

Ms. A. 9. 2. 6. 10. 1

25 Mar 81

My explanation  
 is that the two  
 found eggs were  
 a first set, laid  
 in Feb. & frozen.  
 The birds then  
 added to the  
 first set laid  
 again. This  
 is written Mr.  
 Rogers, W. B.

353 Beacon St.  
 Boston.

I know that you have had some experience in collecting eggs of Great Horned Owl, and therefore I would much like to have your opinion about a set of eggs which I collected a few days ago. On April 6<sup>th</sup> 1880 I ascended to a nest of Great Horned Owl, and found it to contain two young birds about one half grown. I then determined to visit the nest earlier in '81. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of the present month I again visited the

nest but found that the severe winter storms had demolished it. About 250 ft away from the old nest, however, I found another nest and on throwing a stone into the tree, off flew the owl. I ascended to the nest, (which was about 60 ft up, in a pine tree, with hardly a branch, till I got just below the nest,) and on looking in, there were four eggs. Two of these were about one half buried in the materials forming the lining of the nest, and were much discolored from being in contact, with dead damp, leaves etc. On blowing these, I found that there



was six or seven days  
incubation, and that both  
of these eggs were slightly  
addled. The other two  
eggs were slightly smaller  
than the first two, and were  
perfectly fresh, and not  
in the least discolored.

I am quite sure, then that  
from the position of the  
eggs in the nest, and the  
different state of the contents  
of the two pair, that the  
first pair, would not have  
been hatched, and that  
they were deserted; and  
two more eggs laid. It  
would have been impossible  
for the eggs to have sunk  
into the firm lining of the

nest, so it must have been  
built up around them. I  
have now collected eggs  
for upwards of eight years  
and for the past four  
years have regularly taken  
sets of Barred Owl's eggs  
but have never seen any  
incident like the present,  
but as I have heard that  
your experience with owl  
nests has been large, I  
should esteem it a favor  
if you would let me  
know your opinion of  
the above eggs. Whether  
or no it is a set of  
four or if I am right  
in my conclusions. If  
you would like a detailed



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account of the nest of  
last year and this, and  
the young & eggs, I should  
be most happy to give  
it you. The nest of last  
year, when found with  
the two young, contained  
a third occupant in the  
shape of a common rabbit  
which they had just begun  
to eat. Trusting that at  
your convenience you  
will kindly favor me  
with a few lines, I am,  
most respectfully yours  
C. Alger Hawes.

March 25<sup>th</sup> 1881

P.S. I shall visit the above  
described nest again in a short time  
& if the set be again noteworthy will  
let you know.

C. Alger Hawes.

March 25, 1881.

Notes on Bubo virginianus



THE BOSTON SUGAR REFINING CO.  
EDW<sup>d</sup> T. RUSSELL, JR. TREAS<sup>r</sup>  
52 CENTRAL ST.  
P. O. Box 853. 2246.

C. Alger Hawes.  
March 29, 1881.  
Syrnium nebulosum.

Boston, March 29<sup>th</sup> 1881

Mr. Wm Brewster.

Dear Sir,

Your interesting and (to me) instructive letter of the 27<sup>th</sup> is at hand & accept my thanks for telling me of your odd experiences with the bird in question. I now think that there is little doubt, but that the four eggs, comprise two sets. Last Sunday, I again visited the nest, with a stout pair of climbing-irons, but on reaching

the nest, I found it filled with leaves and cedar bark, in other words changed from an owls nest, to a squirrels nest. When I descended, I found on the ground at the foot of the tree, quite a number of small feathers from the breast of a Great Horned Owl and also, what I took to be some stains of blood, so I am sorry to say that, I think that one of the owls was shot from this tree. I found six small feathers in all. I searched the



neighborhood very thoroughly for some signs of the owl, or nest, but without the least success, so that my experience, with this owl, is probably, for this year, at an end. I have taken eggs from a pair of Barred Owls for the last four years. In 1877 I took two sets (3 + 2) from one nest & they then raised a ~~good~~ pair of young. In 1878 I took two sets (4 + 2) from another nest in the same woods & then two young were raised. In 1879, I took

three sets (3, 2 + 2) but did not afterward visit the nest that year so don't know if young were raised. Last year (1880) I again took two sets (2 + 2) some distance from where the nest had previously been. About one week ago I saw the birds around the last nest, so expect to obtain more eggs. I shall before long make an application to belong to the N. O. C., & if there is any person in particular to whom I should apply or by whom I should be examined, should such a



measure be necessary  
I should again feel very  
much indebted to you  
if you would let me  
know of it. I have a  
collection of nearly 375  
different kinds of eggs &  
about 2500 specimens &  
have been studying birds  
& eggs for a number of  
years, so I think that I  
should be able to pass  
an examination, if one  
is required. Again thanking  
you for favor I am  
Yours very truly

C. Alger Hawes.

353 Beacon St.

Boston.