

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

358 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 6th 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 11th 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

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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 25th 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. Algie Hawes.

March 25, 1881.

Notes on Bubo virginianus

THE BOSTON SUGAR REFINING CO.
EDWARD T. RUSSELL, JR. TREASURER
52 CENTRAL ST.
P.O. Box 853. 2246.

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

Boston, March 29, 1881

Mr. Wm Brewster.

Dear Sir,

Your interesting and (to me) instructive letter of the 27th is at hand & accept my thanks for letting 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 owl nest, to a squirrel's 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

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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.