skin and again on the 23d, when I took another nest also minus the Snakeskin.

The last mentioned nest, by the way has a history; I found it on the morning of the 14th when the birds had just commenced buildings; it was placed in a small peach tree about twenty feet from my door, as I was desirous of learning all I could about the nidification, habits, etc. of this bird. I devoted a page of my notebook to this pair. The nest was commenced on the 14th, the female doing all the work, the male perched in a tree close by uttering his sharp nervous "chep." The nest was finished early on the morning of the 16th an egg deposited every morning on the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th, and on the last mentioned day the female commenced incubating, the male was never very far off. "Things went merry as a marriage bell," until the 23d, when hearing a great hubbub amongst the chickens I picked up my gun and stepped out as I thought there might be a hawk about. A Swallow-tailed Kite was sailing overhead and as I

stood watching him he suddenly closed his wings and straight as an arrow from the bow he made for the tree wherein Mr. and Mrs. Grosbeak had homesteaded. I saw the frightened Grosbeak try to escape, but it had scarcely got clear of the tree before the Kite had her in his talons and was winging his way towards the bottoms. Thus endedeth the tale. The eggs are now in my collection.

J. A. SINGLEY, Giddings, Tex.

[For the Sunny South Oölogist.]

NESTING OF WHITE EYE OR FLORIDA TOWHEE.

(*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*, var. *alleni*.)

There is a very great contrast between the Red-eye and White-eye Towhee in their nesting, to almost take them to be two different species of birds, instead of only a varieties of same species. The Red-eye I have never found except on the ground in a bunch of briars, grass, or bushes, with the nest covered over on top, while the White-eye chifley builds on young pine trees from three to ten feet high, with nest uncovered, the nest cannot be recognized from the yellow breasted Chat, unless the bird is seen leaving the nest. The eggs of the White-eye are also smaller than the Red-eye, also much lighter in color, and the markings not so distinct. On May 18th, 1885, I found one with three fresh eggs in a pine tree three feet from the ground, found several with incubation too far advanced to take, also several with young in different stages. We have both Red-eye and White-eye Towhee breed here; they both breed twice in the season; our season for collecting will soon commence, as Owls, Hawks, Nuthatches, and a few others will commence in February to build.

G. NOBLE, Savannah, Ga.

January 21st, 1886.

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Brief exchange or want notices, not exceeding thirty words, will be inserted free in this column to subscribers only. Notices over thirty words will be charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. To outsiders, 25 cents for each insertion, cash with order.

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THE SUNNY SOUTH OOLOGIST.

Vol. 1, No. 2.

GAINESVILLE, TEXAS, APRIL, 1886.

Published Monthly.
50 Cents per Year.

Notes from Southern California.

We have been having a bountiful share of rain in this neighborhood of late; and while we have been having warm drenching rains in the low lands, there has been a steady fall of snow in the mountains. As a result of the latter fact large numbers of Cedarbirds, Robins, Catbirds, etc., have left their usual haunts (the mountains), and taken refuge in our warm orange groves and vineyards. And now a person cannot walk a mile through the suburbs of the town, without noticing several large flocks of these birds feeding contentedly by the roadside, or industriously probing among decayed limbs, or under dead leaves for bugs and larvæ, upon which they delight to feed. These birds however do not breed in this locality, but as soon as the warm weather sets in, they betake themselves to the remote valleys and fastnesses, situated among the almost inaccessible ranges of the Sierra Madre. Here all are protected from the ravages of that "fell egg-destroyer," the school-boy. They breed and rear their young in peace, and we see no more of them until the next "cold spell" sets in and causes them to again visit us, or properly speaking, "our warm climate," until the clemency of the weather will again permit them to return to their accustomed haunts. Further north however these birds can be found among the woods and forests the whole year 'round.

At this season of the year we are not alone favored with visits of the land birds, but the aquatic element is very abundantly and variously represented among our ponds and streams; in fact, out of a bag of twenty or thirty ducks, which a hunter may be so fortunate as to secure as a reward for a

days' sport, he can generally single out from twelve to fifteen different species, from the majestic old Mallard or "Greenhead," to the diminutive Butterball or "Silkduck." Quite a number of these ducks remain with us during the breeding season; in fact I have personally obtained "sets" of eggs of the Cinnamon Teal, Baldpate, Mallard, Ruddy Duck, Godwall, Red-head, Pintail and Greenwinged Teal; besides I have heard several authentic accounts of "sets" of some other species of ducks being secured by other Oologists in different portions of this county. The principal or most profitable grounds on which to successfully search for nests of various species of ducks and other waterfowl is amongst the immense "tule lands" and sloughs of a marsh called "Gospel Swamp." This is a place about sixty miles from Los Angeles, and occupying many square miles of country, including the bogs, willow swamps, tidelands, etc. It is a veritable paradise for ducks of all species; and during the sporting season I have spent some very pleasant and well repaid time, by trudging around its extremities, armed with a good ten-bore "breech-loader," with an evil intent upon the unsuspecting ducks and geese. Notwithstanding the thousands and thousands of birds annually slaughtered in these swamps by the professional "pot" or market hunters, as well as the havoc wrought by amateur sportsmen, still the number of the birds never decrease to a perceptible extent; but, like the "Hydra," where you kill one to-day, you will find two to-morrow. Along towards spring the birds begin to assemble together in vast flocks of countless thousands, and depart for unknown latitudes in the "far north." Their time of departure seems to be invariably during the night; in fact

I have often noticed large numbers of ducks assembling at the same given lake or pond. This congregating would perhaps occupy a lapse of several days, the numbers apparently augmented by large additions each succeeding night. At length, after a vast number has congregated, you will notice a great deal of excitement among the large flocks; a seeming dissatisfaction and restlessness, evinced by loud calls and continual fluttering, splashing, etc. After all these signs of busy life, if you visit the lake the next morning you will probably find it lonely and deserted, without a vestige of yesterday's tumult and life, save a few lonely, sick looking Teals, who were too weak or tired perhaps to join the flight of their fellows the preceding night. But they may wait for the next flight which at once begins to form, with new additions each succeeding night, and in a few days we have an exact repetition of the assemblage and flight of a few days previous. The assembling of these birds is usually at some large lake convenient for their purpose, and the additions in the shape of small straggling flocks, are very probably detachments of ducks which have left the small ponds and streams, where they have passed the winter in detached flocks, and as if by some previously concerted plan assemble here so as to take their departure *en masse* for the possible view of both company and protection.

A. M. SHIELDS,

Los Angeles, Cal.

North American Birds.

I will hereafter give in this column each month, as near as possible, the breeding places, and the time of nesting of the Birds of North America; beginning this month with the family Turdidae.

1. WOOD THRUSH—*Hylocichla Mustelina*—Nests usually found in low, damp woods. Dates of nesting, from May 10th to June 15th.

2. WILSON'S THRUSH—*Hylocichla fuscescens*—The situation of the nest is retired, and often in the depths of woods. Begins nesting about May 20th.

3. GRAY-CHEEKED THRUSH—*Hylocichla aliciae*—Low, damp woods and thickets. Begins nesting about May 1st.

4. RUSSET-BACKED THRUSH—*Hylocichla ustulata*—Pacific coast regions abundant. Begins nesting about May 15th.

4a. OLIVE-BACKED THRUSH—*Hylocichla ustulata swainsoni*—Dry, scrubby woods. Begins nesting about June 1st.

5. DWARF THRUSH—*Hylocichla unalascae*—Thick woods and swamps. Begins nesting early in May.

5b. HERMIT THRUSH—*Hylocichla unalascae pallasi*—Low, swampy places. Begins nesting June 1st.

7. AMERICAN ROBIN—*Merula migratoria*—Nests made near habitations. Nests from May 1st to July 25th.

7a. WESTERN ROBIN—*Merula migratoria propinqua*—Nesting habits similar to that of No. 7.

9. VARIED ROBIN—*Hesperocichla naevia*—Inhabits all woodland. Begins nesting about May 10th.

10. SAGE THRASHER—*Oreoscoptes montanus*—Inhabits open, mountainous countries. Begins nesting May 15th.

11. MOCKING BIRD—*Mimus polyglottus*—Nests placed in open country, orchards, vineyards, etc. Always near man. Begins nesting April 20th.

12. CATBIRD—*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*—In gardens or clearings of woods, always near habitations. Nests May 15th to July 1st.

13. BROWN THRASHER—*Harporynchus rufus*—In blackberry tangle or thickets, high or low land. May 10th to June 20th.

13a. MEXICAN BROWN THRASHER—*Harporynchus rufus longirostris*—

Nesting places similar to foregoing species. Nests April 15th to June 15th.

14. SAINT LUCAS THRASHER—*Harporhynchus cinereus xantus*—Uplands and high plains, in cactus and other bushes. Begins nesting about May 1st.

14a. BENDIRE'S THRASHER—*Harporhynchus cinereus bendirei*—Uplands and high plains. Begins nesting April 1st.

15. CURVE-BILLED THRASHER—*Harporhynchus curvirostris*—Inhabits thick woods. Nest from May 1st to June 15th.

15a. PALMER'S THRASHER—*Harporhynchus curvirostris palmeri*—Desert regions of Arizona. Begins nesting about the 10th of May

16. CALIFORNIA THRASHER—*Harporhynchus redivivus*—Coast region of California, in a clump of bushes, or dense chaparral. Begins nesting early in February

16a. LECONTE'S THRASHER—*Harporhynchus redivivus lecontei*—Frequents open countries. Begins nesting early in April.

17. RUFUS-VENTED THRASHER—*Harporhynchus crissalis*—Common in chapparral thickets, and well shaded undergrowths. Begins nesting early in April.

(Continued.)

Egg Collecting in Colorado.

On a pleasant morning in the early part of May last, (May 2, 1885) our collector put his gun, collecting-box, etc., into the buckboard, and started for a point 16 miles below Greeley, on the Platte. The destination was a long island midway in the Platte while on either side was the rushing, dirty river. This island was noted among the boys of the neighborhood as a great resort for crows, owls, herons and other large birds during the breeding season; but, owing to the river be-

ing high in the spring of the year few have ever cared to reach the island for such "trifles as bird's-eggs." 'Twas too early for herons' eggs, too late for owl's, but just the time for crows. The latter we were after, and crows' eggs we determined to have. The sight of a few nests in the trees on the island, and several crows flapping about, worked our desires to the highest pitch. Stripping and holding all necessary articles to take crow's eggs with in one hand, we partly waded and swam across the wild and dirty stream to the crow-den shores. In a short space of time I took 11 sets of 6 eggs, and 3 of 5 each from nests from 12 to 20 feet from the ground, all eggs were perfectly fresh. Once I thought I had a set of Raven's eggs (280), as they were larger than the average crow's, and my aid shot a female raven as she left the nest. It must have been a mistake however on *her* part and I have since given up the idea.

I flushed an American Long-Eared owl (395) off of an old crow's nest about 8 feet from the ground, and obtained a handsome set of 6 eggs. It was so late in the season for owl's eggs that I was afraid they would hatch out before I could get them to the ground. On blowing them I was much surprised to find them all perfectly fresh. Has any one ever taken a fresh set of 395 as late as this?

Also took one set of B. B. magpies (286) 5 eggs, incubation well advanced; nest 6 feet from the ground. We saw several herons busily fixing up their old nests in the high tops of a large cottonwood, but we never get fresh heron's eggs until the last of May.

FRED M. DILLE.

Greeley, Colorado.

Nesting of Brown-headed Nuthatch.

(SITTA PUSSILLA)

All the accounts I have seen in books say the brown-headed nuthatch builds no nest, but lays her eggs in

the bottom of a hollow in the tree on the decayed wood. Now, I have never found one that did not make an attempt to build a nest. I have found several, ranging from two to forty feet from the ground, and in every case a nest was built, composed of fibrous roots, pieces of hanging moss, hair and feathers mixed together. The nests were built in a hollow in a decayed tree, from one foot to three feet deep. The nest is very loosely put together, and it is impossible to remove it without cutting the cavity open to the bottom of the nest. A gentleman in California, who is well versed in Ornithology and Oology, who I wrote to in regard to it, says his knowledge and experience has been in almost every case, that a nest is attempted by this bird—the description of a nest taken by him in Orange county, Fla., some years ago is—the nest was composed of pieces of fibrous, decayed wood, small scales of pine bark, wings of pine seeds, and a little woolly vegetable material arranged in cup form.

G. NOBLE,

Savannah, Georgia.

A Bird's Sagacity.

For the Sunny South Oologist :

The following little narrative occurred at my old home in Kentucky, some years ago : I had placed over the roof of my house a bird box, and for several years the martins had occupied it, and I think the same pair came back every year, for the male appeared larger and had a coarser voice (?) than any others I had ever heard.

This spring of which I speak, the blue birds had taken possession of the box, and one morning while out for a little fresh air I heard the welcomed voice of the martin in the distance. I turned to see from where the voice came, and saw the old friend coming alone. He came directly to the bird box, and appeared very much surprised to find it occupied, so at once

began an attack upon the inmates, but the little birds were too much for the old martin, and he had to give up to them. (But this was only for a short time.) So he flew to a neighboring roof, and sat there for a time as if meditating what to do, and then flew in a direct line toward the south from whence he had come. The little blue birds seemed to congratulate themselves upon their victory, but they were too soon, for the next morning at about the same time, I heard the voice which seemed to say "pitch in, pitch in," and I knew he was coming. Upon looking I saw him in the lead with about a dozen other martins following. I waited to see his purpose, and was not long in finding it out, for he flew direct to the bird box, and perching himself on the top gave the orders, "Pitch in ! pitch in !" and they did pitch in from both sides.

* * * * *

It is needless to say how it terminated, for the old martin and his mate raised a brood that year, and came year after year until I came west.

L. L. HOWARD,

Gainesville, Texas.

A Georgia paper says that before the war there was a bird in the south that fed exclusively on cockle-burrs. At a certain season of the year these birds would sweep down on the fields and when they departed not a burr remained. The smell of burnt and burning powder for four years seems to have been too much for the burr-eaters. Since then not a bird of the kind is to be found in the south ; but the burrs are here yet.

Early Finds.

I think I will enter the lists in competition for "earliness." I opened the ball on January 30th, 1886, by taking a set of three of the Great Horned Owl, incubation advanced. Who can beat it?

The following are the earliest takes

of each species named during 1885. March 27th, Pileated Woodpecker, Cardinal Grosbeak; April 2nd, Turkey-Buzzard, Black Vulture, Tufted Titmouse; April 7th, Carolina Chickadee, Kildeer; April 10th, Swallow-tailed Kite; April 11th, Texan Screech Owl, Carolina Dove; April 15th, Red-bellied Woodpecker; April 17th, Yellow-throated Vireo; April 20th, Common Crow, Wild Turkey; April 27th, Mockingbird; April 28th, Carolina Wren; May 4th, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Dwarf Cowbird; May 8th, Lark Finch, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Texas Orchard Oriole, Yellow-winged Sparrow; May 9th, Black-throated Bunting, Painted Bunting, Summer Redbird; May 11th, Texan Quail, Blue Grosbeak; May 18th, Meadow Lark; May 22nd, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher; June 3d, Bronzed Grackle; June 8th, Boat-tailed Grackle; June 19th, Kingbird, the second set that I have taken in Texas during six years' collecting.

J. A. SINGLEY,

Giddings, Texas.

The Scissor-tailed Flycatcher.

(*MILVULUS FORFICATUS* (G.M.) SWAINS.)

This beautiful bird is one of the commonest summer residents of North Texas. They usually arrive from the south about the 15th of April in small flocks or pairs, and always make themselves known by their loud and noise-some voices. This bird has a very peculiar way when flying, of stopping—as it appears—in the air, and then making a straight shoot upward to the height of fifteen or twenty feet, and instantly darting downward to about a level with where it started. This is always repeated two or three times before taking their onward flight. While making this tumble as it were, it always gives loud, quick screams, and is very conspicuous by the display it makes in opening and closing the tail like scissor blades. It is a very active, dashing and noisy bird;

also very showy and graceful. The general color is a hoary-ash, almost white below, with a scarlet crown patch, and a bright scarlet on the sides at insertion of wings. The wings have a blackish cast with whitish underparts, and various parts of the body are tinged with a rich salmon. Most of the tail feathers are black or dusky, while some of the longer ones are mostly white or rosy; these feathers are long and narrow, sometimes reaching a foot in length. The above description is that of a male now lying before me. The female averages smaller, and the tail is much shorter, while the color of the plumage is duller than that of the male.

They begin to nest about the 10th of May, and fresh eggs may be found as late as June 25th. The nest and eggs resemble those of the kingbird very much, and it is almost impossible to distinguish them from each other, unless they are well identified; but, as a general thing, the scissor-tails' eggs have larger and more conspicuous blotches than those of the kingbird. During the summer of '85 I found nests of the kingbird and scissor tail in the same tree, and the nests and eggs were identically the same; so to make sure of the identity, I had to wait until both birds had occupied their own nest.

Their favorite nesting places are in the scrubby post oak and mesquite bushes growing on our broad prairies. The nests are usually placed in forks at from six to thirty feet from the ground, and constructed of various materials, such as weed-tops, wool, cotton, rootlets, paper, rags, etc., and lined with fibrous roots, wool, cotton, etc

The number of eggs laid are usually four or five in number, of a rounded-oval shape, the color being white, boldly blotched or marked with reddish-brown, and obscure lavender shell markings, chiefly at the larger end. The size of the eggs averages about .67 by .85. E. C. DAVIS.

—THE—

Sunny South Oologist

A MONTHLY DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF
ORNITHOLOGISTS AND OOLOGISTS.

EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY

EDWIN C. DAVIS,
GAINESVILLE, TEXAS.

We request all of our readers to send us descriptions of their collecting trips, or any items of interest relating to birds, their nests or eggs.

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EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

With this month's issue I make my first bow to the Ornithologists and Oologists of America. I refrained from so doing in the first issue as I did not know at the time how my little journal would be received. But, as I have had so many encouraging words from my friends in every part of North America, I will now promise henceforth to give you the most reliable and best reading matter obtainable, and shall try my utmost to make this magazine a great help in the advancement of that most delightful branch of natural history—Ornithology and Oology. Trusting that my friends will be as well pleased with this and the follow-

ing numbers, as with the first, I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
EDWIN C. DAVIS.

Easter comes this month, so don't fail to look for the "rabbit" nests.

Don't fail to read the great offers to "club-getters" on the inside page of first cover leaf.

Our "Exchange and Want" column is worth the price of a year's subscription alone to subscribers, in helping them make exchanges.

We will stick to our first promise; that is, we will enlarge our paper as soon as we are convinced it will pay us. So do not delay, but subscribe at once. The price is only 50 cents per year.

What do you think of the appearance of "our" little journal this month? Don't you think you have been fully repaid already for the small amount invested—fifty cents—for a year's subscription?

Collectors look for the nests of the crow, chickadee, nuthatch and hawk this month. You will find the chickadee's and nuthatche's the latter part of the month, while the hawks and crows breed earlier.

Two Canvas-back ducks were killed near Gainesville, Tex. on the 22nd of February. They were very handsome specimens, and a rare avis in this section. They were the first I think ever seen in this county.

The article written by Mr. Harry G. Parker, entitled "Pennsylvania Birds," is one of great value to Oologists (old and young) in Pennsylvania and adjacent states, as it gives the correct nesting seasons of birds found in that locality, and also tells the nature of country in which their nests are found. This article was compiled for the editor as a special favor, by Mr. Parker in October last.

We are more than pleased with the number of subscribers received since our last issue, and in return for your promptness shall promise to give a year's subscriptions worth of valuable information in each succeeding issue.

What has become of the "Standard Directory" to be published by A. E. Southworth & Co., of Woodstock, Ill's., and to appear January 10th, 1886? We have heard several complaints of its non-appearance. Echo answers.

Go! Get thee to work!! You have only one more month to compete for premiums offered (on the inside of front cover page) to club-getters. So go to work at once, and perhaps you will be the one to carry off the "pie." Don't wait one moment, but "make hay while the sun shines."

We had a very pleasant call from Dr. F. L. Yoakum, of Tyler, Texas, one of the leading scientists of the state. His stay was short, but exceedingly interesting. When visiting our city again we shall be pleased to have him call, as he will be doubly welcomed.

If all goes satisfactory this month, I will enlarge with the May number; also enlarge the subscription price. So do not wait, but subscribe at once, and you will save money.

EXCHANGES AND WANTS.

Brief exchange or want notices, not exceeding thirty words, will be inserted free in this column to subscribers only. Notices over thirty words will be charged at the rate of one-half cent per word. To outsiders, 25 cents for each insertion; cash with order.

I wish to exchange the coming season with good collectors, especially on the coast and in the south. My sets of eggs will be rare and first-class. Exchange limited. No postals answered.

FRED M. DILLE,
Greeley, Colorado.

Kind Words.

Yesterday's mail brought me what I have been anxiously looking for—THE SUNNY SOUTH OOLOGIST. It is very neat, and I do hope you will get enough subscribers to continue and enlarge.

FRED. M. DILLE,
Greely, Col.

Your magazine is at hand, and I just have time to say that I am exceedingly well pleased with the articles in your periodical; they are far above the average.

OLIVER DAVIE,
Columbus, Ohio.

I have read its pages, and am pleased with your large circle of Oological correspondents and your undoubted ability as an editor. It should prove of sufficient value to the collectors of the country to make it take its proper place in the literature of the subject; not only because of your generous and gentlemanly treatment of me in the past at all times, but because I believe THE SUNNY SOUTH OOLOGIST to have a live and intelligent Oologist at its head.

HARRY G. PARKER,
Chester, Pa.

"THE SUNNY SOUTH OOLOGIST," is the title of a scientific publication issued by our young townsman, E. C. Davis; No. 1 of volume 1 of which is on our table. It is a credit to the young gentleman, and to our city. We wish the enterprise success.—Gainesville Daily Hesperian.

The first number of THE SUNNY SOUTH OOLOGIST is at hand, and I am more than pleased with it and its contents.

V. E. PISTON,
Rockland, Me.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Anyone desiring questions answered relating to Birds, their Nests and Eggs, will favor us by sending them in, and we will answer them through this column to the best of our ability.

On the 28th of March, 1885, I found a nest of the Red-shouldered Hawk, containing two eggs, which I took. Returning seven days later, and seeing the bird fly from the nest, I concluded to take another look at it, and was very much surprised to find two more eggs, although the shells were much lighter marked than those taken previously, which went to prove they were deposited by the same bird.

J. H. B., Oswego, Kansas.

Last summer, while out collecting, I found a three-storied nest of the Summer Yellow bird. Each story contained one egg of the Cow bird, and two of the Warblers. I also found a double nest of the Bronzed Grackle containing nine eggs; four in the lower part, and five in the upper. The total number of eggs from both nests were eighteen. Don't you think this a pretty good haul from two nests?

W. A. W.

Quincy, Ill's.

I like the appearance of your paper very much, and trust it will be a financial success.

D. H. EATON,

Woburn, Mass.

It is said that alligators' eggs are esteemed by the natives of the regions where those reptiles abound. Mr. Joseph, in his "History of Trinidad," says that he found the eggs of the cayman very good. The female alligator lays from 120 to 160 eggs. They are about as large as the eggs of a turkey, and have a rough shell filled with a thick albumen.

There is an eagles nest on the stump of an old tree in the middle of Caddo lake, near Jefferson, Texas, and a pair of eagles have occupied this as their home for more than twenty years.

Blue-fronted Jay.

(CYANOCITTA STELLERI FRONTALIS.)

One would, with a general knowledge of the nesting habits of the Jays, look for their nests in trees and bushes; but with the recent observations on the habits of this bird, by N. S. Goss, in the Auk, April, 1885, we have additional light thrown upon the subject. He found quite a number of nests of the Blue-fronted Jay in the vicinity of Julian, California, in the spring of 1884, and "in all cases but one, in holes and trough-like cavities in trees and stubs, ranging from four to fifty feet from the ground, generally ten to twenty feet. The nest found outside was built upon a large horizontal limb of an oak close beside a gnarl, the sprout-like limbs of which thickly covered the nest overhead, and almost hid it from view below." They were quite bulky, loosely made of sticks, stems of weeds, and lined with fibrous rootlets and grasses; and, as they were all built at or near the opening, the tell-tale sticks projected and made the finding of the nests not difficult. Mr. Goss gives the color of the eggs as light blue, speckled and spotted with dark brown, rather thickest at large end, and the measurements of two sets, as follows: One taken May 19, 1.20 by .87, 1.20 by .88. 1.21 by 88; May 21, 1.22 by .88, 1.15 by .86, 1.19 by .86, 1.16 by .85.

Mr. W. O. Emerson informs me that he finds the nests in the vicinity of Haywards, Cal., placed in oaks, red-wood and other tall trees.

The above interesting article is an extract from *Davies' New Key to the Nests and Eggs of North American Birds*, taken from specimen leaves sent me, and of which is a fair sample of descriptions of the nests and eggs of each bird contained in that book.—

EDITOR.

Birds of Pennsylvania.

The following data is taken from notes made during a series of years, all within this state, and all from personal observation.

("C" means common, "R" means rare.)

1. Wood Thrush. (C). Breeds May 1st, to June 15th. Nests generally placed in thick woods, near clearings.

2. Wilson's Thrush. (R). Breeds June 2nd. Nests placed in thickets, with southern exposure.

7. American Robin. (C). Breeds May 1st to July 25th. Nests made near habitations, in trees, outhouses, anywhere almost.

11. Mocking Bird. (R). Only one known instance in Delaware county.

12. Catbird. (C). Breeds May 15th to July 1st. Nests placed in gardens or clearings of woods, always near man.

13. Brown Thrasher. (C). Breeds May 15th to June 20th. Nests found in blackberry tangle or thickets, high or lowland.

22. Bluebird. (C). Breeds May 1st to July 20th. Nests found anywhere, in bird boxes, natural holes in trees, etc.

41. Black-capped Chickadee. (C). Breeds May 10th to 25th. Nests found in timber cleared districts, in stumps about 6 feet high

51. White-bellied Nuthatch. (R). Breeds April 15th to May 1st. Nests found in excavated holes, remote from habitation.

60. Carolina Wren. (C). Breeds April 8th to May 10th, (two broods). Nests found about rocks, remote from habitation.

63. House Wren. (C). Breeds May 15th to June 10th. Nests found in Orchards, or about farm houses.

67. Long-billed Marsh Wren. (C).

Breeds June 12th to 18th. Nest found in low, fresh meadows.

93. Summer Yellowbird. (C). Breeds June 10th to 20th. Nests found near running water, in low, flat country.

99. Chestnut-sided Warbler. (R). Breeds June 20th. Nests found in pastures, or small woods.

115. Golden-crowned Thrush (C). Breeds June 10th to 25th. Nests found on the ground, in deep woods.

123. Yellow-breasted Chat. (C). Breeds May 28th to June 10th. Nests found in upland thickets, southern exposure.

128. American Redstart. (R). Breeds June 15th. Nests placed near roadsides.

135. Red eyed Vireo. (C). Breeds June 10th to 20th. Nest found in woods of young trees, not over ten feet from the ground.

139. Warbling Vireo. (C). Breeds June 10th to 20th. Nests placed in trees, generally 25 feet from the ground, or more.

143. White-eyed Vireo. (R). Breeds June 10th to 20th. Nests placed in blackberry thickets, near the ground.

151. Cedar Waxwing. (C). Breeds June 15th to 25th. Nests generally found in orchards.

152. Purple Martin. (C). Breeds June 2nd. Nests placed in bird boxes.

153. Cliff Swallow. (C). Breeds June 1st to 5th. Nests placed in barns and under eaves.

154. Barn Swallow. (C). Breeds June 1st to 15th. Nests placed in barns.

155. White-bellied Swallow. (R). Breeds June 1st to 15th. Nests placed in bird boxes.

157. Bank Swallow. (C). Breeds May 22 to June 1st. Nest placed in

sand banks, etc., at the end of a burrow.

161. Scarlet Tanager. (C). Breeds June 10th. Nest found in deep woods

E. S. English Sparrow. (C) Too well known to detail.

181. American Goldfinch. (C). Breeds from July 15th to Aug. 20th. Nests found by a roadside, or in orchards.

197. Grass Finch. (C). Breeds June 10th. Nests placed in pastures or meadow.

198. Yellow-winged Sparrow. (R). Breeds June 25th. Nests placed in meadows or pasture.

211. Chipping Sparrow. (C). Breeds May 8th to June 30th. Nests near houses or in parks.

214. Field Sparrow. (C). Breeds May 1st to June 10th. Nests placed on or near the ground, in high country generally.

231. Song Sparrow. (C). Breeds May 1st to June 30th. (three broods). Nests found anywhere.

233. Swamp Sparrow. (R). Breeds July 4th. Nests placed in swampy meadows.

237. Chewink; Towhee. (C). Breeds June 1st to 15th. Nests placed on the ground in open woodland.

242. Cardinal Grosbeak. (C). Breeds April 20th to May 30th. Nests found in wooded tangle and briars.

244. Rose-breasted Grosbeak. (R). Breeds June 10th. Nests found in borders of woods.

248. Indigo Bunting. (C). Breeds June 2nd. Nests placed in blackberry tangle in open fields.

257. Bobolink. (R). Seldom found breeding in southern Pennsylvania.

258. Cowbird. [C]. Breeds from April to August. Eggs placed in nests of Pewees, Sparrows, Chats, Tanagers, etc.

261. Red and Black, Sh'd Black-bird. [C]. Breeds May 20th to June 20th. Nests placed on the ground, or in low bushes in swampy places.

263. Meadow Lark. [C]. Breeds May 20th to June 30th. Nests placed in dry pastures and fields.

270. Orchard Oriole. [C]. Breeds June 5th to 20th. Nests placed in orchards

271. Baltimore Oriole. [C]. Breeds June 5th to 20th. Nests found near houses generally.

278. Purple Grackle. [C]. Breeds April 25th. Nesting in colonies, in cedar trees.

282. Common Crow. [C]. Breeds April 15th to 30th. Nests placed in very high trees in woods.

289. Blue Jay. [R]. Breeds April 15th to 30th. Nests found in deep woods.

304. Kingbird. [C]. Breeds June 1st to 20th. Nests placed in sycamore trees, or in orchards.

312. Gt. Crested Flycatcher. [C]. Breeds June 1st to 20th. Nests found in orchards, in natural cavities of trees.

315. Pewee; Phœbebird. [C]. Breeds April 20th to June 10th. Nests placed under bridges or eaves of small spring houses etc.

320. Wood Pewee. [C]. Breeds June 1st. Nests placed in woods or orchards.

324. Acadian Flycatcher. [C]. Breeds June 5th to 20th. Nests found near running water or sloping ground.

335. Ruby-throated Hummingbird. [R]. Breeds June 1st to 15th. Nests found near a spring of water in orchard or woods.

351 Chimney Swift. [C]. Breeds July 1st to 15th. Nests placed in chimneys

357. Night Hawk. [C]. Breeds

June 1st to 20th. Nests placed on bare ground on an elevated plateau.

361. Downy Woodpecker. [R]. Breeds in May. Nests placed in excavated holes in woods.

575. Red-headed Woodpecker. [C]. Breeds June 15th. Nests placed in solitary trees in fields.

378. Yellow-shafted Flicker. [C]. Breeds May 15th to June 15th. Nests placed anywhere.

382. Belted Kingfisher. [C]. Breeds May 10th to June 15th. Nests placed in holes in banks along streams in low lands.

387. Yellow-billed Cuckoo. [C]. Breeds June 5th to 12th. Nests placed in densest thickets of bramble and grapevine.

388. Black-billed Cuckoo. [C]. Breeds same as preceding species.

394. Am. Barn Owl. [R]. Breeds April 1st to 15th. Nests placed in dead trees, on low meadow lands.

402. Little Screech Owl. [C]. Breeds April 1st to 15th. Nests placed in beech trees, or apple trees.

420. Sparrow Hawk. [C]. Breeds May 1st to June 1st. Nests placed in holes of dead trees, anywhere.

425. Fish Hawk. Common in New Jersey, but rare in Pennsylvania.

431. Cooper's Hawk. [C]. Breeds April 10th to May 1st. Nests generally placed in deep and solitary woods, in large trees.

432. Sharp-shinned Hawk. [R]. Same as 431.

436. Red-tailed Hawk. [R], Same as 431.

439. Red-shouldered Hawk. [R]. Same as 431.

443. Broad-winged Hawk. [R]. Same as 431.

460. Mourning Dove. [C]. Breeds May 1st to June 30th (2 broods). Nests found remote from man, in silent places.

480. Bobwhite. [C]. Breeds May

20th to June 30th. Nests on the ground in field or pasture.

494. Green Heron. [C]. Breeds May 10th to June 10th. Nests placed in large trees, sometimes in orchards near swamps.

516. Killdeer. [C]. Breeds June 1st to 15th. Eggs placed on ground (no nest), on a slope near water.

557. Spotted Sandpiper. [C]. Breeds June 1st to 15th. No nest. Eggs placed on the ground, on a slope near water.

The Rails breed plentifully on New Jersey coast, but sparsely in Pennsylvania.

613. Summer Duck. [R]. Breeds May to June 15th. Nest placed in hollow tree near water.

In filling out the above data, I have omitted several species which occasionally breed here.

HARRY G. PARKER.

Chester, Delaware Co., Pa.

Nesting of the Long-eared Owl.

(ASIO AMERICANUS)

For the Sunny South Oologist :

It was on the bright spring morning of April 25, 1885, that a friend and myself started for the big woods in search of hawks', crows', etc., eggs.

We first went to a crow's nest we found building the Saturday before, and were most fortunate in securing 3 fresh eggs. This was comparatively a good find, owing to the scarcity of that bird in this locality.

We next made our way to a tamarac swamp, and on the edge we went a little out of our way to look at an old crow's nest that we knew of, for mere curiosity sake. In the center of the nest two prongs poked out and we thought they were two sticks sticking up ; but, to be sure, my friend kicked on the tree, and to my great joy the two prongs moved. At this

my friend began to climb the tree, and when about half way up, a large yellowish-brown bird flew sluggishly off the nest, and I could see it was an owl, but what kind I was uncertain. When he reached the nest and shouted down there were 5 eggs in it, I was so excited that I went up and helped him down with them, although there was no need of it. They were of a clear white, and almost globular in form, and measured about 1.60 x 1.40 inches. We imagined them to be all kinds of owls, and were very anxious to find out what they were.

We hunted around now until noon and then sat down by a spring and ate our dinner, which we had brought with us. After a little "lounging" in the sun after our meal, we started out again, and by 3 o'clock p. m., had found nothing but last year's nests. About 3:30 we came to another tammerac swamp, and in the center there was an old marsh hawk's nest I was acquainted with, and we made for it, thinking there might be an owl's nest in it, and you may imagine my delight at seeing the same kind of horns sticking up in the center. This nest was only about 7 feet from the ground, and as soon as I kicked the tree the owl flew off and lit on a limb close by, and I identified her as being a long-eared owl. I regretted that I did not have my gun with me, or I would have had her this day all mounted. I climbed the tree, and in the nest found four more eggs just like those in the first nest, and now our minds were lightened.

As it was getting time to be going home, we started, and on arriving, blew our eggs and found them to be fresh; and one of the sets now glow in the collection of the editor of this paper.

I have found several sets besides this, and know of others being found around here, and they invariably occupy other birds' nests.

GEO. G. CANTWELL,
Minneapolis, Minn.

The Road-runner; Chaparral Cock.

(GEOCOCCYX CALIFORNIANUS).

For the Sunny South Oologist :

This species (which may be described as a rather long tail with a small bird on the "forward" end of it) occurs rarely in this locality. Ornithologists generally give the number of eggs in a set as "6 to 9." I had previously taken several sets, containing from two to four eggs; and finding a nest with two eggs on May 8th, 1885, I concluded to give the bird a chance to fill out the set. The nest was placed in the bushy top of a small black-jack oak, about twelve feet from the ground. It was a bulky structure 16 inches in diameter, 5 inches in depth, and nearly flat on the top—not more than an inch deep, built of large sticks, twigs, and weeds in the lining. I visited the nest on the 9th and 10th, and although the bird was "tu hum" every time, the set had not increased any in number. During the 11th, 12th and 13th, three more eggs were added to the set, making five in all. I waited until the 19th, when, as no more eggs were laid, I took the nest, shooting the female. On dissection I found that within the next two or three days two more eggs would have been added to the set. Incubation was about one-half advanced in two of the eggs. The question is, can I call this a full set? The female when flushed from the nest would fly to the ground, and all to be seen of her afterwards was a streak. They are famous runners, and it takes a fast "pony" to overtake them.

J. A. SINGLEY,
Giddings, Texas.

The Chinese pheasants turned loose in Oregon some time since have interbred with the native grouse, and a new game bird with the head of a pheasant and wing and tail feathers of a grouse is the result.



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